

Wildfire Hazard

Recent fires in Oregon and across the western United States have increased public awareness of the potential losses to life, property, and natural and cultural resources. In June of 2004, the Board of Clackamas County Commissioners (BCC) directed the County Departments to work with state and federal agencies, fire protection districts, and community organizations throughout the County to develop an integrated wildfire plan. The BCC initiated this effort to reduce wildfire risk to citizens, the environment, and quality of life within Clackamas County.

In the Fall of 2012 the CCWPP 2012 Update will be adopted to ensure that the Plan remain an up-to-date and relevant document. The CCWPP will serve as the wildfire chapter of the Clackamas County NHMP. The following presents a brief summary of key information; refer to the full CCWPP for a complete description and evaluation of the wildfire hazard.

Causes and Characteristics of the Hazard

Climate Change Factor

Wildfire will likely increase in all Oregon forest types in the coming decades. Warmer and drier summers leave forests more vulnerable to the stresses from fire danger west of the Cascades. Wildfire in forests east of the Cascades is mainly influenced by vegetation growth in the winters prior to the fire. An increase in fire activity is expected for all major forest types in the state under climate change. Large fires could become more common in Western Oregon forests.¹

Community Hazard Issues

Fire District Coordination

The 2012 CWPP Update focused on taking a more localized approach to wildfire planning by creating individual CWPP's for each fire agency. Chapter 10: Fire Agencies has been expanded to include a brief description of wildfire hazards, emergency operations, structural ignitability, community outreach and education and fuels reduction priorities for each local fire agency. Local Communities at Risk were also identified. Each Fire Agency CWPP is complete with action plans to address wildfire issues specific to the local area.

¹ Oregon Climate Change Research Institute <http://occri.net/ocar>

Community Involvement

The WFPEC partnered with the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District Wildfire Management Plan team to engage the public in the 2012 CWPP Update process. A website was established to provide wildfire resources and two neighborhood workshops were conducted to educate the public about wildfire risk and provide an opportunity for citizens to give input on the 2012 CCWPP.

Firewise Communities

In August 2012, Zig Zag Village was certified as the first Firewise Community in the North Cascades District and Government Camp is on its way to becoming the second Firewise Community with the Firewise Clean Up Day scheduled in mid-September .

Photo WF-1: Firewise Community Award to Zig Zag Village



Homeowners Association members accept recognition sign from Hoodland Fire District and Oregon Department of Forestry

Source: Clackamas County

Sustaining Fire Plan Efforts

The Wildfire Planning Executive Committee has led CCWPP implementation by meeting quarterly to collaborative and cooperative environment between community-based organizations, fire districts, local government, and the public land management agencies to reduce wildfire risk. The WFPEC is committed to maintaining this cooperation with the public and local fire agencies.

Hazard Mitigation Action Items

CCWPP Planning Process

A Wildfire Planning Executive Committee (WFPEC) guided the development of the plan by identifying the primary issues to be addressed and assembling technical subcommittees to develop priorities for action. The CCWPP Action Plan includes over fifty actions that can be taken to reduce wildfire hazards and improve response efforts. The following chapters of the CCWPP document the objectives of the CCWPP and highest priority strategies for action:

Table WF-1: CWPP Objectives and Priority Actions

CCWPP Chapter	Priority Actions
Chapter 4: Wildfire Risk Assessment	1.) Maintain and Update the Fuels Reduction and Communities at Risk Maps and databases.
	2.) Continue to track structural vulnerability data throughout the County through structural triage assessments.
	3.) Update the Overall Wildfire Risk Assessment as new data becomes available.
Chapter 5: Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Biomass Utilization	1.) Develop and maintain an inventory of potential and successful FR projects by meeting with parks and natural lands managers quarterly.
	2.) Continue securing funding to implement projects/ hire seasonal ODF staff
	3.) Coordinate a Fuels Reduction Project Tour.
Chapter 6: Emergency Operations	1.) Include 12 hour operation period in FDB Fire Mutual Aid Agreement
	2.) Develop an FDB Communications Work Group
	3.) Conduct a Conflagration Exercise
Chapter 7: Education and Community Outreach	1.) Develop Firewise toolkit for CAR's.
	2.) Create incentives for fuels reduction.
	3.) Update and distribute the Burn Permitting and Fire Restrictions Brochure.
	4.) Implement a Burn Barrel Program.
	5.) Continue to improve address signage throughout the County.
Chapter 8: Structural Ignitability Policies and Programs	1.) Identify a DTD representative for the WFPEC.
	2.) Improve coordination with Rural Fire Agencies.
	3.) Integrate WUI into Plan Map and include a public outreach strategy.

Source: Clackamas County CWPP

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