Cooperators Meeting Mailing List

Union Pacific Railroad

1150 Jefferson Ave.

La Grande, OR 97850-2638

(541) 962-2222

Union Pacific Railroad

301 NE 2nd Avenue

Portland, OR 97232

(503) 249-3079

Oregon Trail Electric (OTEC)

2408 Cove Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-3155

Avista Utilities IC (gas),

PO Box 1048

La Grande, OR 97850

(800) 227-9187

Oregon State Police

3004 Blue Mountain Dr.

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-7175

Hancock Forest Management

1604 27th St,

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 962-2045

Union County Cattleman Association

Dennis Murchison

69599 Hwy 237

Cove, Oregon 97824

.

Wallowa Union Railroad Authority

P.O. Box 416

Wallowa, Or 97885

Idaho Northern Railroad

119 North Commercial Avenue

Emmett, Idaho 83617

Union County Sheriff

1109 K Avenue # A

La Grande, Oregon 97850

(541) 963 – 1017

Oregon Dept. of Transportation

Region 5 Headquarters

3012 Island Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

Phone: 541-963-3177

Scott Goff

Pendleton Office

Fire & Life Safety Services Section

State Fire Marshal

700 SE Emigrant, Box 10

Pendleton, OR 97801-2573

(541) 276-4076

Union County Road Department

10513 North McAlister Road

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-1016

Oregon Trail Electric (OTEC)

2408 Cove Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-3155

Mount Emily Rec Area (MERA), Union

Sean Chamber, Parks Coordinator

Union County Public Works

10513 N McAlister Road

 PO Box 1103

 Island City, OR 97850

541-963-1016

American Red Cross

1806 Cove Avenue

 La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 962-0952

Umatilla Electric Cooperative

(Overhead and buried electric distribution lines)

P.O. Box 1118

Hermiston, OR 97838

(800) 660-6429 Emergency

(541) 567-6414

US Forest Service

Umatilla National Forest

Attention: Brian Goff

72510 Coyote Rd.

Pendleton, OR 97801

(541) 278-6469

Wallowa-Whitman N.F.

Attention: Brett Ruby

P.O. Box 907

Baker City, OR 97814

Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center

Attention: Renee Crippen

59973 Downs Road

La Grande, Oregon 97850

La Grande Police Department

c/o Laura Lathrop

1109 K Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

La Grande Police Department

c/o Brian Harvy

1109 K Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

Letter to Cooperators

Subject: Union County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) March 12, 2015

Meeting: Cooperators Meeting on March 26, 2015 at 2 pm

Location: La Grande Fire Department Cove Avenue La Grande

Union County Cooperators,

Union County fire protection agencies are in the process of revising the 2005 CWPP. The update is a collaborative effort by a core group of the following participants: Union County Emergency Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, and Union County Fire Defense Board. The updates are intended to meet changing conditions in several arenas including on the ground environmental conditions, new guidance and policy direction, continued shifting demographics of the area, and technological advances. In addition, the update will reflect the county’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan accomplishments that have occurred since the 2005 version.

The CWPP core group has begun assessing the County utilizing the most current data available through an extensive mapping process called the West Wide Risk Assessment, a recently completed assessment of 17 western states and local existing data.

It is our intention to collectively work with all rural fire departments, community members, and cooperators to establish a partnership in the development of the CWPP. Through this partnership a holistic approach toward community fire protection is the desired outcome.

Part of the new approach will be using the new National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy (CWS) as a planned approach in helping cooperators and communities understand wildfire risks and their active participation before, during and after a wildfire. The CWS also emphasizes the continued awareness toward the ecological health of ecosystems that depend on fire disturbance.

We have incorporated the three key goals as our foundation for achieving the new CWPP.

1. **Fire-Adapted Communities** take into consideration of how human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property. Included in this goal is the education of community members on the considerations of home protection, ingress/egress, “Ready, Set, Go”; their role in the three phases of wildfire: pre-fire preparation, during the fire, post fire and recognizing the role of fire in ecosystem development. This goal also includes opportunities to evaluate the current infrastructure and identify obstacles, deficiencies, or opportunities for protecting life and property.
2. **Wildfire Response** is a means of building an all jurisdictional participation in making and implementing safe, effective, and efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions. The CWPP group is currently identifying a number of threat and risk issues within Union County, and is further narrowing down any additional issues relevant to individual WUI areas. This goal is anticipated to further substantiate the need for any additional improvements to assist in wildfire response including geographic pre-positioning of suppression needs (i.e.: water sources, communications), ecological treatments, and capability shortages (i.e.: training, equipment, etc.)
3. **Restore and Maintain Landscape** is designed to recognize fire-related disturbances from an ecological stand point of fire resiliency and an expansion of fire protection consideration to include all jurisdictions by promoting a landscape level approach. Developing a program that actively manages the land to make it more resilient to disturbance, in accordance to management objectives and to expand treatment opportunities to include middle ground and beyond that will assist in altering potential for extreme fire severities. This will provide the foundation for building a platform toward living with fire for both communities and ecosystems.

By addressing these three goals we, as a county, can begin to consider what and where improvements are needed, shortfalls exist, and opportunities for new innovative ideas can occur. We encourage you to bring ideas and concerns to the meeting. It is out hope through these collaborative efforts the county will increase opportunities to acquire funding for implementation of our community plan.

“In a perfect world with available finances, what needs to be done to better protect life (firefighter and public), property, and ecosystems in Union County?”

We have provided you with two additional supplements in an attempt to generate ideas, but the CWPP committee is interested in any additional issues facing Union county.

1. A map displaying WUI Zone boundaries and their locations.
2. A map with known infrastructure that could potentially be impacted by a wildland fire.
3. A list to help identify specific issues that could potentially impact or enhance the counties capabilities of response in terms of planning for, providing protection during a wildfire, and continued efforts after a wildfire has occurred. This list is not all encompassing, therefor you are encouraged to provide additional thoughts, ideas, or needs that may not be mentioned.
4. Consider ideas specific to your cooperator group’s ability to effectively interact and coordinate with each of the other cooperators in a wildfire emergency situation. What is needed and is there opportunities for improvement?

This meeting is being conducted for cooperators only, with the intent to involve homeowners, community members, and the remaining county citizens at a later time this spring. The meeting is designed to provide a good fundamental understanding of the CWPP’s revision process and gain your input. If you are interested in submitting your specific input in advance of the meeting, please feel free to send them to Joe Hessel or JB Brock, emails provided below.

We would also like to invite you to additional CWPP public meetings scheduled this spring. Dates of these meeting will be announced at a later time. We look forward to your input.

Thank you for your time.

Joe Hessel JB Brock

Oregon Department of Forestry Emergency Manager

La Grande Unit Forester La Grande, Oregon

541 963-3168 541 963-1009

jhessel@odf.state.or.us jbrock@union-county.org

Wildfire Simulation Attendees

\*Denotes simulation participant

\*\* denotes facilitator

1. Lori Woods-BLM District mgr.
2. Jack Remillard- Umatilla Co. Emergency Mgr.
3. Jodi Florence- Umatilla Co. PIO
4. \*Chris Taylor- Disaster Program mgr. American Red Cross- Bend
5. \*Scott Goff- Deputy State Fire Marshall- Hermiston
6. Keith A. Hutton -Deputy State Fire Marshall-Bend
7. Gary Timm- Baker Co. Emergency manager/wildfire coordinator
8. \*\*Dennis Perilli-ODF
9. Paul Karvoski- Wallowa Co. Emergency manger/County Fire chief
10. Renae Crippen- BMIDC Center mgr.
11. \*\*Willie Crippen- USFS FMO- Whitman District, Baker
12. Matt Howard-ODF
13. Jason Simmons-BLM AFMO-Vale
14. Bruce Wimer- LaGrande City Fire Dept. chief
15. Lisa Caldwell- Columbia County Emergency manager
16. \*Claude Morgan –Oregon Trail Electric Coop
17. \*Lisa Rafferty- Oregon Trail Electric Coop
18. Bob Narus –BLM FMO-Vale
19. Tom Davis-ODOT Region 5 Operations Coordinator
20. \*Steve Smartt-Lt. OSP
21. \*Dennis Hackney Asst. District mgr. Region 13-ODOT
22. Brian Wiggins- Region 13-ODOT-LaGrande
23. Pete Caldwell- Region 13-ODOT-Enterprise/Elgin
24. \*Andi Walsh- Emergency Preparedness Coordinator –Center for Human Development
25. \*Mike McDonnell USFS LG Ranger District-FMO
26. Billie Hopkins- Wallowa Whitman-SO
27. Kimberly Jones- USFS LG Ranger District
28. Tom Montoya- Forest Sup Wallowa Whitman
29. \*Steve Meyer-ODF
30. \*Larisa Bogardus Wallowa Whitman PIO
31. Matt Burke- Wallowa Whitman PIO
32. Katy Gray- Wallowa Whitman PIO
33. \*\*Joe Hessel ODF
34. \*JB Brock -Union co. emergency manager
35. \*Annette Powers- Union co. emergency management PIO
36. \*Larry Wooldridge- Lagrande Rural FD Chief & Union Co. Fire chief
37. Shawn Chambers Union Co. Mt Emily Recreation Area mgr.
38. \*Doug Wright- Union co. Public works Director
39. Tesmond Hurd Union County 911
40. Ronda Griffin-Union County 911
41. \*Lola Lathrop -Union County 911
42. \* April Brock- Grande Ronde Hospital
43. \*Rob Langford Grande Ronde Hospital
44. \*Mitch Williams-ODF
45. Dyan Snook- LGPD
46. \*Darren Braid-UPRR
47. \*Jamie Knight\_ODF PIO
48. \*\*Mark Jacques-ODF
49. Fred Hawkins- Union Co. SAR
50. Bob Nelson -Union Co. SAR
51. Jake Bunch Union Co. SAR
52. Nick Vora- Union Co. SAR
53. \*\*Rick Wagner- ODF
54. Bill Gamble- LaGrande District Ranger-FS
55. Bill Hunt- Sim Leader
56. Craig Ward- Union County Sheriff
57. Mark Johnson USFS-SO
58. Rebecca Vaughn-American Red Cross
59. Cameron Pulsifer-UPRR
60. Chris Galiszewski-Red Cross
61. John Jochen-UPRR
62. Ron Warnock- Cove RFD
63. Steve Hawkins-Wallowa Whitman SO