



Upper Deschutes River Communities

P.O. Box 3042
Sunriver, OR 97707
www.udrc.org

UDRC 2018 Community Wildfire Protection Plan: Progress Report

Introduction

The board members of the Upper Deschutes River Communities have prepared a detailed report about the accomplishments of our partners over the past two years in support of the UDRC 2018 Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

In addition we have developed plans to assist residents in South Deschutes County to improve wildfire defensible space issues on their properties. Many of our area lands are managed by the public agencies. They have dedicated many hours and dollars to reduce wildfire threats near our communities.

Please review this document and share the results with your neighbors. Given the current coronavirus situation, it is timely to review the wildfire threats to our communities over the near and long term.

Jerry Hubbard, President
Dean Richardson, Vice President
Carl Jansen, Treasurer
Jim Larsen, Secretary
Board Members: Monte Dammarell, Mary Condi, Kent Elliot

Summary

The Upper Deschutes River Communities, established in 2004, developed the first Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in conjunction with Deschutes County in the state of Oregon. Our partners include the La Pine Rural Fire District, Deschutes National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, Deschutes County, Project Wildfire, Maybelle Clark McDonald Foundation, Burlington Northern Foundation, and the National Forest Foundation.

This report covers the fourth revision of the UDRC CWPP adopted by County, State, and Federal agencies, La Pine Fire District, and the UDRC board of directors. This report is available on the UDRC website www.udrc.org. Click on

the blue underlined web links to view the documents. Our CWPP includes 57,000 acres of public lands (Federal, State and County), and 12,000 acres of private property.

Significant forest thinning and ladder fuel reduction progress has been made on the public lands during the past two years. Private property owners are also making efforts to create defensible space which is helping to make our communities more "fire adapted". This report focuses on the progress and funds spent by the county, as well as grants received by the UDRC over the past two years. Project Wildfire published the magazine "[How to Prepare for Wildfire in Upper Deschutes River Communities](#)". The CWPP includes a section on the priority for [improving defensible space](#) in the seven primary community regions within the UDRC CWPP region. Note: The Little Deschutes Region is the highest risk area.

Through collaborating with other agencies, volunteers and funding sources, the UDRC has from 2005 to 2014 reduced fuel loads on 162 private lots (117 acres) assisting landowners in complying with Oregon Senate Bill 360, which requires owners to certify their properties are fire safe. In 2016, our trial roadside chipping program completed 12 lots on eight acres. At the Fall River community, we chipped 12 one-acre lots. In 2017 we completed seven lots on four acres.

Our defensible space reimbursement helped homeowners South and West of Sunriver to create defensible space around their homes. Homeowners applied to the UDRC and once approved can hire a contractor to create a defensible space. They sent the UDRC a paid invoice and the UDRC paid 100% of the cost up to \$500. In 2018 the UDRC reimbursed 21 homeowners a total of \$11,500 for implementing fuels reduction. In 2019, we reimbursed 45 homeowners a total of \$21,520 and owners spent a total of \$44,717 on fuels reduction work.

Over the last five years we have raised \$25,000 in donations to match the Maybelle Clark McDonald Foundation's \$25,000 grant. Using grant funds and donations, the UDRC assists landowners in the UDRC CWPP area to create and maintain wildfire defensible space by reimbursing their contractor expenses up to \$500.

A dedicated grant from the MCM Foundation provides funding up to \$1000 to provide defensible space fuels reduction services for low-income senior or disabled homeowners in the UDRC and La Pine CWPP areas. So far 10 lots have been treated under this program. Click here to view the [application form](#) for the program. The La Pine CWPP will be updated for 2020.

Deschutes County Project Wildfire contractors completed "sweat equity" biomass chipping projects in the Spring River, DRRH #1-5, River Meadows, River Forest Acres, Oregon Water Wonderland #1 and #2, Vandever Acres, DRRH #6, Fall River Estates, and Haner Park communities. Click to view a [summary of](#)

[biomass](#) deposited by South County residents at the South County Transfer Station over the past few years. Click to view a [summary of acres treated](#) using Deschutes County funding from Project Wildfire. Click to view the [UDRC financial report](#) on income and funds spent on specific projects.

The Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer developed by Oregon State University with agency partners was used to generate the UDRC Wildfire Risk Report. This report summarizes wildfire risk in UDRC CWPP Area. Wildfire risk combines the likelihood of a fire occurring with the exposure and susceptibility of valued resources and assets on the landscape. Click to view [three pages](#) of the report. The [full report](#) is available on the UDRC website.

Community education and ongoing information events have been scheduled at the Sunriver Library. Topics discussed included current thinning and controlled burns prescribed by the USFS along Highway 97 and South Century Drive near Sunriver. This included thinning projects along Cottonwood Road, and along South Century Drive near Maxwell Bridge. Our new Deschutes National Forest Supervisor, Holly Jewkes, and Kevin Larkin, Bend Fort-Rock District Ranger, presented plans for USFS thinning projects. BLM lands were thinned along Highway 97, near La Pine State Park Road. Boone Zimmerlee and Ed Keith presented forest thinning plans on private lands and continued to coordinate Project Wildfire projects on private lands throughout the county.

Dean Richardson represents the UDRC at monthly Project Wildfire meetings with community representatives living across Deschutes County. This information is conveyed to the UDRC board for appropriate action items within our CWPP geographic region.

You can help us continue defensible space landowner assistance programs by [donating to the UDRC](#).