

**Jackson & Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan
Outreach and Education Committee Meeting
January 21, 2011
Ashland Parks Office**

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Brian Ballou, Brian Pike, Brad Inman, John O'Connor, Neil Benson, Lin Bernhardt, Sandy Shaffer, Jenny Zeltvay, Ali True, Derek Zwagerman (MF&R)

Next O&E Meeting: March 3, 2011, 10-12, ODF

The committee held its meeting at the Ashland Parks and Recreation Department's administrative headquarters, which will be used as a Firewise demonstration site. The buildings are on the National Historic Register. Ali True assessed the building and its landscaping and is developing a plan for necessary structural changes to the building, and its landscaping plants. A self-education walking tour will be developed as part of the plan. The tour will have signs illustrating points of interest and fire-resistant landscaping/structural concepts, and takeaway literature. Heavy fuel reduction work has already been done. One big issue in the Ashland area that will be addressed in the demonstration project is the problem of flammable vegetation being used in privacy screens. The project will be photographed (still and video) with the idea of developing a documentary for airing on Rogue Valley Community Television. July 1 is a projected start date for the project, contingent upon the award of a Title III grant. The project's concepts have the initial approval of the Ashland Historical committee.

The Ashland City Council approved the formation of a commission for the city's Ashland Firewise Communities projects. The Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Cooperative linked its web page to the Ashland Firewise Communities web page (www.ashlandfirewise.org).

The O&E Committee reviewed the final draft of the action items.

The committee decided to circulate additional copies of "Living with Wildfire" to real estate agents in the two-county area. Jenny Zeltvay and Sandy Shaffer said there are sufficient supplies of the publication to do this; however, no further planning on how, when and by whom this would be done was discussed.

Ali and Max Bennett, OSU Extension Service, will coordinate with John O'Connor, Teresa Burkhart and Ashley DuBrey on fire-resistant plant/landscaping education materials. The goal is to offer training on these topics for plant nursery staff, landscaping contractors and home builder association members in both counties.

Title III applications are due in Jackson County by Jan. 28. Grants Pass Fire/Rescue will submit a Josephine County Title III application to fund a Firewise Communities coordinator. ODF will re-apply in both counties to continue O&E and Firewise projects.

The Josephine County Spring Campaign was discussed. It was decided that this has been replaced by year-round fire prevention education efforts.

A possible topic for targeted fire prevention education in 2011-12 is to reduce the number of fires caused by homeless people. Some ideas were discussed, such as using the convenience stores located in areas where homeless people congregate.

Ready, Set, Go – Sandy is going to the Reno conference, at which the Ready, Set, Go campaign will be a major topic. The committee decided to adopt Ready, Set, Go to dovetail with existing/expanding county evacuation education efforts. The committee also approved funding to send Jenny Zeltvay to the conference to focus on Ready, Set, Go. Jenny's conference, hotel and meals costs will be reimbursed by the Title III O&E funds from both counties.

Public opinion survey areas for 2011-12 were discussed. Surveys will be mailed during that time period, but specific areas to target will be determined later.

Jackson County may not approve Title III funding to continue the animal evacuation planning for 2011-12. A Title III application for continuing this project in Josephine County will be submitted. Public meetings are being scheduled in Josephine County for this winter/spring prior to DART training in April. The Applegate community, which is quite active on this topic, may schedule 4-6 meetings in that area.

The next issue of Firebrand is scheduled for distribution in March.