

**Jackson & Josephine Counties Fire Plan
Outreach & Education Committee
October 21, 2011 Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Sandy Shaffer, Jenny Hall, Brian Ballou, Ashley Du Brey, John O'Connor, Lin Bernhardt, Neil Benson, Teresa Burkhart

Meeting called to order @ 10:03 a.m.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from September reviewed and approved, with one correction:

Lin is working with Randy White to find out what it would take to implement further funding for **Jackson County**. (Corrected from Josephine to Jackson County)

O&E Title III 2011-12 Budget:

The Josephine County Commissioners approved the release of O&E Title III funds in the amount of \$62,500 for two cycles ending in June, 2013.

Public Surveys:

Sandy will be including the greater Grants Pass area in this next survey. The survey area will be divided into four sections, two large, and two small, N, S, E and W. The mailing will go out after the first of the year, with 1,040 recipients. Sandy chose not to sort this survey by type and size of land as 96% of the surveyed parcels are less than one acre.

The survey for Jackson County was sent out the week of October 21, to 2,610 recipients, which is a little less than last year.

FIREBRAND:

The material for the Fall FIREBRAND was sent to the ODF printing plant in Salem however, it was recently discovered that the designer left his position for another job. The material will be sent back to Brian who will be doing most of the layout, hopefully by the end of next week.

The Spring FIREBRAND will be assembled in February/March and printed by April.

Potential Keep Oregon Green (KOG)/RVFP Co-op partnership:

Brian has acquired a verbal agreement with Mary Ellen Holly of KOG regarding partnership with RVFP Co-op; all that is needed is a letter from her to the co-op authorizing use of the KOG logo. The partnership was desirable to KOG as it will acquire more of a presence in the southern Oregon area. Mary Ellen has given the co-op permission to use her Portland contacts for PR marketing in the way of billboards, newspaper ads and media. KOG will track and receive private foundation funds for specific projects and pass funds through to the co-op.

Fire Resistant Privacy Screening Plants Handout:

Rihanna Simes, with the OSU Land Stewards Program, is working with a printer in Grants Pass and hopes to have the handout available this spring.

Defensible Space Maintenance Handout:

John will discuss printing costs for the maintenance handout with Matt Krunglevich to confirm availability of funds from the private fuels grant.

Video Production:

ODF has acquired a 30 second PSA on burning regulations from a package out of Lane County. Airing for the PSA has not been scheduled yet; Brian is considering using one of KOG's media contacts to help with the cost.

Jackson County O&E has received \$20,000 of budget relief on the books. Plans are being made to use some of the money for airing the burning PSA.

Brian is also looking into using the money spent on billboards for propriety signs of our own. The idea is to develop a set of year round fire safety message signs to be displayed on the ODF peacock sign boards. During fire season the message would be geared towards wildfire prevention, outside of fire season messages could be open to other fire safety/prevention information. The estimated cost for the signs is \$5,000 to \$7,500.

RVFP Co-op webpage, Facebook, blog & twitter:

The SWO ODF Blogspot jumped in the month of August from 300-500 hits a day. Twitter has jumped from 320 followers last year to 530 this year. Facebook has been more difficult to get a response from.

Sandy encourages the broadcasting of prescribed burns using these types of media to get the message out. According to the survey people did not feel that smoke from prescribed burns was a serious problem, it appears that people don't consider it a problem when they know it is a planned event.

Ashland Firewise, AFR:

The Fuels/Risk Committee has approached Ali about taking a field trip, possibly in November, to one of the Ashland Firewise Communities. In addition they would also like to tour the area where AFR has been working.

Grants Pass Firewise:

The Firewise Coordinator position in Grants Pass has not been filled yet, however 18 potential Firewise Communities have already been identified.

Seven Basins:

Lee Winslow and John have been writing Forest Management Plans for woodland owners in the Seven Basins/Pleasant Creek area. They've received many applicants but are trying to keep it down to ten plans a year. There is potential for continued funding for this project for the 2012/2013 year.

"See our Salmon" at Valley of the Rogue State Park was well attended according to the RVFP Co-op Volunteer that staffed the event.

Shady Cove Firewise:

Brian and Chief Miller will be setting a time in the near future to train the Shady Cove firefighters on conducting home assessments. Shady Cove is still considering hiring someone to help with the Firewise efforts.

Animal Evacuation:

Josephine County is close to completing the scope of work for the animal evacuation project. The scope being SOPs for companion animals and livestock; this outlines how, and where animals will be housed as well as staff details. Lin will also continue outreach efforts with agencies to increase awareness. Interest has been expressed in exercising the plan however SOPs should be in place first.

In Josephine County, the Sheriff's Office is part of a team of trained animal evacuation volunteers; in Jackson County animal care and control for companion animals is regulated under the Soil & Water Conservation District.

For those in need of more *Saving the Whole Family* animal evacuation booklets, Lin will bring extra copies to the November meeting.

Fuels Grants – GP/CJ; West Bear:

Western Bear will be funded in Jackson County.

The Illinois Valley Community Development Organization has community assistance grants available for residents in the Grants Pass/Cave Junction areas for defensible space fuels work.

Land Steward Program:

The Land Steward Program is up and running with calendar dates set for presentations. The program has evolved by holding classes in the field, as opposed to just classroom time.

Webinar - Prescribed Fire & the Public: Myths Realities, November 16, 9 a.m.:

www.forestrywebinars.net

The webinar is one hour long, and will be presented by Sarah McCaffrey, Research Social Scientist, Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service.

Events Review & Coming Attractions:

- The Home & Garden Show will be held sometime in February. Brian will secure a booth if the date doesn't conflict with the Fire Prevention Workshop.
- The Pacific Northwest Fire Prevention Training Workshop will be held February 13-17th at the Salishan Resort. Brian will be presenting a SB-360 boot camp training session. Firewise principles, will also be taught at the workshop, the session will cover how to start the Firewise process, evaluation ect.
- ODF in collaboration with the OSU Extension, and the USDA Forest Service, held a Working in the Urbanizing Landscape workshop on Oct 25-26th; this workshop was geared towards natural resource professionals.
- Mary Ann Ceglia and John will be organizing a fire escape & safety assembly for students at Butte Falls Elementary sometime the end of October or the first part of November.

Good of the Order:

- Brian has received a publication of the NFPA semi-annual Wildfire Journal, if you are interested in a copy let him know.
- Sandy will be attending the WIFLEC meeting in Denver, and will be speaking on the National Fire Management Cohesive Strategy.
- John spoke about fire prevention in the WUI at the Southern Oregon OSHA annual conference.
- John conducted a half hour segment on defensible space information for Social Services and adult foster home providers.
- Both Wimer and Rogue River Fire Departments had good attendance to their open houses in October.
- The District 9 *Fireside* Newsletter is in the layout stages for next month.
- The Josephine County IV has received national attention for their Title III IV Assessment Stewardship Committee. The National Collaboration Cadre will be holding workshops targeting the IV assessment Nov 9th and 10th, if you are interested in attending please contact Kevin Priester.

Next meeting: November 18, 10:00 am @ ODF, Medford HQ, Crewhouse.