***Blue Mountain Survey***

The Blue Mountain Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Study was a scientifically engineered study meant to gage residents’ understanding of wildfire issues in high-risk areas. The survey was mailed out using statistical sampling techniques in Union, Baker and Wallowa Counties. Survey outcomes are included here:

**Blue Mountain**

**Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Study** S U M M A R Y O F R E S U L T S September 2003

**Surveys Mailed:** 847

**Surveys Returned:** 225 (26.6%)

**Question 1. Are you a forest landowner?**

Yes: 86% No: 14%

Total Responses: 218

**Question 2. Do you live on your forested property?**

Yes: 72%

No: 28%

Total Responses: 184

**Question 3. How many forested acres do you own?**

Total Acres: 14,814

*(345,814 with Boise Solutions)*

Average Acres per Respondent: 84

Total Responses: 176

**Question 4. Please indicate the geographic area in which your forested property is located. (If you own property in more**

**than one area, please mark all that apply).**

Mt Emily: 42

Cove: 9

Morgan Lake: 10

Pumpkin Ridge: 23

Ruckle Rd: 23

Upper Lostine Subdivision: 0

Wallowa Lake Basin: 0

West of Wallowa Lk: 0

Alder Slope: 0

Imnaha River Woods: 0

Ferguson Ridge/Prairie Ck: 0

Sumpter Valley: 25

Stices Gulch: 5

Base of Elkhorn Mtns: 55

Sparta: 0

Halfway/Pine Valley: 1

Ukiah: 0

Meacham: 2

Weston Mtn/Tollgate: 1

Total Responses: 196

**Question 5. How high do you feel the risk of a wildfire is in your neighborhood?**

High: 31%

Med: 57% Low: 12%

Total Responses: 183

**Question 6. If a wildfire occurred in your area, what factors would place you and/or your home at risk?**

A. Neighboring properties with high fuel load.

High: 70% Low: 30%

B. Response time/capability/equipment of local fire agencies.

High: 54% Low: 46%

C. Fuel loads on your properties.

High: 41% Low: 59%

D. Flammability of your structures.

High: 43% Low: 57%

E. Access to your property.

High: 25% Low: 75%

F. Construction material used on home.

High: 43% Low: 57%

G. Position of home on slope.

High: 24% Low: 76%

H. Loss of services and utilities.

High: 45% Low: 55%

Total Responses: 147

**Question 7. Do you have a plan for what you would do if there were a fire in your neighborhood?**

Yes: 54% No: 46%

Total Responses: 184

**Question 8. Have you participated in**

**National Fire Plan activities?**

Yes: 28% No: 72%

Total Responses: 185

**Question 9. Defensible space refers to the area between a house and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been modified to reduce the wildfire threat and to provide an opportunity for firefighters to effectively defend the house. Sometimes a defensible space is simply a**

**homeowner’s properly maintained back yard. How knowledgeable do you feel you are regarding creating defensible space?**

High: 54% Med: 38%

Low: 8%

Total Responses: 179

**Question 10. Have you worked around your home to create a defensible space?**

Yes: 83% No: 17%

Total Responses: 172

**Question 11. If you did do this work, did you use National Fire Plan cost share assistance?**

Yes: 18% No: 82%

Total Responses: 166

**Question 12. How interested are you in learning more about creating defensible space?**

High: 36% Med: 38% Low: 26%

Total Responses: 176

**Question 13. Where is the greatest need for fuels reduction work?**

Private lands: 41%

U.S. Forest Service: 53% Industrial Forest Land: 6%

Total Responses: 203

**Question 14. How concerned are you about your scenic view being impacted by National Fire Plan Fuels Reduction**

**work?**

Very Concerned: 16% Somewhat Concerned: 29%

No Concern: 55%

Total Responses: 185

**Question 15. If you were interested in learning more, what kind of informational format would you prefer?**

A. Direct mailed brochures: 22% B. Centralized workshops

or classes: 9% C. Video: 9%

D. Hands-on demonstrations: 8%

E. Self-guided tour of demonstration areas: 8%

F. Local television: 2%

G. Radio: 2%

H. Internet website: 9%

I. Neighborhood workshop: 10% J. Individual consultation: 14% K. Newspaper insert: 7%

**Question 16. Please rate your level of concern regarding building a defensible space around your home (1=very little concern; 4=extreme concern).**

Amount of physical work required.

1: 44%

2: 31%

3: 17%

4: 8%

Amount of time required.

1: 39%

2: 32%

3. 18%

4. 11%

Financial cost required.

1: 31%

2: 18%

3: 28%

4. 23%

Doing the work yourself.

1: 51%

2: 25%

3: 11%

4: 13%

Hiring a contractor/forestry professional.

1: 39%

2: 14%

3: 19%

4: 28%

The aesthetic value of your property.

1: 28%

2: 20%

3: 26%

4: 26%

Neighborhood covenants/restrictions.

1: 72%

2: 12%

3: 8%

4: 8%

Amount of maintenance required.

1: 48%

2: 34%

3: 10%

4. 8%

**Question 17. How much would you be willing to pay to reduce the wildfire risk that your home faces?**

Very little: 40% Some: 55%

A lot: 5%

Total Responses: 166

**Question 18. Are you aware of the financial assistance available for treating fuels on homeowners’/**

**landowners’ properties?**

Yes: 55% No: 45%

Total Responses: 183

**Question 19. If so, are you interested in applying for some of these funds?**

Yes: 58% No: 42%

Total Responses: 160

**Question 20. If not, why would you be reluctant?**

A. Not interested in assistance: 19% B. Don’t need it: 45%

C. Don’t want to do any work: 0

D. Government requirement/

regulation issues: 36% Total Responses: 91

**Question 21. Would you be willing to put on an educational program for your neighborhood?**

Yes: 25% No: 75%

**Total Responses: 173**