

**Jackson & Josephine Counties Integrated Fire Plans
Outreach and Education Committee Meeting
November 19, 2010
RRFD**

Meeting Notes

**Attendees: Jenny Zeltvay, Sandy Shaffer, Brad Inman, Ali True
John O'Conner, Neil Benson, Lin Bernhardt, Brian Ballou, & Teresa Burkhart**

**Next O&E Meeting: December 17, 2010 9-11AM, Rogue River FD
Note- O&E Meetings will be held at Rogue River FD through December
RVFP Co-op Annual Planning Meeting & Christmas Potluck: December 8, 2010
10-12PM, JCFD#3 HQ, White City**

Solutions for Forests Workshop

Neil, Sandy and John attended the Solutions for Forests workshop that was held at SOU over three days in October. The purpose of the workshop was for local agencies/groups to find a common goal in managing our local forests. The participating groups were: Small Diameter Collaborative, Applegate Partnership, BLM, Fish and Wildlife, and Forest Service. It was estimated that approximately 200 people attended the workshop.

Action Item Review/Title III Application

Jim Wolf, Matt Michaelis and Neil Benson will be meeting December 6, to discuss the next round of Title III applications. The county has plenty of money available. They are still looking at funding ongoing projects for two years; as long as the money is obligated through September 2012, it is considered spent.

Shady Cove Firewise- is looking to staff a Firewise person, and are interested in evacuation planning.

Jacksonville- is interested in evacuation planning.

City of Grants Pass- will be asking for a Firewise Communities Coordinator.

Sandy will contact fire chiefs for the Upper Rogue (Prospect, and Butte Falls) and Bear Creek areas, (Fire District #5, Rural Medford, and Jacksonville) to see if there is interest in public opinion surveys. Sandy will be getting an estimated number of residents for rural Grants Pass and the Illinois Valley. Additionally, funding will be available to survey areas outside of the wildfire hazard zone in Ashland.

Lin is requesting letters of support for continued funding to be submitted with her application. Letters need to be addressed to the county board or commissioner. If you would like to contribute a letter please have the letter submitted by the end of January.

Josephine County- will have money for the Spring Campaign.

The Jackson County Fuels Committee did not receive the grant to fund production of "Defensible Space Maintenance" booklet. There was discussion that O&E could fund the production of a brochure style document.

Neil and Jenny suggested asking for \$250,000/year in the application for the Josephine County Title III grant.

If you are listed as a lead for any of the O&E action items from last year's annual report, please submit an update to Neil by mid January.

IV Fire Plan Update

The first four public meetings have had limited turnout. IV Fire will be adapting new strategies to generate interest in the public to attend these meetings. They will be advertising with the local media and contacting residents (in areas who have been previous affected by fires) either in person or by phone. If you know of anyone that might have a phone or email tree for the Illinois Valley please contact John at: <mailto:jpoconner@odf.state.or.us>.

Vulnerable Populations (VP)

A list of eligible VP residents is being compiled for Grants Pass ODF fire personnel. The work will begin at the end of January or first of February. John created a defensible space recognition presentation November 15, for the Criminal Justice Department. An additional presentation will be held December 7, for the Social Services Department in Josephine County.

Public Surveys

Sandy and Brian will be signing a contract with SOU December 1, for the Green Springs, Ashland, Applegate and Seven Basins, public opinion surveys.

Sandy gave surveys to the committee members with suggested edits from SOU and additional edits were made by committee members. Everyone was in agreement with the changes made to the surveys.

By the middle of January Green Springs and Ashland residents should be receiving their survey, followed by Seven Basins and Applegate. By the end of April all of the targeted communities should be completed.

An announcement letter will be sent out one week prior to the survey followed by a reminder one week after.

SOU would like to make the data collected by our surveys available for educational purposes, it was agreed by committee members that this would be acceptable.

RVFP Co-op webpage

The website has been down for a week due to difficulties with the current server. Teresa and Brian will be signing on with a local server (Jeffnet) in hopes of eliminating ongoing problems. The website should be available before the holidays.

Neil would like to see the co-op website promoted at public meetings to get more exposure.

Teresa will be continuing efforts to include a firewise "tip of the week" on the home page. Ali is currently updating it weekly for <http://www.ashlandfirewise.org/>. Ali and Teresa will be working in conjunction to decipher a way to embed live data on the sites; eliminating manual updates.

Lin will be supplying Teresa with a list of Kennels and Vets for Jackson County as it becomes available.

Prevention Team

After the holidays it will be important to get the volunteers active in events to keep them engaged. If you have an event you would like them to assist in please contact John at: <mailto:jpoconner@odf.state.or.us>.

FIREBRAND

The Firebrand has been moved to tabloid format to cut down on publishing cost, resulting in increased circulation. Ashley has prepared a draft and is waiting for contributions from Bill Ketler, a retired journalist for the Mail Tribune. The new format will be highly visual and provide more content with shorter articles. There will be revolving topics covered in each edition:

- Firewise-will be a standing feature
- Structural fire prevention tips
- Animal evacuation information
- CWPPs
- Evacuation planning projects
- Home assessment information for Ashland
- Advertising- could be a contractors list

This next edition of the Firebrand should go to press, the middle of December, and be released in early January.

Seven Basins

Seven Basins has held there policy makers tour, Neil Benson attended. Noxious weeds were discussed at Valley of the Rogue Park.

Shady Cove Firewise

Shady Cove Firewise has applied for certification for two neighborhoods to be nationally recognized as a firewise community.

Ashland Firewise/AFR

Ashland Firewise has received their grant money and has been doing many public outreaches and home assessments. They have ordered their new defensible space display retaining the same information as the one used by ODF but added new pictures from the Ashland area.

AFR is planning on burning soon. Recently, they have been dealing with neighborhood smoke issues.

Ali has been making plans for the SWO Firewise home demonstration, the Lithia Parks, department building. The historical building was constructed out of logs, it will retain the siding but will receive new roofing. The existing vegetation is encroaching on the structure, and is in need of attention. The parks department is very receptive to the firewise project and will likely be providing some labor.

Wolf Creek Evacuation Planning

A contractor has been hired to oversee the evacuation planning. Several volunteer firefighters have been trained to conduct the door-to-door evacuation survey. Address signs have been ordered and will be available to residents. Public works have also ordered the evacuation signs.

Animal Evacuation

Josephine County has a Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), and will sponsor training to be held in the south county area. Jackson County will be doing the same. ICS courses are required prior to taking the DART course.

The Applegate Animal Disaster Preparedness Committee is partnering with ODF to do neighborhood meetings in vineyards.

Pacifica wants to be used as an evacuation site in Williams.

Coming Events & Good of the Order

Brian-The Forest Service is developing a comprehensive site to post regional prescribed burns daily. ODF also posts prescribed burn notifications on the blog site at <http://swofire.blogspot.com/>.

ODF has hired Kristina Babbs as the new Firewise person in Salem. Kristina has a background in public education and was an information officer on fires. She will be working on a defensible space demo house at the Oregon Garden.

Sandy-More home assessment training will be taking place the first of the year. Jackson County Fire District #3 will be holding three classes in three days to cover all shifts. Sandy will be sending information on the chiefs list to promote the class.

Ali-In February Ali will be helping present an educational class for the Landscape Contractors Board at the OR Green Business Conference. The class will provide continuing education credits to the contractors. She feels it would be beneficial to do the same locally.

John-Will do another Fire Safety House demonstration in Wimer, late winter or early spring. He also will work on making a defensible space maintenance flier using the same format as the previous flyers made for IV Fire.

John is partnering with a master gardener to teach a Green Leaf Workshop to the public. The workshop will take place in Josephine Co and cover fire resistant planting.

Sandy-Would like to have an article covering agriculture maintenance published in the Spring Firebrand issue.

Neil- Pacific Northwest Fire Prevention Training Workshop will be held February 14-18, 2011 at the Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach, OR. The RVFP Coop will sponsor one member to attend the conference. If you are interested in applying for the scholarship attend the coop annual planning meeting on December 8th.

The Solutions for Forestry Conference will be held December 8th from 7-9pm at the Jackson County Library in Medford.