Meeting Participants

- Neil Benson, JJLCG
- Jim Wolf, JJLCG
- Jenny Zeltvay, Josephine County Public Health
- Lang Johnson, GPFR / FDBC
- Tim Gonzales, BLM
- Megan Findley, Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR)
- John O’Connor, ODF
- Rick Dryer, ODF
- Derek Davenport USFS
- Steve Scrivner, City of Grants Pass
- Bob Hamblin, City of Grants Pass
- Terry Haugen, City of Grants Pass
- Paul Galloway, USFS
- Tanya Phillips, Josephine County Public Health
- Travis Robbins, City of Cave Junction
- Jeff Wheaton, Josephine County Public Works
- Phil Turnbull, Rural Metro Fire Department
- Sara Rubrech, Josephine County Emergency Management
- Cozy Zook, Josephine County GIS
- Harry Rich, Illinois Valley Fire District
- Austin Prince, Rural Metro Fire Department

Meeting Notes

Sub-Committee Updates

Fuels / Risk Assessment

- **South Illinois Valley** - There are now 192 landowners involved with approximately 427 total acres treated for fire safety including in kind acres.

- **Takilma** – Properties are identified and botany surveys have been completed for first round treatments.

- **Wolf Creek** – Seventy nine homes have been protected from wildfire due to hazardous fuels reduction work completed using funds from a National Fire Plan grant. 152 acres were treated, along with an additional 89 acres completed on County and State lands, which almost completes the project. Enough funding remains in the grant to burn the constructed handpiles.

- **Special Needs** – IVCDO reports that 26 properties have been treated, totaling 52 acres. ODF is the grant administrator of the special needs fuels reduction grant for this year in Josephine County.

- **Future Western States Fire Managers grants** have been applied for to complete work in the Cave Junction and Grants Pass areas.

- **Grants Pass** – Grants Pass Fire/Rescue has begun working towards becoming a Firewise community, similar to the project in Ashland. GPFR is currently working on plans in the
WUI to pre-identify locations for shelters, staging areas etc. They are working with partners, including GIS, to identify and mitigate hazardous fuels areas in the city.

**Stewardship Committee**

- The coordinator was hired in February. The committee has conducted several field trips in the area including Quail Ferry, Anderson West and in Williams. They are also looking at doing some work in the Glendale area, some of which will extend into parts of Wolf Creek. A community meeting will be held in Wolf Creek to discuss the Glendale project with the citizens.

**Education & Outreach**

- The group has picked a new meeting day/time – 3rd Friday of the month from 9 to 11 a.m. The location of the meeting rotates.
- Using a Title III grant, ODF hired John O’Connor to work on O&E efforts in Josephine County. John is working on educating citizens using door-to-door contacts, attendance at community events and by working with fire partners.
- The RVFPC website has a new look! Content is being updated more frequently, and new information is added all the time. If you have pictures or content to be shared, please let Neil know.
- The Firebrand newsletter continues to be published and mailed out to residents. Last month’s issue was mailed to Jackson County SB360 residents. Next month’s issue will hopefully be mailed to SB 360 residents in both counties.
- Another Master Land Steward course will be offered this year. As part of the course, students complete volunteer work which benefits outreach efforts in both counties.
- A Home Assessment training will be held the beginning of October. This course assists firefighters in recognizing threats around the home ignition zone and provides them with tools to complete a home assessment with the land owner.
- Animal evacuation and sheltering planning continues in both counties. Josephine County has had two meetings with their oversight committee, and should have a final draft plan in the coming months.

**Special Needs Committee**

- As Oregon Administrative Rules governing emergency planning requirements change, the Special Needs Committee assists facilities in their planning efforts. The group has begun work on another emergency planning template/workshop project, this time targeting Licensed Healthcare Facilities (hospice, dialysis centers, rehab programs).
- Matt Krunglevich and Steve Wetmore from ODF came to the last committee meeting to answer questions about this year’s special needs fuel reduction grant.
The group continues to discuss holding a training for case workers to learn about reducing hazards in the home ignition zone. Many case workers visit their client's homes, and thus could assist the client in identifying and mitigating wildfire risk to their homes.

**Emergency Management Board Update**

- Family Emergency Preparedness Handbooks have been reprinted and are available for distribution. Please contact Sara if you would like any books. The book is also available on the county website at [http://www.co.josephine.or.us/files/2009bookfinal.pdf](http://www.co.josephine.or.us/files/2009bookfinal.pdf)
- All Title III projects were approved as submitted. If anyone would like to view the applications, please contact Jenny.
- Illinois Valley Fire received Title III monies to update their CWPP, which will include a series of community meetings to gather input from citizens.
- The Wolf Creek/Sunny Valley evacuation planning project received its second year of Title III funding to continue efforts. This year’s proposed project includes door-to-door outreach to citizens, the purchase of wildfire danger and evacuation route signs, and a brief wildfire evacuation awareness survey.

**Old Business**

**Annual Report to the JJLCG**

- The annual update video seems to have been well received. CDs of the video, as well as a brief summary of accomplishments, was mailed to stakeholders locally, and in Salem and Portland. The video has been posted on You Tube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ7zPQWEgUc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ7zPQWEgUc). Jim will email the video link and information to the Association of Oregon Counties as well.
- It’s time to begin thinking about our update for next year. Please contact Jim if you have ideas about what format we should use.

**Mid-Rogue Fire District Update**

- The Mid Rogue Fire District Proposal is not "Dead in the water", as reported by both the local newspaper and radio station. After some timeline missteps that were unforeseen for such a rare proposal in Josephine County the County Commissioners were asked to place the measure on the ballot in lieu of a petition. It was due to time constraints. They refused citing the concerns that it would look as if they were forcing the district upon the community (They tried themselves already in 2008). It will not be on the November Ballot. However we are confident it will go to vote in 2012, either May or November. Visit [www.midroguefire.com](http://www.midroguefire.com) for additional information.
New Business

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

- Megan from the Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience facilitated this portion of our meeting. Key points are below. If you would like more information, please visit OPDR’s website at [http://opdr.uoregon.edu/](http://opdr.uoregon.edu/) or contact Sara or Jenny. Please note that there is NO www in the website address.
  - Josephine County’s NHMP expired last fall. Currently, Josephine County is not eligible for FEMA grants relating to natural hazard mitigation. It is important to plan for natural hazards for a variety of reasons. Engaging in mitigation activities provides jurisdictions with a number of benefits, including reduced loss of life, property, essential services, critical facilities and economic hardship; reduced short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction costs; increased cooperation and communication within the community through the planning process; and increased potential for state and federal funding for recovery and reconstruction projects.
  - The State has a grant that will pay for OPDR to facilitate the update of our plan. Josephine County must contribute a small amount of funding (around $6,000) which can me in the form of a “match.” Josephine County has elected to pay for defensible space/fuel reduction billboards around the county as our match. The billboards should be up in the fall, and then again in the early spring of 2011.
  - Communities that develop and adopt local natural hazard mitigation plans become eligible for mitigation grant funding, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, and Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program. These grants are typically open for applications from June through December. Awards are made in March. Many of the projects we currently fund with Title III would be eligible under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program.
  - Our update process will include three more meetings, and an outreach effort to gain input from stakeholders and the public. Our next meeting will focus on a county-wide risk assessment.
Good of the Order

- OSU Extension Service is holding their annual forest education course this month.
- Lang provided a brief overview of the Oak Knoll fire, and discussed lessons learned from the incident.
- Rural Metro and GPFR are working on a “scope of practice” document to standardize responses to incidents in the county. Essentially, this document helps each first response agency take inventory of their assets and training, and then decide to what level they will respond to each type of incident (such as a water rescue, commercial fire or motor vehicle accident). The document uses levels of training derived from Hazmat – awareness, operations and technician. Over the next few months, they hope to pull in all first response agencies and interested parties in the county to work on this.

Next EMB Meeting

Tuesday, November 23 – 1pm to 4pm at the Search & Rescue Facility.

Attached please find the 2011 meeting schedule. Please note that we will be continuing the process of updating the NHMP in addition to the proposed activities on the meeting schedule.