

## **10.7. Community at Risk: Hoodland Fire District #74**

Hoodland Rural Fire Protection District #74 (Hoodland Fire) has been identified as a Community at Risk (CAR) by Oregon Department of Forestry. The District has participated in the Clackamas County CWPP planning process to evaluate capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to potential wildfire events.

### **Hoodland Fire District Description**

Hoodland Fire covers 45 square miles of rugged foothills southwest of Mt Hood, along Highway 26, between Sandy and Government Camp, in historic East Clackamas County. Hoodland Fire protects the rural communities of Marmot, Cherryville, Brightwood, Wemme, Welches, Zig Zag, Rhododendron and Government Camp from three fire stations. This rural area depends on a staff of 10 career and 30-40 volunteer firefighters that are dedicated to respond and provide quality fire and life safety protection to the community. In 2010, Hoodland Fire responded to 700 emergency calls for assistance from our 6,000 permanent and 15,000 seasonal residents.

### **Wildland Urban Interface**

This area is an excellent example of the Wildland Urban Interface because it is characterized by steep slopes with residential homes surrounded by heavy fuels. In addition, the Mount Hood National Forest surrounds many of the communities as well as industrial timber management operations, and some Bureau of Land Management land. Many of the neighborhoods here have only one way in and one way out with narrow, steep driveways and poor address signage. Heavy and continuous fuels dominate this area, so fires that begin on public land or on smaller private residential lots can quickly threaten the communities and natural resources that thrive in the Hoodland corridor.

Tourism and recreation are also major influences here, with thousands of Portland area residents travelling along Highway 26 to access the Mount Hood National Forest. Campers, hikers, hunters and other visitors to this area can potentially start wildfires that could carry from Forest service land to the residential communities. Industrial and Federal forest operations are also potential ignition sources.

### **Hoodland Fire District Wildfire Hazards**

The Clackamas County CWPP wildfire hazard assessment assisted Hoodland Fire in identifying areas that may be at higher risk to potential wildfires. Map #4 illustrates the overall wildfire hazard risk in the Hoodland area and will be used to help target areas for wildfire prevention activities.

### **Structural Ignitability**

Hoodland Fire promotes the creation of defensible space, use of fire-resistant roofing and building materials and community preparedness in the WUI. Hoodland Fire participates in land use reviews for new development to provide input on access and water supply. The Clackamas County Planning Dept. uses a WUI checklist developed in 2005 to ensure that Fire Marshals are contacted when potential issues may arise for new development. In areas zoned Forest/Agriculture, the County's

Zoning Development Ordinance (ZDO) has guidelines for fire-resistant building materials and defensible space and fuel breaks.

### **Emergency Response**

Hoodland Fire professionals have experience in structural and wildland fire response tactics, with a large percentage of staff having spent years as wildland firefighters. Hoodland Fire works closely with the United States Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry and neighboring Sandy Fire District to prevent and provide quick response to fires in this area. Hoodland is a signatory to the Clackamas Fire Defense Board Mutual Aid Agreement, which allows for the sharing of resources across the county in the event of a large scale disaster including wildfires. Although Hood River County is along the eastern border of Clackamas County, USFS land separates these two counties in this location. This has created a barrier to Hoodland Fire's ability to participate in the Hood River County Fire Defense Board Mutual Aid Agreement. This need has been identified and prioritized in the Hoodland Fire District Action Plan.

### **Community Outreach & Education**

Hoodland Fire is dedicated to fire prevention, and uses a variety of forums to promote defensible space, fire-resistant building materials, and safe burning practices. The community of Government Camp has an Annual Community Clean Up event to create defensible for six years running. Hoodland Fire supports this effort by providing technical assistance to landowners in determining how and why to create defensible space. In addition, Hoodland Fire has provided an incentive to participate by paying for the chipping costs associated with the cleanup. The Fire District also attends Home Owners' Association meetings to discuss structural and wildland fire safety three to four times a year. The District also completed structural triage surveys at 375 homes in 2011 during the Dollar Lake Fire, which generated a great deal of interest and increased homeowners' awareness of the risk to their homes from heavy vegetation and poor access.

### **Local Communities at Risk (CAR's)**

Hoodland Fire also recognizes that there are smaller-scale Communities at Risk or Strategic planning Areas that have unique wildfire hazards to be addressed at the more local level. Communities that have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to wildfires are illustrated in Map #14 and listed in Table 10.7-1. Hoodland Fire Professionals considered the following factors to determine the local CARs including:

- Need for defensible space
- Access limitations (narrow driveways, lack of address signage, one way in/one way out)
- Steep slopes that can hinder access and accelerate the spread of wildfire
- Lack of water available for wildland fire fighting
- Heavy fuels on adjacent public lands
- Potential ignition sources from recreationists and transients
- Agricultural and backyard burning
- Lack of community outreach programs to promote wildfire awareness
- Communications difficulties

## **Fuels Reduction**

Fuels reduction projects can and should be accomplished at the local scale, which is the creation of defensible space around homes, as well as the landscape scale to extend vegetation treatments onto adjacent forested land and natural areas. Hoodland Fire will continue to facilitate cooperation between public and private organizations to ensure that fuels reduction work occurs strategically and benefits homeowners as well as adjacent public and private lands.

To ensure that landscape-level treatments are paired with projects to create defensible space around vulnerable communities, priority fuels reduction projects have been overlaid with the Communities at Risk Identified by Hoodland Fire (Map #14).

Fuels Reduction Priorities include:

Lolo Pass  
Marmot  
Barlow Trail

Brightwood  
Government Camp  
Cherryville/Alder Creek

## **Hoodland Fire District Action Plan**

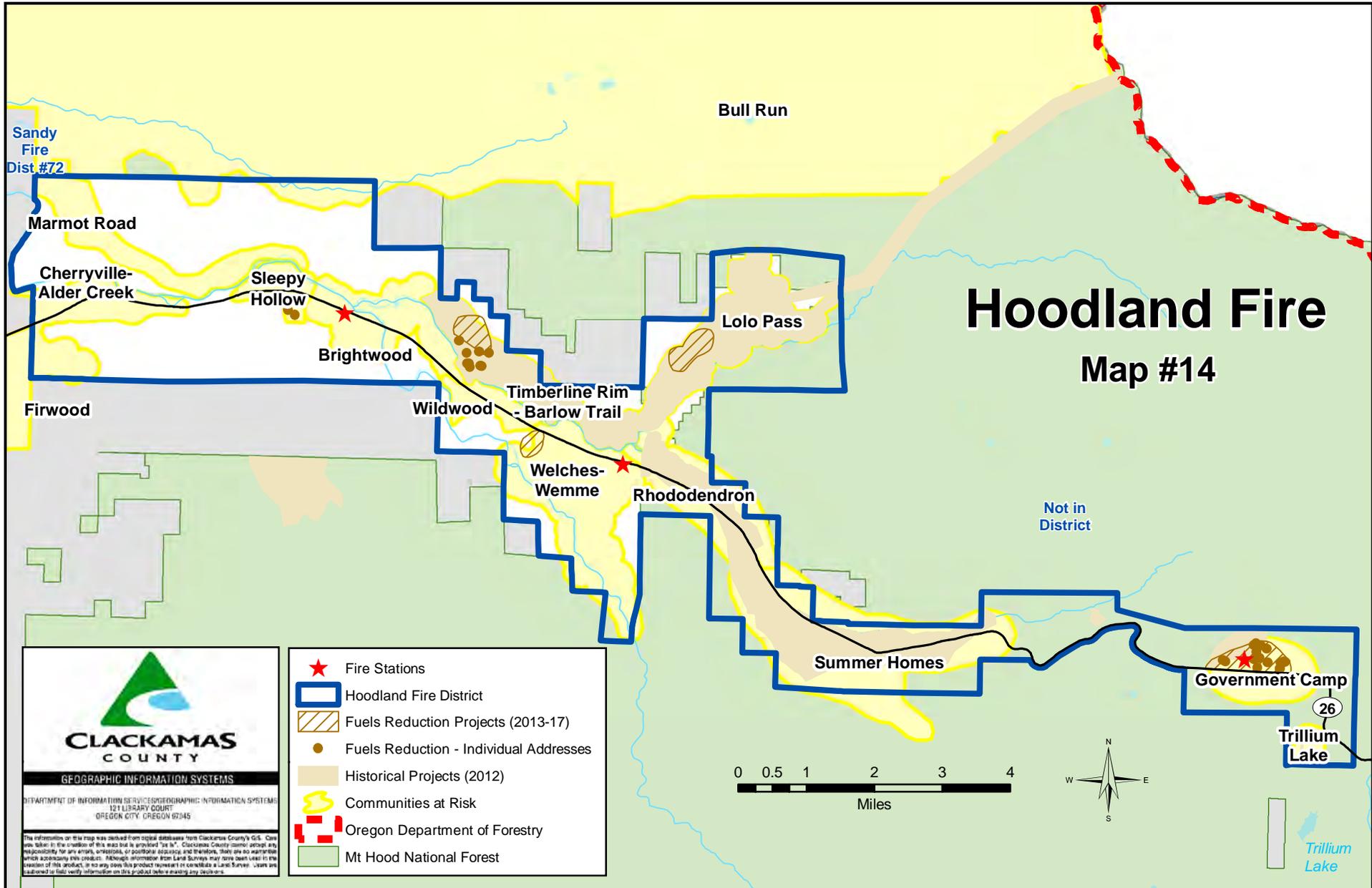
Hoodland Fire has developed a list of actions to build capacity at the Department scale and has identified actions that can help to make the local CARS more resilient to potential wildfires. The action plan for Hoodland Fire and the local CARs therein is provided in Table 10.7-.2.

**Table 10.7-1. Hoodland Fire District Local Communities at Risk**

Community At Risk	CAR Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Forest Lands	Private Forest Lands	Recreators/ Transients	Protection Capabilities	Burning	Preparedness	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description
<b>Hoodland Fire &amp; Rescue Local Communities at Risk</b>													
Government Camp/ Summit Meadows	High	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	The communities of Government Camp and Summit Meadows are particularly vulnerable to wildfires because they are located along a ridge top that has very steep slopes, poor access, and heavy fuels. These communities are located on Mount Hood along Highway 26 a heavily travelled road that provides access to forested areas used for recreation which increases potential ignition sources and fuels. The area is completely surrounded by USFS land, access is limited to 1-way in and out with narrow roads and no turnarounds. Due to its location, response times are greater than 10 minutes, and response efforts will prove difficult as the roads are steep, driveways are narrow and are not well marked, and there are no known alternative water sources for the ridgeline. The terrain also limits radio communication to VHF.
USFS Summer Homes	High	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	The USFS Summer Homes are a unique community at risk as the USFS owns the land, but residents own the houses here. Because the USFS must be in compliance with State and Federal environmental protection laws, it is more difficult to reduce hazardous fuels here. In addition, many of the homeowners are absentee, so public education is challenging. The majority of roads in this area are narrow, not well-maintained and do not provide adequate turn arounds for emergency service vehicles. Hoodland Fire and ODF have completed address signage for the homes in this CAR.
Rhododendron/Zig Zag/Woodland	High	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	Rhododendron is characterized by narrow roads, heavy fuels, and limited access. Public and private industrial forest land operations surrounding this community provide potential ignition sources. Water would need to be brought in to fight fire here. Address signage is needed. The Zig Zag and Woodland communities are surrounded by heavy fuels and have very poor access. There is no water available here and address signs are needed. However, the community has a great network for notifications during emergencies that could potentially be used for preparedness efforts.
Lolo Pass	High	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	Lolo Pass is surrounded by heavy vegetation on both residential lands as well as forest service and private woodlands. The access here is limited to one way in and out, and water would need to be brought in to fight fire. Some homes in this CAR are second homes, making it more difficult to work with landowners.
Marmot	High	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		The Marmot community is comprised of farms and ranches that have large BPA power lines overhead. These power lines serve as ignition sources when the heavy brush below become tinder in the summer months. Access is limited to one way in and one way out. This area is adjacent to the Bull Run Watershed, which provides drinking water for the City of Portland.
Cherryville/Alder Creek	High	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	This Community has very steep terrain which limits access and communication. Hoodland Fire sometimes has to access the area by going into the Sandy Fire District. Land uses here include agriculture and timber operations and well as USFS lands. This CAR is a community asset as well because it includes the water source for the City of Sandy.
Welches/Wemme	Medium	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	The Welches/Wemme area has very poor access with only about 255 of homes having address signs. There is water here, but the roads are extremely narrow. Public and private industrial forest operations on lands adjacent to homes provide potential ignition sources.
Barlow Trail (Timberline Rim Division 1-4)	Medium	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	Barlow Trail has very poor access, with many roads having only one way in and out. About 255 of homes have address signs, and some of these are incorrect. The community is adjacent to the Bull Run Watershed, which has heavy fuels. Escaped and/or illegal burns is a major issue in this CAR.
Brightwood/ Sleepy Hollow (Timberline Rim Division 5)	Medium	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	This community is adjacent to USFS, industrial forest lands and the Bull Run Watershed. It has a good water supply and access is fair. Address signs are needed here.
Summit Meadows	Medium	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			Summit Meadows is a recreational area with many wooden cabins that house people throughout the year. There is also a ski camp here. The area has extremely steep slopes and heavy fuels surrounding access roads and structures.

**Table 10.7-2. Hoodland Fire District Action Plan**

Action Item	Timeframe	Partners	CAR
<b>Hoodland Fire Action Plan</b>			
Develop a volunteer recruitment and retention program.	Ongoing	HART Teams	Hoodland Fire
Work with DPSST, USFS and ODF to participate in wildfire response efforts to keep fire certifications current.	Ongoing	DPSST, USFS and ODF	Hoodland Fire
Work with Hood River County Fire Defense Board to develop mutual aid agreements.	2 Years	Hood River County Fire Defense Board	Hoodland Fire
Cultivate partnerships with Parkdale, Dee, Odell and Hood River County to encourage effective communication and coordination.	2 Years	Parkdale, Dee, Odell and Hood River County	Hoodland Fire
Encourage USFS to extend fuels reduction treatments beyond the mountain bike track to the power lines.	4 Years	USFS	Hoodland Fire
Develop and distribute newsletter to educate community on defensible space, and measures that can be taken to reduce structural ignitability.	Annually	HOA's, ODF	Hoodland Fire
Work with Clackamas County Land Use Planning to encourage wildfire resistant building materials and home sprinkler systems through incentive programs (e.g. reduced permit fees).	Ongoing	Clackamas DTD, WFPEC	Hoodland Fire
<b>Hoodland Fire Local Communities at Risk Action Plan</b>			
Conduct a Community Meeting to educate the community and solicit feedback on wildfire prevention projects the community would support.	Spring 2013	ODF, USFS	Zig Zag Village, Timberline Rim
Complete home addressing in all Communities at Risk.		ODF, Fire Co-op	All
Continue the annual community clean up event at Government Camp and encourage other Communities at Risk to participate.	Ongoing	ODF, USFS	All
Work with USFS, ODOT and other land owners to extend vegetation treatments from defensible space to reduce fuels in common areas, right of ways, and other public and private land.	Ongoing	USFS, ODOT, Clackamas County, Private Landowners	Govt. Camp, Timberline Rim, Summer Homes, Marmont Road, Salmon River and Lolo Pass Roads
Seek grant funding to support fuels reduction and creation of defensible space around homes.	Ongoing	ODF, Wildfire Technical Committee	All
Continue to promote wildfire preparedness preparedness at Home Owners Association meetings in 3-4 Communities at Risk each year.	Ongoing	ODF	All
Continue structural triage assessment data collection for structural ignitability and defensible space. Utilize this information to target areas for outreach and fuels reduction programs.	Ongoing	ODF	All
Develop a community-driven pre-disaster plan including evacuation routes, telephone call down trees, and other strategies for strengthening community response.	Ongoing	HART Teams	All
Develop clear and effective signage for emergency response that includes alternative routes.	5 Years	ODF, Clackamas County, ODOT	All
Inventory existing water resources and identify alternative water sources to support potential wildfire fighting efforts. Provide signage for these sources.	3 Years	ODF, USFS	All



# Hoodland Fire

## Map #14

- ★ Fire Stations
- Hoodland Fire District
- Fuels Reduction Projects (2013-17)
- Fuels Reduction - Individual Addresses
- Historical Projects (2012)
- Communities at Risk
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Mt Hood National Forest




**CLACKAMAS COUNTY**  
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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