

CROOK COUNTY CWPP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 16, 2015

Participants: Katrina Van Dis (COIC), Bob and Jerri Bronson(Dry Creek-Airpark), Bob O'Neal (County Road Department), Brenda Hallmark (USFS/BLM), Stuart Otto (ODF), Lori Jo Breed Love (Crook Couty Sheriff Office), Casey Kump (Crook County Fire), and John Jackson (consultant via phone), and Michael Ryan (Emergency Management/Crook County Sheriff Office).

OVERALL DISCUSSION

- FEMA
 - Funds were released for Crook County and the project will be implemented in the next 2 years.
 - Mike stated that he would like to add a buffer around the airport at Airpark.
 - John stated that a GIS database will be created with quantitative data about land lots and fuels treatment per the agreement with FEMA.
- Firewise
 - Dry Creek is working on becoming Firewise. John is helping with this: 42 lots, 26 homes and 3 parties who own 2 adjacent lots.
 - Stu stated that at the national level the Firewise 5 steps process doesn't include any minimum requirements. Firefighters have an expectation that the homeowners have treated their houses to the Firewise standards but in cases where they haven't it is sometimes difficult for the firefighters. Firewise steps will be changing accordingly. ODF is the state liaison to the NFPA.
- Dry Creek/Juniper Canyon
 - Jerri stated that they now have an action plan for the common areas and had a discussion about how to motivate lot owners to be involved. Stu stated that CCNR's are the best way to get more involvement. John talked about treating undeveloped lots.
 - Jerri asked about county court policies and that they should be identifying egresses. Casey said there are current standards but old roads aren't grandfathered into the system. John stated that there is a county draft ordinance and that it could be amended to include egress. The idea is to roll this ordinance in with the FEMA grant, which will be part of the continuation process to make sure these issues are identified.
- PLA
 - PLA I and II both need exit planning as with Juniper Canyon there is only one exit available. At the annual meeting, fire treatment is discussed, but the vacant property owners are hard to reach and most have no interest in getting properties treated. John's idea to county draft ordinance needs to be amended to include egress in all the Juniper Canyon area.
- Outreach/Education

- Jerri asked how we find out if communities are having meetings about wildfire. Casey said John has all the homeowner association connections. Jerri wants to update communities on their work to then help other communities get going.
- John said that Ed Keith is doing some outreach and we could work on this together with radio ads etc. Mike said that we should connect this with what Bill M. (at the County) is doing in terms of general County outreach.
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Include outreach and education for HOA's by people and host meetings. Use CCFNR website for information. Perhaps include this in the Everbridge (alert Crook County system).
- Jerri suggested that Bowman Museum have a meeting "don't let this happen in your community" and have information about wildfire.
- Structural Vulnerability
 - In general, this issue has not been addressed. Mike stated that the high priority areas need to be identified, like Juniper Canyon. Stu said that this could be identified with the SB 360 reclassification but the timing for this process has not been determined at this time.
- RFPA's
 - No changes at this time according to Gordon R. Foster. They are still both functioning as Post-Paulina and Brothers-Hampton
- Re-classifications
 - Classification updates for Crook County have currently been put on hold for SB360 due to other priority work. There is a state wide effort to revamp the SB360 program and a group of personnel from ODF are looking at options. There is no immediate change in the works but could be some changes in the future that could include a number of things like, administrative changes that ODF would do or trying to change the statutes legislatively to line up better. But again there is no immediate changes in the works, just some discussion.

COHESIVE STRATEGY

The CWPP needs to include the Cohesive Strategy in the CWPP. **Katrina to add and send the addition to the group for review.**

SECTION 1.5 GOALS

6th bullet amendment

Utilize the existing Oregon Emergency Management plan and develop a county evacuation planning process including local community plans and routes. Develop an update framework to keep plans current.

SECTION 5.3 FIREWISE

Stu suggested that the Firewise steps be updated according to any new plans released by the national program. **Katrina to add and send the addition to the group for review.**

FUELS TREATMENT/MAPS

See maps.

GRANTS

- Stu applied for and received a Community Assistance and Western State Fire Management grant
- COIC applied for and did not receive the FEMA S&FP
- COIC applied for and did not receive the Title III funding based on budget costs being too high for printing the Crook County Fire Ready booklet. COIC will work with CCFR and Emergency Mngt. and Crook County Commissioner to re-apply.
- COIC will apply for Title III funding and possibly Ready, Set Go with the Fire District (\$1,000 grant)

7.0 ACTION PLAN AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

The following table summarizes actions and strategy for meeting needs identified within the plan. This summary should be considered a beginning to a working document that should include additional entries developed out of annual and other periodic review.

Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

| Function or Assessment Area | Action | Strategy/Comments | Completed Items (2005-2014) | 2015 Update |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Administrative | Maintain communication with CWPP Steering Committee, including engaging in an annual review and update meeting. | Responsible for ongoing oversight, periodic review, plan updates, interagency coordination of mitigation and prevention activity liaison, pre-screen grant requests for priority setting, etc. <u>Membership</u> : Chief-CCF&R; CCSO-Dir. Emergency Mgt.; ODF-Unit Forester; Representative County Planning Department; Representative Forest Service; Representative BLM; community at-large representative; Representative each RFP. | Established CC CWPP "Steering Committee". | Complete |
| | Coordinate with ODF implementation of the "Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Act" (SB 360) in Crook County. | This legislation currently will apply only in interface areas within the ODF district boundary. Consider application of fuels treatment standards throughout the county under County Court ordinance authority. | Assessment completed on ODF lands. | Oregon Statute states this should be completed every 5 years. This may change. |
| | Complete a structural vulnerability assessment. | CWPP applied default Structural Vulnerability value of "high" until otherwise verified throughout the county. Very high priority to secure funding to support of this assessment work. Identify grant opportunities to support CCF&R on the ground structural vulnerability assessment within CCRFPD#1. | FEMA FS&R funding pending. | The wildfire threat is lessened through treatment. No assessment has been conducted. |
| | Coordinated outreach and education. | Promote Firewise communities, handout Crook County Fire Ready. | | Complete |

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| County-Wide | Organize and publicize maintenance opportunities for landowners, i.e. spring clean-up days and distributing Crook County Fire Ready and Firewise materials. | Handout Fire Ready and Firewise materials at the dump on the clean-up days. Continue to pursue additional opportunities to get the materials out to the public. Hold clean-up days in May (rather than April), better weather may increase motivation to participate. | Facilitated development of the Crook County Fire Ready booklet with ODF. | April 2015. FEMA grant will require that this is an annual event. |
| | Develop county standards for access infrastructure that provides for alternate, site-specific access routes consistent with hazardous fuels and topographic/landform features surrounding the development site. | Because of the wide variety of landforms within the county, alternative/emergency access routes are more constrained in some areas. Emergency fire evacuation can present one of the most serious threats to life safety. <u>This is a high priority issue.</u> Development of adequate solutions in various locations throughout the county may require development of agreements with other private landowners/public lands managers with provision for security gates to limit non-landowner use to true emergency applications. CWPP steering committee members will continue working with the County to work toward road development. | Preliminary work has been completed to identify potential roads/routes. | Complete for Upper Juniper Canyon. Upper McKay Creek and Conent Basin should be a priority. |
| | Develop similar alternative access standards solutions for retroactive application in existing areas of community development. Craft solutions to meet site-specific landform constraints. | Consider the potential need for County Court mediation or intervention. Adopt SB 360 standards into County code. | | Routes have been identified by the County. |
| | Coordination of efforts with electrical utilities: Initiate action to assess the condition of electrical rights-of-way. Vegetation management within R/Ws may be more critical in some vegetation types than others. | Utilities' activities are generally constrained to R/Ws. Snags and other hazard trees outside of a R/W may require landowner coordination with utilities. As forest health and drought-related low elevation tree mortality occurs, wind-falls from this source may become a greater potential ignition source than the historical norm. Where co-location of telephone and electrical lines is present, attention to this type of mitigation can additionally help protect critical communications infrastructure. | | |

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| | Assess opportunity to develop a coordination plan with all users/managers of remote electronic communications sites within the county to increase wildfire detection capability and to support hazardous fuels treatments. | Communications sites support routine commercial and emergency response coordination needs. Recommend near-term attention to initiating this discussion. | ODF developed a plan for remote lookouts fire detection camera system. Connected with CEC in 2013-14 | ODF funding pending. County may add a camera to airport terminal building with a view of the Ochocos |
| | Encourage the development of Firewise communities. | | | Complete |
| | Evacuation Planning | Develop a standard county-wide framework that can be used to develop local, site-specific evacuation plans. | | |
| Juniper Canyon | The transportation system/emergency access egress/ingress function is the single most at-risk infrastructure component in this assessment area. | Juniper Canyon Road current presents the only significant volume access route into or out of this area. Assess and develop multiple alternate access routes for the area. Consider alternatives including limited-use authorized emergency only routes across BLM and private lands if necessary. Insure that route condition is adequate to allow travel by passenger cars. Issue is also listed in the County-wide priorities. | | |
| | Evacuation Planning | Develop Juniper Canyon evacuation plan. Keep updated as additional development occurs and alternative access routes are identified and become operational. | | |
| | Complete Structural Vulnerability Assessment | Lack of adequate information on current and needed levels of hazardous fuels treatment and driveway access to structures are needed to develop comprehensive fuels strategy for this assessment area. | | |
| | Coordination with BLM to facilitate and expedite WUI fuels treatment actions. | A substantial amount of private/BLM interface is present with the identified WUI area. | Prineville Lake Acres, ongoing BLM fuels treatment work. | BLM fuels treatment work being completed (see maps) |

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| | Assess options to initiate near-term fuels treatment on private land and around residences to coincide with BLM fuels treatment actions. | Option to utilize BLM expertise in development of treatment regimes appropriate to juniper/sage ecotype on private land to minimize disturbance, cheatgrass encroachment into the area. | In progress. | In progress through FEMA funding |
| Powell Butte | Complete Structural Vulnerability Assessment | Lack of adequate information on current and needed levels of hazardous fuels treatment and driveway access to structures are needed to develop comprehensive fuels strategy for this assessment area. | | |
| | Alfalfa-Community Rural Fire Dist. Formation (preliminary discussions) | Provide coordination and support for this ongoing effort. | RFPD created, establishment in progress. | In progress |
| | Evacuation Planning | Develop evacuation plan with particular attention to areas with limited alternate access routes. Keep plan updated as new development occurs and new access routes become operational | | |
| | Coordination with BLM to facilitate and expedite WUI fuels treatments. | Local resident support for public land fuels treatments is important. A significant amount of private/BLM interface is present with the identified WUI area. | Ongoing work on Millican project. | Continuing work in Millican. |
| | Assess options to initiate near-term fuels treatment on private land and around residences to coincide with BLM fuels treatment actions. | Option to utilize BLM expertise in development of treatment regimes appropriate to juniper/sage ecotype on private land to minimize disturbance and cheatgrass encroachment into the area. | FEMA funding pending. | In progress through FEMA funding |
| McKay | Complete Structural Vulnerability Assessment. | Lack of adequate information on current and needed levels of hazardous fuels treatment and driveway access to structures are needed to develop comprehensive fuels strategy for this assessment area. | | |
| | Evacuation Planning | Develop evacuation plan with particular attention to areas with limited alternate access routes. Keep plan updated as new development occurs and new access routes become operational. | | |

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|-----------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | Coordination with Ochoco NF, BLM and private forestland owners and managers to facilitate and expedite WUI fuels treatments. | Local resident support for public land fuels treatment is important. Assess options to encourage needed hazardous fuels treatment on private land with the WUI. | Treatments have been conducted since 2012 by BLM | ODF is able to treat land based on the expansion of the WUI. State Parks completed fuels treatment at Viewpoint |
| Paulina | Complete Structural Vulnerability Assessment. | Lack of adequate information on current and needed levels of hazardous fuels treatment and driveway access to structures are needed to develop comprehensive fuels strategy for this assessment area. | | |
| | Evacuation planning and alternate access route development. | Develop evacuation plan with particular attention to areas with limited alternate access routes. Examples include Riverside Ranch in the Wickiup Creek drainage. Keep plan updated as new development occurs and new access routes become operational. | | |
| | Identify opportunities to encourage public/private coordination on WUI fuels treatment opportunities | Most of the WUI areas along the Paulina Highway include significant amount of private ranch and forestland. Coordinate information with NRCS-SWCD who completes some general fuels treatment. | Ongoing fuels treatment being completed. | Post-Paulina has been treated. |
| Maury | Complete Structural Vulnerability Assessment. | Lack of adequate information on current and needed levels of hazardous fuels treatment and driveway access to structures are needed to develop comprehensive fuels strategy for this assessment area. | | |
| | Evacuation planning and alternate access route development. | Develop evacuation plan with particular attention to areas with limited alternate access routes. Examples include Riverside Ranch south of the Paulina Highway and the Conant Basin area. Development of an alternate access route out of this drainage to the south is of particular concern. Keep plan updated as new development occurs and new access routes become operational. | | |

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|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | Assessment of vegetation management opportunities under electrical lines in range areas. | Increased juniper concentrations under power lines, particularly where roads/power lines are located in draws or drainages, can increase the vulnerability of the lines and poles due to heat generation. Consider treatment options to reduce vulnerability of this utility infrastructure. Coordinate information with NRCS-SWCD who completes some general fuels treatment. | | |
| | Identify opportunities to encourage public/private coordination on WUI fuels treatment opportunities | Most of the WUI areas along the Paulina Highway include significant amount of private ranch and forestland. | Ongoing general fuels treatment completed by the Forest Service. | BLM identified treatment areas in the East Maury's |
| Twelve Mile | Complete Structural Vulnerability Assessment. | Lack of adequate information on current and needed levels of hazardous fuels treatment and driveway access to structures are needed to develop comprehensive fuels strategy for this assessment area. | | |
| | Assessment of vegetation management opportunities under electrical lines in range areas. | Increased juniper concentrations under power lines, particularly where roads/power lines are located in draws or drainages, can increase the vulnerability of the lines and poles due to heat generation. Consider treatment options to reduce vulnerability of this utility infrastructure. | | Public Works upgraded the access road (GI and Van Lake) |
| | Identify opportunities to encourage public/private coordination on WUI fuels treatment opportunities. | Encourage private landowner/BLM cooperative fuels treatment efforts. | | NRCS and FS are planning to get grant funds for 2017 |