**Website**

The Union County website ([www.union-county.org](http://www.union-county.org/)) and the Oregon Department of Forestry website ([www.odf.state.or.us/areas/eastern/northeast/default.asp](http://www.odf.state.or.us/areas/eastern/northeast/default.asp)) were utilized to post copies of the draft plan, share risk assessment information, advertise community workshops and display the Values-At-Risk Questionnaire for download and completion. A final copy of the plan will be posted to both websites after adoption and the websites will be available for the duration as a communication tool for communities to express comment or concern about protection from wildfire.

**Values-At-Risk Questionnaire / Blue Mountain Survey**

***Values-At-Risk Questionnaire***

The Values-At-Risk Questionnaire was a grassroots effort by the Steering Committee to invite comments on the forest attributes valued most by residents. The questionnaire was posted on the Emergency Services website and was published in The Observer October 14-16, 2004 and October 19-21, 2004. It was also made available at

community workshops and placed in community libraries and city halls throughout Union County (specifically: North Powder City Hall, La Grande Library, La Grande City Hall, La Grande Senior Center, Island City City Hall, Summerville City Hall, Union City Hall, Union Library, Cove City Hall, Cove Library, Imbler City Hall, Elgin City Hall and Elgin Library). The questionnaire was also distributed on the Eastern Oregon University campus and with the Union County Search and Rescue Unit. Questionnaire outcomes are included on the next page.

Responses to Question #5 from questionnaire

**Union County Community Wildfire**

**Protection Plan Questionnaire Values List**

**Q5 – List 3 attributes you value most about your community:**

***Elgin***

1. Small community atmosphere

2. Quiet and peaceful (3)

3. Beauty/scenic value (1)

4. Clean air/water

5. Timber resource/productivity

6. Wildlife/habitat

7. Natural trees and vegetation

8. Water resource

9. Friends

**Q5 – List 3 attributes you value most about your community:**

***Imbler***

1. No tavern

2. No cemetery

3. No taxi

**Q5 – List 3 attributes you value most about your community:**

***Island City***

1. Clean air/water (1)

2. Small community atmosphere (1)

3. Neat and attractive community

4. Natural trees and vegetation

5. Good government

6. Good retail mix

**Q5 – List 3 attributes you value most about your community:**

***Pumpkin Ridge/Summerville***

1. Forest/land (3)

2. Wildlife/habitat (4)

3. Friends/neighbors (8)

4. Family (1)

5. Animals

6. Home/property (1)

7. Open space (1)

8. Love the location (2)

9. Beauty/scenic value (4)

10. Community safety

11. Rural character (2)

12. Willingness to work together (1)

13. Small community atmosphere (1)

14. Forgiving

15. Quiet and peaceful

16. Mixed uses

17. Transition between forest and agricultural land

18. Hiking trails

19. Private land adjacent to federal land

**Q5 – List 3 attributes you value most about your community:**

***Cove***

1. The town

2. Love the location

3. Friends/neighbors (3)

4. Beauty/scenic value (2)

5. Schools

6. Helpful

7. Quiet and peaceful

8. Freshness

9. Mountains

10. Small community atmosphere

11. Timber

12. Home/property

13. Recreation

14. Wine

15. Knowing how to help in case of fire

**Q5 – List 3 attributes you value most about your community:**

***Union***

1. Small community atmosphere (3)

2. Historical nature of community (3)

3. Rural character

4. Fishing

5. Hiking

6. Horseback riding

7. Sense of community/community pride (5)

8. Volunteerism (1)

9. Quiet and peaceful (2)

10. Clean air/water

11. Beauty/scenic value (2)

12. Friends/neighbors (2)

13. Community safety

14. Catherine Creek (1)

15. Open space

16. Wildlife/habitat

**Q5 – List 3 attributes you value most about your community:**

***North Powder***

1. Beauty/scenic value

2. Climate

3. Rural character

4. Agriculture

5. Quiet and peaceful

6. Small community atmosphere

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Q5 – List 3 attributes you value most about** | 13. | Quiet and peaceful |
| **your community:** | 14. | Livability (3) |
| ***Rural County*** | 15. | Fishing (3) |

1. Beauty/scenic value

2. Quiet and peaceful

3. Rural character

4. Forested habitat

5. Hunting

6. Fishing

7. Skiing

8. Horseback riding

16. Hunting (2)

17. Clean air/water (6)

18. Forest/land (11)

19. Mountains (4)

20. University (12)

21. Community safety (5)

22. Diversity

23. Climate (2)

24. Rural character (5)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Q5 – List 3 attributes you value most about** | 25. | Many churches |
| **your community:** | 26. | Downtown |
| ***Outside Union County*** | 27. | Few hazards |

1. People (2)

2. Green lawns

3. Small community atmosphere (3)

4. Clean air/water (2)

5. Open space

6. Home/property

7. No traffic

8. Clean community

9. Community safety (1)

10. Convenient to larger cities

**Q5 – List 3 attributes you value most about your community:**

***Did not specify***

1. Wildlife/habitat (1)

2. Forest

3. Recreation

4. Home/property

5. Clean air/water

6. Electrical power

7. The town

8. People

9. Environment (1)

10. Greenery

11. Conservation

**Q5 – List 3 attributes you value most about your community:**

***La Grande***

1. Communication

2. Social support

3. Rural character (2)

4. Friends/neighbors (22)

5. Small community atmosphere (13)

6. Sense of community/community pride (10)

7. Community appearance (6)

8. Recreation (5)

9. Wildlife/habitat (16)

10. Timber resource/productivity (4)

11. Beauty/scenic value (11)

12. Economy (1)

28. Love the location (1)

29. Possessions (1)

30. 30’ from fire hydrant

31. Inexpensive cost of living (2)

32. Agriculture (2)

33. Wilderness

34. Fun

35. Bowling alley

36. Home/property (4)

37. Public services

38. Search and Rescue

39. Open Space (1)

40. Medical facilities

Responses to Question #7 from

Questionnaire

**Union County Community Wildfire**

**Protection Plan Questionnaire Values List**

**Q7 – If you answered yes to #6, please list how:**

***Elgin***

10. Fire threatens my home and the beauty of the area.

11. A wildfire would devastate the scenic value,

timber resources and clean air and water.

12. Our 30 acres would be devastated and our timber lost.

**Q7 – If you answered yes to #6, please list how:**

***Island City***

1. Fire would threaten local business.

2. Dense smoke would be difficult to endure.

**Q7 – If you answered yes to #6, please list how:**

***Pumpkin Ridge/Summerville***

1. Fire would destroy wildlife and their habitat.

(2)

2. Fire would destroy houses. (2)

3. Fire would destroy trees and land. (1)

4. Fire would destroy the scenic beauty of our area. (2)

5. I live by a non-treatable wilderness.

6. Wildfire could lead to death.

7. Fire could destroy the view of trees on Mt.

Emily like it did Mt. Harris.

**Q7 – If you answered yes to #6, please list how:**

***Cove***

1. Fire could burn down the town.

2. Burned stuff isn’t pretty and my house might burn down.

3. Fire is both good and bad; it helps the mountains but if out of control will take the freshness of the landscape away.

4. The backdrop may burn and homes may be

destroyed.

5. I want to be helpful to other people in case of fire.

**Q7 – If you answered yes to #6, please list how:**

***Union***

1. If mountains are charred, why hike them?

2. We don’t have the urban interface area like

Cove, Starkey, Mt. Emily, etc.

3. Loss of life, natural resources and community.

4. Burning causes poor air quality and degrades scenery.

5. Wildfire would ruin the trees and streams.

**Q7 – If you answered yes to #6, please list how:**

***North Powder***

1. A fire would destroy the view of the forest, harm wildlife habitat and encourage the

growth of noxious weeds.

2. Fire would burn crops and ranching.

3. People would move away.

**Q7 – If you answered yes to #6, please list how:**

***Rural County***

1. A wildfire would affect the beauty of the area by destroying the trees.

2. Threaten wildlife, erode soils, pollute waterways and desecrate the landscape.

**Q7 – If you answered yes to #6, please list how:**

***Outside Union County***

1. Values are burned up.

2. Fire would ruin the landscape and the air would stink.

3. Smog…

4. The air would get smoky.

**Q7 – If you answered yes to #6, please list how:**

***Did not specify***

1. Fire would affect the landscape in many ways; the trees would be gone.

2. Management is needed to prevent fires.

**Q7 – If you answered yes to #6, please list how:**

***La Grande***

1. Fire would destroy appearance and habitat.

2. All could be destroyed in a major event.

3. Loss of scenery for decades and a loss in real estate values.

4. Destruction of habitat, view sheds and trees.

5. The safety of the community would be compromised by an unchecked threat of wildfire.

6. I wouldn’t be able to enjoy the livability, recreation and wildlife of the area.

7. I live at the base of the mountains and I

enjoy the wildlife.

8. It would destroy habitat for the wildlife, which would affect sportsman’s activities.

9. Physical beauty would be impacted.

10. Fire would destroy property, lives and

39. The town, land and wildlife could be destroyed.

40. There would be no trees, no deer/elk and no

Tree City USA for the 14th year.

41. The town, natural resources and jobs would be reduced by a large wildfire.

42. Fire would destroy the clean and beautiful scenery; it would take years to replenish.

wildlife. 43. People and trees could be burned to death.

11. Wildfire would burn timber, kill animals and possibly ruin habitat.

12. Fire would ruin some of the buildings and homes that have been here for years.

13. Fire would burn the trees on the mountains.

14. There would be dust but no trees, shrubs, beauty, wildlife or erosion control.

15. The scenic beauty, nice neighborhood and wonderful downtown would be destroyed.

16. Lost landscape, life and timber.

17. The views, air quality and recreational opportunities would be impacted.

18. There would be no hunting, camping or nature.

19. I recreate in the woods and fire would be a threat; thin and hand pile.

20. The landscape wouldn’t be so great

anymore.

21. Fire would burn the trees to nothing.

22. Possible destruction of the land.

23. The scenery and wildlife would no longer exist.

24. Loss of habitat for animals.

25. Fire would affect the wildlife population.

26. Fire could burn down the fun.

27. Wildlife!

28. There could be structural damage and love ones lost.

29. Fire damages the looks.

30. My home or school could burn!

31. Fire could burn over the highway when I

want to go home.

32. Wildfire would burn down my house, be expensive to local government and cause loss of my neighborhood.

33. Wildfire could be detrimental to safety.

34. A wildfire would burn the grazing land and the trees.

35. There would be total destruction, loss of homes and life.

36. The surrounding area could burn down.

37. If a wildfire went through, the mountains would be burned and not as pretty.

38. Fire would burn private property (homes), cause smoke and smog and trees would

burn.

***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**