LA GRANDE – Protecting property from wildfire takes cooperation among agencies, companies and landowners. To provide the most cohesive fire response and prevention measures, Union County is looking to the public for help.

In April and May the county will host public meetings in La Grande, Elgin and Union to gather information on values at risk such as structures, infrastructures, timber, grazing pasture and agricultural crops and where fuel breaks do or could help slow down the spread of wildfire.

The Union County Community Wildfire Protection Plan was first written in 2005. Over the past year representatives from fire management agencies and emergency services have begun to identify the elements of fire-adapted communities – to enable people to live in a fire-prone environment; mitigate loss in the event of a wildland fire,looked at ways to increase the forest’s resiliency and health, especially around homes, and looked into ways to improve fire fighter access.

Now the committee needs help from the community ensuring all values at risk are identified, evacuation routes, bridges, roads or access/egress concerns, water sources and hydrants and discuss where fuel breaks have been created and where they are needed, and provide opportunities for the communities to take a role in fire prevention and protection

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

6 pm on April 21 at La Grande Fire Department, 1806 Cove Avenue,

6 pm on April 30 in Elgin at the fire hall,

6 pm on May 6th at Union City Call