To: Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan – Emergency Management Board  
From: Sara Nicholson  
Date: February 12, 2007  
Re: February 7, 2007 Emergency Management Board Meeting

Meeting Participants
• Gary Gnauck, Applegate Partnership  
• Sara Rubrecht, Josephine County Emergency Management  
• Charlie Phenix, citizen representative  
• Brian Pike, GPDPS  
• Jenny Zeltvay, Josephine County Public Health  
• Cody Zook, Josephine County GIS  
• Neil Benson, JJLCG  
• Bruce Bartow, Red Cross  
• Phil Turnbull, Rural Metro Fire  
• Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations  
• Jim Wolf, JJLCG  
• Natalie Simrell, BLM

Meeting Notes

Sub-Committee Updates

Fuels / Risk Assessment

• The Fuels mapping program completed a sampling program in the fall for use in the Landfire national fire hazard mapping effort. We have received the products from Landfire and they are being reviewed by local fire and ecology experts. This data will be incorporated in the hazard and risk mapping portion of the JCIFP this spring after the data is reviewed. There will also be a more formalized accuracy assessment conducted with the remaining grant funds from the sampling program completed last fall. This accuracy assessment will give the users of this data in southern Oregon a better understanding of how to use the data most effectively in fire mitigation efforts.

• The process has changed for submitting National Fire Plan grants:
  o Grants are now submitted by county and are routed through the governing body of the county’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
  o No more than two projects per county will be accepted. Only one project will likely be funded.
  o There is a significant reduction in grant funds this year – about $1.5 million for all 20 ‘high risk’ counties in Oregon.
  o Proposed projects can’t exceed $200,000 and now requires a 50% funds match. Fortunately this match can be ‘in-kind.’
  o Projects must be adjacent to a federal project from within 3 years (either the past 3 years, or have a project planned on it that will be done in the next 3 years) AND the community the project is proposed in can’t have received any funding in the last 2 years.

• With all of that said, two projects were proposed for Josephine County. JJLCG met and approved the projects and their priority for funding. As per the new guidelines, the Emergency
Management Board approved the projects and their priority. The board unanimously agreed to submit the projects (listed below) as they were presented and with the priorities suggested by the Fuels / Risk Committee. The grants will now go to Portland for further review. Although listed as project 2, the Sunny Valley project is actually priority 3 for the region. Jim Wolf can be contacted for more information at jamesawolf@gmail.com.

- Project 1: South O'Brien is requested by IVCDO and proposes to treat 300 acres for $200,000. The homeowner will provide the 50% match in funds. The project includes a biomass opportunity. Rough and Ready will take all materials generated by the project.

- Project 2: Sunny Valley is requested by ODF and proposes to treat 300 acres for $200,000. The landowners, ODF and the Hugo Neighborhood Association will provide the 50% matching funds. This project would be a rebate program through ODF, as they have done with past projects.

**Education & Outreach**

- At their meeting last week, the committee discussed Woody Vegetation Disposal Day. The population segment that seems to take advantage of the free disposal seems to be primarily urban, not rural as is the intent of the project. With all that goes into Woody Veg Day, the committee is questioning if they should have one this year. They are thinking instead of changing the message for the spring campaign and using the funds to get more display materials. Kathy mentioned that although many urban folks were dropping off their vegetation, perhaps rural landowners were using an alternative means of disposal. Rural folks are allowed to burn their vegetation and probably wouldn’t want to drive it all the way to a disposal site unless they were required to. Additionally, Woody Veg day is the focal point of the campaign and presents a great awareness opportunity. Although we can’t measure it, it is likely that the campaign raises awareness of residents. If Woody Veg day goes away, what will replace that focal point and will it be as effective? The Emergency Management Board voted to make a recommendation to the Education & Outreach Committee to continue with Woody Veg day because of its position as the focal point of the spring campaign. Additionally, Rough and Ready has agreed to host a Woody Veg day in IV as soon as its facility is up and running. If this year’s Woody Veg day is cancelled, we will lose momentum for future years.

**Special Needs**

- Due to budget cuts, the chair of the Jackson County Special Needs Committee, Carol Knapp, was laid off. Her last day will be February 23, 2007. The committee has not yet elected a new chair. We are very sad to lose Carol.

- The State Department of Human Services (DHS) has hired a project manager, Bill Riley, to coordinate special needs planning throughout the state. The state has decided to call the group “Vulnerable Populations” instead of Special Needs. Bill is traveling around the state to meet with local planners to get an idea of what projects we would like to see. Bill visited Jackson County last month to meet with reps from the region. No projects have been defined at the state level at this time.

- As a region, a Special Needs Disaster Management Plan is being developed. The plan outlines how calls from the special needs population will be triaged and handled during a disaster.
Training is scheduled in both counties to help child care providers develop disaster plans. Both workshops will be held February 24th, one in each county. The workshop is free. Participants will learn the principles of disaster planning, and fill in disaster plan workbooks.

**Stewardship Committee**

- The committee helped to influence the draft USFS Environmental Impact Statement for stewardship contracting in the county.

**Grants**

- Blair Moody of the BLM is seeking input on a draft SW Oregon Biomass Utilization Strategy. For copies of the draft or to give input contact Blair at (541)618-2207 or Blair_Moody@blm.gov.

- The Applegate Partnership received funding for a biomass feasibility study.

- Marcus from U of O submitted a grant for “Fuels for Schools” which is another biomass feasibility strategy that would involve Hidden Valley High School.

- Sandy Schaffer from the Applegate Fire Plan submitted a regional grant to fund education and outreach materials targeting the special needs population. Materials would include information on defensible space and evacuation and a monthly two county newsletter.

- The youth field kits made possible by the State Farm grant should be available for use in May 2007. They were developed in line with the state school curriculum, so they should be very easy for teachers to use.

- Two western states fire managers grants were submitted. One was for local fire prevention education teams, the other for a marketing campaign.

**Old Business**

**NIMS Compliance**

Kathy is working with Emergency Management on NIMS compliance. We must continue to remain compliant with new standards in order to be eligible for state Homeland Security grants. Kathy can meet all our requirements, which are mostly language changes to the Emergency Operations Plan. She then plans to go back and focus on functionality and strengthen coordination and cooperation. Also in the works will be the development of a Joint Information Center. Kathy will be contacting key partners within the county over the next 15 months to discuss NIMS.

**ICS Training**

Over 400 people have been trained in the county so far. According to the current NIMS requirements, most responders need ICS 100 & 200, and IS 700, all of which are offered free of charge by Emergency Management. Charlie is looking for any interested individuals to become trainers for this material. He has offered to hold a train the trainer class. Please contact Charlie if you are interested in becoming a trainer. His email is cpphenix@grantspass.com. Please contact Sara to sign up for any ICS training at 474-5300.
New Business

JCIFP Annual Report

Our annual update to the Commissioners will take place Wednesday, April 4 at 9 a.m. at the City Council Chambers. The update will take place at the JJLCG meeting. This will give us the opportunity to update many of our stakeholders as well as the BCC. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.

JCIFP monitoring

As a group, we need to decide what data to collect to determine our progress in meeting our goals. In the past, Kathy and sometimes grad students have assisted in this process. Jim and Neil are working through this same issue with the Jackson County group.

SAR Regional Task Force

A post interagency incident review of the Kim search was held last month. The main recommendation that came from that meeting was the decision to form a SAR-based regional task force. The focus of that committee will be to talk about incident management issues. The first meeting for the committee will be held February 8, 2007. It is hoped that it will be an all-risk committee. In addition, there is some proposed legislation to make any multi-county searches the responsibility of county emergency managers. It is unknown why emergency managers were picked. The Governor’s task force is working on this issue.

Grants Pass DPS

Grants Pass DPS has an RFP out for two new fire stations. One station would be built on the Parkway property (formerly known as the Texas property). The other station would go in at the intersection of Darneille Ln. and Leonard Rd.

Next Meetings:

April 4, 2007 at 9 a.m. at the City Council Chambers (101 NW A Street, Grants Pass) – annual update to the BCC and JJLCG

May 9, 2007 1 to 3 p.m. at the SAR building

June 13, 2007 1 to 4 p.m. at the SAR building – summit meeting