

CROOK COUNTY CWPP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 24TH, 2017

Participants: Jerry Brummer (Crook County Commissioner), Levi Roberts (Crook County GIS), Paul Holes (Lake Acres) Jerri Bronson (Dry Creek-Airpark), Bob Bronson (Dry Creek-Airpark), Adam Barnes (ODF), Brenda Hallmark (COFMS), Russ Deboodt (CCFR), Michael Ryan (Emergency Management/Crook County Sheriff Office), Katrina Van Dis (COIC), Shelby Knight (COIC)

ACTION ITEMS:

General/Big Picture

- Invite COFMS to meeting per Section 9.1 *This is Brenda*
- Potentially coordinate groups that are doing similar work on community wildfire protection
- Identify projects that would be useful to community using title III funds *working with John regarding potential for FEMA outreach*

Everyone

- Review notes for accuracy and provide any necessary clarification/edits

COIC

- Schedule conference call w/ John to follow up on all “ask John” items *John’s input has been included*
- Follow up on title III and outreach (w/ Jerry and Mike)
- Send Levi BLM and ONF maps from Brenda

Mike

- Follow up with Brenda regarding future scheduler

Brenda

- Confirm tower point lookout is closed
- Send BLM and ONF project maps
- Confirm ONF did or did not receive Joint Chief’s Initiative
- *PLA: The plan is to move to Unit 10 which, on the map, is directly north of the unit being completed currently.*

Gordon/Adam

- What is the return (% response) on self-certification? *24 lots were certified and 78 are not, suggesting that 102 letters were sent. (24% return rate)*
- Provide ODF fuels treatment update *Since 2010 there has been 910 acres of fuels treatment in Crook Co.*

- Have SB-360 standards been adopted into County code? *I do not know if the county has adopted the SB 360 standards for new construction. I am waiting on a call back from the county.*

Levi

- Get treatment files from John (for fire atlas?) *The data that John is using is housed in Levi's database. If it's needed by any of the agencies they can reach out to Levi for it.*

John

- Reach out to Brenda regarding coordinating FEMA work with BLM (see action plan "Juniper Canyon: Assess options to initiate near-term fuels treatment on private land and around residences to coincide with BLM fuels treatment actions.")

1. REVIEW/UPDATES

Overall:

- Risk assessment and values - add the numbering system to page 17 to make it clear what the high and low values are, perhaps a statement about how this was determined.

Powell Butte:

- Infrastructure:
 - 3 solar installations currently under construction with 900 acres and 170 MG of power, with the potential for more.
- Mitigation:
 - Crook County Fire Ready booklet endorsed by the County (not mandated but recommended)
 - Continuing defensible space work in PB area 1 and 2 through FEMA grant
 - West Powell Butte Estates and Red Cloud area
 - Planning work on Millikan road in Summer of 2017 through FEMA grant

McKay

- Mitigation:
 - Continuing defensible space work through FEMA grant

Juniper Canyon

- Mitigation:
 - Mitigation work is happening on private lots in Dry Creek, and a moderate amount on the common properties that are near Davis Loop Rd. including limbing and ladder work. They will continue to spray to keep strip along the dry creek side of the fence (20 feet wide and totally clear) clean.
 - PLA2 limbing projects under power poles, homeowners have been doing mitigation work, grass is cut on Cayuse. A small fire occurred two years ago from a transmission line.

- Continuing defensible space work through FEMA grant
- Coordination with Central Oregon Co Op on fuels removal under right of way power lines
- Infrastructure:
 - No critical infrastructure changes.
 - Jerry Brummer is working with ODOT and others to elevate the building of a road that would connect to Davis Loop. It would cost about \$4-5 million to complete. It was noted that this road would not help residents at the top of the canyon.

Maury

- Mitigation:
 - Large burn - 330 acre prescribed burn that got away and became a 1500 acre burn. BLM conducted a review process on lessons learned to mitigate the risk of this happening again. Prescribed fires get different resources than wildfire and therefore have different time response with resources. BLM is looking at how to reallocate resources for these types of projects.
- Infrastructure:
 - Tower point lookout will be staffed summer 2017

Paulina

- Mitigation:
 - Preparations underway for Country Music Festival just outside of town.
 - Lots of fuels reduction happening under the guise of Sage Grouse habitat, BLM, NRCS and private landowners.
 - Two fires that came out of Black Canyon crossed into Crook County from Grant and Harney counties.
- Infrastructure:
 - Reger Ranger Station is closed with discussions about what to do with the property.

Twelve Mile

- Mitigation:
 - Lots of fuels reduction under the guise of Sage Grouse habitat by the BLM, NRCS and private landowners.

2. 7.0 ACTION PLAN AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

Function or Assessment Area	Action	Strategy/Comments	Completed Items (2005-2014)	2015 Update	2016 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 RFPA.	Established CC CWPP "Steering Committee".	Complete	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

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	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.	Incomplete Note: this existed before FEMA work. Additionally, FEMA pre op inspections are abbreviated (does not include assessing power lines, propane tanks, etc.) FEMA work will not continue after 2018.
	Coordinated outreach and education.	Promote Firewise communities, handout Crook County Fire Ready.		Complete	On-going in several communities. (COIC should connect w/ Vicki and John if want to coordinate on-going projects)

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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.	Sheriff's Office and CCFD are doing work on this. Vicky is working with John on joint messaging. Social media – Levi might take this on for the County
	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 Conant Basin should be a priority.	Unchanged
	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.	Need to check if this is in County Code

Function or Assessment Area	Action	Strategy/Comments	Completed Items (2005-2014)	2015 Update	2016 Update
	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.			Utilities cleaned up main feed lines in 2015-16
	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	In progress
	Encourage the development of Firewise communities.			Complete	On-going
	Evacuation Planning	Develop a standard county-wide framework that can be used to develop local, site-specific evacuation plans.			Unchanged
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.			Unchanged

Function or Assessment Area	Action	Strategy/Comments	Completed Items (2005-2014)	2015 Update	2016 Update
	Evacuation Planning	Develop Juniper Canyon evacuation plan. Keep updated as additional development occurs and alternative access routes are identified and become operational.			Unchanged
	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.			Unchanged
	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)	Finished or close to finishing a 100 acre parcel in PLA. Other areas identified. Pending funding.
	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	Ongoing coordination between John and BLM. Note: FEMA funds cannot be used on federal lands but are being used on private.
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.			Incomplete
	Alfalfa-Community Rural Fire Dist. Formation (preliminary discussions)	Provide coordination and support for this ongoing effort.	RFPD created, establishment in progress.	In progress	RFPD established

Function or Assessment Area	Action	Strategy/Comments	Completed Items (2005-2014)	2015 Update	2016 Update
	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			Unchanged
	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.	Continuing work in Millican. Starting NEPA process to reduce juniper along key travel routes and fuels treatment.
	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	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.			Pre-activity assessment on private ground through FEMA
	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.			Unchanged
	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	Complete

Function or Assessment Area	Action	Strategy/Comments	Completed Items (2005-2014)	2015 Update	2016 Update
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.			Incomplete
	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.			Unchanged
	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.	On-going
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.			Incomplete
	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.			Unchanged
	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.			Complete

Function or Assessment Area	Action	Strategy/Comments	Completed Items (2005-2014)	2015 Update	2016 Update
	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	On-going treatments and perhaps more targeted focus
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.			Incomplete
	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)	Complete
	Identify opportunities to encourage public/private coordination on WUI fuels treatment opportunities.	Encourage private landowner/BLM cooperative fuels treatment efforts.		NRCS and BLM are planning to get grant funds for 2017	Ties into Sage Grouse habitat funds (BLM 5-year plan)

3. REVIEW PAST/CURRENT/FUTURE PROJECTS (INCLUDING FUELS REDUCTION) BY AGENCIES

ONF:

- Underburning: 472 acres
- Jackpot Burning: 1009 acres
- Pile Burning: 524 acres

BLM:

- PLA 110 acres complete with fuels reduction
- Millican Rd/Powell Butte: 514 acres of jackpot burning, 300 acres cut; prescribed burns for spring 2017; 300 acres planned for cutting.
- Sage Grouse Paulina/12 mile: 29,800 acres treated or contracted to be treated.
- Looking to get more money in 2018.

4. REVIEW MONITORING PROTOCOL SECTION 9.2

- Jerry: What is the process for putting treatment maps in fire atlas? Levi: can get the file from John, who has been tracking that work.
- Solar installation will be complete in 2018/19. Be prepared to include in the 5-year re-write.
- Mike: all still valid content

5. EVALUATE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF COORDINATION

- Adam (ODF) sees the success of these meetings and reaching the public. The shared messaging is important.
- Mike (ECSO) Central Oregon continues to have some of the best regional coordination between fire agencies (wildland and structural) as seen in pre-season meetings. Interagency coordination is always at its finest. One area of concern is the lack of ability to fund good, effective prevention to the HOA and homeowners.
- Jerry Brummer is very committed to fire prevention. He believes that champions and personal experience will motivate people, and appreciates having an avenue to talk about this. He feels that outreach is valuable.
- CCFD is very appreciative of the work that is being coordinated and the common goal.

6. DISCUSS CURRENT AND FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grants:

- Brenda: the Ochoco National Forest, in partnership with NRCS, applied for Joint Chief's Initiative and did not receive. Will try again in 2018.

- Brenda: BLM applied for Resilient Landscapes for WUI treatment and did not receive. BLM will continue to pursue this funding.

Title III:

- Based on tax receipts from forest timber
- Applies to CWPP work and FireWise/Fire Preparedness work
- COIC can apply for these monies on behalf of the Committee
- The Committee would like to use these monies to print more publications and conduct more outreach, potentially door to door.
- Jerry Brummer to drive movement politically
- Coordinate with Vicki on outreach and finding champions
- Produce more blue books

7. NEXT STEPS

- Follow up and complete action items
- Next annual meeting will be in winter of 2017
- Will hold another annual meeting in winter of 2018
- Next full re-write will begin early 2019