

**Jackson & Josephine Counties Fire Plan
Outreach & Education Committee
December 16, 2011 Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Sandy Shaffer, Ashley Du Brey, Neil Benson, Brad Inman, Ali True, Brian Ballou, Teresa Burkhart

Fire Prevention Workshop Scholarship: This spring the RVFP Co-op is sponsoring an active O&E Committee member to attend the Pacific Northwest Prevention Training Conference at Gleneden Beach.; of the members present Ali expressed that she would like to attend but is unable to without funding. Ali was selected by Brian to attend the conference February 13-17.

Public Surveys: The time for Jackson County residents to return their surveys has closed. The final numbers showed that they had a good rate of return given the amount of O&E done in the polled areas. Residents in the Josephine County SW Urban Interior have been mailed intro letters, surveys will follow January 3. Basic reports will be available the first of April; final reports will be out the middle of May.

FIREBRAND: The fall edition has been changed to winter and will be sent to residents before January.

Embers Be Aware Handout: 5,000 *Embers Be Aware* handouts have been printed. To request copies for your district contact [Brian Ballou](#). Brian will look into using some ARRA money to fund printing copies for Josephine County.

Fire Resistant Privacy Screening Plants Handout: Rhianna Simes from the OSU Extension Office had planned on working with a graphic artist to finalize the handout. Brian will get a status update for next meeting.

Defensible Space Maintenance Handout: 5,000 handouts are being printed, and should be available by the end of December.

Video Production: Nothing new to report.

RVFP Co-op webpage, Facebook, blog & twitter: A member photo gallery and statistical hit counter have been added to the Co-op website. If you would like any of your district's photos added to the website contact either [Teresa Burkhart](#) or [Ashley DuBrey](#).

Ashland FW/AFR: The signs are in for the last two recognized communities: Lithia Creek Estates, and Rocca Canyon. Ali has been finalizing tracking expenses for projects and volunteer hours for 2011. AFR will be posting interpretive signs on trailheads with trail project and burning information where they are working.

Grants Pass FW: Unsure if the Firewise Coordinator position has been filled.

Applegate: District 9 is working up a quote to find out how much it will cost for new maps and man hours to update their Fire Plan.

ARRA Stimulus Funds: The Jackson Co Risk/Fuels Committee has a \$300,000 ARRA grant that needs to be spent by the end of 2012. The Committee is holding a meeting Thurs., January 19, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Medford ODF HQ to solicit ideas for larger scale fuel reduction projects.

Greensprings FW: No report.

Seven Basins: Starting in January, Gail Grogan Perrotti will begin a series of nine neighborhood meetings. Seven Basins have been working on reprioritizing project plans, and having ODF write stewardship plans for small woodland landowners.

Shady Cove FW: The Firewise coordinator position hasn't been filled yet; a meeting will be held to decide if the grant should be returned back to the county.

Animal Evacuation: Jackson Co. has received a limited amount of funding for animal evacuation planning. Randy White with the Jackson County Soil and Water Commission has shared that they've been named to coordinate large animal evacuation planning. Still unsure of funding in Josephine Co.

Land Steward Program: Classes concluded in late Nov. with overall good attendance, 20-21 people from Jackson and Josephine counties present. The program received good reviews for being held out in the field this year. It is undecided what they will do for next year with only 70% of their original funding.

Action Item Update/Annual Report: The Annual Report will be submitted to the JJLCG in April listing accomplishments from the committee. Neil has requested that members look over the action items, answer questions and track changes. Feedback is needed by the end of February.

- Teaching Kits – were not promoted enough in schools. There was a letter sent to the schools letting them know it was available but the Co-op didn't receive any requests to use the kit. The kits need to be checked to see if they meet OR state school standards.
- Homeless O&E – there was discussion among the group about removing this action item from the list as it is a very difficult audience to reach and motivate. Currently, the Sheriff's Dept. and Ashland Police conduct camp sweeps up to two times per year.
- O&E Message Effectiveness – according to Charlie Chase, it is evident that the number of human caused fires has been consistently dropping especially tracking population statistics.
- Public Education – Prescribed Burns in Fire Season – leave as an action item. Rob Budge will be writing an explanation on conflicting smoke management reports between the public and government entities. There

will be future discussion on how the information will be dispersed to the public.

Events and Coming Attractions:

- The 2012 Southern Oregon Home Show will be taking place March 30-31, and April 1, at the Jackson County Expo. The Co-op has secured a booth for the event on “Green Street”. The theme for the booth will be defensible space maintenance with highlights on composting and legal/safe use of burn barrels. Plantable wildflower seed bookmarks will be distributed to the public with other prevention information. The seed bookmakers will have the co-op and ODF logos on them as well as the message, “be lean, be green, be fire-resistant”.
- Master Gardner Show – the committee suggested that a partnership be sought with another agency to feature fire-resistant privacy screening plants.

Good of the Order:

- Ali was selected by O&E and Co-op members to receive a scholarship to attend the 2012 Pacific Northwest Fire Prevention Conference in February.
- Ali will be holding a landscaping contractors course on February 6. Also, she is looking into holding a Spanish interpreted class in the future, due to the amount of requests she has had.
- Sandy has maps of the survey areas in Josephine County for those that are interested.

Next meeting: January 20, 10:00 am @ ODF, Medford HQ, Crewhouse.

- **The February O&E meeting has been cancelled; instead the committee will meet March 2. Normal schedule will resume in April.**