

**Jackson & Josephine Counties Fire Plan
Outreach & Education Committee
January 20, 2012 Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Bob Schumacher, Brian Pike, Ali True, Lin Bernhardt, Brian Ballou, Jenny Hall, Neil Benson, Sandy Shaffer, John O'Connor, Ashley Du Brey, Teresa Burkhardt

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from December approved with one correction: Sandy is responsible for updating the fire plan, not District 9.

Public Surveys: Surveys were mailed the second week of January to residents in the Grants Pass area. SOU has begun analyzing the results and starting reports for the Jackson County Surveys; they received a good rate of return. The general reports should be out in April with the final reports due the second week of May.

Citizen Fire Academy: The OSU Extension Service is organizing a Citizen Fire Academy for volunteer community members. Brian, Ali and Max will be attending a developmental meeting in Corvallis March 2, to discuss the desired objectives and details of the academy.

Action Item Update/Annual Report:
(Edits by Committee Members)

Action Item #	Column	Edit
OE #1	Step	Coordinate, <u>Promote</u> , & Sustain a Long-term Public Education Program
	Accomplishments	Booth displays at <u>Jackson & Josephine County Home Shows</u> , <u>& Jackson County Fair</u> , <u>& the Josephine County Master Gardener's Show</u> .
	Challenges	Keep messages current on RVFPC website, blog & Facebook. Make these tools available to more ODF <u>staff prevention partners</u> , so that the public can receive up-to-date information during events.

	Follow-up	<u>Rewrite & print</u> <u>Discuss the need for reprinting</u> “Living With Wild-fire” booklets <u>and update as necessary.</u> (Include Partners in Fire Education public communications results in future updates.
	Follow-up	Work with RVFCA & federal/state agency leadership to have the 2-County O&E committee be the local lead for public wildfire education efforts. <u>(Neil will reword it to include: RVFP Co-op President will give regular reports at Chief’s Meetings regarding Co-op and O&E projects to avoid duplication of efforts.</u>
OE#2	Accomplishments	<u>A defensible space diorama has been developed and is in use at events.</u>
	Follow-up	Challenge: Public education on the need to conduct prescribed burns during fire season and during valley air stagnation advisories. <u>In response to the challenge, Neil will add the follow-up to have a feature article from the Fuels Committee addressing the differences in burning regulations between federal agencies and the general public.</u>
OE#3	Lead	<u>Neil, Brian, Teresa, Ashley, John All</u>
	Partners	Applegate, Ashland, Colestine, & Seven Basins

<p style="text-align: center;">Follow-up</p>	<p>CWPPs; Ashland, Grants Pass, Greensprings & Shady Cove Firewise Communities USA, Watershed Councils, Local Landscapers & Nurseries, OSU Extension Service, USFS, BLM, KOG, SOU/RCC</p> <p>Explore professional Professional continuing education credits for fire resistant landscaping classes will be offered this year.</p>
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FIREBRAND: The next issue of the *FIREBRAND* will be included as an insert in the *Daily Courier* newspaper. The *Daily Courier* reaches approximately 30,000 subscribing residents throughout Josephine County. The cost is pretty minimal with a \$100.00 set up fee and \$0.04 an insert. Another possibility might be the *County Weekly*; it reaches people that don't have a subscription to the *Daily Courier*. The spring edition of the *FIREBRAND* should be out in April. Please have all articles you would like featured in this issue submitted to [Brian Ballou](#) by February 17.

Defensible Space Maintenance Handout – FS Printing: Handouts have been distributed at Co-op and Fuel meetings, and to Fire Departments. Approximately 2,400 copies of the handout remain in stock; a reprint might be considered for the spring. A National Fire Plan grant may be available to fund printing costs for Josephine County.

Fire Resistant Privacy Screening Plants Handout: Update unavailable.

Video Production: Nothing new to report.

RVFP Co-op webpage, Facebook, blog & twitter: Nothing new to report.

Firewise Communities:

- **Ashland** – Ali has finished the annual report for Ashland Firewise and will bring it to the next meeting. Seven communities have been certified with three on their way to recognition in 2012. Ali is also starting renewing applications for several of the previously recognized communities. The Firewise Commission have been working on citywide initiatives: an annual clean up day, parade, Firewise school project and others.
- **Greensprings** – No report.

- **Grants Pass** – Bob will be giving a presentation on January 25, at a Home Owners Association meeting to explain the Firewise community concept and generate interest. Bob has been making contacts with Home Owners Associations and Neighborhood Crimewatch Area Captains.
- **Shady Cove** – Shady Cove has been working to hire a Firewise staffer; a person has been nominated. The SC Firewise Board will be working with Chief Miller to move forward with this endeavor.

CWPP's:

- **AFR** – No report.
- **Applegate** – Sandy is working up a cost estimate for updating the Fire Plan. Brett is interested in applying for a grant and collaborating with the Applegate Partnership to do fuel reduction in riparian areas and near the pilot project on Thompson Creek.
- **Colestin** – Colestin has roadside fuel treatment going on.
- **Seven Basins** – No report.

Animal Evacuation: Lin assured the committee that both Jackson and Josephine Counties are committed to animal evacuation O&E. Randy White with Jackson County is working to develop specifics for sheltering livestock; a plan is already in place for companion animals. Josephine County is working on the SOP's for companion and livestock animals. They will also be more involved in general outreach to the public regarding animal evacuation. If there is any need for additional copies of Saving the Whole Family, or if you have an event you would like [Lin Bernhardt](#) to speak at, please contact her.

O&E Message Effectiveness: Brian shared that the FIREBRAND seems to be an effective tool in O&E efforts as every time an issue is sent out he receives phone calls for a couple of days after. Each edition he gets more calls.

O&E Meeting Schedule: Effective immediately, O&E meetings will be held on an every other month format. Sandy requested time to review the survey results during the May meeting.

Events Review & Coming Attractions:

- John and Cam, with IV Fire, will be holding a home fire safety presentation for 240 students, grades 3-5 at Evergreen Elementary, on March 2. They will be distributing evacuation planning literature and maps for the students to take home. John will be emailing a smoke alarm/fire safety flier to the committee for review in the middle of February.
- Ali will be holding a Fire Resistant Landscaping class around the end of February. The three hour class is targeted to landscapers but will be open to the public. Ali is also considering adding an optional field component to the class.
- Lin shared that Josephine County has formed a DART team. The oversight committee is holding a trailering workshop this spring or early summer. Anyone interested in attending or becoming a DART team member, contact [Lin](#)

[Bernhardt](#). The first workshop will be limited to DART team members and the Sheriff's Posse; additional will be scheduled when requested.

Good of the Order:

- With approval from the committee Ali would like to contact Rhianna and Max to offer to take over printing the Fire Resistant Screening Handout. She has distributed many rough copies to residents in Ashland, and is hoping for a final print with photos by this summer.
- Jackson County has been approved for a Western Bear grant; the areas included extend from Talent to Jacksonville. Although the grant has been approved, ODF has not received the money yet.

Next meeting: 10:00 a.m., March 16, 2012, location to be determined (Jo County?)