

Appendix G

Firewise Workshop Summary

In conjunction with the development of the Lane County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW) and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) conducted a Firewise Communities Workshop on April 5, 2005 at the University of Oregon for an invited group of diverse stakeholders. Participants in the workshop included representatives of federal and state fire and land management agencies, rural fire protection districts, local planning and emergency management departments, utility providers, the private forestry industry, the real estate industry, watershed councils, and elected officials, among others.

Firewise Communities Workshop

The National Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Program developed Firewise Communities Workshops in 2000 to address the wildland-urban interface fire problem at a community level. The workshops have three main goals:

1. To improve safety in the wildland/urban interface by learning to share responsibility.
2. To create and nurture local partnerships for improved decisions in communities.
3. To encourage the integration of Firewise concepts into community and disaster mitigation planning.

The Firewise goals are consistent with the County Plan's goals and emphasis on collaboration. Participants worked in small groups to learn Firewise concepts, completed interactive scenarios designed to assess and reduce the wildfire risk of a hypothetical community, and were asked to apply the lessons learned from the sessions to Lane County.

ONHW and ODF worked to prepare an agenda for the workshop that would engage and encourage communication between participants while providing them with information on current wildland-urban interface fire risk issues and mitigation efforts. In addition to the small group scenarios and a video, several key speakers addressed the wildland-urban interface issue from both the state and local perspectives. Speakers included Marvin Brown, Oregon State Forester; Faye Stewart, Lane County Commissioner and Linda Cook, Lane County Emergency Manager. A list of workshop participants and a copy of the workshop's agenda can be found at the end of this appendix.

Opportunities and Obstacles in Lane County

Throughout the day facilitators asked participants to think about how Firewise concepts apply to issues in Lane County. ONHW created a worksheet for participants to identify opportunities and obstacles in

Lane County for each of the three requirements of the CWPP - 1) reducing structural ignitability, 2) prioritizing fuel reduction projects, and 3) collaboration. Participants discussed their ideas in small groups and shared these results with the whole group at the end of the workshop.

ONHW analyzed the completed worksheets to compile the opportunities and obstacles frequently identified by participants.

Treatment of Structural Ignitability

A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures. Workshop participants were asked to list opportunities and obstacles to implementing structural ignition reduction projects in Lane County. Participant's responses are summarized below.

Opportunities

- Education and outreach through various sources including media, town hall meetings, and publications such as the Oregon State University Extension Service newsletter
- Incentive programs, especially the use of insurance incentives, to encourage participation in projects to reduce risk
- Collaboration with community groups, developers, neighbors, fire agencies, and others to better educate residents and implement projects
- Available grant money from the National Fire Plan and other sources for implementing projects to reduce structural ignitability
- Updating or revising Lane County codes and ordinances to reduce structural ignitability

Obstacles

- Lack of homeowner education and awareness regarding the true risk of wildfire in Lane County and how defensible space can reduce risk
- Lack of funding to implement projects, along with the cost of fire resistant building materials for homeowners
- Lack of collaboration and involvement among homeowners, agencies, and developers to implement projects
- Lack of regulations to enforce the use of fire resistant building materials and practices within the county

Prioritized Fuel Reduction

A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure. Participants were asked to list opportunities and

obstacles to implementing prioritized fuel reduction projects in Lane County. Participant's responses are summarized below.

Opportunities

- Education using community outreach, public forums, media and other sources emphasizing examples of fuel reduction projects and homes saved by defensible space
- Incentive programs such as rebates or other support to help landowners with debris removal, as well as insurance or property tax incentives to encourage fuel reduction
- Collaboration and participation to share costs, tools, and manpower to implement fuel reduction projects on a larger scale
- Finding uses for the biomass generated from fuel reduction projects, such as selling the chips or using it as an energy source
- Available grant money from the National Fire Plan and other sources to aid in implementation of fuel reduction projects

Obstacles

- Debate surrounding the best method to conduct fuel reduction treatments on private and public lands based on differing topography, environmental issues, public perception, and cost
- Long term maintenance of fuel reduction treatments
- The size and scope of the county and the sheer volume of work that is needed to begin and maintain fuel reduction projects as the wildland-urban interface continues to increase
- Public perception of low wildfire risk and that fuel reduction treatments are aesthetically unpleasant
- The cost of implementing fuel reduction treatments on properties and removing debris
- Special needs populations who require extra assistance with fuel reduction projects

Collaboration

A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties. Participants were asked to list opportunities and obstacles to collaborating on projects to reduce hazardous fuels and structural ignitability in Lane County. Participant's responses are summarized below.

Opportunities

- Brings people with diverse expertise together for better solutions to problems
- Showing collaboration increases success with grant applications

- Work with real estate agencies and other groups and businesses to raise awareness of wildland-urban interface wildfire issues
- Use the media to capture public attention of current collaboration efforts and encourage future efforts

Obstacles

- Differing priorities, values, and interests among partners
- Lack of time and communication needed to foster working relationships among partners
- “Turf battles” and conflicts over jurisdictional authority
- Resistance or lack of interest in collaborating with others

Conclusion

The Firewise Communities Workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to identify strategies for community planning and partnership building in order to reduce fire risk in the wildland-urban interface. The opportunities and obstacles identified by participants were used to develop the action items identified in the CWPP. A second forum will be held in late summer to present the final Community Wildfire Protection Plan to interested participants.

Firewise Workshop Participants, April 5, 2005

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Bev Reed	U.S. Forest Service	Workshop Facilitators	
Susan Freeman	U.S. Forest Service	Neil Benson	Oregon Department of Forestry
Mei Lin Lantz	U.S. Forest Service	Angie Johnson	Oregon Department of Forestry
Emily Rice	Bureau of Land Management	Tom Berglund	Oregon Department of Forestry
Erik Petersen	Army Corps of Engineers	Rick Rogers	Oregon Department of Forestry
Rick Hayes	Army Corps of Engineers	Ann Walker	Oregon Department of Forestry
Kevin Kinney	Oregon Department of Transportation	Mark Slaton	Oregon Department of Forestry
Dan Scholtz	Oregon Department of Forestry	Lena Tucker	Oregon Department of Forestry
Marvin Brown	Oregon Department of Forestry	Greg Wagenblast	Oregon Department of Forestry
Tim Meehan	Oregon Department of Forestry	Andre LeDuc	Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup
Charlie Redheffer	Oregon Department of Forestry	Krista Mitchell	Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup
Lee Vaughn	Oregon Department of Forestry	Workshop Computer Operators	
Ken Ockfen	Oregon Department of Forestry	Kate Lenzser	Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup
Kees Ruurs	Oregon State Parks	Jessica Nunley	Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup
Duane Toman	Lane County Sheriff's Office	Sam Fox	Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup
Bret Freeman	Lane County Sheriff's Office	Morgan Ellis	Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup
Linda Cook	Lane County Sheriff's Office	Julie Baxter	Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup
Mark McKay	Lane County Sheriff's Office		
Don Nickell	Division		
Bill Sage	Division		
Keir Miller	Division		
Eric Wold	City of Eugene Parks & Open Space		
Trevor Taylor	City of Eugene Parks & Open Space		
Kristi Hayden	City of Eugene Parks & Open Space		
Margaret Boutell	City of Veneta		
Warren Weathers	City of Lowell		
Dale Ledyard	McKenzie		
Doug Perry	City of Eugene Fire & EMS		
Heather Hill	Lane County Fire Dististrict #1		
Keith Hoehn	Lowell Rural Fire Protection District		
Mark Sundin	Oakridge Fire Department		
Dennis Shew	Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District		
Myron Smith	Westfir Fire District		
Gerald Shorey	Hazeldell Rural Fire District		
Chad Minter	Coburg Rural Fire Protection District		
Megan Finnessey	McKenzie Watershed Council		
Karl Morgenstern	EWEB		
Faye Stewart	Lane County Board of Commissioners		
Jenifer Stevens	Wilderness Society		
Don Harkins	Assoc.		
Mark Giustina	Giustina Land & Timber		
Paul Wagner	Giustina Resources		
Jack Spinder	Weyerhaeuser South Valley		
Michael S. McDowell	Weyerhaeuser Springfield		
Steve Akehurst	Rosboro Lumber		
Roy Palmer	Douglas Forest Protective Association		
John Kennedy	Douglas Forest Protective Association		
John Milandin	Hazeldell RFD		
Kathy Silva	Century 21		
Pat Harmon	Oakridge Real Estate		
Sally Harmon	Oakridge Real Estate		



Workshop
Eugene, Oregon
April 5, 2005

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| 8:00 – 8:30 | Registration |
| 8:30 – 9:10 | Welcome – Lena Tucker, Oregon Department of Forestry
Statewide Perspective - Marvin Brown, Oregon State Forester
Workshop Agenda and Logistics – Neil Benson, Moderator

Lane County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
– Linda Cook, Lane County Emergency Management
– Andre LeDuc, Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup |
| 9:10 – 9:40 | Introduction to Firewise Communities - Neil Benson |
| 9:40 – 10:10 | Introduction of Falls County Simulation |
| 10:10 – 10:30 | Break |
| 10:30 – 12:00 | Workgroup Exercises
Task 1 – “Determine the Wildfire Severity Rating for Bear Heights”
Task 2 – “Develop Solutions for Reducing Fire Hazard in Bear Heights” |
| 12:00 - 12:30 | Group Presentations for Task 1 and Task 2 |
| 12:30 -1:30 | Lunch
“Wildfire – Preventing Home Ignitions” Video
Faye Stewart, Lane County Commissioner |
| 1:30 – 3:30 | Workgroup Exercise 3A (Includes Break)
Opportunities and Obstacles in Lane County |
| 3:30 – 4:30 | Group Presentations for Exercise 3A and
Opportunities and Obstacles in Lane County |