Subject: Union County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) February 18, 2015

Union County Cooperators,

Union County fire protection agencies are in the process of revising the 2005 CWPP. The update is a collaborative effort by a core group of the following participants: Union County Emergency Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, and Union County Fire Defense Board. The updates are intended to meet changing conditions in several arenas including on the ground environmental conditions, new guidance and policy direction, continued shifting demographics of the area, and technological advances. In addition, the update will reflect the county’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan accomplishments that have occurred since the 2005 version.

The CWPP core group has begun assessing the County utilizing the most current data available through an extensive mapping process called the West Wide Risk Assessment, a recently completed assessment of 17 western states and local existing data.

It is our intention to collectively work with all rural fire departments, community members, and cooperators to establish a partnership in the development of the CWPP. Through this partnership a holistic approach toward community fire protection is the desired outcome.

Part of the new approach will be using the new National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy (CWS) as a planned approach in helping cooperators and communities understand wildfire risks and their active participation before, during and after a wildfire. The CWS also emphasizes the continued awareness toward the ecological health of ecosystems that depend on fire disturbance.

We have incorporated the three key goals as our foundation for achieving the new CWPP.

1. **Fire-Adapted Communities** take into consideration of how human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property. Included in this goal is the education of community members on the considerations of home protection, ingress/egress, “Ready, Set, Go”; their role in the three phases of wildfire: pre-fire preparation, during the fire, post fire and recognizing the role of fire in ecosystem development. This goal also includes opportunities to evaluate the current infrastructure and identify obstacles, deficiencies, or opportunities for protecting life and property.
2. **Wildfire Response** is a means of building an all jurisdictional participation in making and implementing safe, effective, and efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions. The CWPP group is currently identifying a number of threat and risk issues within Union County, and is further narrowing down any additional issues relevant to individual WUI areas. This goal is anticipated to further substantiate the need for any additional improvements to assist in wildfire response including geographic pre-positioning of suppression needs (i.e.: water sources, communications), ecological treatments, and capability shortages (i.e.: training, equipment, etc.)
3. **Restore and Maintain Landscape** is designed to recognize fire-related disturbances from an ecological stand point of fire resiliency and an expansion of fire protection consideration to include all jurisdictions by promoting a landscape level approach. Developing a program that actively manages the land to make it more resilient to disturbance, in accordance to management objectives and to expand treatment opportunities to include middle ground and beyond that will assist in altering potential for extreme fire severities. This will provide the foundation for building a platform toward living with fire for both communities and ecosystems.

By addressing these three goals we, as a county, can begin to consider what and where improvements are needed, shortfalls exist, and opportunities for new innovative ideas can occur. We encourage you to bring ideas and concerns to the meeting. It is out hope through these collaborative efforts the county will increase opportunities to acquire funding for implementation of our community plan.

“In a perfect world with available finances, what needs to be done to better protect life (firefighter and public), property, and ecosystems in Union County?”

We have provided you with two additional supplements in an attempt to generate ideas, but the CWPP committee is interested in any additional issues facing Union county.

1. A map displaying WUI Zone boundaries and their locations.
2. A map with known infrastructure that could potentially be impacted by a wildland fire.
3. A list to help identify specific issues that could potentially impact or enhance the counties capabilities of response in terms of planning for, providing protection during a wildfire, and continued efforts after a wildfire has occurred. This list is not all encompassing, therefor you are encouraged to provide additional thoughts, ideas, or needs that may not be mentioned.
4. Consider ideas specific to your cooperator group’s ability to effectively interact and coordinate with each of the other cooperators in a wildfire emergency situation. What is needed and is there opportunities for improvement?

This meeting is being conducted for cooperators only, with the intent to involve homeowners, community members, and the remaining county citizens at a later time this spring. The meeting is designed to provide a good fundamental understanding of the CWPP’s revision process and gain your input. If you are interested in submitting your specific input in advance of the meeting, please feel free to send them to Joe Hessel or JB Brock, emails provided below.

We would also like to invite you to additional CWPP public meetings scheduled this spring. Dates of these meeting will be announced at a later time. We look forward to your input.

Thank you for your time.

Joe Hessel JB Brock

Oregon Department of Forestry Emergency Manager

La Grande Unit Forester La Grande, Oregon

541 963-3168 541 963-1009

[jhessel@odf.state.or.us](mailto:jhessel@odf.state.or.us) jbrock@union-county.org

**cc:**

Union Pacific Railroad

1150 Jefferson Ave.

La Grande,  OR  97850-2638

(541) 962-2222

**Or**

Union Pacific Railroad

301 NE 2nd Avenue

Portland, OR 97232

(503) 249-3079

Wallowa Union Railroad Authority

Eagle Cap Extension

209 East 1st St.

Wallowa, Or 97885

Idaho Northern Railroad

119 North Commercial Avenue

Emmett, Idaho 83617

Union County Sheriff

1109 K Avenue # A

La Grande, Oregon 97850

(541) 963 – 1017

Oregon Dept. of Transportation

Region 5 Headquarters

3012 Island Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

Phone: 541-963-3177

OSU Extension

10507 North McAlister Road

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-1010

Steering Committee

Attention: Nils Christoffersen

Wallowa Whitman Collaboration Group

401 N.E. 1st St. Suite A

Enterprise, OR 97828

541-426-8053

Scott Goff

Pendleton Office

Fire & Life Safety Services Section

State Fire Marshal

700 SE Emigrant, Box 10

Pendleton, OR 97801-2573

(541) 276-4076

Union County Road Department

10513 North McAlister Road

La Grande, OR

(541) 963-1016

Oregon Trail Electric (OTEC)

2408 Cove Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-3155

Avista Utilities IC (gas),

10201 S F ST

La Grande,  OR  97850-8497

(800) 227-9187

**or**

Avista Utilities

PO Box 1048

La Grande, OR 97850

Eastern Oregon Net, INC (EONI)

808 Adams Avenue

La Grande, OR

(541) 962-7873

Frontier Broadband Connect La Grande

1101 Adams Ave

La Grande, OR

(541) 663-0365

Oregon Wireless, Inc.

PO Box 231

Cove, OR 97824

541.568.2200

Oregon State Police

3014 Island Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-7175

Hancock Forest Management

1604 27th St,

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 962-2045

Boise Cascade

Attention: Lindsey Warness

1917 Jackson Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 962-2000 or (541) 962-2188

Union County Cattleman Association

Dennis Murchison

69599 Hwy 237

Cove, Oregon 97824

.

Union County Seed Growers

?????

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) 1901 Adams Avenue, Suite 6

La Grande, Oregon 97850

Phone: (541) 963-4178

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

107 20th Street

La Grande, OR

(541) 963-2138

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

La Grande Fish Research Office

Badgley 203

One University Boulevard

La Grande, OR 97850

Tel: 541-962-3777

State Parks

I could only find the Salem office info

Mount Emily Rec Area (MERA), Union

???

Union County Chamber of Commerce

207 Depot Street

La Grande, OR

(541) 963-8588

Union County Economic Development

102 Depot Street

P.O. Box 1208

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-0926

Anthony Lakes Ski Resort

47500 Anthony Lakes Highway

North Powder, Oregon 97867

p: 541.856.3277

Spout Springs Ski Resort

79327 OR-204

Athena, OR 97813

(541) 566-0320

American Red Cross

1806 Cove Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 962-0952

Pendleton Grain Growers

10209 North McAlister Road

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-4195

Blue Mountain Security Services

PO Box 1021

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-0552 (???)

Blue Mt.Seeds, Inc

380 Railroad Ave

Imbler, OR 97841

(541) 534-2221

CB'S LLC

(Sepc Tank Service/Portable Restroom)

10408 N. McAlister

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-5231 (???)

Crop Producaon Services

64325 Booth Lane

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-3735 (???)

Northeast Oregon Economic

Development District

101 NE First St, Suite 100

Enterprise, OR 97828

541-426-3598 (???)

PriorityOne Telecommunications, Inc.

808 Adams Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 975-5600 (???)

Union County Fair Associaon Fair

Grounds

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 534-2683 (???)

Uni-Tech Communicaons

PO Box 1089

Hermison, OR 97838

(800) 460-5448 (???)

Oregon National Guard

404 12th Street

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-7931 (???)

Considerations for CWPP. Feedback is NOT limited to below list!

Risk Assessment – to life and property.

1. Transportation -
2. Ingress/egress/access – road conditions, closures, issues, etc.
3. Potential for bottlenecking during evacuation and/or wildfire response
4. Areas of anticipated issues/problems - where, why
5. Radio or communications facilities, options to improve coordination
6. Vulnerable locations –

a. Most critical areas and areas likely for significant loss – geographically – why?

1. Water sources available or needed – hydrants, ponds, streams/rivers
2. Known areas of concern that may pose resource lose, or threaten safety
3. Bridges - issues, new, planned
4. Vulnerable populations – single parent, elderly, remoteness, or likely unwilling to evacuate
5. OTHER?

Potential - Structure Loss or survivability

1. Current codes, regulations, zoning standards – effectiveness or deficiencies
2. are codes related to residential or forest areas - What are they? Are they working?
3. municipal or county codes
4. High potential structure loss or key resource loss/Specific Vulnerabilities

3. Firewise communities/homeowners - locations, needs, defendable locations

4. Company Equipment size, access and maneuverability. Known trouble spots/locations that may need attention.

7. OTHER?

Fuels Treatment Options/Reduction

1. Economic Stability
2. Infrastructure support or needs – biomass utilization, fiber, small material use
3. In woods, community Job opportunities – who, what equipment, where
4. All Hands/All Lands -Cross boundary and landscape approach – education opportunities
5. Time and spatial landscape priorities/opportunities - Who, where, what, when
6. Strategic placement of treatments - Strategic types of treatments- Defensible Space
7. Pilot project possibilities for across boundary – where, size, description
8. Available Demonstration projects in areas
9. Firewise – treatment options
10. Treatment tool options currently working or lacking.
11. Stand manipulation mechanisms – over story harvest, prescribed fire, hand piling, ladder fuel reduction, etc.
12. Current, completed, or desired activities for reducing wildfires
13. Opportunities for Maintenance treatment of completed fuels reduction
14. OTHER?

Emergency Management

1. Substations - Infrastructure – Type, location, protocol

a. Potential for threat, deficiencies, compatibilities, needs

1. Equipment – insufficiencies and capabilities
2. Needs, does it meets changing demographics
3. Opportunities or need for - Collaboration, Agreements, Easements
4. Evaluation Notification Plan, Evacuation Plan, Post Fire Rehabilitation Plan
5. Possible or anticipated wildfire scenarios – under expected vs. extreme wildfire behavior – potential trouble spots
6. Options for Emergency Fire Simulation Training – locations, participation, etc.
7. Vulnerable populations – single parent, elderly, remoteness, likely unwilling to evacuate
8. OTHER?

Collaboration/Partnerships and Education/Outreach

1. Opportunities and existing partnerships – who, level of partnership
2. Integration of Education Forums
3. Education toward Pre, during, post fire
4. Fire Prevention
5. Outreach – Interagency Blog, media
6. Local contacts, organizations, partners
7. Community Responsibility

a. ownership in CWPP approach

b. willing partners in treatments

c. Collaboration in decisions

5. Building capacity for communities to reduce wildfire risk

a. Firewise/Ready Set Go/communication

b. Fire protection

6. Wildfire Education

1. Eliminate confusion of public
2. Knowing, understanding builds trust
3. Reach out to schools
4. Pre, During, and Post fire – anticipated needs; what can be expected

7. Activities already in place

8. Known Homeowners Associations

9. OTHER?

Technology and Responding Systems

1. Contact mechanisms in emergency situation and planning
2. Web sites
3. Forms
4. Equipment – computers, mapping
5. Company Equipment capabilities -
6. GIS
7. GPS
8. Tablets, Computers, Mapping
9. Improvements in fire response Protocols across Cooperators with Emergency Fire Management
10. Identify - Issues, existing benefits, needs
11. Consistency or inconsistency with other agencies
12. Technology Use Training needs for personnel
13. Cell phones / radios
14. New technology being used/tested that would be beneficial to others

OTHER Items specific to your protection area:

MAP WILL GO HERE

STILL UNDERCONSTRUCTION