

Appendix E

Landowner Survey Summary

To gather input on attitudes and opinions regarding wildfire, the Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW) developed and administered a mail survey to 1,500 randomly selected landowners in the wildland-urban interface. The steering committee for the Lane County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) reviewed and approved the survey instrument. The purpose of the landowner survey was to gain information about how landowners in wildland-urban interface areas of Lane County perceive the potential risk of wildfire and their attitudes towards risk reduction and preparedness strategies. The survey results may be used to focus public outreach activities aimed at wildfire risk reduction and loss prevention. Additional benefits of the survey include educating and informing the public, incorporating public values into decision-making, improving the quality of decisions, and building trust in this planning process.

Methodology

The landowner survey focused on wildfire risk awareness and communication, wildfire protection and preparedness, measures to reduce property risk to wildfire, and measures to reduce community risk to wildfire. Survey questions were based on two primary sources: 1) social science research studies supported by the National Fire Plan;¹ and 2) an all hazard risk perception household survey administered by ONHW in 2002.

The survey was mailed to a random sample of landowners selected from Lane Council of Governments Regional Lane Information Database. The sample frame (e.g., the list that the sample was drawn from) included landowners in the Impacted Forestlands (F2) and Rural Residential (RR) zoning designations under the Lane County Code. The sample frame also included lands, regardless of zone designation, in land survey sections determined to be in wildland-urban interface areas using aerial photographs.

ONHW administered the survey to 1,500 randomly selected landowners during February and March 2005. The process included a pre-postcard, the survey packet and a follow-up postcard. The pre-postcard informed the landowner that they would receive a survey about wildfire risk in the near future. The survey packet included 1) a cover letter explaining the purpose of the survey, 2) the survey instrument, and 3) a postage paid return envelope. ONHW mailed the follow-up postcard approximately one week after the survey to remind landowners to complete the survey by the deadline and to thank them for participating.

ONHW received 466 valid survey responses yielding a 32% response rate.

Limitations of Sampling Methodology

A key limitation of any random sample survey is non-response bias. If one were to assume that the sample was perfectly random and that there was no response bias, then the survey would have a margin of error of $\pm 5\%$ at the 95% confidence level based on the sample size relative to the sample population. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times, the results would end up within $\pm 5\%$ of those presented in this report.

Non-response bias is an issue in all surveys, but is particularly important in mailed surveys due to response rates. The landowner survey received a 32% response rate. The survey results should not be considered representative of all Lane County residents, nor was it intended to be. The survey was intended to identify attitudes and opinions of *landowners in the wildland-urban interface*.² Thus, the scope of the survey was intentionally limited. The unique nature of the sample makes it difficult to determine areas of potential response bias. Despite the potential for response bias, our assessment is that the results provide an accurate representation of the attitudes and opinions of property owners in wildland-urban interface areas of Lane County in 2005. It is also important to note that the following responses were given by wildland-urban interface residents and it should not be assumed that the landowners are fire professionals.

Organization of Report

The survey results are organized into the following sections:

Characteristics of Survey Respondents: This section reports information about respondent characteristics including: educational attainment, home ownership, age, and household income.

Wildland Fire Risk Awareness and Communication: This section presents information about respondents' understanding of personal property, neighborhood, and community risk awareness. The survey also asked questions about how respondents receive information pertaining to wildland fire.

Fire Protection and Preparedness: This section presents the results of questions about fire protection services and level of preparedness for a wildland fire emergency.

Reducing Property Risk to Wildland Fire: This section identifies actions property owners would be willing to take in the future to protect their property from wildland fire.

Reducing Community Risk to Wildland Fire: This section presents landowners' opinions about protecting the greater community from wildland fire.

Tables and figures are used to display the data when possible. Tables and figures are titled and linked to the corresponding question number from the survey.

Survey Instrument: This section includes the survey instruments completed by landowners. The response percentages are documented in the instrument.

Open Ended Comments: This section documents all written comments provided by respondents of the survey.

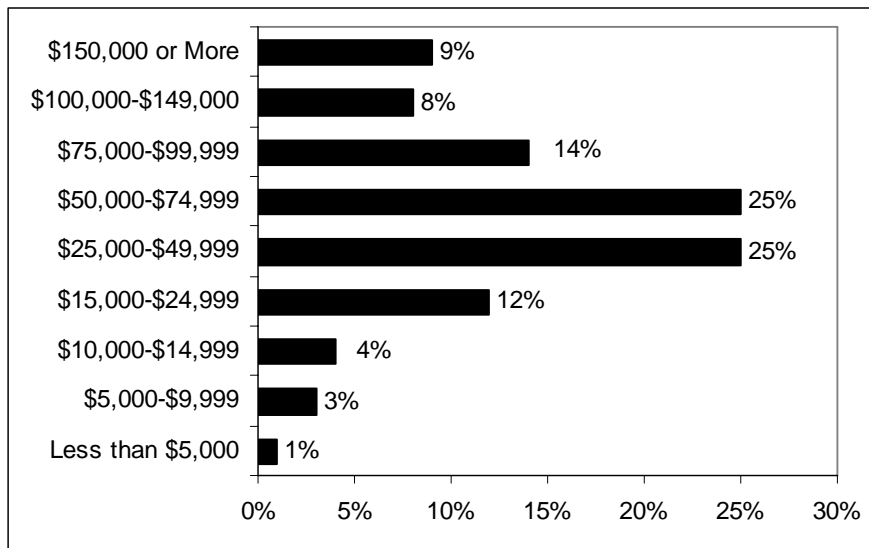
Characteristics of Survey Respondents

The survey instrument asked landowners to answer key demographic questions in order to help define the characteristics of the respondents. Specifically, the questions asked about age, educational attainment, household income, and information about the respondents' property and household. Because this survey targeted a unique population, landowners in the wildland-urban interface, it was not possible to obtain comparative census data.

The average age of respondents was 59 years old; respondents ranged from 18 to 90 years of age.

Figure E.1 shows total household income in 2004 as reported by respondents. Fifty percent of the respondents had an average household income between \$25,000 and \$75,000 in 2004.

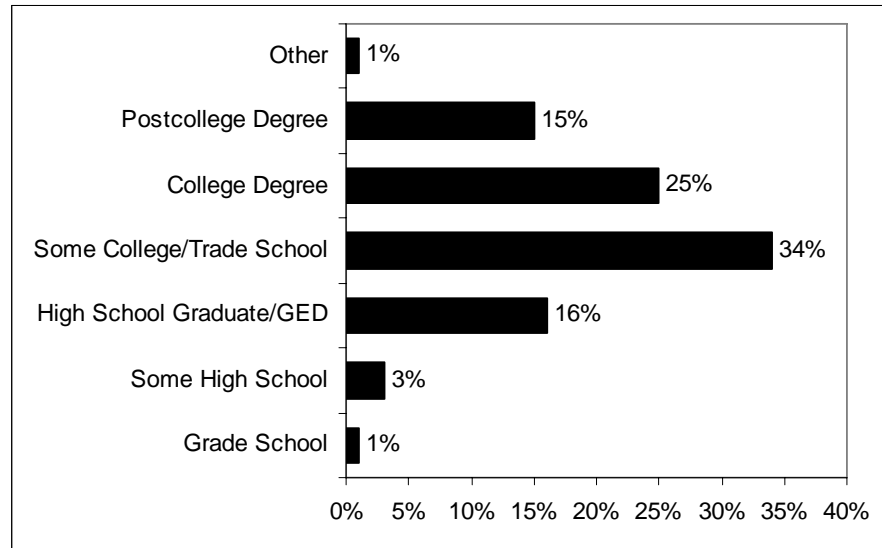
Figure E.1: Household Income in 2004 (Q-20)



Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Figure E.2 illustrates the educational attainment of respondents. Sixty-four percent have attained some college education, a college degree or a post-college degree. Persons with a high school degree or less are underrepresented among survey respondents.

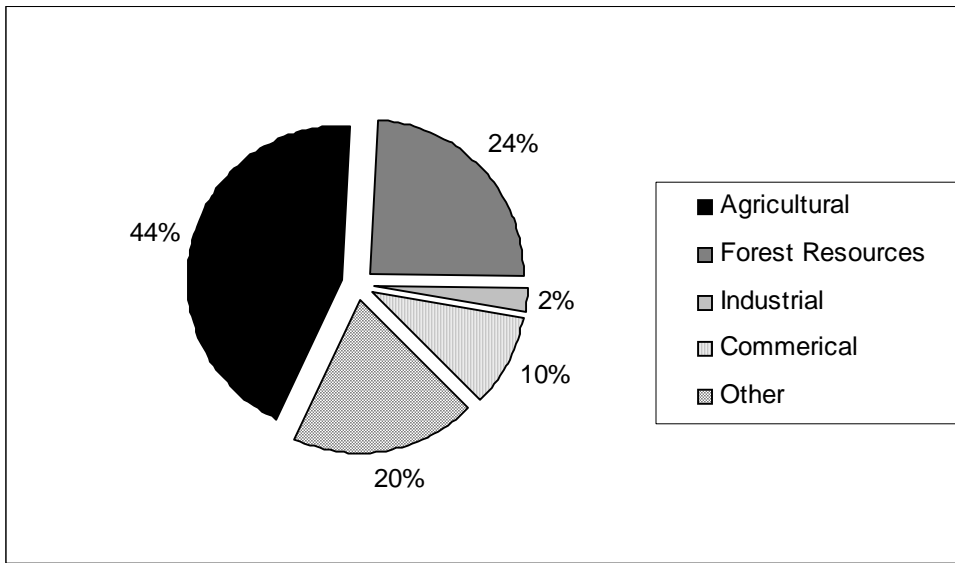
Figure E.2: Level of Educational Attainment (Q-21)



Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

The survey asked general questions about respondents' properties, including ownership and use of property. The majority of respondents owned their home (98%) and were year-round residents of Lane County (93%). The average length of property ownership was 19 years; length of ownership ranged from one year to 100 years. Eight percent of the respondents primarily used their property for business purposes; of these respondents, 68% indicated that they used the property for agricultural and forest industries. Figure E.3 shows the types of businesses located on the property if the property was used primarily as a business.

Figure E.3: Types of Business Use of Property (Q-16)

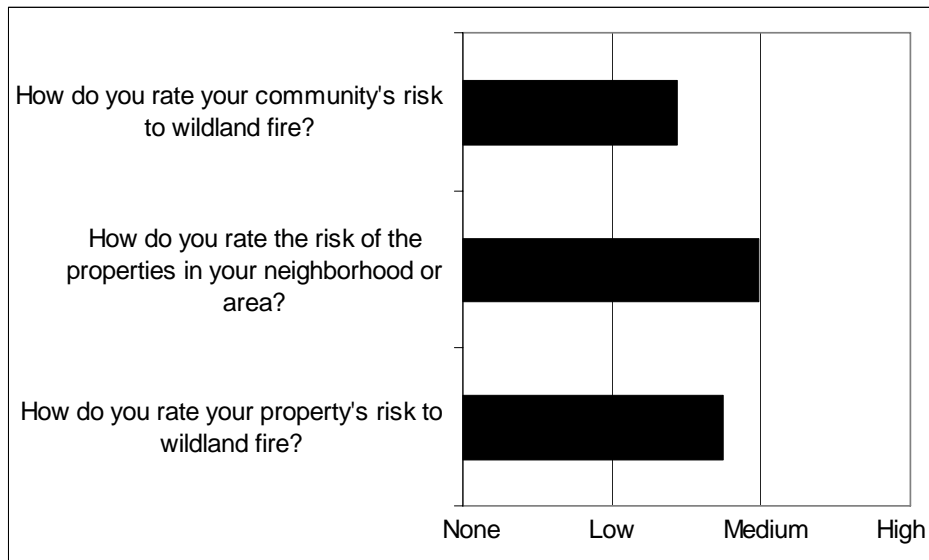


Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Wildland Fire Risk Awareness and Communication

To better understand perceptions of risk, the survey included several questions about wildland fire risk on respondents' property, in their neighborhoods and around their communities. Figure E.4 shows respondents' perceptions of wildfire risk. Over half (80%) of respondents perceived their property as a medium to low risk for wildland fires. Respondents perceived their neighbors' properties to have a higher risk than their own.

Figure E.4: Perceptions of Wildland Fire Risk (Q-1)



Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Personal Experience with Wildland Fire

The survey asked property owners about their personal experiences with wildland fire. Table E.1 shows the types of experience respondents have had with wildland fire. Forty-five percent reported that they had no previous experience with wildland fire. Just above half (57%), reported that they had witnessed a wildfire, smoke and other effects of wildfire, but few (8%) had actually evacuated their home or sustained property damage.

Table E.1: Personal Experience with Wildland Fire (Q-2)

Type of Experience	Percentage of Respondents with Wildfire Experience
Witnesses wildfire or observed smoke or other effects	57%
No experience with wildfire fire	47%
Suffered property damage from a wildland fire	4%
Evacuated home due to a wildfire	4%

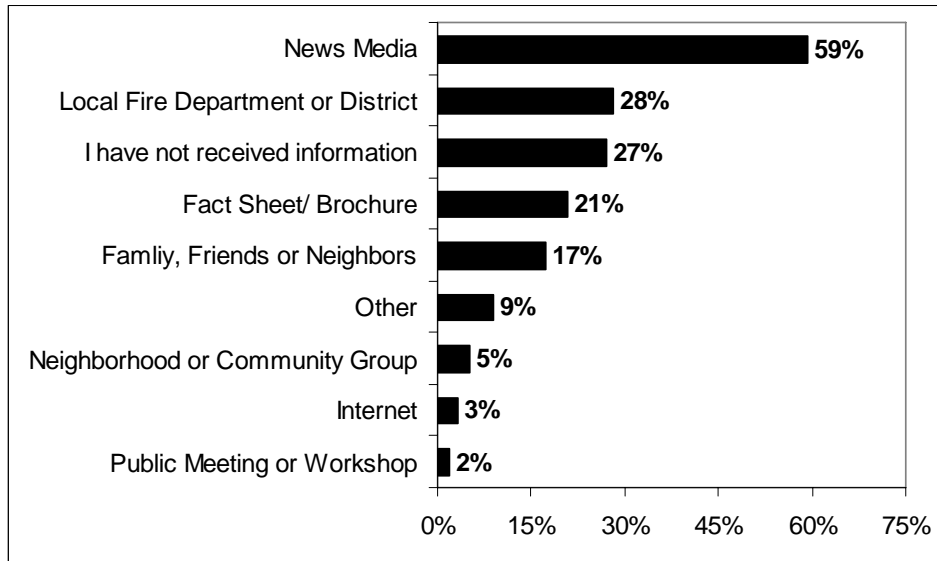
Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Sources of Information About Protecting Property

An important component of the landowner survey was gathering data on effective means of wildland fire information dispersal. The survey asked respondents how they received information about property protection in the past, as well as preferences for receiving information in the future.

Figure E.5 shows how respondents received information in the past about protecting their property against losses from wildland fire. Sixty percent of survey respondents had received information from news media and local fire departments or districts. Survey respondents reported that they did not widely use public meetings/workshops or the Internet to gather information about protecting property from wildland fire.

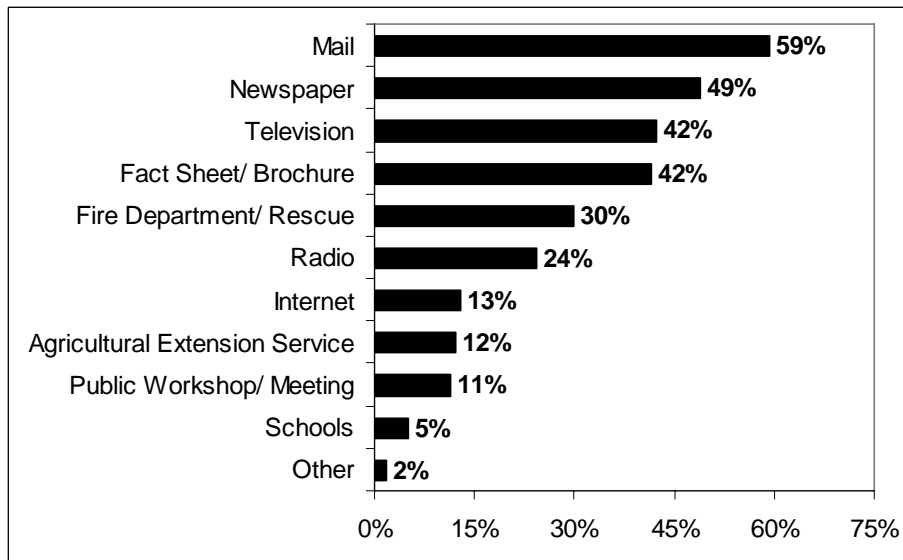
Figure E.5: Past Sources of Information About Protecting Property from Wildland Fire (Q-3)



Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

The survey gathered information about effective means of future correspondence relating to wildland fire property protection (Figure E.6). Respondents' identified mail (59%), newspapers (49%), television (42%) and fact sheets/brochures (42%) as the top four preferred methods to receive information.

Figure E.6: Preferred Sources of Receiving Information About Protecting Property from Wildland Fire (Q-4)



Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Fire Protection Services and Wildland Fire Preparation

The survey gathered information about landowners' knowledge of their fire protection service providers. The survey also asked landowners about emergency preparedness, including evacuation procedures and insurance coverage.

Table E.2 shows that 70% of respondents receive fire protection services from a rural fire district. Six percent of respondents reported that they did not know if their property was protected by a fire protection service.

Table E.2: Fire Protection Services (Q-5)

Fire Protection Service Provider	% Respondents
Rural Fire Protection District	70%
Fire Department	20%
Don't Know	6%
Not Serviced by a Fire Department or District	4%

Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Table E.3 illustrates respondents' answers to questions about wildland fire preparedness. The majority (95%) of the respondents did not know or had not received information about community evacuation procedures. Sixty-six percent of respondents indicated that they did not have personal household evacuation procedures in the case of a wildland fire emergency.

One half (50%) of survey respondents reported that their insurance policies covered losses or structural damage incurred from wildland fire. However, 43% did not know if their insurance policies would protect their properties from damages or losses from wildland fire.

Table E.3: Wildland Fire Evacuation Procedures and Insurance Coverage (Q-6)

Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
Has your community informed you of their wildland fire evacuation procedures?	4.4%	90.8%	4.6%
Does your household have a wildland fire evacuation plan?	30.0%	66.0%	3.8%
Does your homeowners or business insurance policy include coverage in the event of structural damage or loss due to wildland fire?	49.9%	7.1%	42.8%

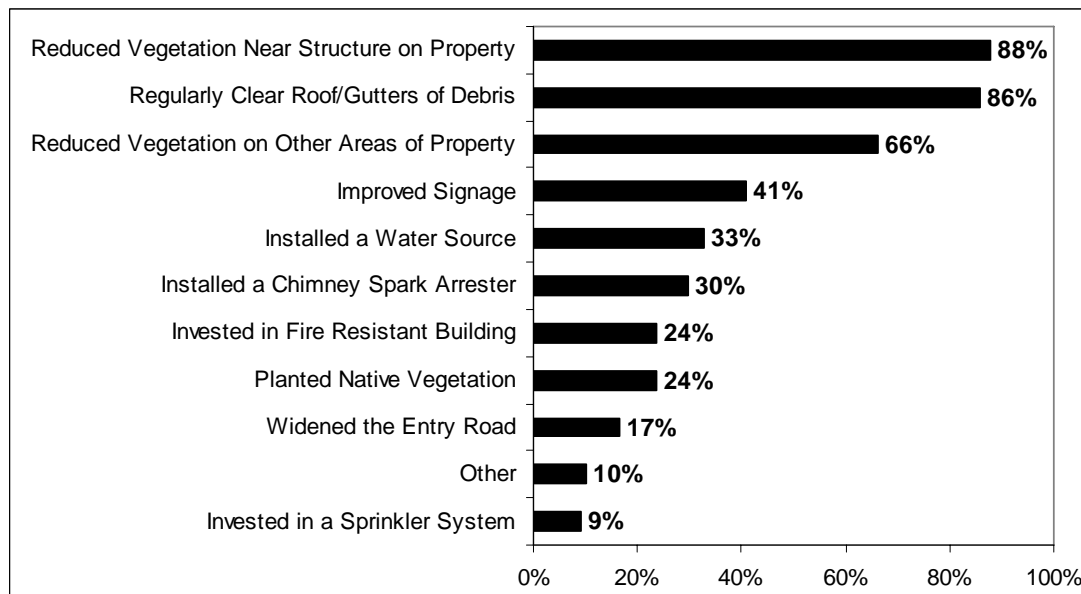
Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Reducing Property Risk to Wildland Fire

The survey gathered information from landowners about measures they have implemented to reduce the risk of wildland fire on their property. This section asked about specific risk reduction strategies.

The majority (90%) of respondents indicated that they have taken measures to reduce losses associated with wildland fire. Figure E.7 shows the types of risk reduction measures taken by respondents. The most frequently reported measures were reducing vegetation near structures and clearing roof/gutters of debris. Fewer property owners reported implementing the measures that required higher financial investment.

Figure E.7: Actions Taken to Reduce the Potential Losses from Wildland Fire (Q-7)



Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Preferred Risk Reduction Actions and Incentives

The survey asked landowners about their willingness to take specific actions to reduce the potential impacts of wildland fire on their property. Table E.5 shows the likelihood of respondents to take different risk reduction actions. The majority of respondents indicated that they are likely to reduce vegetation and debris (79%) and create defensible zones around structures (65%). Respondents were less likely to improve emergency access or use fire-resistant building materials.

Table E.5: Risk Reduction Actions Most Likely to Take (Q-8)

Risk Reduction Action	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not Likely
Reduce debris and vegetation on property	78.5%	15.2%	6.2%
Clear a defensible zone around the property	64.9%	25.2%	9.9%
Improve emergency access to property	35.1%	20.1%	44.8%
Use fire resistant building materials	32.8%	33.9%	33.3%

Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

The survey asked landowners which incentives, if any, would motivate them to take additional steps to protect their properties from wildland fire (Table E.6). The highest percentage of respondents indicated that insurance discounts (70%) or tax breaks/incentives (67%) would motivate them to implement risk reduction steps. About one-third of respondents indicated that grant programs would encourage better protection measures.

Table E.6: Preferred Incentives to Better Protect Property (Q-9)

Type of Incentive	Percent of Respondents
Insurance Discounts	69.7%
Tax Break or Incentive	68.6%
Grant Program	29.2%
None of the Above	12.2%
Other	5.6%

Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Reducing Community Risk to Wildland Fire

The survey asked respondents their opinions and preferences for different strategies to reduce community risk to wildfire. Communities may take a variety of approaches to wildland fire mitigation. The questions in this section help to inform policy decisions by providing better understanding of the level of landowner support for different approaches.

Hazardous Fuels Treatment

Respondents indicated their levels of support for four methods of hazardous fuels treatments in their communities (Table E.7). The treatments included: no action, mechanical thinning, prescribed burning, and chemical treatments. Of the four, the two preferred methods were mechanical thinning (92%) and prescribed burning (74%). Respondents were divided over chemical treatment with 48% supportive and 43% unsupportive of the treatment method. Sixty-nine percent of respondents were unsupportive of no action being taken to reduce hazardous fuels.

Table E.7: Support for Hazardous Fuels Treatments (Q-10)

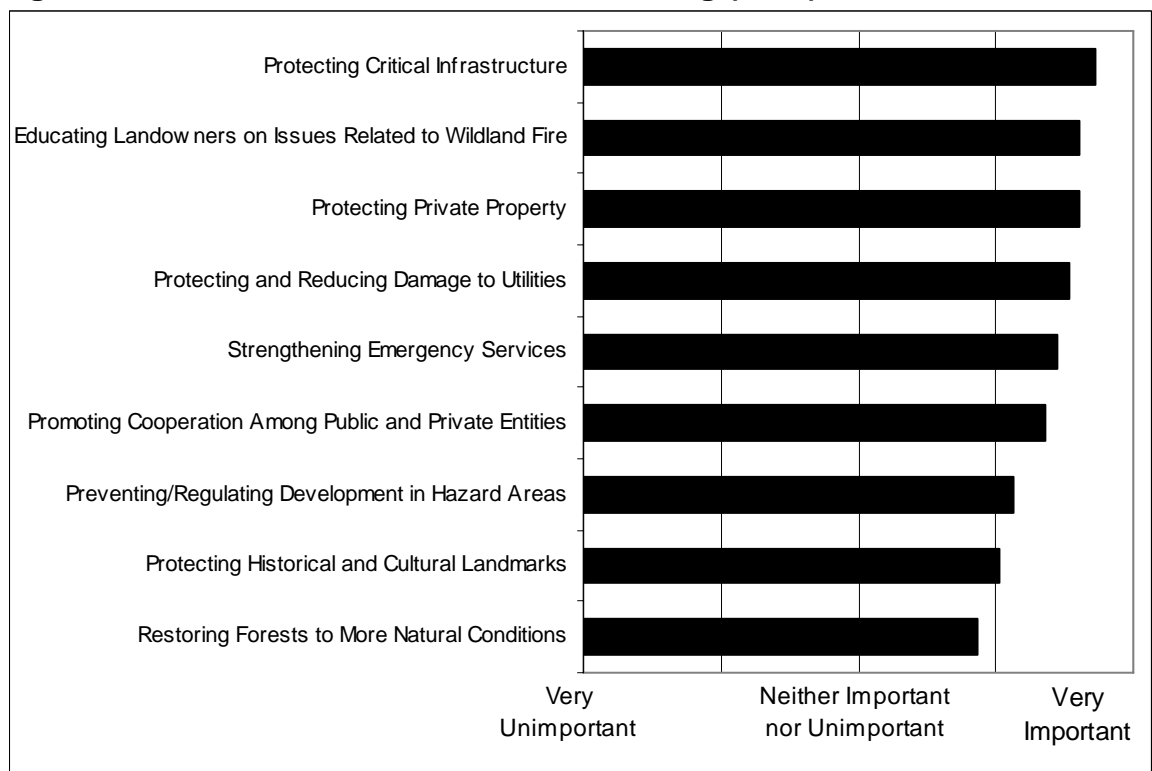
	Supportive	Neither Supportive nor Unsupportive	Unsupportive
No Action	11%	21%	69%
Chemical Treatment	48%	10%	43%
Prescribed Burning	74%	12%	14%
Mechanical Thinning	92%	4%	4%

Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Landowner Priorities for Future Wildland Fire Planning

The survey asked landowners about their opinions on the importance of different planning priorities for wildland fire. Figure E.8 shows the level of importance placed on different planning priorities by respondents. The majority of respondents indicated that each of the planning priorities listed were very or somewhat important. Protecting critical infrastructure, educating landowners, and protecting private property were the priorities ranked with highest importance. Of the priorities listed, respondents indicated that restoring forests to natural conditions was the least important.

Figure E.8: Priorities for Wildland Fire Planning (Q-11)



Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Figure E.9 shows respondents' opinions on responsibility for protecting property against wildland fire. The majority (94%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the responsibility for protecting property is shared between private landowners, local, state and federal agencies. Eighty-four percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that property owners are responsible for wildland fire protection. Fewer respondents agreed that the Oregon Department of Forestry or the community fire department is solely responsible.

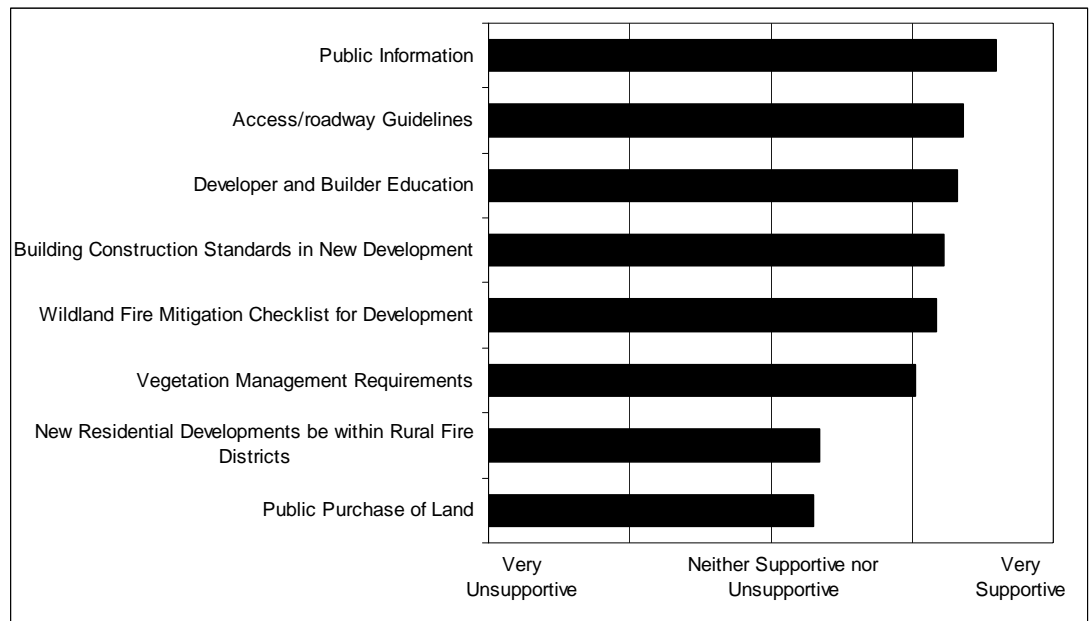
Figure E.9: Responsibility for Protecting Private Property from Wildland Fire (Q-12)



Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

There are a number of regulatory and non-regulatory activities that communities can implement to reduce wildland fire risk. Figure E.10 shows respondents' levels of support for different risk reduction strategies. Respondents indicated the highest level of support for a public information strategy; 95% were very or somewhat supportive. Seventy-eight percent or greater of respondents were very or somewhat supportive of four out of five of the regulatory strategies listed. The most popular were access/roadway guidelines (88%) and building construction standards for new development in high hazard areas (83%). Of the risk reduction strategies listed in the survey, respondents indicated the least support for requiring new rural residential developments be within rural fire protection district boundaries (50%) and for public acquisition of land in high hazard areas for open space (46%).

Figure E.10: Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Strategies for Wildland Fire Risk Reduction (Q-13)



Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

¹ United States Department of Agriculture. 2003. "Homeowners, Communities, and Wildfire: Science Findings from the National Fire Plan".

² It is notable that the survey included absentee landlords. It also includes respondents that occupy a residence on their property, as well as a few businesses.

LANE COUNTY LANDOWNER SURVEY

Instructions: This survey focuses on wildland fire risk awareness, preparedness, and the risk reduction activities of property owners. The estimated time for completing the survey is fifteen to twenty minutes. It should be completed by an adult, preferably the head of the household. **Please return the survey in the enclosed postage paid envelope by March 21, 2005.** All responses are kept confidential.

Your participation is voluntary. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Julie Baxter at the University of Oregon (541-346-3651). If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact the Office of Human Subjects Compliance call (541) 346-2510. Please mail completed surveys to CPW, 1209 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403.

WILDLAND FIRE RISK AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION

The term *property* is used throughout this survey; please interpret this as including both land and structures such as homes.

1. Please check the box that represents your opinion on the level of risk at each of the three areas listed below:

Question	High	Medium	Low	None
How do you rate your property's risk to wildland fire?	16.7 %	44.1 %	36.3 %	2.9 %
How do you rate the risk of the properties in your neighborhood or area?	24.4 %	50.7 %	23.3 %	1.6 %
How do you rate your community's (e.g. roads, schools, hospitals, shopping centers, historic landmarks) risk to wildland fire?	6.4 %	37.0 %	50.9 %	5.7 %

2. Have you or someone in your household personally experienced a wildland fire? (Please check all that apply.)

45.6 %	No experience with wildland fire
57.0 %	Witnessed wildland fire or observed smoke or other effects of wildland fire
3.5 %	Evacuated home due to a wildland fire
3.5 %	Suffered property damage from a wildland fire

3. How have you received information in the past about protecting your property from wildland fire? (Please check all that apply.)

27.1 %	I have not received information	2.0 %	Public meeting or workshop
59.3 %	News media (radio, newspaper, TV)	17.2 %	Family, friends, or neighbors
20.9 %	Fact sheet/brochure	28.2 %	Local fire department or district
3.3 %	Internet	9.0 %	Other
(specify): _____			
5.1 %	Neighborhood or community group,		
(specify): _____			

4. What is your preferred method for receiving information about protecting your property from wildland fire? (Please check all that apply.)

48.8 %	Newspaper	30.0 %	Fire department/rescue
24.3 %	Radio	5.1 %	Schools
42.2 %	Television	41.5 %	Fact sheet/brochure
59.4 %	Mail	11.3 %	Public workshop/meetings
13.0 %	Internet	12.1 %	Agricultural extension service
1.8 %	Other (specify): _____		

FIRE PROTECTION AND PREPAREDNESS

5. Do you know if your property is serviced by a fire department or rural fire protection district? (Please check only one.)
- | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|-------|---|
| 19.9 % | Fire department | 3.8 % | Not serviced by a fire department or district |
| 70.4 % | Rural fire protection district | 5.9 % | Don't know |

6. Please answer the following fire protection and preparedness questions.

Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
A. Have you received information about wildland fire evacuation procedures for your community?	4.4 %	90.8 %	4.6 %
B. Does your household have a wildland fire evacuation plan?	30.0 %	66.0 %	3.8 %
C. Does your homeowner or business insurance policy include coverage in the event of structural damage or loss due to wildland fire?	49.9 %	7.1 %	42.8 %

REDUCING PROPERTY RISK TO WILDLAND FIRE

Property owners can take a number of actions to reduce the potential for property damage due to wildland fire. For instance, an owner can significantly reduce the chances of structures igniting during a wildland fire by creating and maintaining a defensible space around structures on their property. Defensible space is a fire-safe zone created by reducing flammable vegetation around a structure.

7. Please indicate if you have taken any actions to reduce the potential for fire losses on your property?
- | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| 89.9 % | Yes |
| 10.1 % | No (IF NO, Skip to Question 8) |

- 7.1 If YES, which of the following actions have you taken on your property? (Please check all that apply.)

85.9 %	Regularly clear roof/gutters of debris	29.6 %	Installed a chimney spark arrester
		32.8 %	Installed a water source
87.9 %	Reduced vegetation near structures (buildings) on property	9.0 %	Invested in a sprinkler system
66.3 %	Reduced vegetation on other areas of property	40.9 %	Improved address signage for better visibility
23.5 %	Planted native vegetation (plants)	16.7 %	Widened the road leading to the property
23.8 %	Invested in fire resistant building materials	10.0 %	Other (specify): _____

8. Please indicate how likely you are to take the following actions to reduce the potential impacts of wildland fire to your property.

Risk Reduction Action	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Not Likely
A. Reduce debris and vegetation on property	78.5 %	15.2 %	6.2 %
B. Create defensible zones around structures	64.9 %	25.2 %	9.9 %
C. Improve emergency access to property	35.1 %	20.1 %	44.8 %
D. Use fire resistant building materials	32.8 %	33.9 %	33.3 %

9. Which of the following incentives, if any, would motivate you to take additional steps to better protect your property from wildland fire?
- | | | | |
|--------|------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 69.7 % | Insurance discount | 29.2 % | Grant program |
| 68.6 % | Tax break or incentive | 12.2 % | None of the above |
| 5.6 % | Other (specify): _____ | | |

REDUCING COMMUNITY RISK TO WILDLAND FIRE

10. Developed public and private lands can create a wildland fire risk when trees and underbrush grow densely near structures. Several methods can be used to maintain trees and underbrush to reduce the potential for wildland fire impacts. Mechanical thinning involves the use of chainsaws, brush mowers, or other specialized machines to reduce the number of shrubs and small trees, thus reducing the potential for nearby structures to ignite. Prescribed burning involves controlling naturally caused fires or intentionally setting fires to burn under close and careful watch. Chemical treatment involves the application of chemical agents to prevent or restrict the growth of existing vegetation. Please indicate how supportive you are of each of the following methods.

Treatment Method	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Neither Supportive nor Unsupportive	Somewhat Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive
A. No Action	6.2 %	4.5 %	20.5 %	15.4 %	53.4 %
B. Mechanical Thinning	68.6 %	24.5 %	3.7 %	1.6 %	1.6 %
C. Prescribed Burning	39.0 %	34.7 %	12.1 %	7.4 %	6.9 %
D. Chemical Treatment	24.7 %	22.6 %	10.0 %	13.5 %	29.2 %

11. Wildland fire can have a significant impact on a community, but planning for its occurrence can help lessen the impacts. The following statements will help determine landowner priorities for planning for wildland fire. Please tell us how important each one is to you.

Statement	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither Important nor Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
A. Protecting critical infrastructure (e.g. roads, hospitals, schools)	80.2 %	14.9 %	3.1 %	1.3 %	0.4 %
B. Protecting private property	66.3 %	28.3 %	4.5 %	0.9 %	0.0 %
C. Preventing or regulating development in hazard areas	46.1 %	34.1 %	11.4 %	3.9 %	4.5 %
D. Restoring forests to natural conditions	38.4 %	30.8 %	16.2 %	8.7 %	5.9 %
E. Protecting historical and cultural landmarks	34.3 %	42.6 %	16.6 %	3.8 %	2.7 %
F. Promoting cooperation among public agencies, citizens, non-profit groups, and businesses	52.1 %	36.2 %	8.5 %	1.3 %	1.8 %
G. Reducing damage to utilities	62.0 %	31.1 %	6.3 %	0.4 %	0.2 %
H. Strengthening emergency services (e.g. police, fire)	56.0 %	35.5 %	6.5 %	1.6 %	0.4 %
I. Educating landowners on wildland fire	65.2 %	31.3 %	2.6 %	0.4 %	0.4 %

12. Please indicate your opinion on each of the following statements about responsibility for protecting property from wildland fire.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A. Private property owners are responsible for protecting their property from wildland fire.	42.5 %	41.6 %	9.6 %	5.4 %	0.9 %
B. The community fire department is responsible for protecting property from wildland fire.	16.6 %	55.7 %	17.7 %	8.2 %	1.8 %
C. The property owner (including federal, state, local, and private) that manages the forest is responsible for protecting property from wildland fire.	32.7 %	51.2 %	14.1 %	1.6 %	0.5 %
D. The Oregon Department of Forestry is responsible for protecting property from wildland fire.	17.4 %	45.8 %	25.6 %	8.5 %	2.7 %
E. Protecting property from wildland fires is a shared responsibility between private landowners, local, state, and federal government agencies.	65.1 %	28.6 %	4.6 %	0.4 %	1.3 %

13. A number of activities can reduce your community's risk to wildland fire. These activities can be both regulatory and non-regulatory. An example of a regulatory activity would be a policy that requires the review of development plans to meet certain criteria in known wildland fire hazard areas. An example of a non-regulatory activity would be to develop a public education program to demonstrate steps citizens can take to make their property safer from wildland fire. Please check the box that best represents your support of the following strategies to reduce the risks posed by wildland fire.

Risk Reduction Strategy	Very Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Neither Supportive nor Unsupportive	Somewhat Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive
A. Public information to increase citizen action in reducing risk	97.3 %	28.4 %	3.3 %	0.4 %	0.4 %
B. Requirements for vegetation management around structures located in high hazard areas	38.7 %	40.0 %	10.4 %	6.2 %	4.7 %
C. Building construction standards for new development in high hazard areas	49.6 %	33.6 %	9.3 %	5.6 %	2.0 %
D. Access/roadway guidelines for new development in high hazards areas	52.9 %	35.1 %	8.7 %	1.8 %	1.6 %
E. Developer and builder educational programs	48.5 %	38.0 %	11.4 %	0.7 %	1.3 %
F. Wildland fire mitigation checklist for development review process in high hazard areas	41.9 %	39.7 %	13.5 %	3.6 %	1.3 %
G. Public purchase of land in high hazard areas for open space	19.7 %	26.5 %	30.9 %	10.3 %	12.6 %
H. Require new rural residential developments be within rural fire protection district boundaries	24.3 %	25.9 %	22.8 %	13.2 %	13.8 %

GENERAL LANDOWNER INFORMATION

14. How long have you owned the property to which this survey is addressed? Average 19.3 Years

15. What is your zip code?

16. Is this property primarily used as a business?

8.2 % Yes

91.6 % No (IF NO, Skip to Question 17)

16.1. What type of business is it?

43.9 % Agricultural

24.4 % Forest Resources

2.4 % Industrial

9.8 % Commercial

19.5 % Other (specify): _____

17. Do you rent or own the home in which you live?

0.4 % Rent

97.6 % Own (or am buying)

1.8 % Occupy without payment or rent

18. Do you live in the home where you received this survey year round or seasonally?

93.0 % Year round

6.1 % Seasonal

19. What is your age? Average 59 Years

20. Please estimate your total household income in 2004 before taxes.

0.8%	Less than \$5,000	11.9 %	\$15,000-\$24,999	13.7 %	\$75,000-\$99,999	
	2.6 %	\$5,000-\$9,999	24.9 %	\$25,000-\$49,999	8.0 %	\$100,000-
149,999		4.4 %	\$10,000-14,999	25.1 %	\$50,000-\$74,999	8.5 %
						\$150,000 or more

21. Please indicate your level of education.

1.1 % Grade school/no schooling

2.7 % Some high school

16.6 % High school graduate/GED

35.8 % Some college/trade school

24.9 % College degree

15.2% Postcollege degree

1.1 % Other (please specify): _____

Please feel free to provide any additional comments in the space provided below.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PROVIDING THIS INFORMATION

The Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup at the University of Oregon's Community Service Center prepared this survey. For more information, please contact Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup at 1209 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1209, call (541) 346-3653, or visit <http://www.OregonShowcase.org>

Responses to Open-Ended Questions

The Lane County Landowner Survey included a number of open-ended (e.g., fill in the blank) questions. The following represents the transcribed comments provided by survey respondents.

Q-3. How have you received information in the past about protecting your property from wildland fire?

Neighborhood or community group

- Neighborhood Watch Disaster Preparedness Program
- Can't remember which
- SBNA
- Spencer Butte Neighborhood Association
- SBNA
- Fire prevention info from schools
- Ag. extension service
- Forest Service fire crew
- Visit/property inspection by local fire dept/forest service
- Work, ex-USFS fire prevention specialist – ex-rural fire dept. firefighter/officer
- Firemen from local fire dept
- Neighborhood Watch
- Homeowners Association
- Volunteer group
- Church – CERT. Evacuation – specifically in event or tsunami, not fire
- McKenzie View Neighborhood Watch
- Spencer Butte Neighborhood Assn. [fire tree list](#)
- SBNA
- McKenzie View Neighborhood Watch

Other

- Forest Service
- Work
- Has house and property evaluated by ---somebody ---USFS?
- Property in LaPine Oregon
- Home and fire magazine
- Personal study
- Lane county
- Common Sense
- Work
- Member of national fire team
- Common sense
- Permit requirements
- County
- Newspaper
- West Lane Forestry

- Land use requirements
- Forestry graduate
- California Dept. of Forestry
- Used to be employed at E.P.D.
- Government warning sign posted in area.
- Experience with slash burning. Worked in the woods and saw it get out of control. We had to fight to regain control. Scary stuff!!
- Training sessions in wildland fire fighting
- Common sense!
- County – when applied for a permit
- Fire expert at Neighborhood Watch meeting who worked for our environmental consulting business in California as a consultant
- Lane Co. land use permits
- When it was close they called with a message (recorded)
- From Lane County building permits
- County land use development
- Building permit process
- City of Eugene
- Retired Eugene Fire Dept.
- Deschutes County
- Lane County
- Extension class
- Insurance co.
- Grandson who is a wildfire fighter
- Forest stewardship plan

Q-4. What is your preferred method for receiving information about protecting your property from wildland fire?

- Experience
- Local news
- Ongoing educ. (students)
- Email
- Forestry Dept.
- Onsite consultation

Q-7.1. Which of the following actions have you taken on your property?

- Reduced forest fuels
- Fire hoses and fire hose connections to my water system
- Drip system
- Reduced vegetation throughout thinned trees
- Moved firewood pile
- Replaced Shake roof with Metal
- Mow approximately 1 acre around house
- Regular mowing along fence lines and roads

- Buffer Zone
- Identified places for pump truck to get water
- Fuel burn inspection during remodel of house
- Moved firewood away from house
- Pond/pump/fire hoses
- Fire tank trailer/pump
- Blacktop around the home
- Kept pastures mowed
- Barrel of rainwater
- Adequate
- Firewood away from home, no cedar roof
- Have rock & river as property lines
- 350 gal. water tank on wheels & hose
- Fire breaks, back up water supply
- Upgraded pellet stove vents
- Fire extinguisher in house & garage
- Extra hose cart for fighting fires 5/8"x200' hose (until help arrives)
- Disc around property line
- Large fire ext.
- Maintain about 2 miles of interior roads
- Regular mowing
- Turnaround for fire truck near house
- Cut trees
- 2,000 gallons of water stored for pumping
- Clear bush out
- Clean up winter forest debris
- Super sensitive smoke alarms
- Removed shakes & used composition roof
- Added driveway that is more direct to road
- Put in a fire-safe zone around home/buildings
- Installed steel roof

Q-9. Which of the following incentives, if any, would motivate you to take additional steps to better protect your property from wildland fire?

- Fire dept assessment of property
- A survey of my property to show me where & how I could improve my risk of wildfire damage.
- Not very good options
- Low cost tractor/mower deck rental from the county or fire department
- We asked our insurance company and there is no significant difference in risk if we build out of wood or brick, so we are building out of wood
- Logical practicality [will it really help]
- Need Parks Dept. to clean up their mess
- Public assistance

- Because it's my home
- Someone to do the job
- Safety measures
- I take fire seriously – it is my own responsibility; it is my job.
- The incentive is to reduce fire potential.
- Help in the cost of doing it.
- Rebate
- Nothing – I protect my property now
- The work I do is to prevent my house from burning & my neighbors'
- We are motivated by safety & responsible property ownership. However, we would not turn down any of the motivations listed!
- Low cost assistance clearing large trees.
- Safety
- Services of professional consultant about what specific steps to take for my property
- Clear need demonstration – I feel current situation is OK
- Common sense
- Safety unproved
- Onsite consultations

Q-16.1. What type of business is it?

- Horse ranching
- Church/school
- Rental
- Mobile Home Park
- Campground/mobile home park
- Art sales – mail order
- Boarding kennel
- Horse ranch, 8 acres, ½ trees, ½ pasture
- Golf course
- Rental house
- Photography studio
- Design & retail
- Trailer court

Q-21. Please indicate your level of education

- Broker's license, real estate
- Administrative counseling
- Ph.D.
- State Ed program in law enforcement
- Navy schooling
- Post-doctorate
- USAF

Please feel free to provide any additional comments in the space provided below.

- We moved from Bend/Redmond where we lived amongst old growth Junipers. We were very aware of green space around buildings and activities outdoors with potential fire danger. We are not lulled into thinking fire can't happen over here. We live in the Mohawk Valley on the river & are less likely to have a wildfire. How about fire dept. issuing & selling fire & emergency address signs.
- We live on a busy road and worry a lot when the vegetation along the road is tinder dry. We have had fireworks tossed out of cars and cigarettes. We do water as often as we can to try and keep the fire danger down.
- My greatest concern is development that brings families into the area who have little boys, since boys like to sneak off and smoke and/or play with matches, lighters, and other fire. I consider them to be the gravest danger, at least to my woodlot and, therefore, my home.
- This is a great community service in developing community wildfire protection plan. We are in a rural area and have a high potential [because of] hazardous place next to us. The owners have large areas of "junked" equipment & fallen trash & wood piles. County regulations must allow this . . . or at least have no inspection policy to deter such hazards!! How do we report this?
- Church structure with metal roofing located on large lot that is mowed to meet fire safety standards.
- I am always surprised to see that fireworks are sold in Lane Co. They are a definite fire hazard. This survey is important, as will be the follow-up.
- Most of this survey deals with housing developments. I live & manage timber property where we worry about a "forest fire" – not a fire that goes thru the Eugene South Hills.
- Survey requires over-simplification and solutions, as well as specific circumstances, so results should be viewed with caution.
- I live in a subdivision of 28 homes. We spray for gorse control of common areas every year. A lot of land around us has a lot of gorse which is a fire hazard. They should be made to control it.
- There has to be a strong enforcement (with teeth) or a total ban on entry into BLM lands or other public/gov't-owned timberlands. Without this we are all open to vandalism & nuisance/careless fires!
- Conceding that there are always extenuating circumstances, as a matter of principle, the general public should not be made responsible for fire protection in areas of residential developments which were irresponsibly located in high wildland fire hazard areas.
- Our rural neighbors need to be educated concerning fuel for wildfires. One of them brought clippings from town and dumped them on our right-of-way at the bottom of our hill – fire travels uphill!?!
- Questions unclear at times. Should have "not applicable" choice.
- Strongly prefer incentives over regulations. It has been very difficult to make our older home/property less vulnerable. Education would be most effective at the time of development.
- Thank you for drawing my attention to some of these questions – I've lived here 4 years and realize I need to find out some answers.

- I believe that private property owners should continue to be allowed to prohibit government agencies from using chemical plant growth controls on roadways bordering private property.
- It's very important that people help themselves. An awareness program to help people focus on the potential danger can be very important.
- On question concerning improving emergency access to my property, my driveway has a sharp uphill turn that makes it difficult for heavy equipment and access.
- My feeling is that people who live in forested areas are more aware of fire danger than those who live elsewhere. I think in general we are more careful and observant than those who just visit the forest. We take care of our forest.
- Neighbors allowing their lands to become a fire hazard as a result of uncontrolled grasses/trees/weeds monitoring needed and enforced.
- The Army Corps of Eng & Lane County Parks (Dexter Lake) now have a firebreak area between their park and our private prop.
- Common sense must prevail.
- I am pleased to see this survey. I hope more can be done to help with wildland fires.
- This survey was educational – provided info.
- I would need to hire someone to clear brush – at what cost?
- I worry when a neighbor's bonfire is closer to my fence/forest, than to the neighbor's building. That neighbor may consider that his bonfire presents no risk (to his building) or that containment has never (yet) failed. Perhaps I simply worry too much.
- I feel access to land for fire fighting equipment very important – more important than preserving wilderness from this access. Strict enforcement of fire season – equipment use, fire protection equipment, burning (not allowed).
- The area I responded to is near Loraine Hwy & Fox Hollow Road.
- There is a fine line between wanting to do the right thing to protect property and over-regulation. Incentives to conform to a safer environment need to benefit not only the owner but also renters who maintain the property anyway. Thank you for this much need survey. Because of your survey I will make sure I have wildland fire coverage.
- Just a thought: If you could somehow convince (without coercion) property owners with on-site dead wood (standing or fallen) to allow trespassing (by neighbors) to remove deadwood only (for use as firewood). Restrictions could apply where requested such as – no roads, no motor vehicles, only what could be moved by wheelbarrow; by hand, no chainsaws, only non-motorized saws & axes. Woodcutters should show ID & sign in, naturally no trash to be left behind. Only on specified days and/or times. Removal of even a percentage of dry deadwood should reduce risk of wildfire speed and intensity. For example: in Sec 26, T185, R4W, I don't suppose that you could initiate contacting the out-of-state owner of tax lot 404 to ask if the tenant-resident of tax lot 200 (across the road) could harvest dead wood (only) for firewood? Would they all have to sign a waiver for risk or injury?
- #1 Suggestion: Please make fireworks illegal!!! Especially in hazardous areas!!!
- 50% of surrounding properties are F2 in immediate area
- We need to get into our forests and get rid of all old and rotten trees. Keep our forests healthy. Also we need a lot of roads through our forests. We need to be able to get to a fire. That's the way it used to be.

- We do not need more laws and restrictions. We need education.
- I live in the Mohawk Valley which is largely commercial timberland and ripe to burn. To my knowledge, there is no plan for evacuation!
- We moved to this residence because it is in a beautiful location, away from large numbers of people, and are willing to accept the risk of fire. We voted against a rural fire protection district.
- Re question 11 C & D (preventing or regulating development in hazard areas): Sounds too restrictive, as if written by the ON.R.C. Re question 13 G (Public purchase of land in high hazard areas for open space): Do not like buying & locking up land by government.
- Less government & no more taxes
- Monocultural management increases wildland fire danger.
- Plan to hold religious activities on this property. Also Boy Scout campout. Will stress fire safety at all times!!
- Visit by local fire personnel would be very useful. We may think we are doing all we can but they are experts and would see things we are not aware of or have useful & valuable suggestions. Also, in rural areas are local fire personnel familiar with the area & roads and addresses?
- #12 is written in such a way that I had trouble deciding what to check. I feel private prop. Is the responsibility of owners w/the help if they need it from appropriate agencies.
- Illegal burning is a serious issue, both out of season and type of burn. I have been told that LRAPA has enforcement jurisdiction for penalties, but Lane rural will respons . . . not good. Lane Rural needs the ability to levy fines and keep the money for future enforcement!! Stopping illegal burning will significantly reduce the risk of wildland fire. Having been a hotshot, I know that “John Q Public” has no idea of the factors influencing fire . . .
 - Low humidity
 - East winds
 - Wind at all
 - How deep the heat goes into the soil, leaves, and how long it stays hot

I would not be opposed to eliminating all residential burning . . . although it does seem that the public pyros get a little carried away on controlled burns and start a few too many “big ones” themselves. Thanks.
- Thank you for letting us participate in your survey. :)
- I think we should look into stopping all slash burning. The material should be chipped & broadcast back into logged or thinned areas. Also, this could be trucked out for mulch, but not left in large piles. I think piles could build heat & ignite.
- I received much of my info. when I applied to build a house. I had to do some clearing and am planning on keeping it up, and I have to, anyway (T2 property). It only makes sense. Education is the best way. I’ve lived here 18 yrs.; country people don’t like to be told what to do.
- We live in a high risk fire district. Our local fire chief is an active and competent person, fully capable of organizing and facilitating wildfire protection for the Dexter community. Myself and my friends in Dexter active support the implementation of his guidelines, as we feel he knows both our fears and our needs. But Dexter needs funds for firefighting and for community outreach.

- The insurance companies seem to have more influence on rural area owners. They can levy things quicker than our government. If people don't meet the minimum standards on an inspection (could be done by the local fire department) the insurance gives so much time to comply or they become uninsured and assigned risk (higher rate for so much time after complying), etc. Require local fire inspection report before (and rated off) insurance. Quit making everyone else foot the bill through a blanket amount!
- 10 years fighting wildland fires has given me a new perspective on stewardship of my land, but I am against any governmental agency regulating my stewardship of my own property. Fire season and fire season regulations excepted.
- Thank you
- My property borders federal land (USFS) on 2 sides. Brush hangs over to my property. Extensive brushing would be required to clear a safe distance. I have neither the time or money to do it myself or hire someone. I think USFS should take some responsibility in doing the brushing.
- We continually cleaned, cleared, & burned stumps, brush, and logging slash. Now we are not to burn after it is dry enough to burn clean and only after the wind is up, which blows live material to start more fire. Who thinks up the rules? All oldtimers felt ditches, roadside were now too much of a threat to burn. Also – you don't get a large log on a slash pile or stump burned out in 6 to 7 hrs – you feed it until it's gone – not throw water on it in damp weather! (A safe time to burn.)
- Given a choice, how many environmentalists would show p for a fire prevention project, or protest or strike a timber sale?
- Now follow through – thanks
- IOC – every year forest service has so-called burns under their supervision and almost every year a fire gets away.
- Stop building in high risk zones. Stop all cutting of big trees. Return forests to natural states. Prescribed burns, native vegetation, etc.
- Although rural residential property owners stress private rights, wildland fire risk is definitely a shared responsibility that directly affects safety of neighbors and warrants reasonable government intrusion.
- Vacant land – no structures. Growing trees.
- Incentives for insurance companies to provide educational literature to homeowners?
- I believe education is better than regulation of wildfire management.
- Thank you for pursuing this important project. Drought conditions re getting worse each year, & we all need to be proactive and work diligently on prevention & preparation. Community education is vital. Thank you!
- Open range for goats to cut back in wildland fires.
- We live in the Brice Creek rural area, not far from the national forest. We have one road serving us. One direction goes into Cottage Grove, the other direction leads us into the national forest. So you could say that we would have only one way out in the event of a forest fire. We have no fire protection and NO police protection. We are on our own up here. We all have our own wells, and in the event of a fire, if our power lines burn we are without any water source to fight it. We have cleared all the close brush around our house (except one tree), and we irrigate the whole yard all summer to keep things green. Due to the predicted water shortage this summer, we are considering not watering as normal, in

order to preserve our well water. We have read several articles about the coming fire danger and the shortage of water. The river that borders us is as low now as it gets in August. We are worried. And we are VERY upset about the practice used by the federal (and state) government(s) of “prescribed burning” and letting the forests grow in a “natural state, with no logging or thinning or road building. This insane practice has put all rural folks in a dangerous position. I would think that the Biscuit Fire would have served as a good lesson against these practices. The lack of roads into the Biscuit area prevented equipment from getting into areas to prevent the fire from spreading. The roads themselves help serve as a fire break. And “prescribed burning” is the epitome of ignorance! Wasn’t it Arizona that had a “prescribed burn” get out of control? Have you sent this same questionnaire to our federal and state governments to question their lack of responsibility in getting us in this predicament? I would hope so. You would better serve the people of Lane County if you put your pressure on the governments to put some sanity back into managing our forests by logging, clearing, and USING our forests again. Why should all the responsibility of preventing forest fires be put on the shoulders of the little private property owner when it hasn’t been our practices that got us in this mess? We would be glad to do anything we can to help in the coming crisis, but I think it’s like closing the barn door after the horse has left.

- Would very much like more info on how to protect my property in an event of a wildfire and also prevention information.
- I live in London; we have no fire protection, vol. or otherwise. If we have a structure fire out here, we lose everything we own, because Cottage Grove Rural will not respond out here on Shoestring Road. Get us help PLEASE!!!
- Re question 13F (Wildland fire mitigation checklist for development review process in high hazard areas): very supportive if for speculative development, but not for single dwelling owner occupied. Re question 13H (Require new rural residential developments be within rural fire protection district boundaries): very supportive if for speculative development but not for single dwelling owner occupied.
- The community fire dept. is particularly imp. During our current drought cycle. This summer may be critical & prevention should be stressed in the media.
- Re question 13D (Access/roadway guidelines for new development in high hazard areas): Who will make the criteria and determine what high hazard areas are?
- Don’t assume because you live off of the taxpayers that you are more wise. Oregon has been overrun with Calif people; they don’t speak for normal people.
- My comments are swayed because I live next to the city but am serviced by the rural district. There is little or no chance of wildfire problems for my property. I water throughout the summer and so do others in my area.
- You miss two big factors affecting wildfire hazard in the South Hills of Eugene. 1) The city needs to be more proactive in closing Spencer Butte Park during periods of high fire hazard. It needs to educate the general public that uses the park with signs and media regarding fire hazards and public responsibility. 2) EWEB needs to provide enough water pressure so fire hydrants can serve the South Hills where there is residential development. The city fire department can serve this area better, too, with medium sized pumper trucks.
- We need to restore fire to our forested ecosystems without the occasional episode of too much smoke in the airshed.

- Most of the wildfires in the area of my residence are grass seed fields. Only on rare occasions are trees & shrubbery involved.
- The majority of private landowners are concerned and aware and capable of figuring out a few things on their own. We do not need to have another government program to tell us how fire starts. I'm sure, though, that the results of this survey will show overwhelming support for that. How about providing tools if you want to help. Shovels, axes, hoes, portable pumps at low cost to rural owners – way more effective than a bureaucracy.
- Our rural fire chief has made our area safer. Immediately after being hired he updated maps to show homes built. Many homes were not even shown on existing maps. With lack of funding to fire services everyone needs to help.
- No smoking on hazardous days in or out of vehicles. Lit material out of cars has started most of the fires around here since 1969.
- I feel in this high risk residential area a business that requires 6 to 8 employees working in a 20x24 building with high windows, 1 door, electric office machinery is dangerous to the employees & our neighborhood. There is also a high volume of delivery boxes and packing debris left thrown about and overflowing the containers. Vegetation & yard debris that is stored on property is creating a potential risk for fire, with many of the employees smoking without a smoking area except outside with the debris. Could this kind of problem be addressed by a fire inspection? This also adds on most days 6 to 8 cars, delivery trucks 5 to 6 times a day on a single lane road causing traffic problems with emergency equipment. Thank you.
- This survey has great potential to be misused in that the questions asked are complex, and would be answered in different ways depending on assumptions made. In particular, questions 12 & 13 were difficult to answer. That said, this is an important survey – thank you.
- NOT crazy about the education that comes out of the U of O on Oregon logging industry – there were less fires in the wild that are started by lightning & idiots when harvest was being done by good people – it provided money for fire, police, education, roads – “a renewal resource.”
- We feel educational programs are very important. We think it would be good to have various approaches to education so as to interest and engage more people. These days there is so much innovation and creativity using differing media. We feel this could be put to good use in a situation like this. It is very prevalent in our country for people to have great aversion to being told what to do. They want to go it alone, do it their own way. These people need to be drawn in. It would be good to have ways of visually impressing upon them the impact and power of fire. Let them see how it can destroy homes and lands, their homes and lands. We suggest as part of education and also getting people involved that town hall meeting would be good. Perhaps representatives of a neighborhood could come and then disseminate the information to their neighborhood. Encourage people to see that wildfire is a community issue. Help them to see that we are all connected, that fire doesn't know property lines. Hopefully, encouraging people to work together. Posters and flyers at local stores, banks, post offices during fire season could be a good means for alerting locals of conditions and fire danger. This is good for those who might be disinclined to read their mail or listen to the news. Individual onsite consultations are a very good idea. This would also be a helpful educational tool with practical and concrete guidelines as to what needs to be done at each site. It can be very

overwhelming for some to have to do this work. Don't just give a to-do list but offer ways to help facilitate the actual implementation of the guidelines. For those who are not able to do the work themselves it would be good to have funds available to help them. Also a list of resources including labor possibilities would be helpful. Possible groups who might be able to help with the actual work: Boy Scouts? AmeriCorps? Sheriff's Work Crew? Landlords of rental properties need to be part of this picture, too. Renters can often be disinclined to make improvements to their homes as they are not owned by them. What about a neighborhood watch-type program that watches for fire danger and fire. It would also be good for the local fire district and sheriff to know of and have located gathering spots for smoking, drinking, whoopee-making, etc. These are very potential danger spots for fires being started. They should be patrolled regularly during the dry season. We suggest more local control of the burning season; more local than even the county level; perhaps by fire district. We also suggest more flexibility to turn on or off the burning season. Here in March, before this wonderful rain, we had August conditions. Burning season was still happening. It is better to be able to adjust the burning to current and very local conditions. We suggest that it is best to have to not only call LRAPA to see if it is a burn day but to also call the local fire district as well to see if it is allowed based on humidity conditions. For when people do burn we also suggest educating them how to safely burn, how to put out the fire **completely** once the pile is burned. Teach the dynamics of fire and fire safety. We definitely feel that wildfire is a problem and the responsibility for all parties affected by it. The different agencies need to work together. The landowners need to participate. There should not be isolation as all are affected. We all need to work together to come up with working solutions for the good of all.

- I am concerned about limiting property owners' choice to build within "high hazard" areas. If they build it & it burns, their loss. Although they do have a responsibility to neighbors & community.
- Inform the people of problems, they will do the right thing to the best of their ability.