

**Jackson & Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan
Outreach and Education Committee Meeting
March 3, 2011 10:00 – 12:00
ODF, Central Point**

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Brad Inman, Brian Pike, Ali True, Neil Benson, Jess Webb, Sandy Shaffer, Greg Alexander, Brian Ballou, Teresa Burkhart

Next O&E Meeting: April 15, 2011, 10-12, Grants Pass Fire, Parkway Station

Coming Events

A series of four Wildfire Preparedness/Animal Evacuation meetings will be held in the Applegate area this spring. Venues include: Pacifica, Applegate Lodge, Schmidt Winery, and the McKee Bridge restaurant.

It's still undecided whether ODF will be participating in the Master Gardeners event, they may partner with BLM to share a booth.

John O' Connor will be participating in the Josephine Co Spring Home Show in May.

Ashley and Teresa saw a good turnout for the Jackson Co Home Show.

ODF, along with RVSP volunteers will be working at an EMS carnival on March 13, at South Medford High School.

A Spring Show will be held at Pacifica, May 5th thru the 8th. There will be a wildfire preparedness booth on display for visitors.

John is partnering with GP Fire, Rural Metro, and OSU Extension Master Gardeners to hold a Fire Resistant Plant Workshop at Greenleaf industries in Jo Co, April 2.

Notifications for SB-360 will be going out next week. A SB-360 refresher course for fire departments will be coming up soon.

Key campaign messages for 2011

Jess and Brian will be working on a series of campaign messages. The first will be a fire resistant landscape campaign. They will begin shooting a 30 and 60 sec. segment highlighting "bad" plants and locations with examples of good replacement products. The second campaign message will be shot in Jo Co, and will cover SB-360; the importance of getting your work done and sending in your signed certification cards. A PSA will be aired on preparing for animal evacuation, it will cover key things animal

owners need to think about; when, and how to evacuate, and records to have on hand. The campaign messages will be televised this spring. Considerations are also being made for doing a PSA on fire resistant screening plants with discussion about Leland Cypress and the Oak Knoll fire. It will suggest taking out the Cypress and support with good examples.

Statewide, investigation on fuels and ignition management is under way. It was noted that the number of homeless caused wildfires is on the rise. The question remains how to address and reach the audience to prevent these fires. Ali suggested that point source ignitions can't always be controlled, rather campaign for how you can mitigate the effects by doing fuel reduction on your property.

John has been doing radio interviews with KJOE in Jo Co; the topic of discussion was fire-resistant landscaping practices.

Members of the Risk/Fuels Committee will be working in conjunction with O&E on a defensible space maintenance publication.

Ali and Steve Fitzgerald conducted a two hour, pilot fire resistant landscaping class in Redmond last month. Ali will be giving this class to landscapers locally and is working in conjunction with the OSU Extension office and RCC to see if it can be turned into a continuing education credited class for landscapers and arborists.

Max Bennett is in the final stages of preparing the privacy screening brochure; ODF will be funding the publication out of O&E funds.

Title III Applications

O&E have submitted applications for funding in both counties, but haven't heard of the status yet. It is uncertain when or if a public hearing will take place.

The Firewise demonstration house in Ashland will not be moving forward at this time. It was decided not to use Title III funds for construction improvements, however, O&E components and documentation would likely be approved in the future if an alternate source of funding was found for renovation. Ashland will be applying for FEMA funding next year, until then this item will be tabled.

Public Surveys

Public surveys were mailed to Greensprings and Ashland residents January 28. Thus far, the return rate for Greensprings was 38% and Ashland 51%. Surveys for Seven Basins and Applegate will be mailed February 25. The results should be available at the end of May.

Jim and Karim are working to make a map of areas where surveys were distributed for next year. The map will be used to analyze data based on an area's fire history and the interpretation of how much outreach has been done there.

FIREBRAND

Brian has been receiving good comments from landowners about the "*Firebrand*". Bill Ketler, retired writer for the "*Medford Mail Tribune*" will be contributing articles for the newsletter, including firewise updates. Topics discussed in the next publication will include an article about public surveys, the Ashland Forest Resiliency Project, and burn days (landowners vs. DEQ/smoke management). A calendar of events will also be added as a regular installment.

RVFP Co-op webpage, facebook, blog & twitter

The Co-op has a facebook account, please "like" it and you will receive regular prevention messages and event information. The facebook account will be linked to the RVFPC webpage, <http://www.rvfpc.com/Index.html>.

Ashland Firewise/AFR

The Ashland Firewise Commission is looking for volunteers to help extend Firewise to unassociated neighborhoods. Those interested need to submit an application by March 18, they hope to be up and running by May.

Oak Knoll Meadows is working on an action plan. ODF and ODOT are partnering to do fuel reduction work on the freeway right-of-way next to Oak Knoll this spring.

Ali has done presentations to two more Home Owner Association Groups. She will also be presenting a Fire Resistant Plant class to landscapers; incentive for completion of the class will be listing the landscapers on the Ashland Firewise website as those who have received training.

The city of Ashland is working on a Hazardous Vegetation Urban Landscaping pamphlet illustrating poor choices in plants and recommended modifications. Future printings can be made for other interested parties.

AFR has been burning. Ashland Parks have more burns planned.

Seven Basins

A lot of planting has been done in the high level water mark of the Gold Ray dam site.

Jim is working to find where the target acres are for fuel reduction.

Shady Cove Firewise

Shady Cove has received their Firewise Community recognition signs and are ready to post them. They will be holding a Spring Clean-up day in May; this will fulfill their requirement of holding an annual firewise event, for recertification.

The ODF brushing crew is working on a 22 acre fuel reduction project on Old Ferry Rd; the second neighborhood working to establish national firewise recognition in Shady Cove.

Wolf Creek Evacuation Planning

No report received.

Animal Evacuation

Lin and Michele will be involved in several community wildfire preparedness meetings throughout the two counties; Williams, Applegate, Cave Junction, and Grants Pass.

Lin advised that it is likely that she will receive funding to continue working on the animal evacuation plan until it is complete.

IV Fire Plan Update

Pete Martin and Lou are currently crafting the IV Fire Plan to be a slimmer, more focused document that can be used long term.

Vulnerable Populations/Ready Books

“Ready Books” are now available online at <http://www.myreadybook.com/>.

Good of the Order

Jenny and Sandy will be attending a conference in Reno to learn more information about “Ready Set Go”, evacuation planning concepts.

Greg expressed interest in the involvement between the O&E Committee and RVFP Co-op. The co-op will have to take over when title III when funds run out.

A Firewise and NFPA, “Backyards and Beyond” conference will be held in November in Denver CO. Tuition for the conference is waived for those that teach a class, however, airfare and lodging are not covered. It was suggested that someone from O&E should teach a segment on privacy screening plants.

Brian reported that the 2011 Pacific Northwest Fire Prevention Training Workshop was a huge success. The acting State Fire Marshal and ODF Fire Program Manager were both impressed.

Neil shared that Jim is working on the annual report; there have been a few edits for the action items.

The Middle Applegate Pilot project had a meeting March 2, at the Grange, 12 people attended. The meeting at Ruch had better turnout, at least 46 people. Sandy will be attending a conference held sometime the week of March 7-12, to discuss indications of how to do fuel reduction prescriptions and develop a plan.

The Forest Service Collaborative will not receive funding for their project.

The Jo Co Stewardship Committee applied for additional, full funding for an Illinois Valley assessment.