

# JOSEPHINE COUNTY INTEGRATED FIRE PLAN: 2006 ANNUAL REPORT AND UPDATED ACTION PLAN



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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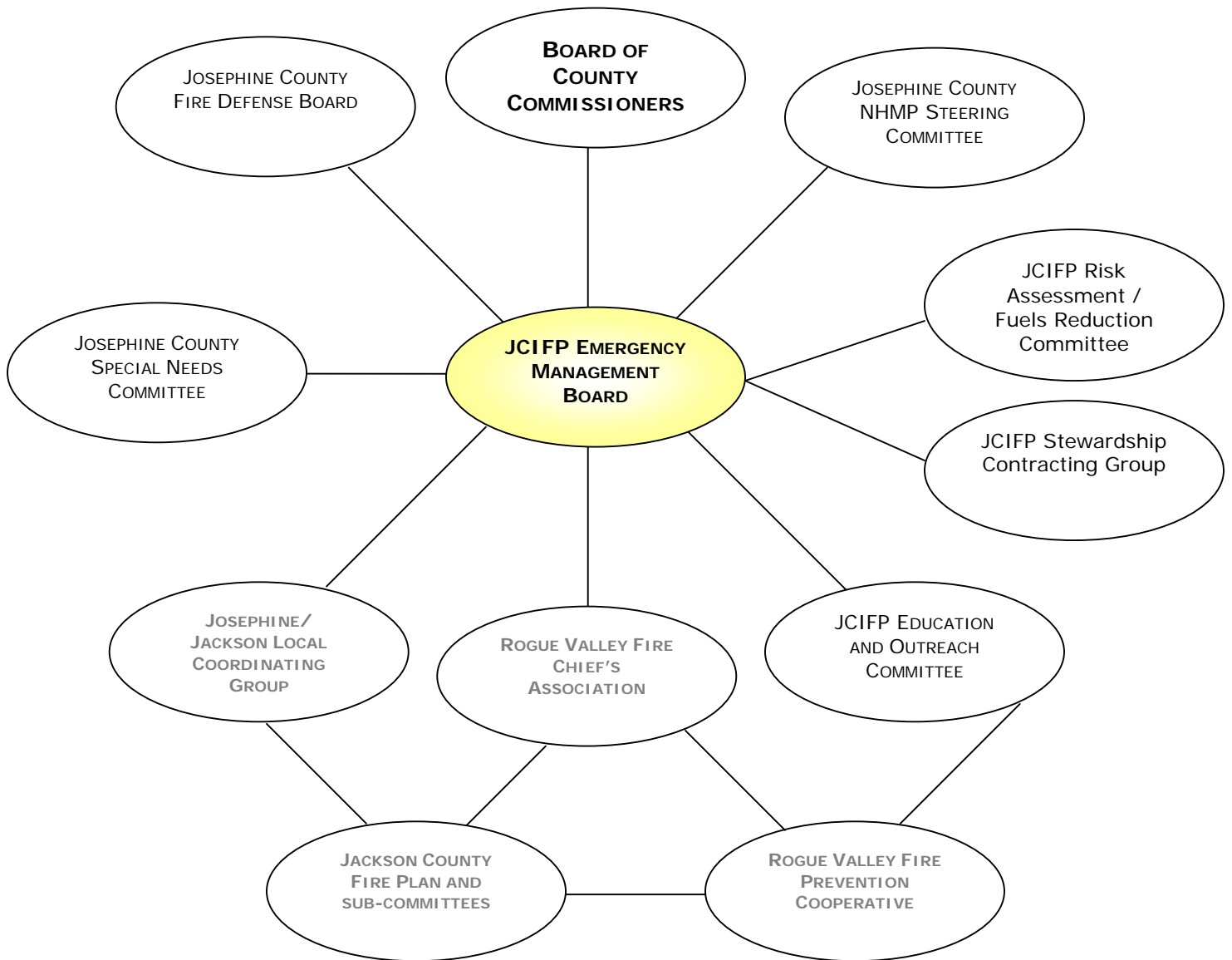
In 2002, the Biscuit Fire burned over 500,000 acres and resulted in costs exceeding 150 million dollars. A majority of the acres burned in Josephine County, Oregon. Lessons learned from the fire resulted in the development of an Integrated Fire Plan for the county that addressed wildfire risk, hazardous fuels reduction, emergency management, and education.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004 the Josephine County (OR) Board of County Commissioners adopted the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP). Since that time, partners involved with the JCIFP have remained active in implementing the fire plan, as well as expanding efforts beyond initial objectives to pursue stewardship contracting, biomass utilization, and other efforts. This report illustrates the accomplishments and lessons learned from the second year of implementing the JCIFP. The report also includes an updated action plan and list of priority fuels reduction projects. The organization of the annual report and updated action plan follows:

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*Many of the issues highlighted in this report are discussed in further detail on the JCIFP website (<http://www.co.josephine.or.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=158>).*

## 1.2. 2006 Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan - Organizational Structure



## 2. SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 2.1. Fuels Reduction Treatments in Josephine County (FY 2005)

#### 2005/2006 Defensible Space and Fuels Reduction on Private Land

Administrator	Location	Year	Acres
Illinois Valley Community Development Organization	Thompson Creek	2005	205
	Cathedral Hills	2006	90
	Selma North	2006	65
	Wolf Creek	2006	TBD
	Special Needs	2006	25
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Illinois Valley	2006	105
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Williams	2006	100
Oregon Department of Forestry	Countywide	2006	94
Applegate Fire District	Applegate	2006	41
Applegate River Watershed Council	Applegate	2006	50
<b>Total Acres Treated on Private Land</b>			<b>775</b>

#### Agency Fuels Reduction in FY 2005 and 2006 (as of 9/1/06)

Treatment	BLM, Medford District		Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
WUI Acres	7098	7,152	962	1,420
Non WUI Acres	1393	699	870	1,501
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,491</b>	<b>7,851</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>2,921</b>

*Note: Through the federal agency reporting system, target acres reported by the federal agencies are not the same as 'footprint' treated acres. Each acre of each hazardous fuel reduction activity (thinning, pruning, handpiling, hand pile burning, etc) is an accomplishment acre, which means that certain types of activities (e.g., thinning/pruning) may have occurred in a previous year, while additional treatment on the same acres occurred in FY 2006.*

### 2.2. Woody Vegetation Disposal Day

	May 2006	April 2005
Public participants	151	140
Yards of woody vegetation collected	330	300

### 2.3. Emergency Management – Incident Command Training

Training	2004	2005	2006	Total # of People Trained
IS 700	86	300	113	499
ICS 100	172	188	88	448
ICS 200	4	55	22	81
ICS 300	-	22	-	22
WMD	-	-	283	283
IS 800	-	4	29	33

### 2.4. Awards

- 2006 Partners for Disaster Resistance Award for Outstanding Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (Presented in Salem, OR – February 2006.)
- 2006 National Fire Plan honorable mention for outstanding collaboration in development and implementation of a Community Fire Plan. (Presented at the 2006 National Fire Plan awards in Phoenix, AZ – March 2006.)

### 3. COLLABORATION

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Collaboration has played a critical role in the development and implementation of the JCIFP. A collaborative group of citizens, fire districts, county staff, and agency representatives came together to identify and implement fuels reduction projects, fire prevention and educational campaigns, and emergency management measures. Partners include:

Josephine County Fire Defense Board	Oregon Department of Forestry
• Applegate Fire District	Oregon Department of Transportation
• Illinois Valley Fire District	Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal
• Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety	Josephine County Emergency Management
• Wolf Creek Rural Fire Protection District	Josephine County Planning
• Williams Rural Fire Protection District	Josephine County GIS
• Rural/Metro Fire Department	Applegate Partnership
Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest	Lomakatsi Restoration Project
Bureau of Land Management, Medford District	Siskiyou Field Institute
Josephine County Senior and Disabled Services	Illinois Valley Community Development Organization
The Job Council	Jackson County
Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands	Siskiyou Project
Rough & Ready Lumber Company	The Nature Conservancy of Oregon
Applegate River Watershed Council	Summit Wood Products
Josephine County RC&D	HB and Company
	Josephine County Soil & Water Conservation District

Research Innovations worked with the JCIFP Emergency Management Board to develop a survey to evaluate collaborative efforts. The survey was distributed to 65 JCIFP partners and resulted in 24 responses, (a response rate of 37%). These responses provided information to assess the program's strengths, weaknesses, and identify new opportunities. The full report can be found in Appendix C of this report. Key recommendations are as follows:

1. ***Concentrate on JCIFP performance gaps***—Most respondents felt that JCIFP goals were being met through current activities and collaborative partnerships. However, about one-third felt that goals and objectives were being met only “to some extent.” Increase efforts to identify how partnerships activities can be strengthened to better meet JCIFP goals.
2. ***Address funding issues by collaborating on grant applications and leveraging resources***—The Title II grant to reduce hazardous fuels on the properties of citizens with special needs demonstrates how collaboration amongst several agencies can help attain money to carry out projects together. JCIFP partners should focus on collaborating on future grant opportunities.
3. ***Continue to work with the stewardship contracting group***—The data documents obstacles in this program's prioritization among federal agencies. While the stewardship contracting group within the JCIFP is relatively new, it is important to secure the necessary leadership and resources to address pending issues for ensuring long-term success.
4. ***Engage social service agencies***—Partnerships with social service agencies are critical to help JCIFP partners connect with the special needs population.
5. ***Sustain the success of the JCIFP***—The partnerships created through the JCIFP provide partners a means to address important wildfire and emergency management issues. The JCIFP's early success is promising, however partners must continue to dedicate resources to strengthen collaborative efforts.

## 4. JCIFP EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

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The Josephine County Emergency Management Board (EMB) has taken on an increasing amount of responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of the fire plan since its adoption in 2004. Along with facilitating emergency management related activities, the EMB convenes all JCIFP partners in a quarterly summit and helps to ensure that the annual report and bi-annual updated action plan are coordinated. This section highlights the progress made in emergency management, incident command training, evacuation, and other related issues over the last year.

### 4.1. National Incident Management System

Josephine County is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency/Department of Homeland Security to be compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by September 30, 2006. A major component of this compliance is increasing the number of people in the county that are trained in Incident Management (ICS). The following tables illustrate the number of people trained in the past three years and participating organizations.

Training	2004	2005	2006	People Trained
IS 700	86	300	113	499
ICS 100	172	188	88	448
ICS 200	4	55	22	81
ICS 300	-	22	-	22
WMD	-	-	283	283
IS 800	-	4	29	33

#### Participating Agencies

##### Josephine County Agencies

Josephine County Emergency Management  
Josephine County Commissioners  
Josephine County Search and Rescue  
Josephine County Emergency Communications  
Josephine County Assessor  
Josephine County Building Safety  
Josephine County CERT  
Josephine County Communications  
Josephine County Community Corrections  
Josephine County Juvenile  
Josephine County Legal  
Josephine County Library  
Josephine County Mental Health  
Josephine County Parks  
Josephine County Planning  
Josephine County Sheriff's Department  
Josephine County Public Health  
Josephine County Property Services Dept.

##### Other Agencies

City of Grants Pass  
Grants Pass Police  
Grants Pass Fire  
HRSA – Region 5  
Illinois Valley Fire Department  
City of Cave Junction  
American Medical Response  
Rural/Metro Fire Dept  
Williams Fire  
Wolf Creek Fire  
Three Rivers Community Hospital  
Josephine County Special Needs Committee

### 4.2. Incidence of Fire

In 2006, there were 116 human-caused fires in the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District. This is 99 percent of normal (based on the 10-year average) for this time of year. In 2005 the district had 175 human-caused fires, and in 2004 it had 200. In 2006, there has

been 58 percent of the human-caused fires that occurred in 2004, and 66 percent of the human-caused fires that occurred in 2005.

	<b>2006</b> (1/06 – 8/06)	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Human-Caused	116	175	200

Source: Oregon Department of Forestry, Southwestern Oregon District

### **4.3. Special Needs Committee**

The Rogue Valley Council of Governments manages a special needs disaster registry for Josephine and Jackson Counties. There are 96 people currently on the registry within Josephine County, with another 15 people anticipated to be signed up by the end of 2006.

Special Needs Preparedness activities include: Long Term Care facilities discussing Memorandum of Agreement; Table top special needs exercise in February; development of call-taker check-off list for special needs; protocols; presentations at several local and state venues on special needs preparedness. Next steps include:

- Develop protocols and procedures for Special Needs Branch of EOC.
- Continue working on MOA for long term care facilities.
- Continue working with Head Start on an agreement to provide childcare for the families of first responders during an event.
- Discuss the need for a Special Needs Emergency Shelter.

### **4.4. Disaster Exercises and Training**

The Josephine County Special Needs committee participated in two tabletop disaster exercises in 2006. In March, the committee participated in an exercise using a flood scenario and organized themselves into a 'special needs branch' in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Organizers provided committee members with messages from citizens needing help and watched how the messages were handled. During subsequent meetings, the committee developed a checklist to be used by EOC call takers to triage calls from special needs citizens that would need to be handled differently than a routine request to the EOC.

In June 2006, a second exercise was conducted to test the checklist, again using the flood scenario. Organizers had simulators place calls to the call takers. The call takers used the checklists to triage the calls. The checklists and messages were then routed to the committee to handle. Special needs committee member also participated in the TerrorX community exercise and one testing the Strategic National Stockpile Pod (Point of Distribution).

### **4.5. Grants**

Josephine County submitted a grant request totaling \$1,568,339 to the FY 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program. Proposed projects included funding for a contractor to implement the National Incident Management System (NIMS) on a county wide scale, new base stations for county radios, new radio dispatch consoles for the 911 center, terrorist information and intelligence gathering for law enforcement, and continued funding for Citizen Corps.

A trailer was purchased at the beginning of 2006 with Homeland Security funds from this past year. This trailer will be used as an interagency ICS trailer. Included in the project is a plotter and laptop to print maps during initial attack. An interagency MOU is in the process of being drafted to address the use of the trailer.

#### 4.6. JCIFP Oversight

Committees have continued to meet on a monthly basis. The JCIFP EMB also helps coordinate written quarterly updates that are made available to all JCIFP partners and the general public through the county's website at [www.co.josephine.or.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=158](http://www.co.josephine.or.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=158). The JCIFP Emergency Management Board also convenes all JCIFP partners on a quarterly basis. The 2006 meeting calendar follows.

2006	Quarterly Summit (1 pm – 4 pm)	Emergency Management (2 pm – 4 pm)	Education and Outreach (10 am - 12 pm)	Fuels/Risk (12 pm – 2 pm)	Stewardship Contracting (2 pm – 4 pm)
January		1/11/06 – 2-4	1/17/06 –10-12	1/17/06 – 12-2	1/17/06 – 2-4
February	2/8/06		2/21/06 –10-12	2/21/06 – 12-2	2/21/06 – 2-4
March		Cancelled (NFP conference)	3/21/06 –10-12	3/21/06 – 12-2	3/21/06 – 2-4
April	4/10/06 (Illinois Valley)		4/18/06 –10-12	4/18/06 – 12-2	4/11/06 – 2-4
May		5/10/06 – 2-4	5/16/06 –10-12	5/16/06 – 12-2	5/16/06 – 2-4
June		6/14/06 – 2-4	6/20/06 –10-12	6/20/06 – 12-2	6/20/06 – 2-4
July		7/12/06 – 2-4	7/18/06 –10-12	7/18/06 – 12-2	7/18/06 – 2-4
August	8/9/06		8/15/06 –10-12	8/15/06 – 12-2	8/15/06 – 2-4
September		9/13/06 – 2-4	9/19/06 –10-12	9/19/06 – 12-2	9/19/06 – 2-4
October		10/11/06 – 2-4	10/17/06 –10-12	10/17/06 – 12-2	10/17/06 – 2-4
November	11/8/06 (Illinois Valley)		11/14/06 –10-12	11/14/06 – 12-2	11/14/06 – 2-4
December		12/13/06 – 2-4	12/19/06 –10-12	12/19/06 – 12-2	12/19/06 – 2-4

#### 4.7. Next Steps

In 2007, the Emergency Management Board has identified a number of issues that are addressed in the updated action plan, including:

- Evacuation issues
- National Incident Command System requirements
- Post-disaster recovery, contingency planning, and other natural hazard mitigation plans



## **5. JCIFP EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

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In 2006, the Education and Outreach committee focused their efforts on coordinating the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Woody Vegetation Disposal Day, outreach to realtors and the insurance industry, and obtaining grant funding to assist with future efforts. Following is a summary of activities facilitated by the education and outreach committee.

### **5.1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Woody Vegetation Disposal Day**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Woody Vegetation Disposal Day occurred in Josephine County on May 6, 2006, providing participants an opportunity to dispose of their woody vegetation for free. The event was held at Jo-Gro Composting Center. Organizers collected a total of 331 cubic yards of debris from over 150 participants.

In addition to the material brought in by Josephine County residents, the event was a significant opportunity to provide education and outreach to the public. Staff from Rural/Metro Fire Department, Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, and the Rogue River Siskiyou Forest Service talked with participants, answered questions about fire safety, and handed out informational material to everyone who came to Jo-Gro. Local media attended the event, conducting an interview with Lloyd Lawless with the Rural/Metro Fire Department and filming participants unloading their woody vegetation.

Volunteers at the event surveyed 92 people. The majority (41) heard about the event through the newspaper and 11 heard about it through radio, word of mouth, or television. Others hadn't heard about the event and were surprised to learn that they did not have to pay a fee that day. Sixty-eight percent of people came from Grants Pass, while the rest came from around the county (as well as one person from Jackson County in Rogue River!) Findings and recommendations from the survey can be found in Appendix A.

### **5.2. Marketing and Communication Strategies**

In a survey of 471 people at the 2005 Josephine County fair, 35% of respondents indicated that they believed they were at risk to wildfire. While the majority respondents lived in Grants Pass, this does suggest that there is still a need to increase education and outreach about wildfire risk. More information about this survey can be found in Appendix B. In 2005, marketing and communication related to the JCIFP occurred through the following activities:

- Rotating displays in the Josephine County and Illinois Valley libraries
- Production and distribution of a new JCIFP brochure and bookmarks.
- Production and distribution of a "Living with Wildfire" guide by 1<sup>st</sup> American Title Company in Josephine County. Distribution of over 3000 copies to real estate and fire departments in Josephine and Jackson Counties (through county planning, the Title Company, and local fire districts, and to the Illinois Valley, Seven Basins, Applegate Valley, and through.
- Three press releases about the JCIFP and related issues through the Oregon Department of Forestry public information officer.

### **5.3. Recognition Program**

This program recognizes homeowners who have completed defensible space on their property, either through a grant program or on their own. Currently, JCIFP partners have distributed signs to participants of the Thompson Creek Fuels Reduction Project, administered by the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization. Participants in fuels projects conducted in 2006 have not yet received signs.

*Action Needed/Next Steps:* Increase distribution of recognition signs to all participants in local fuels projects, through the Oregon Department of Forestry, and through local fire districts.

### **5.4. Public Meetings and Outreach**

In 2006, Josephine County coordinated with Rural/Metro Fire Department to host six public meetings about the need for a countywide fire district. These meetings were held in the unprotected area and publicized through local media. JCIFP partners also included information about various JCIFP efforts at the regional Master Gardener fair, the Josephine County Fair, and other events.

*Action Needed/Next Steps:*

- The county is now discussing the establishment of a tax district in the unprotected area. If there are future meetings related to this, the county should ensure that outreach about the JCIFP is integrated within these meetings.
- JCIFP partners and local fire districts should work closely to identify annually held events where the JCIFP can be publicized and where partners can talk to the public about wildfire issues.

### **5.5. Home Evacuation Plans**

There is increasing emphasis on working with the public to develop home evacuation plans. In a survey of 471 people at the 2005 Josephine County fair, 75% of respondents said that they have family evacuation plans in place. However, during the 2006 Woody Vegetation Disposal Day, only 30% of the 91 people who completed the questionnaire responded that they have an evacuation plan. With such a high percentage of people (70%) not having an evacuation plan, there is still a need to educate citizens about evacuation plans and what they should consist of.

### **5.6. Youth Education**

In 2006, the JCIFP Education and Outreach committee was awarded a grant by State Farm Insurance Company to develop youth education field kits. This effort is being led by the Siskiyou Field Institute in partnership with the JCIFP Education and Outreach committee and Southern Oregon University. The kits are expected to be completed in Spring 2007 and will be utilized in Josephine and Jackson Counties.

## 6. JCIFP RISK ASSESSMENT AND FUELS REDUCTION COMMITTEE

In 2006, the risk assessment and fuels reduction committee focused on implementation of the National Fire Plan fuels reduction grants throughout the county, as well as coordination of the National Fire Plan grant to obtain better vegetation data and coordinate the data with the national LANDFIRE program. Following is a summary of activities led by this committee.

### 6.1. Fuels Reduction Projects

#### *Highlights*

##### *Illinois Valley Community Development Organization*

The Illinois Valley Community Development Organization facilitated the completion of over 175 acres in 2006. Work was completed through a grant from the National Fire Plan in Selma North, the Cathedral Hills, and in Wolf Creek. Twenty-five acres of defensible space have also been completed to date for low-income and elderly and disabled citizens across Josephine County through BLM and Forest Service Resource Advisory Council grants.

##### *Applegate Valley Fire District (AVFD)*

In 2006, the AVFD completed 41 acres of defensible space. Of the completed acres, 34 acres were for landscape thinning (22 acres by hand, and 12 by machine), roadside accounted for 5 acres (hand and chipping), and defensible space accounted for 2 acres (hand and burned.)

##### *Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)*

In 2006, ODF conducted 192 home site inspections. 186 were rated yellow (needing more work), 1 was rated red (needing a great deal more work), and 5 were rated green (good to go.) Of the 192 inspections, 94 residents participated in the program and received the cost share/rebate funding; resulting in 94 acres of defensible space.

#### 2005/2006 Defensible Space and Fuels Reduction on Private Land

Administrator	Location	Year	Acres
Illinois Valley Community Development Organization	Thompson Creek	2005	205
	Cathedral Hills	2006	90
	Selma North	2006	65
	Wolf Creek	2006	TBD
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<b>Total</b>	<b>8,491</b>	<b>7,851</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>2,921</b>

Note: Through the federal agency reporting system, target acres reported by the federal agencies are

*not the same as 'footprint' treated acres. Each acre of each hazardous fuel reduction activity (thinning, pruning, handpiling, hand pile burning, etc) is an accomplishment acre, which means that certain types of activities (e.g., thinning/pruning) may have occurred in a previous year, while additional treatment on the same acres occurred in FY 2006.*

## **6.2. Risk Assessment**

Josephine County continues to work with federal and state agency partners to collect data and conduct analysis on risk assessment, and connect to the national LANDFIRE program. Through a 2005 National Fire Plan grant, Josephine County has been working with the BLM and Forest Service to collect field plots using the FIREMON protocol and has submitted data to LANDFIRE. In the fall of 2006, the BLM and Forest Service will receive preliminary assessment runs from LANDFIRE that utilize the local field plot data. Once this data has been received and processed, partners will update the risk assessment with the new vegetation layer.

## **6.3. Wildland Urban Interface Review**

During a 2006 review of the wildland urban interface, Josephine County GIS recognized that the Communities at Risk layer, extends beyond the existing WUI boundary (which was developed through the Southwest Oregon Fire Management Plan). The committee agreed to expand the WUI in areas near Galice and O'Brien, and modify Oregon Caves to include the entire Hwy 46 corridor but not include the USFS area northeast of the Caves. The group also reviewed the Jackson County WUI boundary and found no inconsistencies along the border between the two counties. The County plans to submit the revised WUI in Josephine County to the BLM and Forest Service for inclusion in the Southwest Oregon Fire Management Plan.

## **6.4. Monitoring**

The JCIFP Risk Assessment and Fuels Reduction committee is working on monitoring forms for use by fire districts, ODF, and others for long-term monitoring of the effects of fuels reduction efforts. Currently, monitoring forms are being filled out for the National Fire Plan projects being administered by the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization. While most properties are too small to illustrate significant findings, the forms are being forwarded to Charley Martin with the BLM Medford District for analysis.

## **6.5. Senate Bill 360: Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface (FUI) Fire Protection Act in Josephine County**

*Update provided by Brian Ballou, Oregon Department of Forestry, Southwest Oregon District*

The Josephine County Forestland-Urban Interface Classification Committee held its first meeting on April 17 to begin the process of identifying and assigning fire-risk classifications to forestland-urban interface lands within the county. The process follows steps and definitions described in Oregon Administrative Rules 629-044-1005 through 629-044-0145. Briefly, the criteria include:

- Lands within the county also inside the Oregon Department of Forestry's protection district.
- Lands that meet the state's definition of "forestland."

- Lands that meet the definition of “suburban” or “urban”; in some cases, “rural” lands may be included in a FUI area for the purpose of maintaining meaningful, contiguous boundaries.
- Lots that are developed, that are 10 acres in size or smaller, and which are grouped with other lots with similar characteristics in a minimum density of four structures per 40 acres.

An analysis of lots in Josephine County that meet these criteria reveals that at least 14,000 lots may be considered for identification as forestland-urban interface lands.

The Forestland Urban Interface committee is composed of five members, three of whom were appointed by the county commissioners, one by the Oregon State Fire Marshal, and one by the State Forester. One of the county-appointed members is an owner of forestland-urban interface property who permanently resides on the property.

The county appointed Thomas Link, Thomas Atzet and William Gasow. The fire marshal appointed Brian Pike, and the state forester appointed Vince Pyle. In addition, the county appointed two alternate committee members, Charles Phenix and Bruce Bartow. The committee elected Mr. Link as its chairman, and Mr. Pike as its vice chairman and secretary. Staff assigned to the committee include Cody Zook, Josephine County GIS, and Brian Ballou, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Southwest Oregon District. The committee meets monthly and its meetings are open to the public. A website with a meeting calendar and meeting minutes is posted at [http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/SWO/swo\\_sb360\\_jo\\_ccc.shtml](http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/SWO/swo_sb360_jo_ccc.shtml)

The committee plans to hold public meetings in February and March of 2007 to present the draft findings, followed by a hearing in May 2007. The public meeting and hearing schedule will be mailed to property owners, as required by ORS 477.031 (3), and advertised in local newspapers. Draft maps of FUI lands will be posted in public places prior to the meetings and hearing.

The committee’s final findings should be filed with the Josephine County Clerk and the Oregon Board of Forestry by fall 2007. At that time, forestland-urban interface property owners will receive official notification from ODF about their lands’ classification and their fuel-reduction obligations under the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act.

## **6.6. Stewardship Contracting and Biomass Utilization**

The Stewardship Contracting Group formed in October of 2005 to address implementation of fuels reduction on public and private land and to be the collaborative forum focused on developing a stewardship contracting strategy for Josephine County. The committee includes local and federal agency representatives, environmental organizations, local contractors, and other community members. The Stewardship Contracting Group has continued to strengthen partnerships with federal agencies and continue its work in promoting stewardship contracting throughout the county. Accomplishments include assisting with Rich and Rocky Stewardship Contract put out by the BLM and working with the Forest Service to initiate a small stewardship contract (approximately 250 acres) that should be made available by the end of the calendar year.

The Group will also be working with Resource Innovations in late 2006 and 2007 to conduct a workforce assessment to gauge the preparedness and capacity of contractors and other businesses in the county to carry out stewardship contracting related activities. The Group is also beginning a media and public relations campaign to bring greater attention to and interest in stewardship contracting and biomass utilization issues. The goals and objectives are outlined in the Josephine County Stewardship Contracting Strategy, included as Appendix E of this report.

## 6.7. Special Needs Fuels Reduction Project

In 2005, Josephine County received two separate Title II grants from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and Bureau of Land Management, Medford District Resource Advisory Committees to perform fuels reduction projects for the County's citizens with special needs. The county contracted with the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization to administer these grants, and to partner with local social service and community organizations, identify eligible residents, and contract and perform fuels reduction activities.

As of August 2006, these grants are still being implemented. However, with 24 participating households, there are many lessons that have been learned through this process and successes to report. This case study describes the challenges, accomplishments, and next steps related to assisting citizens with special needs reduce their risk to wildfire. Upon completion of these grants, the case study will be updated to reflect the final numbers of participants, acres treated, and other lessons learned. More information on this project is highlighted in Appendix D.

## 6.8. Fuels Reduction Grant Funding Report

*Submitted by Paul Galloway, Rogue-River Siskiyou National Forest Partnership Coordinator.*

### **National Fire Plan**

2006 - Eleven projects were submitted for NFP funding with the following ones selected:

- Williams Fuels Reduction Project – Lomakatsi - \$236,538
- Wolf Creek Fuels Reduction – Wolf Creek RFPD - \$200,000
- Azalea Drive Fuels Treatment – ODF - \$259,623
- JCIFP Utilization – JSDI - \$48,300

Total 2006 NFP funding to Josephine Co. = \$744,461

2007 - Six projects were submitted for NFP funding with the following ones *tentatively selected*:

- Quartz Crow Fuels Reduction – ODF - \$175,000
- Fuels Utilization and Marketing Program – Lomakatsi - \$115,000
- B Street Fuels Reduction – ODF - \$200,000
- Idle-Pine Fuels Reduction – IVCDO - \$200,000

Total 2007 *tentatively selected* NFP funding to Josephine Co. = \$690,000

### **2006 - Secure Rural Schools Title II**

- Siskiyou RAC
  - Longwood Fire Hazardous Fuel Reduction – USFS - \$67,500
  - Medford Air Tanker Base – Josephine Co. - \$28,518
  
- Medford BLM RAC
  - Bow Hill Fuels Reduction – BLM - \$46,530
  - Grants Pass Stewardship – BLM - \$104,275
  - Deer Stewardship – BLM - \$90,000
  - Integrated Woodland Management – Forestry Action Comm. - \$20,340
  - Fuels Reduction for Specials Needs – Jo.Co. – Approved/Not Funded
  - Anderson West Fuels Reduction – BLM - Approved/Not Funded
  - Rogue River Fuels Reduction – BLM - Approved/Not Funded

## **7. JCIFP UPDATED ACTION PLAN – DRAFT: SEPTEMBER 10, 2006**

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Following is a first draft of the revised action plan for the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan. This action plan is organized within the following sections:

JCIFP Emergency Management Action Items.....	16
JCIFP Education and Outreach Action Items .....	19
JCIFP Risk Assessment/Fuels Reduction Action Items .....	21
Strategy for Prioritizing Fuels Reduction on Public and Private Land.....	24

## 7.1. JCIFP Emergency Management Action Items

### EM 1. Clarify policies and procedure for emergency management planning and preparedness, including the emergency operations center; develop standard operating procedures.

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of policies and guidelines produced/revised</li> <li>• # of plans reviewed</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review new plans, policies, and procedures (including emergency management, NIMS compliance, Transportation Plans, Special Needs, MOUs)</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	Josephine County Emergency Manager and JCIFP EMB

### EM 2. Strengthen National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) compliance; create groups for Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC), Joint Information Center (JIC), and Joint Information Systems (JIS).

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of people trained in ICS</li> <li>• # of annual exercises</li> <li>• # of MAC, JIC, and JIS trainings and operations</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with Josephine County Emergency Manager to collect data on ICS training, and MAC, JIC, and JAC trainings and exercises</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	Josephine County Emergency Manager and JCIFP EMB

### EM 3. Develop and maintain policies and a process for interoperable communications

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of interoperable communication meetings/activities</li> <li>• Status of call down system/Protocol developed</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Josephine County Emergency Manager to document progress and actions for interoperable communications</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	Protocol will be developed after completed 911 system and coordinated with local telephone trees through JCIFP education/outreach committee and fire districts
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	Josephine County Emergency Manager and JCIFP EMB



**EM 4. Develop and sustain agency coordination on evacuation procedures for fire and other incidents.**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evacuation processes in place</li> <li>• Media related to evacuation</li> <li>• Evacuation exercises (or lessons learned from real events)</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection</i>	• Work with Josephine County Fire Defense Board and Josephine County Emergency Manager to collect data
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a joint workshop with the fuels/risk committee to discuss the identification of escape routes and prioritization of fuels treatment.</li> <li>• Develop a template for incidents</li> <li>• Brian Pike will check with Brett Fillis about Jackson County evacuation</li> <li>• Consider creating evacuation templates to use as tools during a real evacuation. Identify routes that can support traffic flow or large trucks.</li> <li>• Present escape routes from Illinois Valley Fire Plan to EMB</li> </ul> <p><i>NOTE: educational component switched to Education &amp; Outreach committee</i></p>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	Josephine County Fire Defense Board and JCIFP EMB

**EM 5. Create, implement and maintain plans for emergency management planning for citizens with special needs.**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of people in special needs registry</li> <li>• # of meetings with social service agencies</li> <li>• # of special needs plans created and implemented</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection</i>	• Work with RVCOG Senior and Disabled services to collect data.
<i>Next Steps</i>	• Coordinate the special needs disaster registry with fire departments as they issue permits and with any special needs fuels reduction projects.
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	Josephine County Special Needs Committee

**EM 6. Maintain broad coordination for the JCIFP**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of sub-committees</li> <li>• # of summits</li> <li>• quarterly reports</li> <li>• Regular evaluations of collaboration</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection</i>	• Work w/ Josephine County and JCIFP EMB to collect data.
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	JCIFP EMB chairs

**EM 7. Coordinate county-wide grant requests**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• # submitted and \$ requested</li><li>• # and \$ awarded</li></ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work w/ Josephine County Emergency Manager and JCIFP committee chairs to collect data.</li></ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	JCIFP EMB chairs

**EM 8. Create a continuity of operations plan (a contingency plan) to assist the County in recovery and mitigation planning.**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• # of new plans and actions developed and implemented related to recovery and mitigation</li></ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with Josephine County Emergency Manager to collect data.</li></ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research on what it takes to do (state or county examples)</li><li>• \$/Resources needed</li><li>• EMB talk about other NHMP actions at upcoming meetings</li><li>• Engage the NHMP sub-committee</li></ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Start in October 2006
<i>Lead</i>	JCIFP EMB and Josephine County Emergency Manager

## 7.2. JCIFP Education and Outreach Action Items

### EO 1. Evaluate, refine, and improve education and outreach strategies to increase public awareness and fire risk reduction behavior.

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # and types of marketing communication strategies</li> <li>• # of people at public meetings/events (fire district meetings when scheduled, field tours, fire-related fairs, etc.)</li> <li>• # special needs people reached by social service, ODF, and other fire agencies</li> <li>• # of libraries displays</li> <li>• # of brochures/bookmarks distributed</li> <li>• # of homes with evacuation plans</li> <li>• 2005 Title Company Publication (# <i>distributed</i>)</li> <li>• Press releases (# <i>submitted</i>/# <i>articles produced</i>)</li> <li>• Woody vegetation event (# <i>of people/vegetation collected and % increase</i>)</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woody Vegetation Day surveys</li> <li>• Coordinate with JCIFP partners to collect data on meetings and events</li> <li>• RFPDs activities using the JCIFP in local campaigns (Contact IVFD, AVFD, WCRFPD, WRFPD, Rural/Metro, Grants Pass DPS)</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and distribute materials through JCIFP E&amp;O committee</li> <li>• Consider grants for a new website</li> <li>• Coordinate woody vegetation site at Rough n' Ready for 2007</li> <li>• Begin to address evacuation outreach strategies</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	JCIFP Education and Outreach committee

### EO 2. Evaluate the effectiveness of education and outreach efforts and strategies.

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased awareness</li> <li>• Decrease in the # of human-caused fires</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure changes in # of wildfires and causes</li> <li>• Work with ODF and other organizations to identify # of people with defensible space and those enrolled in the home recognition program</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	Discuss how to measure increased awareness at 2-County meeting in November
<i>Timeline</i>	Annual review (or more as needed/funded)
<i>Lead</i>	JCIFP Education and Outreach 2-County/RVFPC partnership

**EO. 3 Develop and evaluate broad-based youth education efforts**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # and type of fire education programs delivered to youth.</li> <li>• # of children that participate in County or RFPD fire activities</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RVFPC</li> <li>• SFI (including the Rangers Program - Dave Toler)</li> <li>• Lloyd's classes (Rural/Metro, Grants Pass)</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field Kit and Fire Safety trailer</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	June 2006 – June 2007 (?)
<i>Lead</i>	SFI/SOU

**EO. 4. Increase coordination and share resources between Jackson and Josephine Counties to provide consistent and broadly disseminated messages.**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared messages and activities between the two counties</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with Jackson County and RVFPC to evaluate # of shared programs</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate programs/strategies into sustainable long-term efforts through existing community resources.</li> <li>• Joint quarterly meetings liaisons; monitor effectiveness of joint efforts</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	Josephine and Jackson County Fire Plan – Education & Outreach Committees

**EO 5. Identify and build opportunities with the insurance industry, homebuilders, realtors, contractors, and other businesses and industry.**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of programs that the insurance industry invests in.</li> <li>• Report on progress with realtors</li> <li>• Community participation in insurance related programs</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with SWCD to identify # of programs</li> <li>• State Farm grant</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and involve the insurance industry in education and outreach.</li> <li>• Conduct a panel with RVFCA and insurance companies</li> <li>• State Farm grant case study</li> <li>• Examine Fire water storage group/issue</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	JCIFP Education and Outreach Committee

**EO 6. Coordinate with other JCIFP committees to coordinate the type of information being communicated to the public (e.g., evacuation, risk assessment, and fuels reduction).**

<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with chairs of fuels/risk and emergency management committees to identify specific focus areas for 2006-2007</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	JCIFP Education and Outreach Committee

### 7.3. JCIFP Risk Assessment/Fuels Reduction Action Items

#### Risk/Fuels #1. Maintain risk assessment; evaluate and update the methodology.

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of changed and maintained map layers.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1. WUI boundary layer</li> <li>○ 2. New proposed BLM projects</li> </ul> </li> <li>• # of new maps: Strategic Fire Planning Areas (SPU)</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josephine County maintains data base and conducts updates with all partners input and help.</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual committee review and update – fall of each year</li> <li>• Update with new information each year (population, assessor’s data, fire starts) and new data.</li> <li>• Tie to firemaps.org</li> <li>• Create updated layers for wildland urban interface and communities at risk</li> <li>• Submit changes in CAR and WUI layers to FS, BLM, ODF</li> <li>• Continue to work toward LANDFIRE data completion</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing/Annual review in fall of each year
<i>Lead</i>	Josephine County GIS, FS, BLM, ODF

#### [O]

#### [O] Risk/Fuels #2. Track public and private fuels reduction projects.

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of acres of fuels reduction on public and private land in the WUI &amp; CARS</li> <li>• # of miles of roads treated (public or private)/private</li> <li>• # of residences that have completed defensible space</li> <li>• \$ spent on fuels reduction for special needs citizens</li> <li>• # of projects related to special needs citizens</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	Collect data from ODF, FS, BLM, County, IVCDO, Lomakatsi, AVFD #9, Illinois Valley Fire District, Grants Pass Public Safety- Fire, Williams Fire District, Wolf Creek Fire District, Rural/Metro Fire Service, SB 360, Article 76
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use <a href="http://www.firemaps.org">http://www.firemaps.org</a> to display inventory and provide an opportunity for input of new projects</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	ODF, Josephine and Jackson County GIS

**Risk/Fuels #3. Develop a long-term strategy to monitor effectiveness and implement fuels projects. (Develop and implement effectiveness monitoring)**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring protocol</li> <li>• # of monitoring forms submitted to BLM</li> <li>• # of projects monitored</li> <li>• Documentation of change over time in fire regime condition class</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with agency (BLM/FS) Firemon and other monitoring efforts</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct training for organizations/agencies that are implementing fuels reduction projects on how to use and submit the monitoring forms</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	Fire Ecologist, BLM, and Jo County, ODF, FS, BLM, Applegate, IVCDO, Lomakatsi, other organizations implementing fuels projects

**Risk/Fuels #4. Prioritize fuels treatment projects on All Lands Based on Adopted Methodology (See description following action items)**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of process</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Notes from Risk Management Committee</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Short-term:</i> coordinate w/ BLM and FS to prioritize existing dollars/NEPA ready projects adjacent to high priority private land projects</li> <li>• <i>Long-term:</i> coordinate w/ BLM and FS to develop and interpret fire behavior/ fuels reduction models; identify landscape fuels projects</li> <li>• <i>Roads:</i> Conduct public outreach about roads maintenance; convene a meeting and produce public outreach guidelines about roads maintenance.</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	<p><i>Short-term:</i> Annual review of BLM/FS project areas; identification of priorities</p> <p><i>Long-term:</i> Ongoing partnership with BLM, FS, County, and ODF to use new data and identify landscape scale fuels reduction projects</p>
<i>Lead</i>	JCIFP Fuels/Risk Committee

**Risk/Fuels #5. Use risk assessment in strategic planning and grant applications.**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of grants submitted for fuels reduction that reference the JCIFP risk assessment and total \$ received from NFP grants</li> <li>• % of Applications Successfully Obtaining Funding</li> <li>• List of agencies/organizations that use the risk assessment to prioritize projects or apply for funds</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with all agencies/organizations applying for grant funding for fuels projects</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct ongoing public outreach about the grants process;</li> <li>• Ensure broader press release distribution of annual NFP grants</li> <li>• Conduct an annual grants meeting for committees and interested stakeholders and citizens</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	JCIFP Fuels/Risk Committee

**Risk/Fuels #6. Establish long-term strategies for maintenance of fuels reduction and coordinate with the Education and Outreach committee to ensure that any community input on wildfire risk and fuels reduction priorities reaches the risk/fuels committee.**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of residents that maintain treatment</li> <li>• # of homes in recognition program</li> <li>• # of permits issued under Article 76</li> <li>• # of SB360 Certification Forms Returned</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODF, IVCDO, Jo County planning</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate w/ Education and Outreach committee</li> <li>• Provide annual reminder for grass clippings, etc, and 5-year reminder for larger scale defensible space projects</li> <li>• Include \$ in grants for education and maintenance</li> <li>• Provide special assistance for special needs/community service</li> <li>• Include SB 360 and Article 76 in the dialogue about this</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	Coordination between Fuels/Risk and Education/Outreach Committees

**Risk/Fuels #7. Provide opportunities for stewardship contracting and support efforts of the stewardship contracting to meet JCIFP hazardous fuels reduction goals**

<i>Indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of companies involved</li> <li>• # of projects where raw materials are utilized and provide economic benefit</li> <li>• % of contracts completed by local workers and contractors (i.e. using workers from Josephine or Jackson Counties)</li> <li>• # of stewardship contracts developed through the collaborative group</li> <li>• Total amount of ‘retained receipt income’ generated through stewardship contracts that was re-applied to local fuels reduction and restoration projects</li> </ul>
<i>Data collection strategies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jo County Stewardship group; workforce assessment, RC&amp;D</li> </ul>
<i>Next Steps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore and implement biomass marketing and utilization projects</li> <li>• Coordinate biomass through stewardship group and through 2006 County NFP grant</li> <li>• Market woody vegetation day at Jo Gro and Rough n’ Ready</li> <li>• Increase support for local contractors and workers (<i>Resource Innovations will conduct a workforce assessment in 2006/2007</i>)</li> <li>• Efforts related to the JCIFP stewardship group are documented in the JCIFP Stewardship Contracting Strategy, including next steps and recommendations</li> </ul>
<i>Timeline</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lead</i>	Coordination between Fuels/Risk Committee and Stewardship Committee

**7.4. Strategy for Prioritizing Fuels Reduction on Public and Private Land**

The JCIFP, adopted in November 2004, included some priorities for private land. However, numerous grant processes want to see priorities established for public and private land as part of the review criteria for the grants. At the June 2006 meeting, the fuels/risk committee discussed how best to include these priorities in the plan. Because there are efforts underway to obtain and use better data for the risk assessment and fuels/fire behavior models, the group agreed that it made sense to have short-term and long-term strategies. The short-term strategy would focus on identifying priorities based on existing data and existing/planned treatments. The long-term strategy will focus on using treatment optimization models and other products that the Medford BLM and other partners are working on to establish more credible priorities on a landscape scale.

**Short-term Strategy:**

- The BLM has established planned projects in the WUI that are adjacent to many communities at risk throughout Josephine County. The fuels/risk committee agreed that in the short-term, they could use the risk assessment to identify which of the BLM projects are



in high-risk areas that may also provide an opportunity to coordinate private land projects. On annual basis, Josephine County GIS will develop a map using the BLM priorities and the risk assessment. The fuels/risk committee will use this map to identify priorities for work in high risk areas on existing BLM and Forest Service projects and adjacent private land.

- Cody Zook, Josephine County GIS, created a map to illustrate BLM planned fuels mitigation projects, BLM and Forest Stewardship Contracting areas (as identified by the JCIFP stewardship contracting group), JCIFP risk assessment, and SPU boundaries layer.
- The group agreed to three major criteria to prioritize fuels reduction projects. 1) Maximum **overall rating** within ½ mile of the project. 2) Maximum **population density** within ½ mile of the project. 3) **Average rating** within project area and a ½ mile diameter of the project, and 4) the tie breaker being **access** to the project and **neighbor approval**.
- The committee will use the map and criteria to identify priorities for the coming year on public and private land. Teresa Vonn indicated that the Oregon Department of Forestry can use these priorities in a grant application for the Western States Fire Managers Grants. She needs this information by July however to be able to submit the grant.

### **Long-term Strategy**

- The BLM, FS, County, and ODF are working collectively on an effort to create a better vegetation/hazards layer and use it as a long-term tool for landscape scale planning. Through a 2005 National Fire Plan grant, the partners have worked together on new field plots which are currently being worked on through the National LANDFIRE office. Gary Gnauck reported that BLM, FS, and County partners hope to have the data back from LANDFIRE at the end of the year.
- Once the data from LANDFIRE has been received, partners hope to run a series of models and analysis that will become a better tool for the JCIFP to identify and prioritize fuels projects on public and private land.

### **GIS procedure for prioritizing potential fuels reduction projects**

*(Courtesy of Cody Zook, Josephine County GIS)*

Potential projects are modeled as polygons in the GIS. These projects are then analyzed in three different ways.

- 1) Potential projects are buffered by 0.5 miles and then compared to the Population Density layer. Two statistics are generated; the maximum density value and the average density value within the 0.5 mile buffer area. The potential projects are then ranked on each of these factors (i.e. 1-n where n= the number of potential projects). these two rankings will generally diverge. so a third ranking is generated by combining the ranking scores from the maximum and average analysis - currently termed the "Z rank."
- 2) Potential projects are buffered by 0.5 miles and then compared to the Overall Hazard and Risk layer. Two statistics are generated; the maximum Overall value and the average Overall value within the 0.5 mile buffer area. The potential projects are then ranked on each of these factors (i.e. 1-n where n= the number of potential projects). these two rankings will generally diverge. so a third ranking is generated by combining the ranking scores from the maximum and average analysis - currently termed the "Z rank".

- 3) Potential projects are compared to the Hazard layer. Two statistics are generated; the maximum Hazard value and the average Hazard value within the 0.5 mile buffer area. The potential projects are then ranked on each of these factors (i.e. 1-n where n= the number of potential projects). these two rankings will generally diverge. so a third ranking is generated by combining the ranking scores from the maximum and average analysis - currently termed the "Z rank".
- 4) All three "z rank" scores are then added together and ranked to prioritize projects

Once the GIS based prioritization is completed, potential projects can be scrutinized by the fuel reduction committee and further refined on the basis of issues such as community interest and access to the project area.

### 7.5. 2007 Priorities for Fuels Reduction

The JCIFP Risk Assessment and Fuels Reduction Committee used the prioritization process to develop a list of priorities for public land projects (BLM land in communities at risk and the Wildland Urban Interface). There are numerous private land projects that could be treated adjacent to these public lands, which should also be prioritized in any future grant projects using the JCIFP risk assessment. Table 1 on the next page illustrates the list of priorities, and Figure 1 provides a map of the priorities within in the County. A total of 8099 acres of BLM land in Josephine County have been prioritized and ranked.

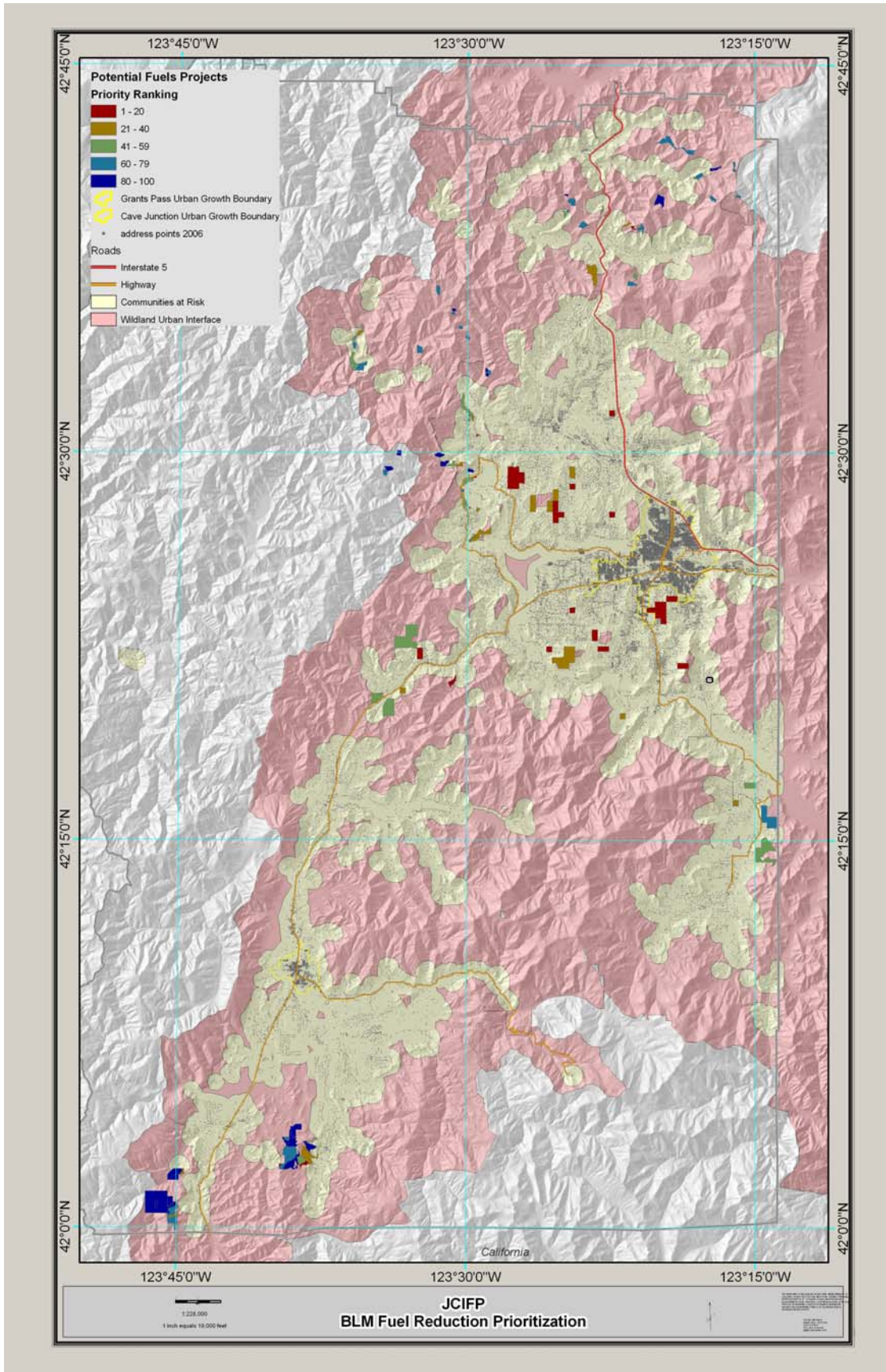
**Table 1. Prioritized Fuels Projects**

RANK	PROJECT NAME	ACRES	RANK	PROJECT NAME	ACRES
1	STRINGER	81	22	E FK ILLINOIS	14
2	CATHEDRAL HILLS	349	23	PECO	82
3	28912	40	24	PARADISE GREENTREE N	13
4	GRIFFIN	2	25	E FK ILLINOIS	151
5	CATHEDRAL HILLS	80	26	NORTH GALICE	24
5	29941	80	27	PARADISE GREENTREE N	1
6	BOWHILL	41	28	28934	391
7	PICKETT SNAKE	402	29	31363	40
7	28799	82	30	33052	3
8	BURNETTE BRUSHY	5	31	PICKETT OVER	28
9	MIDWAY	40	32	5 ROGUES	21
10	PARADISE GREENTREE S	6	33	PINNON	81
11	BURNETTE BRUSHY	3	34	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	30
12	E FK ILLINOIS	33	35	5 ROGUES	174
13	STRINGER	71	36	STRINGER	80
14	ROUND BULL	45	37	GRIFFIN	12
14	30697	3	37	30545	40
15	PECO	41	38	33056	35
16	PINECREST	40	39	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	18
17	PINNON	81	40	7668	121
18	PINNON	121	41	30691	111
19	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	7	42	GRIFFIN	49
20	5 ROGUES	13	43	SOUTH GALICE	81
21	FINLEY BEND EAST	124	43	NORTH GALICE	8

44	E FK ILLINOIS	23
45	NORTH GALICE	7
46	FINLEY BEND EAST	1
47	NORTH GALICE	17
48	PARADISE GREENTREE N	85
49	PARADISE GREENTREE N	5
50	E FK ILLINOIS	62
51	5 ROGUES	17
52	PARADISE GREENTREE N	10
53	32609	81
54	PICKETT OVER	36
54	30845	223
55	GRAVE CREEK	27
56	COYOTE PETE	10
56	27435	458
57	BURNETTE BRUSHY S	43
58	5 ROGUES	18
59	SCATTERED APPLES	366
60	5 ROGUES	39
61	GRAVE CREEK	154
61	SOUTH GALICE	75
62	STRATTON HOG	17
63	33187	285
64	5 ROGUES	28
65	COYOTE PETE	33
65	5 ROGUES	7
65	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	76
66	GRAVE CREEK	26
66	FINLEY BEND EAST	11
67	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	93
68	5 ROGUES	50
69	CENTRAL GALICE	24
70	5 ROGUES	28
71	STRATTON HOG	50
72	GRIFFIN	11
73	STRATTON HOG	12
74	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	257
74	GRAVE CREEK	16
75	GRAVE CREEK	29
75	PICKETT OVER	29
76	STRATTON HOG	37
77	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	19
78	5 ROGUES	40
78	STRATTON HOG	21
79	STRATTON HOG	14
80	COYOTE PETE	33
80	STRATTON HOG	12
81	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	85
82	ROBERTSON BRIDGE E	22
83	5 ROGUES	9
84	PICKETT OVER	38

85	E FK ILLINOIS	82
85	PICKETT AGAIN	28
86	STRATTON HOG	13
87	E FK ILLINOIS	129
87	5 ROGUES	99
88	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	72
89	PICKETT OVER	39
90	STRATTON HOG	11
91	PICKETT OVER	32
92	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	612
93	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	20
93	PICKETT OVER	14
94	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	25
95	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	15
96	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	83
97	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	29
98	PARADISE GREENTREE N	2
99	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	22
100	WEST FORK ILLINOIS	207

Figure 1. Josephine County Fuels Treatment Priorities



## **ANNUAL REPORT APPENDICES**

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## **APPENDIX A. 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL JOSEPHINE COUNTY WOODY VEGETATION DISPOSAL DAY**

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### **Introduction**

The second annual Woody Vegetation Disposal Day took place in Josephine County on May 6, 2006. The event gave residents in Josephine County an opportunity to dispose of their woody vegetation for free at the Jo-Gro Composting Center outside of Grants Pass. The event was organized by partners involved with the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan as a way to promote fire safety and community preparedness. During the course of the day, organizers collected a total of 331 cubic yards of debris from over 150 customers.

A local television station attended the event, conducting an interview with Lloyd Lawless with the Rural/Metro Fire Department and filming participants unloading their woody vegetation. In addition to the material brought in by Josephine County residents, the event proved to be a significant opportunity to provide education and outreach to the public. Staff from Rural/Metro Fire Department, Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, and the Rogue River—Siskiyou National Forest volunteered at the event by talking with residents, answering questions about fire safety, and handing out informational material to everyone who came to Jo-Gro.

This paper provides a summary of the data collected during interviews conducted during the event, as well as recommendations for improving upon woody vegetation day next year.

### **Summary of Interviews**

Event volunteers also conducted interviews with 91 people. Responses from the interviews indicated that homeowners made up the majority of the people dropping off their vegetation. Most people heard about the event through the newspaper or indicated that they had not been aware the event was happening that day. The majority of the residents live in Grants Pass, but others traveled from more distant locations to dispose of their woody debris. While having a free day to get rid of woody vegetation was appealing to those attending the event, almost all participants stated that they would have paid to dispose of their vegetation if there had not been a free day. A vegetation drop-off site appears to be a safe alternative for citizens, noting that nearly two-thirds would have burned their debris if they did not have access to a disposal site.

The data indicates that people remove vegetation from their land for a number of reasons, including maintaining the property's visual appearance, protecting the property from wildfire, and personal safety concerns. Due to the area's susceptibility to wildfire, those surveyed indicated that they engage in a variety of fire protection activities to minimize the risk of property damage.

Future community events can take advantage of the opportunity to educate people about the importance of reducing hazardous fuels and disposing of them in a safe manner. With the future development of a bioenergy plant in the Illinois Valley at the Rough and Ready Lumber Company, as well as the potential for additional bioenergy plants in Josephine County, there is an exciting opportunity to increase awareness of woody vegetation to reduce wildfire risk and also provide valuable resources for creating energy.

## Questionnaire Methodology

Participants disposing of their woody vegetation in Josephine County were asked to complete a brief, ten-question survey to assess the level of preparedness among community members, as well as help plan future debris day planning efforts. The questionnaires provided organizers with information about where participants live, how they heard about the event, reasons for disposing of woody debris, and attitudes about fire protection activities. Members of the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP) Education and Outreach committee worked together to form the questions.

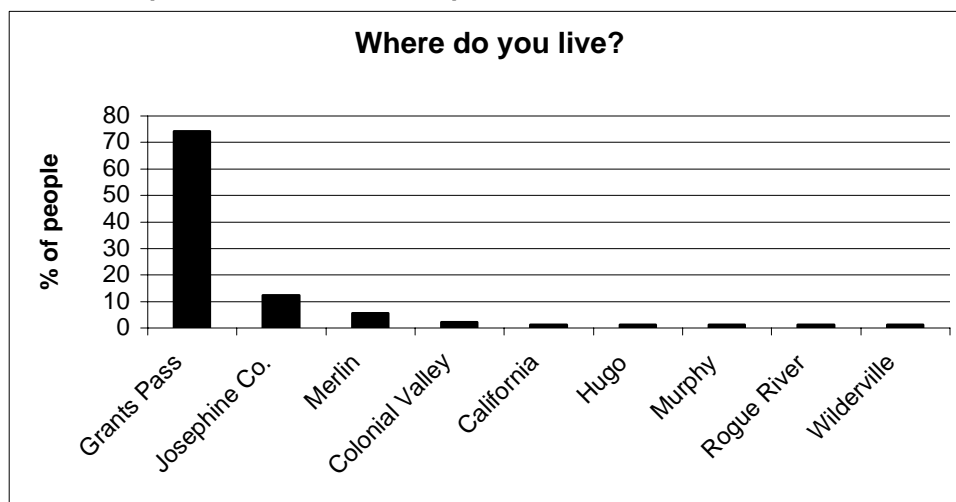
Volunteers at the drop-off stations asked participants to complete questionnaires before or after they dropped off their woody debris. Some participants chose to fill out the questionnaires themselves, while volunteers interviewed and recorded responses from other participants.

Resource Innovations at the University of Oregon completed the data analysis from the questionnaires using a statistical spreadsheet. The response rate for each of the ten questions varied. Staff coded responses for each of the questions, where applicable, with 0 representing a negative response and 1 representing a positive response. The coded answers allowed percentages to be calculated and determine the percent of respondents replying with a particular answer. Of 150 people that attended the event on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 91 completed interviews.

## Findings

Jo-Gro typically receives about \_\_\_ cubic yards of debris from \_\_\_ customers each Saturday. People drove from a variety of different locations to dispose of their woody vegetation for free, although over 75% of questionnaire respondents came from Grants Pass. Five people drove from Merlin, two from Colonial Valley, and another eleven from elsewhere in Josephine County. People also drove from as far as Hugo, Murphy, Rogue River, Wilderville, and even one person from California. Table 1 illustrates the geographic representation of participants who attended event. The average distance driven by individuals was seven miles.

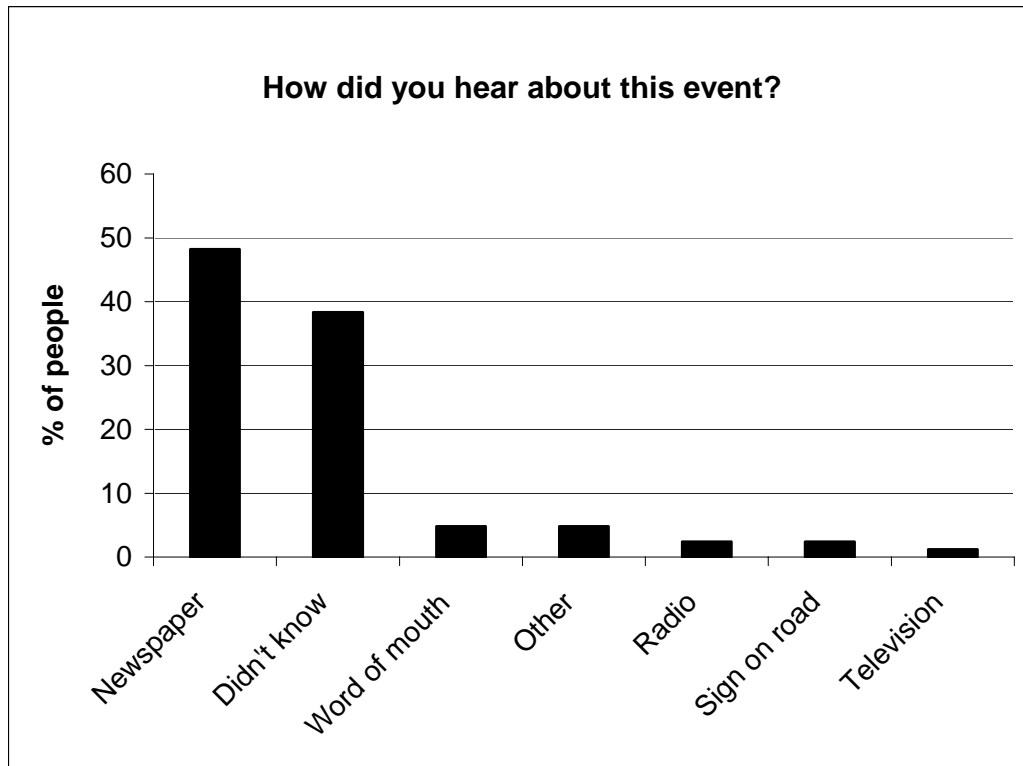
**Table 1: Representation of Participants**



The data collected at Josephine County’s Woody Vegetation Disposal Day shows that nearly 90% of those dropping off their woody vegetation are homeowners, with the remaining 10% renting their homes.

People learned about Woody Vegetation Disposal Day in a variety of ways (see Table 2). A small number of respondents heard about the event from more than one source. Newspaper coverage notified almost half of the people about the event. The second most frequent response (39%) implied that many people did not know about the event and planned to dispose of their woody vegetation anyway. Television, radio, word-of-mouth, a sign on the road, and other channels also gave notice about Woody Vegetation Disposal Day. None of the participants learned about the event through posters and flyers or fire plan community meetings.

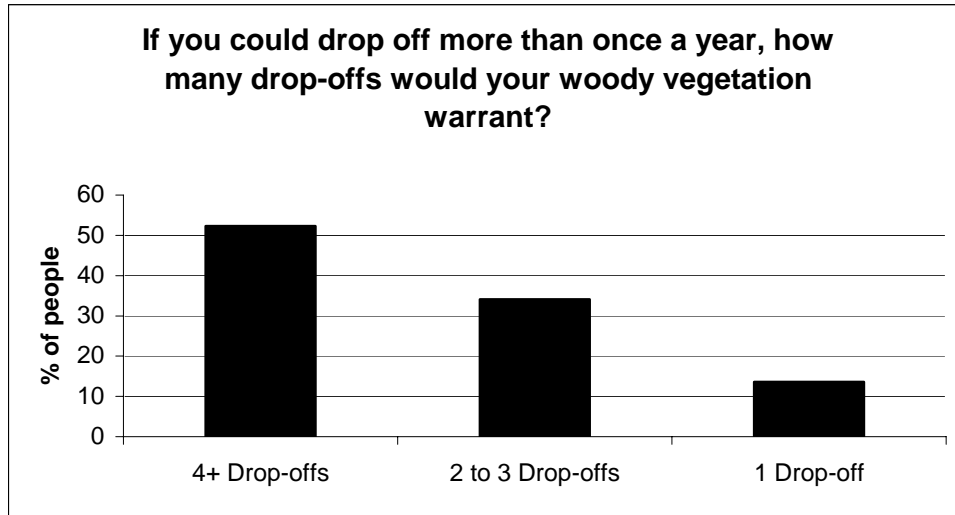
**Table 2: Woody Vegetation Disposal Day Marketing**



Event attendees appear dedicated to dropping of their woody vegetation at a disposal site. A large majority of respondents (87%) would have brought in their debris even if a free drop-off day did not exist. However, many indicated that they might not have dropped off their vegetation as soon. Survey respondents indicated that they have enough woody vegetation to dispose of to require multiple loads (see Table 3). About 35% of people would drop off two to three loads of vegetation if they had the opportunity to do so more than once a year. Over half of the respondents would dispose of four or more loads of woody vegetation per year.

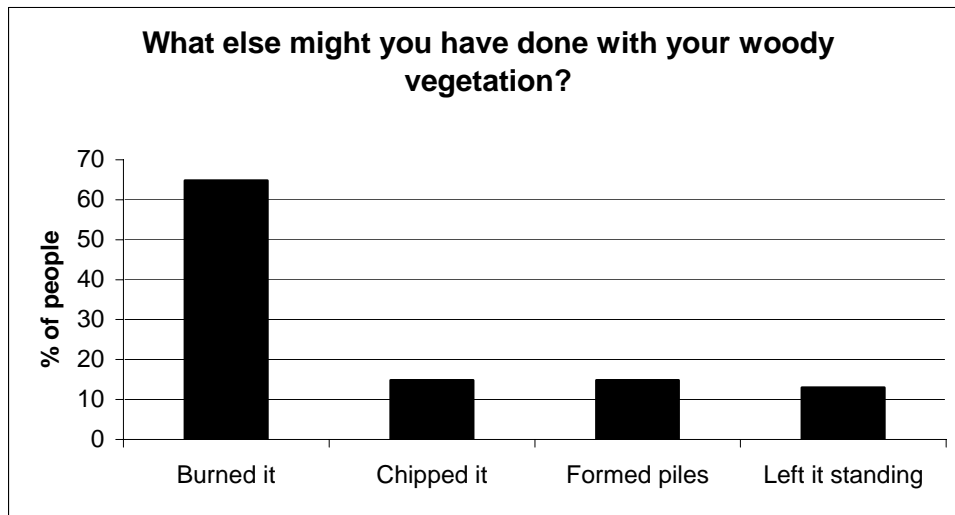


**Table 3: Loads of Woody Vegetation**



Participants replied that if a woody vegetation disposal site did not exist in the nearby vicinity, they would have disposed of their debris in a variety of different ways (see Table 4). Without a drop-off site, most respondents (65%) would burn their vegetation. About the same number of respondents (between 13% and 15%) answered that they would have left the vegetation standing, chipped it, or formed piles on their property if no drop-off site existed. It is worth noting that the response rate for this question was only 59% (54 responses out of 91 questionnaires).

**Table 4: Woody Vegetation Disposal**

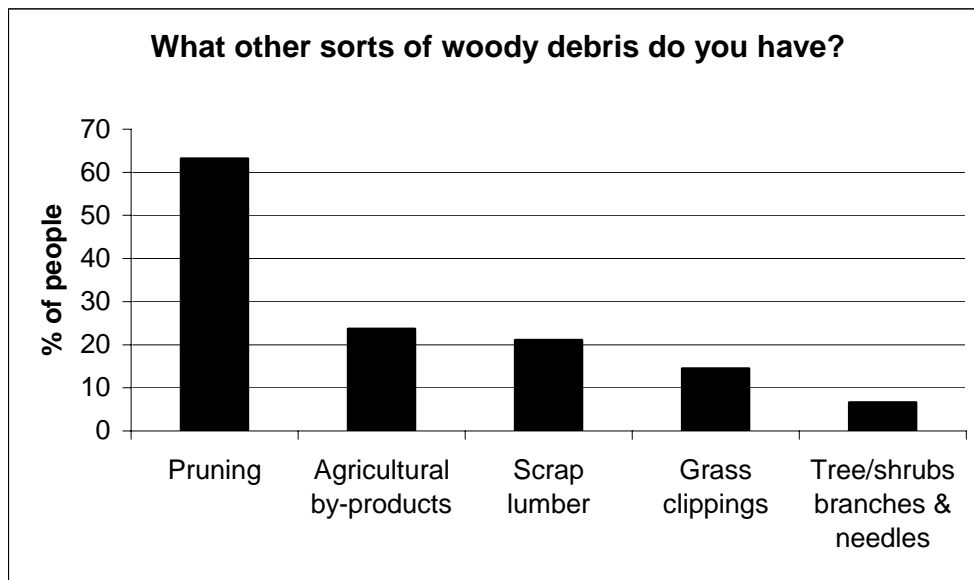


Forty-five percent of the people indicated that they would not burn their vegetation. Individuals choosing not to burn gave a variety of reasons for their decision (see Table 5). One-fourth of these people cited fire concerns and that burning was too dangerous. Another 21% listed smoke concerns as a reason for not burning their vegetation. Not having enough burn days was a reason that 5% of people did not burn, with an equal number of people stating that they did not know how to burn. Ten percent of those polled would like to burn more, but city rules prevent them from doing so. Other reasons attendees avoided burning included that too much timber was

present on the property, having a free drop-off day, and being of an old age. One respondent stated that s/he avoided burning by “*putting vegetation over the fence into the neighbor’s yard.*”

People disposing of their vegetation collected debris from several sources that pose fire hazards. Over 63% of people gathered woody debris from pruning their trees and shrubs. Nearly a quarter of respondents had agricultural by-products on their respective properties, while just over one in five had scrap lumber. A number of people (15%) answered that they needed to get rid of grass clippings. Fallen tree and shrub branches, as well as needles, added a smaller (7%) but important source of debris. A respondent also listed blackberry canes and river deposits as a source of woody debris on his/her property.

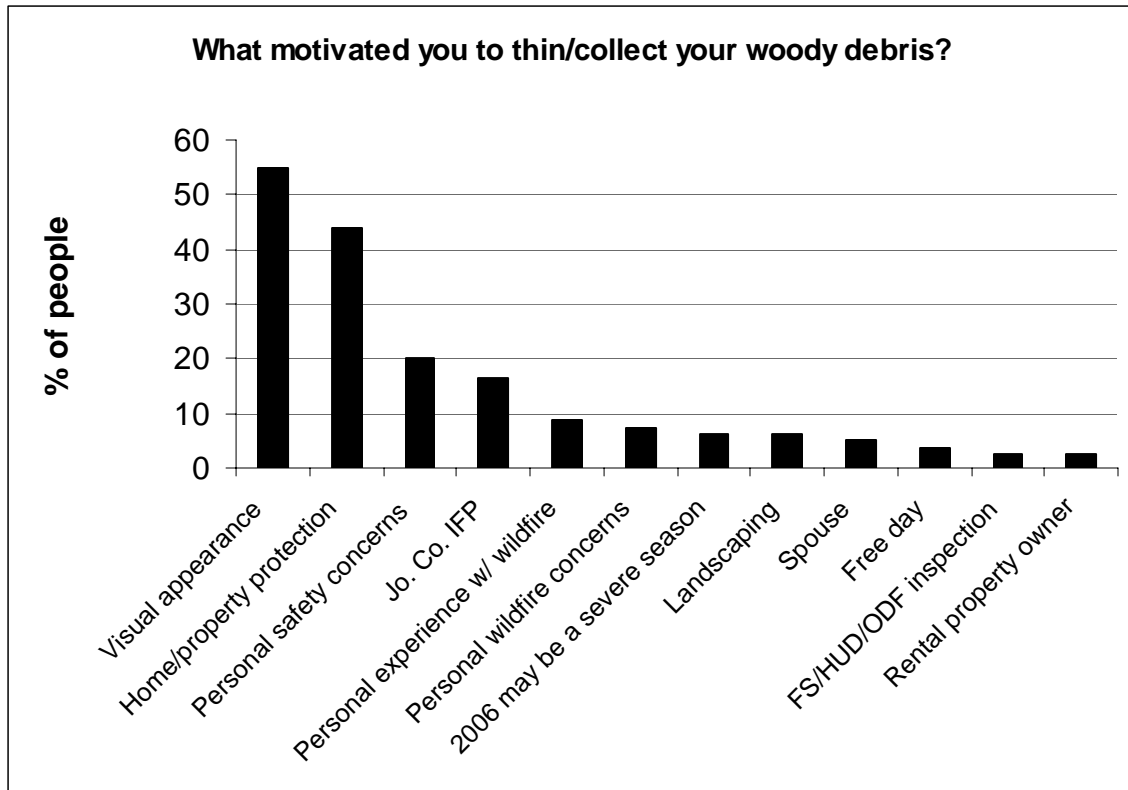
**Table 5: Sources of Debris**



The motivation for participants to thin and collect their woody debris spanned many different reasons. In fact, many of the questionnaire respondents offered multiple reasons for reducing and disposing of fuels (see Table 6). The most frequent response for clearing vegetation cited the desire to enhance the land’s visual appearance. Nearly 45% of the people stated that protecting their home and property was their strongest motivation for reducing fuels. This finding is reinforced by the fact that homeowners made up nine out of ten participants, perhaps because people want to protect their homes and property from wildfire risk.

Twenty percent of those surveyed listed personal safety concerns as a decision to dispose of vegetation and reduce wildfire risk. ***The Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP) prompted 16% of respondents to clear hazardous fuels.*** Personal experience (9%) and personal concerns (8%) regarding wildfire, especially in wake of the 2002 Biscuit Fire, motivated people to reduce woody vegetation on their property. The anticipation of a severe wildfire season in 2006 prompted 6% of those polled to clear woody debris off their land, with the same number of people disposing of wastes created from landscaping activities. Five percent or fewer of the questionnaire’s respondents cited having the free day, property inspections, or being a rental property owner as a motivation to dispose of debris. Spousal influence encouraged 5% of the people to clear their woody vegetation.

**Table 6: Reasons for Thinning and Collecting Woody Debris**

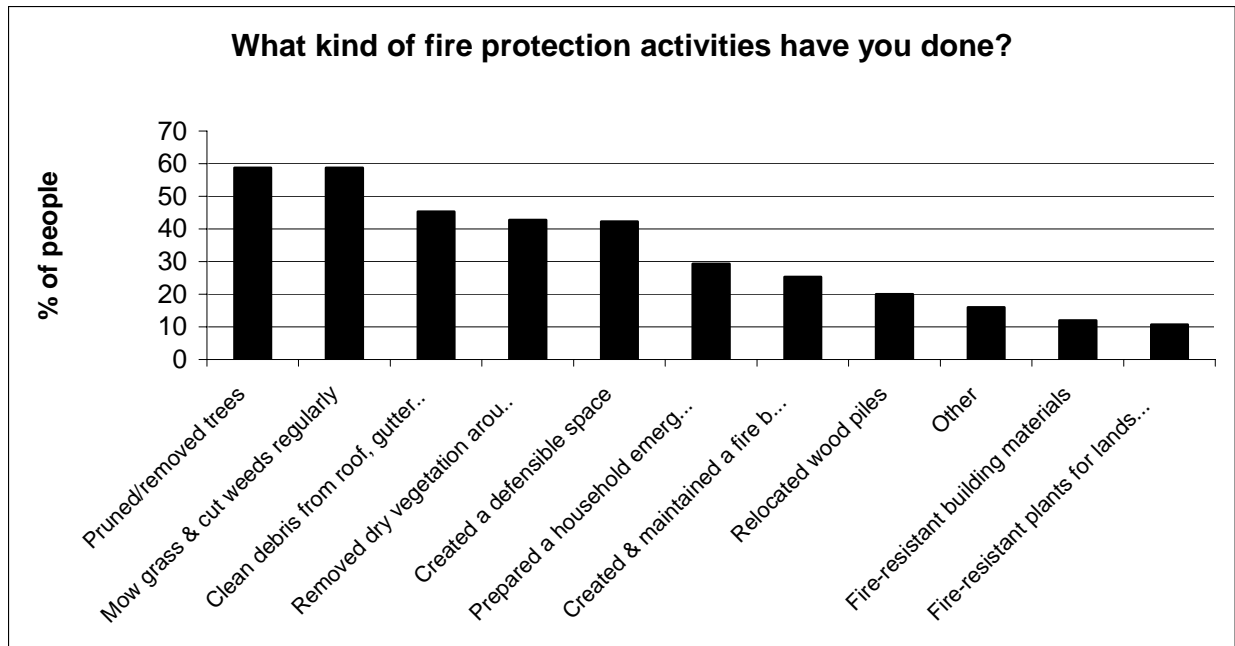


Many of the people disposing of their woody vegetation are familiar with wildfire and the need to reduce hazardous fuels on their land. The data collected from questionnaires indicate that people disposing of their vegetation typically engaged in more than one fire prevention activity (see Table 7). The most popular reduction activities listed were pruning or removing trees (59%) and mowing grass and cutting weeds regularly (59%). Cleaning debris from roof, gutters, and the yard (45%) was a common way for people to reduce wildfire risk, followed by simply removing dry vegetation from around the home (43%). Other common fire reduction activities included:

- Creating a defensible space – 39%
- Preparing a household emergency plan – 29%
- Creating and maintaining a fire break – 29%
- Relocating wood piles – 20%
- Using fire-resistant building materials – 12%
- Using fire-resistant plants for landscaping – 11%

The “other” category comprised 17% of the respondents’ answers. The most common response in the category related to residents living in Grants Pass. This finding appears to refer to a belief that living within a city minimizes the wildfire risks. Less frequent responses included “doesn’t apply,” “irrigation,” “no maintenance [needed on property],” and “not at risk.”

**Table 7: Fire Protection Activities**



## Recommendations for the 2007 Woody Vegetation Disposal Day

Woody Vegetation Disposal Day in Josephine County was a successful event. Over 150 area citizens disposed of 331 cubic yards of debris, contributing valuable efforts to clear potentially hazardous fuels. The questionnaires completed by event attendees provided valuable insights that will benefit future education and outreach, and vegetation disposal efforts related to fire protection and emergency management in Josephine County. Improvements to the event can further strengthen future Disposal Day events.

- ***Increase advertising efforts***— While the second annual Woody Vegetation Disposal Day proved quite successful, there is still significant potential for more local residents to attend this event. The newspaper proved to be the most effective way of advertising the event. Participants’ second most frequent response, however, was “didn’t know about the event.” Future events may increase public awareness by making advertising signs along the roads more visible. Running advertisements on local television stations 5 and 10 can inform local viewers about this event in advance. Hosting the KLDL radio van and a DJ can provide live coverage of the event and further advertise the free woody vegetation disposal services.
- ***Create and use on-site displays*** —As Woody Vegetation Disposal Day looks toward future events, the creation of a banner could liven atmosphere and make it more festive. Including a display booth adds an educational component to the event, by including literature on emergency planning and how to construct 72-hour emergency kits. Showing fire maps could illustrate where local wildfires burned in recent years. Distributing information about fire resistant plants, available from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides a means to educate residents about how to landscape around their homes to lessen wildfire risks. Having an ODF or fire department engine on site can help

address the severity of wildfire and importance of reducing hazardous fuels, while also providing entertainment for children in attendance.

- ***Provide free materials***—The availability of free materials for event attendees may encourage more local residents to dispose of their woody vegetation at future events. Providing free evergreen seedlings is an incentive for people to plant trees that are more fire resistant. Having dog biscuits available is a gesture of appreciation for attendees who bring their dogs along with them.
- ***Improve volunteer visibility***—Providing orange safety vests for volunteers to wear will make them more visible at future woody vegetation disposal events. This practice is especially important, due to the number of vehicles and large equipment at the event. Having volunteers wear safety vests will also make it easier for attendees to address questions or comments to the appropriate people.
- ***Attempt to complete all surveys***—Event participants complete the surveys on a voluntary basis. Many participants only answered some of the questions. Volunteer staff administering the survey should work towards getting participants to answer all of the questions.

## Long-Term Recommendations

Volunteers staffing the event also contributed recommendations to improving next year's Woody Vegetation Disposal Day. These recommendations include:

- ***Increase local education and awareness efforts***—Despite the relative proximity of 2002's Biscuit Fire, not all participants appear to recognize the severe risks associated with wildfire. Living in a city does not guarantee protection. Increased education efforts can raise awareness about wildfire dangers by engaging in fuels reduction activities and creating defensible space. The JCIFP Education and Outreach Committee can play an active role in these awareness efforts.
- ***Add an additional free drop-off day***— Half of the respondents claimed to have enough vegetation to warrant four or more drop-offs per year. Almost all participants stated that they would have disposed of their debris even without having a free day. Yet the findings also show that nearly two-thirds of the people would burn their woody debris if a local drop-off site did not exist. Adding another free drop-off day may significantly reduce the amount of hazardous fuels left on citizens' property. Currently, JCIFP partners do not have time or resources for an additional day. In the future, this may be an action to consider.

## Checklist for 2007 Woody Vegetation Disposal Day

Preparation Work		Timeline	Who?
1. Identify date in coordination w/ Jackson County			
2. Coordinate with Jo-Gro & the City of Grants Pass to confirm location/event date			
3. Coordinate with Rough & Ready to confirm location/event date for Illinois Valley			
4. Secure donations for refreshments for volunteers <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast burritos, coffee, pizza			
5. Develop survey			
6. Confirm partners that will be at <b>Jo-Gro</b> on **/** <input type="checkbox"/> Rural/Metro: <input type="checkbox"/> ODF: <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service: <input type="checkbox"/> BLM: <input type="checkbox"/> UO/Resource Innovations: <input type="checkbox"/> County: <input type="checkbox"/> Others:			
7. Confirm partners that will be at <b>Illinois Valley</b> site on **/** <input type="checkbox"/> Rural/Metro: <input type="checkbox"/> ODF: <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service: <input type="checkbox"/> BLM: <input type="checkbox"/> UO/Resource Innovations <input type="checkbox"/> County: <input type="checkbox"/> Others:			
Displays / Event Items			
<input type="checkbox"/> Tables (2): <input type="checkbox"/> Chairs: <input type="checkbox"/> Road signs: <input type="checkbox"/> Tent: <input type="checkbox"/> Event banner:	<input type="checkbox"/> Posters: <input type="checkbox"/> ODF Firewise display: <input type="checkbox"/> ODF fire engine: <input type="checkbox"/> JCIFP display: <input type="checkbox"/> Orange safety vests:		
Distribution Materials			
<input type="checkbox"/> Brochure: <input type="checkbox"/> ODF fire-resistant plant information: <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency planning / how-to-create 72-hour emergency kits:	<input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen seedlings (from?): <input type="checkbox"/> Bookmarks: <input type="checkbox"/> Maps: <input type="checkbox"/> JCIFP Plans: <input type="checkbox"/> Dog biscuits: <input type="checkbox"/> Paperweights		

<b>Pre-Event Advertising</b>		
8. Develop press release		
9. Submit press release to Brian Ballou by **/**		
10. Email Press Release to JCIFP Partners (including RC&D, S&WCD, Watershed Council for mass distribution)		
11. Contact Grants Pass Daily Courier to do an article		
12. Request news article from Grants Pass radio stations		
13. Develop (2006 ad can be a template) & run ads in the Grants Pass Daily Courier (a pg. 3 display ad, run 2 or 3 times prior to May 6 <sup>th</sup> )		
<b>Day of Event Advertising</b>		
14. Coordinate TV spot w/ Ch. 5 & 10		
15. Coordinate with Jess Webb for a donated air balloon		
16. Request KLDK to attend event with a live DJ		
17. Coordinate photography/videography in Grants Pass (day of the event)		
18. Coordinate w/ media; develop talking parts for interviews		

## Woody Vegetation Disposal Day Survey: Recommendations for 2007

Survey Site:  Jo-Gro Date:  Saturday, May 6, 2006

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

*This questionnaire will help us identify participants in Woody Vegetation Disposal Day, what influenced people to attend, the level of awareness of wildfire risk, and what measures people have taken to reduce wildfire risk to their home. This information will help organizers plan for future events.*

<p>1. a) Where do you live? _____</p> <p>b) How many miles did you drive to get here? _____</p> <p>c) Do you rent or own your home? <input type="checkbox"/> Rent <input type="checkbox"/> Own</p>	<p>6. What other sorts of woody debris do you have?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Scrap lumber</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural by-products</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pruning</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>
<p>2. How did you hear about this event?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Television</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Radio</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Saw the posters/flyers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fire Plan Community Meeting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Didn't know about the event</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	<p>7. What motivated you to thin/collect your woody debris? <i>Check all that apply.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Personal safety concerns</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Home/property protection</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jackson County Integrated Fire Plan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have past experience with wildfire</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2006 may be a severe fire season</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Visual appearance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>
<p>3. Would you have brought your woody vegetation in today if there hadn't been a free drop off day?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>8. If you could drop off more than once a year, how many drop offs would your woody vegetation warrant? (One drop off equals a full-sized pick-up truck load)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 drop off <input type="checkbox"/> 2-3 drop offs <input type="checkbox"/> 4 or more</p>
<p>4. What else might you have done with your woody vegetation?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Burned it <input type="checkbox"/> Chipped it</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Left it standing <input type="checkbox"/> Formed piles</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bag if for county</p>	<p>9. What kind of fire protection activities have you done? <i>Check all that apply.</i></p> <p>I have:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pruned or removed trees</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Relocated wood piles</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cleaned leaves, pine needles, debris from roof, gutters and yard</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mow grass and cut weeds regularly</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Used fire-resistant plants for landscaping</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Used fire-resistant building materials</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prepared a household emergency plan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Removed dry vegetation around my home</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Created and maintained a fire break</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Created a defensible space</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>
<p>5. If you did not plan to burn, why not?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Too dangerous – fire concerns</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Smoke concerns</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not enough burn days</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Didn't know how to burn</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	



## APPENDIX B. 2005 JOSEPHINE COUNTY FAIR WILDFIRE SURVEY

Josephine County is located in an area that is subject to a high risk of wildfire. Recent events, particularly the 2002 Biscuit Fire which burned nearly 500,000 acres, established the need for greater awareness regarding wildfires and emergency management. To better understand local citizens' opinions regarding wildfire perceptions, a survey was administered at the 2005 Josephine County Fair. Respondents were asked to complete a brief survey. The questionnaires sought to provide information about where participants live, defensible space, emergency planning, and access to emergency information.

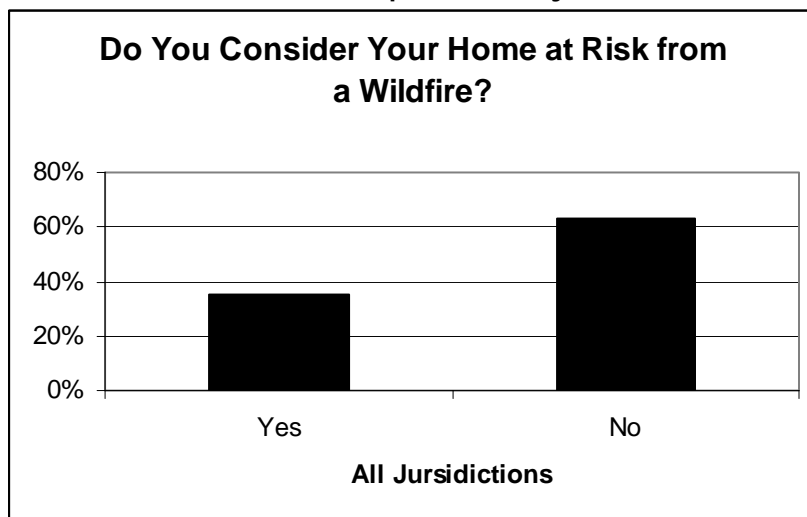
A total of 471 surveys were completed. Grants Pass High School students then organized all the data by jurisdiction, as well as providing cumulative data for all of Josephine County. Resource Innovations at the University of Oregon completed the data analysis from the completed questionnaires using a statistical spreadsheet. The response rate for each of the ten questions varied. Staff calculated percentages to determine the percent of respondents replying with a particular answer. Then the data were used to construct graphs to illustrate the survey's findings.

Seventy percent of the survey's 471 respondents live in or around Grants Pass. The other communities had far fewer responses. Cave Junction and Murphy Applegate each had 39 respondents, followed by North Valley (32), Wolf Creek (12) and Williams (8). With such wide variation in response rates, the number of Grants Pass answers heavily influences the overall county statistics.

### Findings

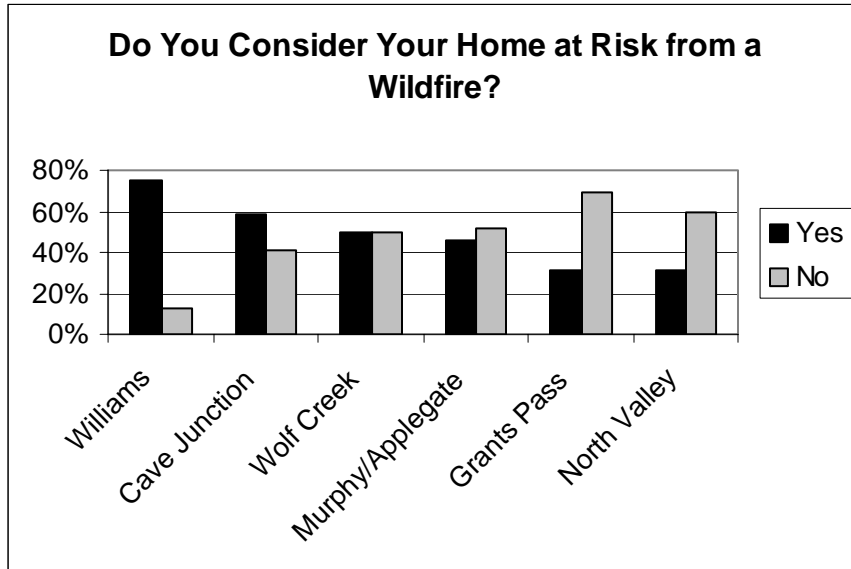
Josephine County is an area with a high risk to wildfire. Thirty-five percent of survey respondents considered their homes to be at risk from a wildfire (see Table 1). It is important to note that 325 of those polled are from Grants Pass, an area in which only 31% of those polled believe they are subject to wildfire risks. This certainly influenced the overall findings for Josephine County.

Table 1: Wildfire Risk in Josephine County



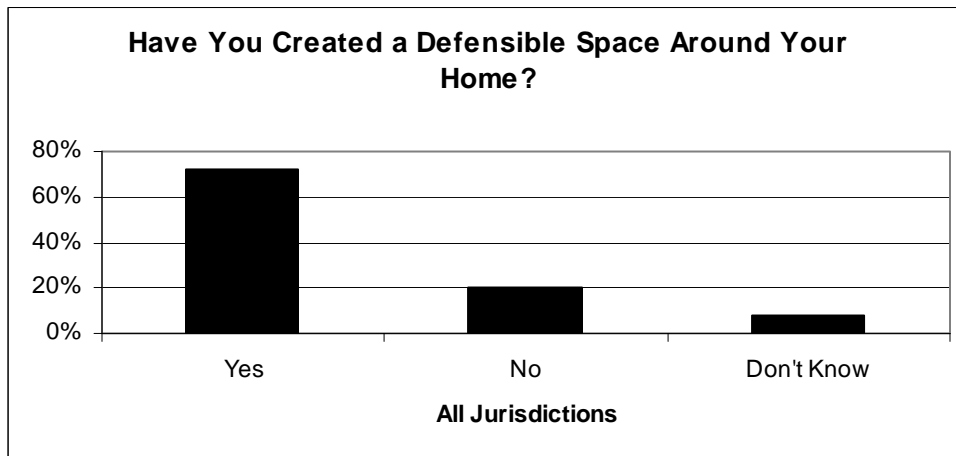
**Table 2: Wildfire Risk in Communities**

Although each jurisdiction had different numbers of survey respondents, the percentage of people who feel at risk varied among jurisdictions (see Table 2). Respondents from Williams (75%), Cave Junction (59%), and Wolf Creek (50%) had the highest rates of perceived wildfire risk.



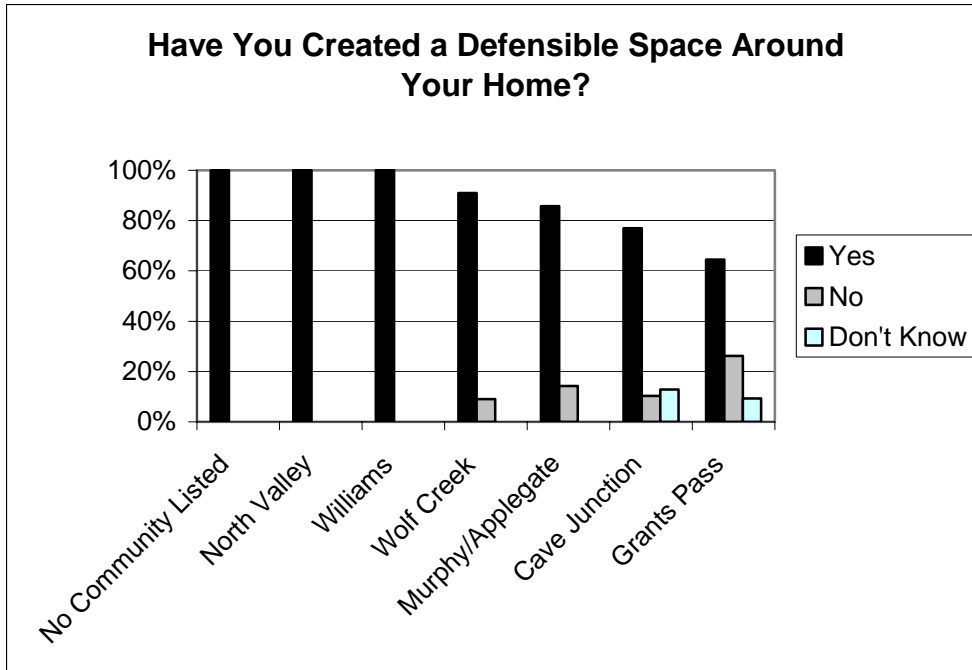
Many citizens in Josephine County indicated that they are creating and maintaining defensible space around their homes (see Table 3). Although 7% of respondents did not know what defensible space is, 72% of those surveyed had created defensible space.

**Table 3: Defensible Space**



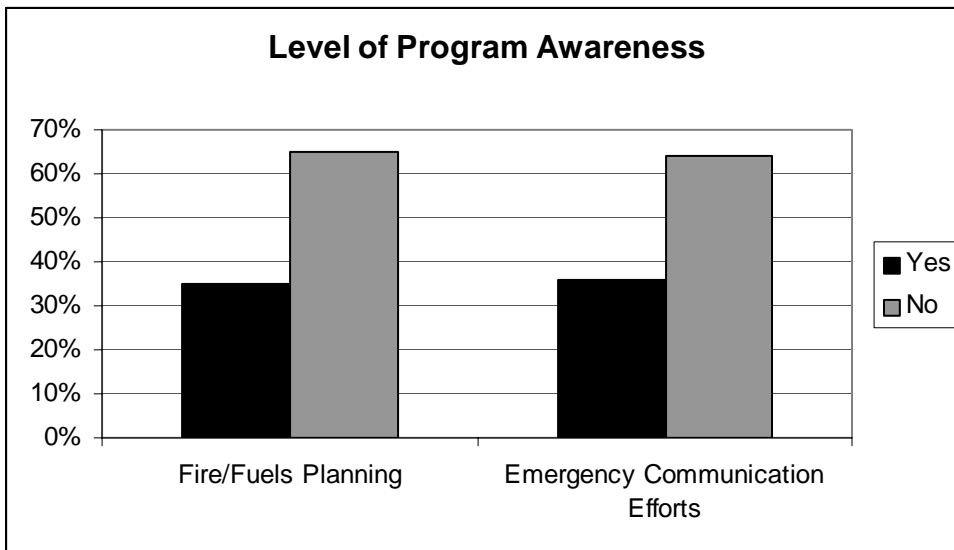
Among individual communities, most homes have defensible space (see Table 4). Aside from Cave Junction and Grants Pass, respondents were aware of what defensible space is. Grants Pass has the lowest percentage of homes with defensible space (64%). Thirty people from Grants Pass do not know what defensible space is.

**Table 4: Defensible Space Among Communities**



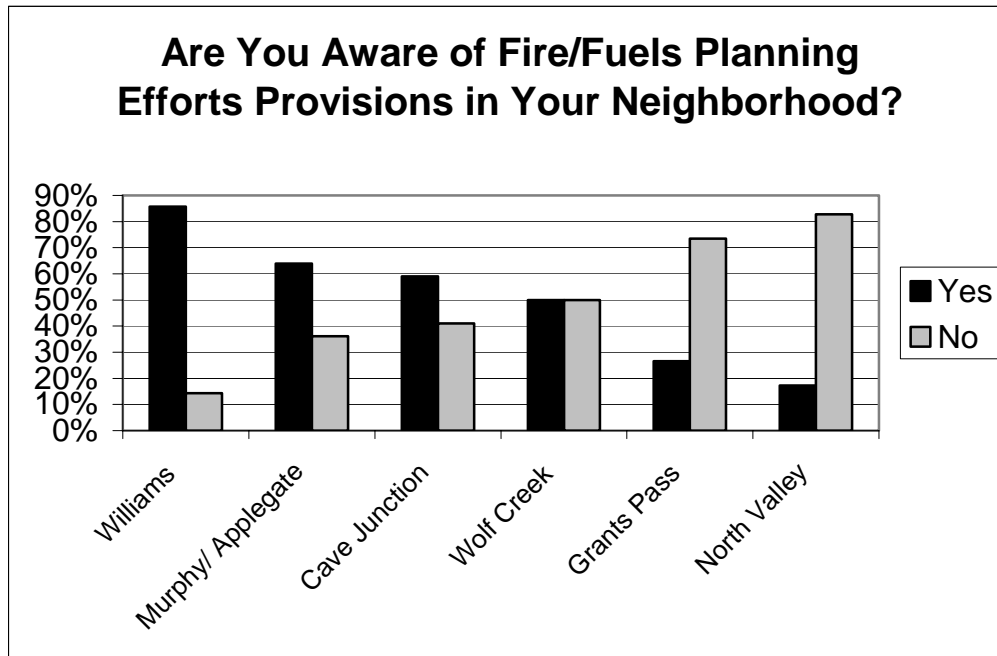
In contrast to the number of people with defensible space, as a whole, Josephine County lacks widespread awareness of local fire/fuels planning efforts and emergency communications provisions in respondents' neighborhoods. Fewer than 40% of those surveyed indicated that they knew of programs for fire/fuels planning efforts and emergency communications (see Table 5).

**Table 5: Awareness of Communication Efforts in Josephine County**

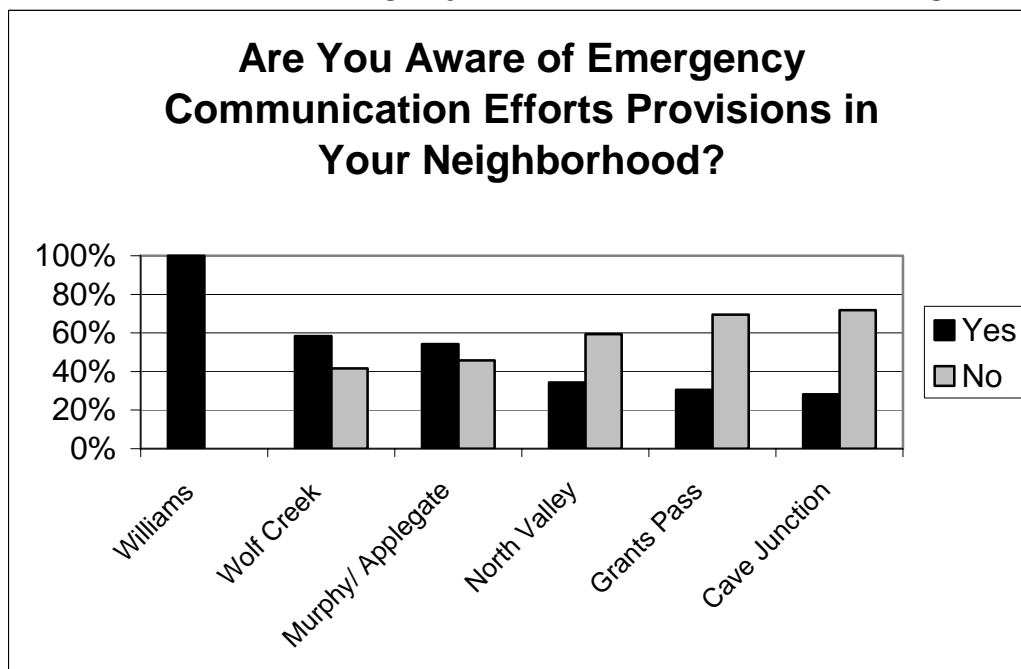


Awareness levels of fire/fuels planning and emergency communications provisions varied among individual jurisdictions (see Table 6 and 7).

**Table 6: Awareness of Fire/Fuels Planning Efforts Among Local Jurisdictions**

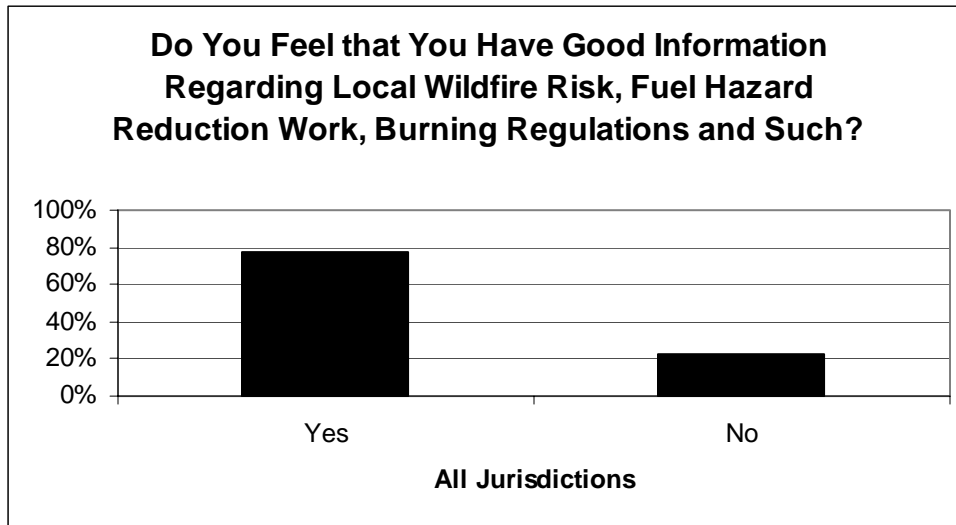


**Table 7: Awareness of Emergency Communications Provisions Among Local Jurisdictions**



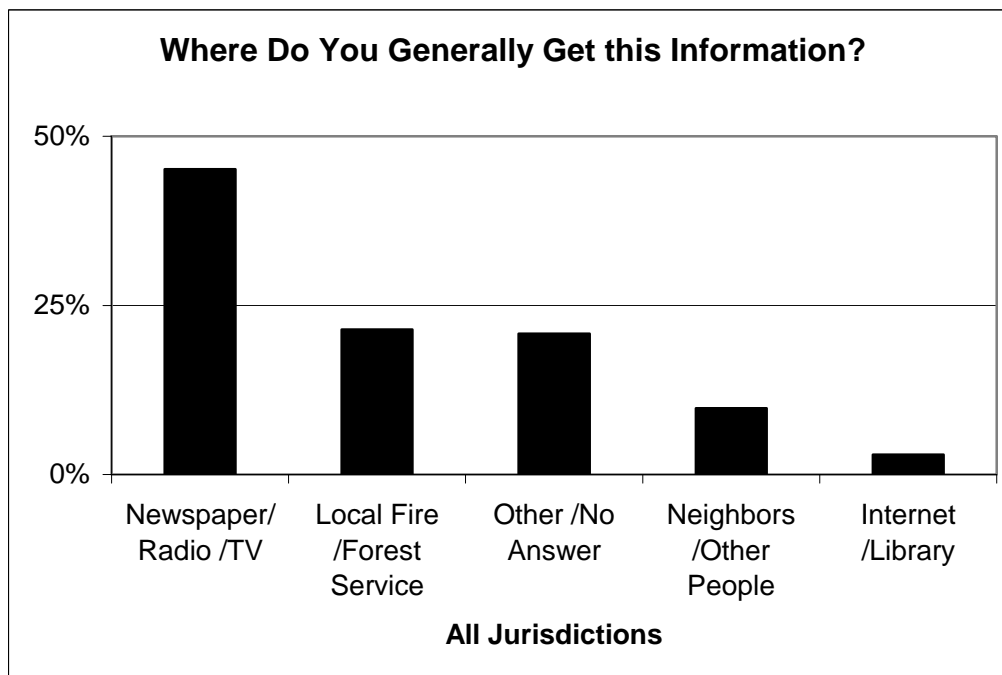
About 77% of the Josephine County respondents feel that there is good information regarding local wildfire risk, fuel reduction work, and burning regulations (see Table 8).

**Table 8: Access to Wildfire Information**



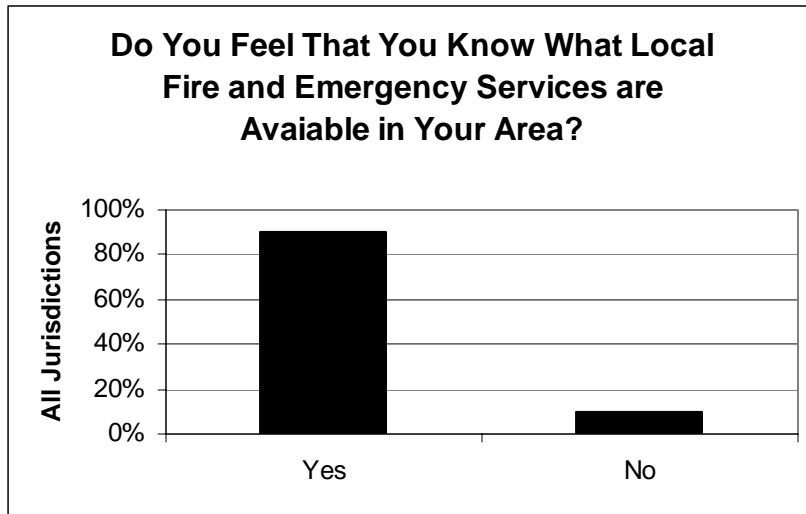
The source of wildfire-related information comes from a variety of sources, with nearly half of people using the newspaper, radio, or television as their primary source (see Table 9). Local fire districts and the Forest Service and “other sources/no answer” each had response rates of 21%.

**Table 9: Sources of Information**



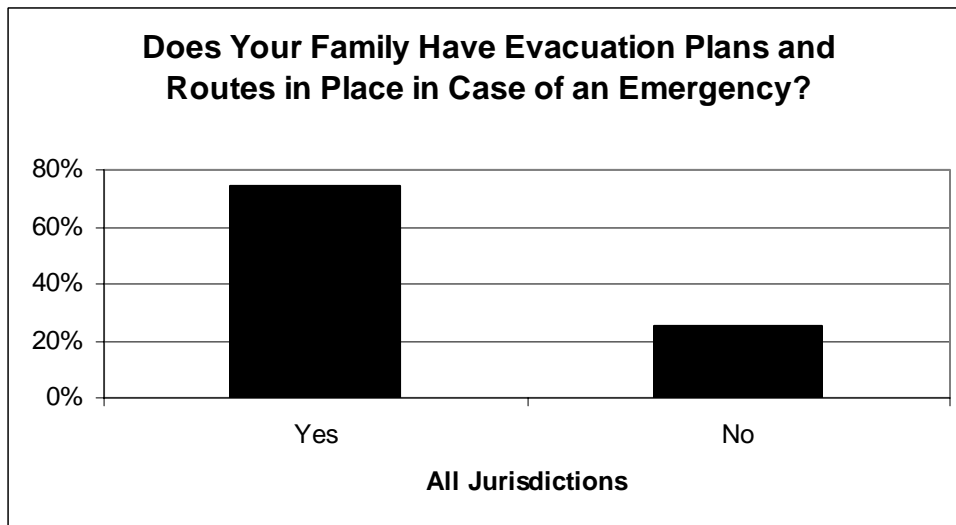
Survey respondents indicated a strong awareness of local fire and emergency services that are available in their respective areas. For all of Josephine County, 90% of those surveyed were aware of such services (see Table 10). The findings among individual jurisdictions did not deviate much from the county average, with awareness levels ranging from 92% to 85%.

**Table 10: Local Fire and Emergency Services Availability In Josephine County**



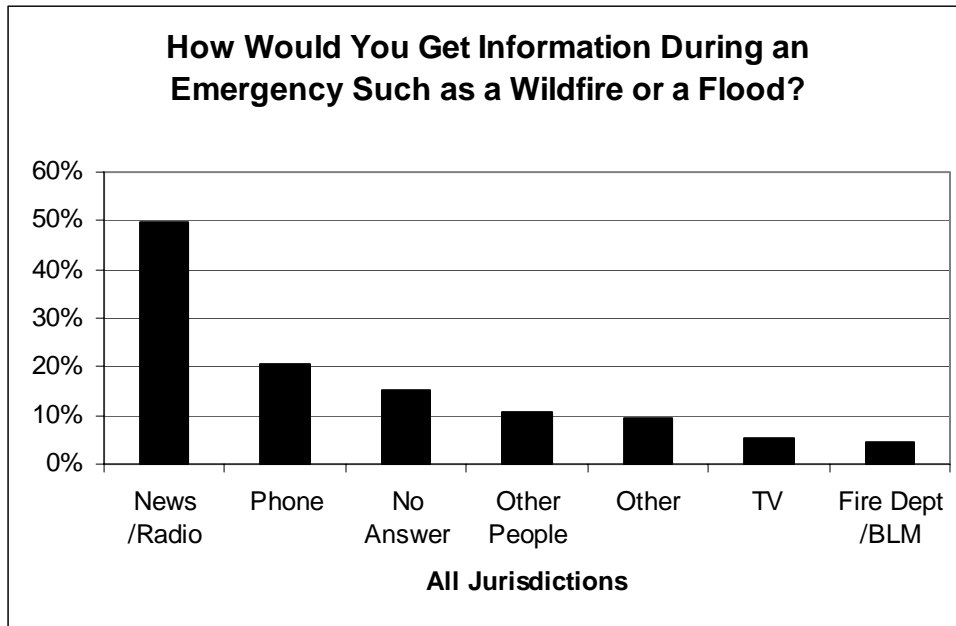
Having evacuation plans and routes in place is a critical component to safely prepare for emergency situations. Seventy-five percent of those polled have an evacuation plan and route in place should a wildfire or other emergency strike (see Table 11).

**Table 11: Evacuation Plans and Routes**



If an emergency, such as a wildfire or flood, occurred in Josephine County and there was a power loss, respondents stated that they would get appropriate information from several different sources (see Table 12). The most popular response was “news/radio” (50%), followed by “telephone” (21%). Fifteen percent of the survey participants had no idea how they would get information during emergency situations.

**Table 12: Emergency-Related Information**



## **Conclusion**

Citizens are increasingly becoming aware of wildfire and emergency management issues in Josephine County. Three-quarters of the survey’s respondents created defensible space around their homes. Around 80% of people feel like they have good information regarding wildfire issues, emergency services, and have evacuation plans in place. However, there are still some significant areas to improve upon in the future. Noting that only 35% of the respondents consider their homes at risk from a wildfire, most people are unaware of fire/fuels planning efforts and emergency communication efforts in their neighborhoods. Fortunately, programs such as the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan will ensure that community-based emergency efforts continue to raise awareness about important issues and help increase citizens’ level of safety.

## **APPENDIX C. COLLABORATION AND THE JOSEPHINE COUNTY INTEGRATED FIRE PLAN**

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Organizational efforts to develop the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP) began in the summer of 2003 in response to the 2002 Biscuit Fire. A collaborative group of citizens, fire districts, county staff, and agency representatives came together to identify and implement fuels reduction projects, fire prevention and educational campaigns, and emergency management measures. The JCIFP also lays the groundwork for taking local action by developing community-specific fire plans and by participating in countywide activities for prevention and protection. The Board of County Commissioners formally adopted the JCIFP in November 2004. In a relatively short time, the partnership achieved significant gains by acquiring grant funds, educating citizens about wildfire risks, assisting those with special needs, and creating a safer community. These successes earned JCIFP recognition as a model for successful collaboration.

As part of an ongoing effort to monitor and evaluate the JCIFP, the county is completing an annual review for 2006. One element of this review is to gather information from JCIFP partners to evaluate ongoing collaboration efforts of program implementation. The results will be used to identify strengths and weaknesses of current implementation efforts and identify new opportunities to better meet the goals and objectives in the JCIFP.

### **Summary**

Research Innovations at the University of Oregon developed a survey on collaboration with input from the Emergency Management Board. A total of 24 surveys from various JCIFP members provided data to assess the program's strengths, weaknesses, and identify new opportunities. The respondents include public sector employees from local, state, and federal offices, as well as contractors, community organizations, and fire districts. The data shows that initial collaboration efforts proved to be quite successful, generating optimism for future efforts.

The findings indicate that the dedicated network of relationships between JCIFP members is the foundation for the plan's success. Increasing the amount of meeting time and recurring communications between area agencies creates several benefits for the participants and their stakeholders. They share greater familiarity, which helps avoid the duplication of services and has resulted in the ability to respond more effectively to emergency situations. Leveraging labor and financial resources allows partners to work together on grant applications and complete projects, such as reducing hazardous fuels on the properties of citizens who have special needs.

The data highlights project successes dealing with other JCIFP goals, including community education and emergency management. Working with such a diversity of partners to achieve JCIFP goals requires dedicated efforts. Survey responses illustrate a high level of satisfaction among partners thus far.

Future collaborative efforts can build on the JCIFP's foundation to work on additional projects that achieve its goals and objectives. While some factors, such as time and money, present obstacles to carrying out projects, the future looks bright for the JCIFP.



## Questionnaire Methodology

To evaluate the JCIFP, a survey instrument was distributed to 65 JCIFP partners, with a response rate of 37%. The questionnaire used both open- and closed-ended questions to assess partner satisfaction and experiences working with the JCIFP. General themes of the questions included details about type and length of JCIFP involvement, level of interaction with partner agencies, assessment of collaborative efforts, and evaluation of the plan's strengths and weaknesses.

Resource Innovations at the University of Oregon completed the data analysis from the questionnaires using a statistical spreadsheet. For the closed-ended questions, staff coded responses for each of the questions, where applicable, with '0' representing a negative response and '1' representing a positive response. The coded answers allowed percentages to be calculated and determine the percent of respondents replying with a particular answer.

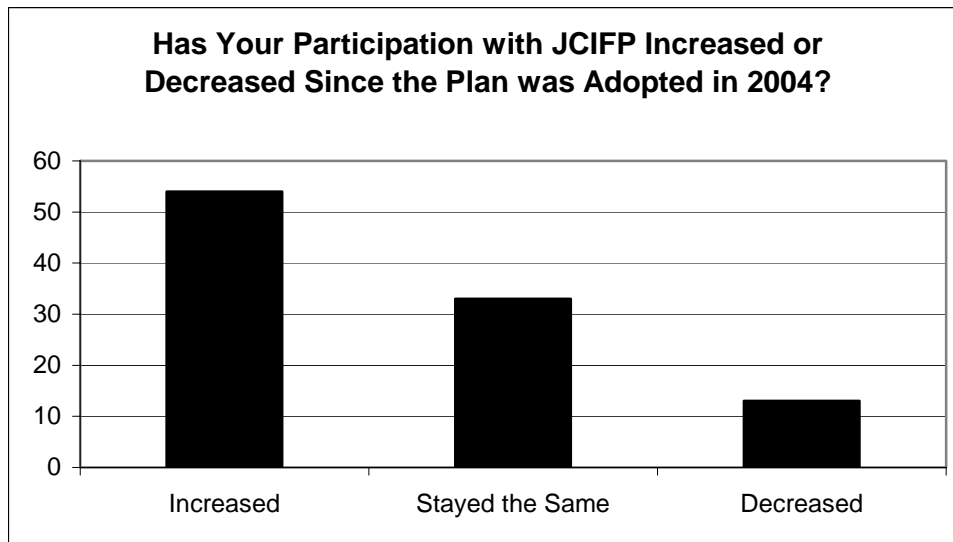
Analysis of open-ended questions located general themes and key findings. Where applicable, responses were organized into groups based on similarity. Answers possessing key insights or interesting thoughts and experiences were included in the report.

## Findings

### JCIFP Participation

Since the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan's implementation in November 2004, over half of the respondents indicated that they have increased their level of involvement (see Table 1). One-third of the responding participants have maintained their amount of interaction with the network. Only 13% of the groups decreased their contributions to the JCIFP.

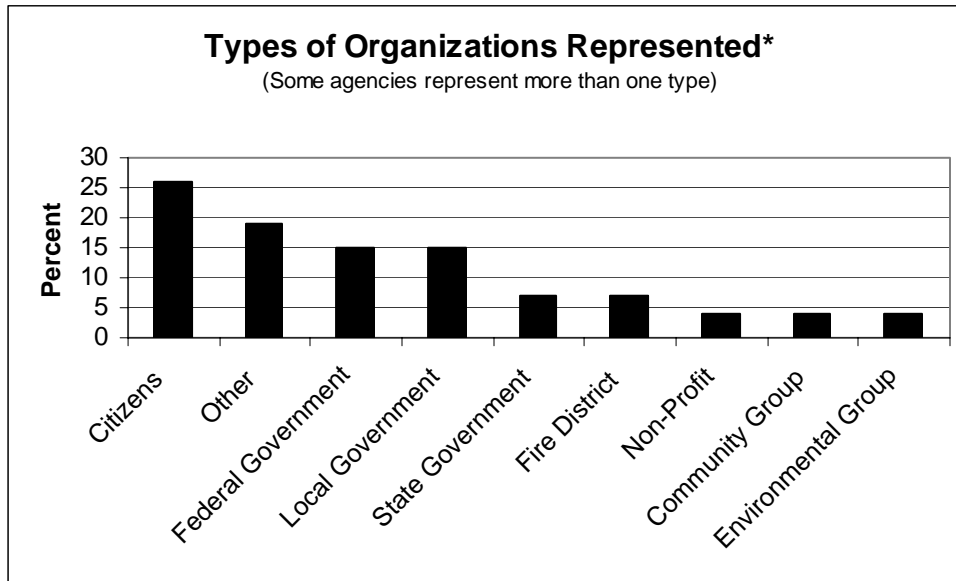
**Table 1: Level of JCIFP Participation Since 2004**



Although county commissioners formally adopted the JCIFP in 2004, planning efforts began over a year earlier. Two-thirds of the organizations' respondents to the survey have been working together for over three years. Twenty percent of the group's members joined in the last two years. Three organizations recently joined JCIFP's efforts in the past year.

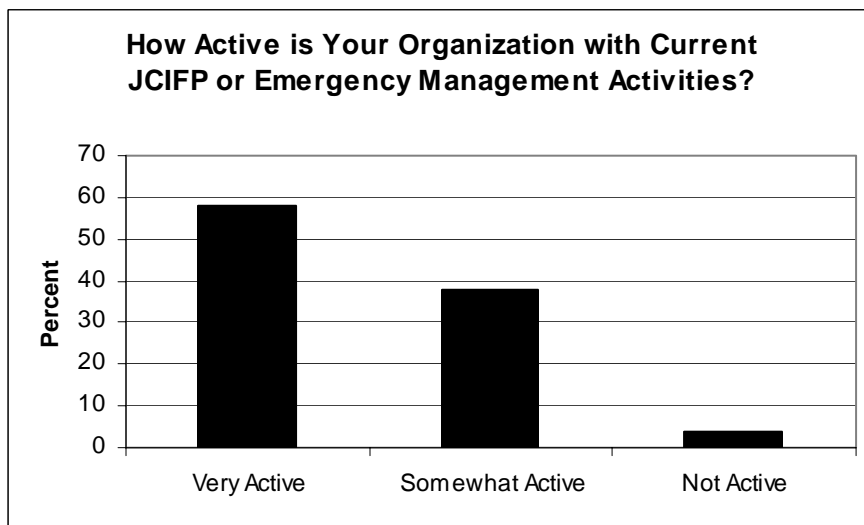
One of the JCIFP’s strongest features is the diversity of organizations within its alliance (see Table 2). Citizen groups, local, state, and federal agencies, and environmental groups are among the participants. Some organizations span two of the categories, such as a community, environmental, or non-profit organizations. Citizens (26%) represent the largest percentage of survey respondents participating in the JCIFP. “Other” organizations (19%) include a private fire department, private developmental disabilities agency, and an intergovernmental agency working with youth.

**Table 2: JCIFP Organizations**



Although each organization individually focuses on its own issues and has belonged to JCIFP for different amounts of time, they all appear committed to carrying out the plan’s goals and objectives (see Table 3). Only one organization contributing to the survey claims to be inactive, compared to the 58% of participants that are “very active.” Thirty-eight percent are “somewhat active” with the JCIFP or other emergency management activities.

**Table 3: Level of Involvement**

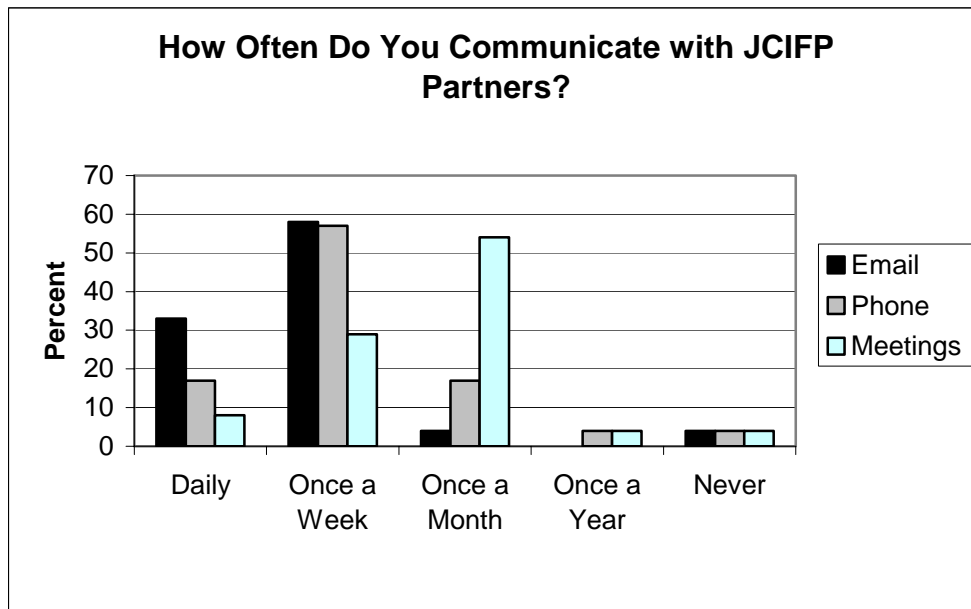


## JCIFP Partner Communication

Collaborative efforts involve frequent communications between JCIFP’s partner agencies. In addition to scheduled meetings with the agencies, email messages and phone conversations represent important means for sharing information or discussing emergency wildfire or management issues (see Table 4).

One-third of the JCIFP members trade relevant information on a daily basis, while 58% communicate via email once a week. Phone conversations represent a similar proportion of communication channels, with over half of various agencies contacting each other once a week. Meetings serve a valuable function by allowing multiple JCIFP partners to discuss relevant wildfire and emergency management issues. Over half of those surveyed meet once a month with other partners. Thirty percent meet weekly, while two respondents indicated that they meet on a daily basis with other JCIFP partners to talk about relevant topics. The survey findings reinforce the strength of JCIFP’s collaboration, as relatively few organizations communicate infrequently.

**Table 4: Frequency of Communication**



The level of collaboration within the JCIFP network engages a wide range of agency types. The Bureau of Land Management (42%) was mentioned most frequently as a project partner, along with the Oregon Department of Forestry (38%) and Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (33%). Several respondents listed Josephine County and the Forest Service as partners. Others stated that they worked with fire agencies and districts in Jackson and Josephine County. Some groups appeared to focus on working strictly with fuels reduction, risk assessment, and stewardship contracting projects with private contractors and conservation groups. Private property owners, particularly those with special needs, received attention from groups concentrating on emergency management.

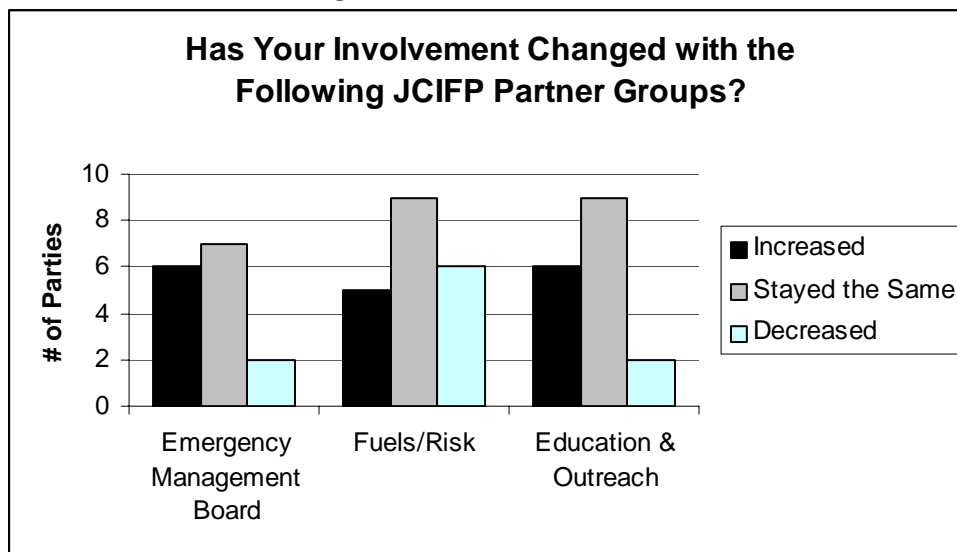
## Changing Level of Involvement

The purpose of the JCIFP subcommittees is to draw from different agencies and use their level of expertise to concentrate on important wildfire issues, including: emergency management, fuels assessment, education and outreach, and stewardship contracting. It is important to note that partners, based on their area of focus, typically do not belong to each group. After reviewing the 24 surveys, the findings indicated that all of the groups generally are gaining or sustaining membership (see Table 5). The Emergency Management Group saw six members increase their participation, while seven continued to contribute at the same level. Only two of respondents scaled back their participation.

The Fuels Assessment Committee also benefited from five members increasing their participation, however six of them scaled back their involvement. This group has a strong contingency of nine participants that maintained a continuous level of interaction.

The Education and Outreach Committee gained additional participation from six partners, while nine of the responding organizations maintained the same effort. Only two partners reduced their involvement with this group.

Table 5: Amount of Change in the Last Year



In response to a recommendation in the JCIFP, a stewardship contracting group formed in 2005. Seven of the survey respondents joined the group upon its creation, with two agencies becoming members thus far in 2006.

## JCIFP Projects

Partners working with the JCIFP collaborated to undertake a wide range of projects, addressing community needs such as education, fuels reduction, and working with the special needs population. Joint projects resulted in the creation of citizen educational materials, such as *Living with Wildfire: A Homeowners Guide*. Other outreach efforts included displays at the Josephine County library and Josephine County Home Show and Expo. A class was assembled for realtors and contractors addressing wildfire issues.

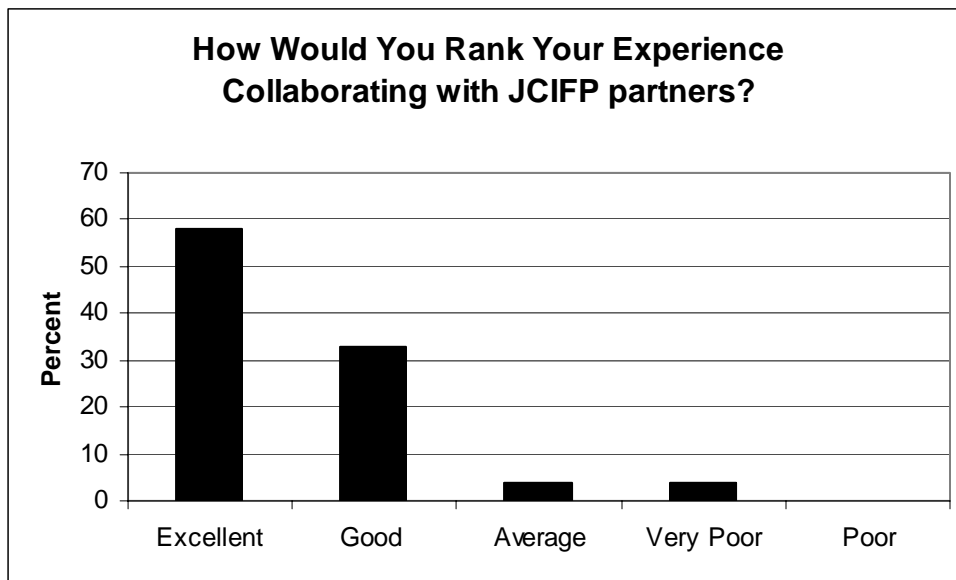
Fuels reduction involved partnerships on many different fronts. Mapping projects brought together parties to document areas with hazardous fuels in Jackson and Josephine County. The JCIFP education and outreach committee organized, and staff from Rural/Metro Fire Department, Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, and the Rogue River—Siskiyou National Forest, volunteered at the second annual woody vegetation disposal day. This event allows citizens to drop off woody vegetation from their properties for free, which helps reduce hazardous fuels in the area. Fuels reduction efforts occurred with National Fire Plan grants for Thompson Creek, West Williams, Slate Creek, Cathedral Hills, Selma North, and Wolf Creek.

In 2005, Josephine County applied for and received Title II grants from the Bureau of Land Management, Medford District and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Service Resource Advisory Councils to perform fuels reduction projects targeted for the County’s citizens with special needs. The county contracted with the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization to administer the grant by partnering with local social service and community organizations. These partners then worked together to identify and work with eligible residents, complete site assessments, and conduct fuels reduction work.

**Satisfaction with JCIFP Partners**

The willingness to collaborate among JCIFP partners and the level of dedication to the Plan’s goals and objectives resulted in high satisfaction ratings (see Table 6). In fact, almost 60% of survey respondents ranked their experiences with the JCIFP as “excellent.” One-third rated their involvement in JCIFP as “good.” Less than 5% deemed their experience as “average” or “very poor,” respectively.

**Table 6: Satisfaction Rankings**



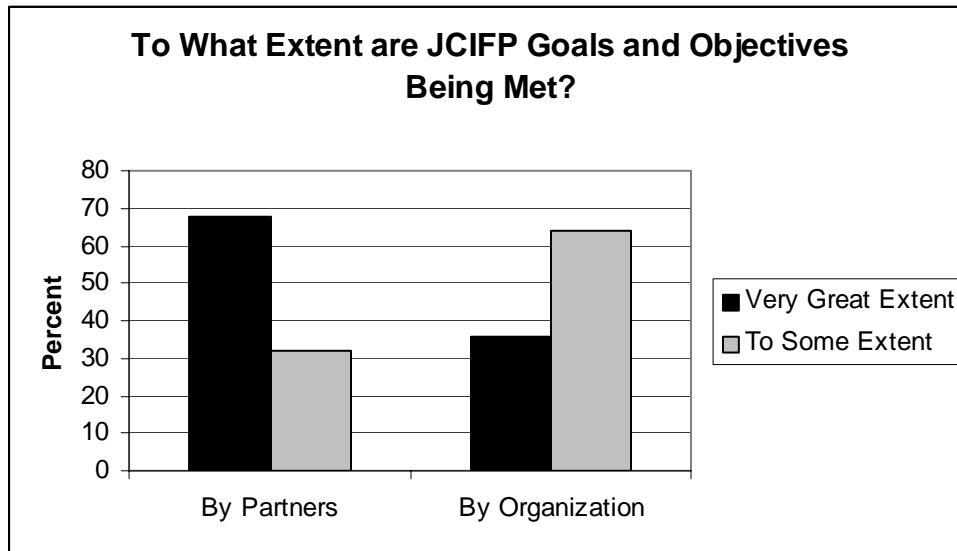
**Meeting JCIFP Goals and Objectives**

Members appear reasonably pleased with their collaborative efforts and project results. Over two-thirds of those surveyed said JCIFP goals and objectives were being met through current

activities and partnerships “to a very great extent.” The remaining third answered that goals and objectives were achieved “to some extent.” No dissenters chose the option of “not well.”

When participants were asked about the extent to which their own organization has been able to address the goals and objectives of the JCIFP, the numbers share a similar breakdown. Almost two out of every three responses declared that their organization addressed goals and objectives “to some extent.” Over one-third of the agencies perceived that they addressed JCIFP standards “to a very great extent.” Again, the choice of “not well” had no responses.

**Table 7: JCIFP Goals and Objectives**



## Collaboration

It may not be a coincidence that the high level of satisfaction and the amount of work accomplished by the JCIFP strengthened relationships between organizations (see Table 7). In fact, 88% of survey respondents declared that relationships grew or changed as a result of the program’s development and implementation. Much of this growth can be attributed to improved communications, understanding of partners, and inter-organizational cooperation to “see the bigger picture” and get the job done. Such factors also resulted in a higher level of confidence noting, “There is more trust among traditionally untrusting entities.”

**“It was true beauty to observe how traditional barriers were non-existent, enabling safe and efficient operations to proceed during the absolute chaos of the typical initial stages of that wildfire.”**

Simply understanding other partners and what they are doing can reduce obstacles to collaboration. An example of how familiarity benefited inter-organizational partnerships occurred during 2005’s Deer Creek Fire. A respondent stated, “Important time was saved during initial and extended attack by merely being well acquainted with mutual aid partners. It was true beauty to observe how traditional barriers were non-existent, enabling safe and

*efficient operations to proceed during the absolute chaos of the typical initial stages of that wildfire.”*

The ability to share resources is another strength of the JCIFP. One person remarked, *“Having a contact in the various agencies and other groups has assisted in the completion of on-the-ground projects as well as planning for future projects.”* Another noted the organizations are *“very efficient at making limited resources go far.”* The partnerships also make grant applications easier to enact by emphasizing collaborative efforts.

**“The message going out to the public [about wildfire] is now a lot more consistent among the many different organizations and agencies providing information about fire planning to the public.”**

Education, emergency management, and education projects are all designed with the intent of making Josephine County safer for its citizens. One person commented, *“The message going*

**“I feel like we are making some real headway on a topic that may mean the long range success of fuels reduction and healthy forests in the county.”**

*out to the public [about wildfire] is now a lot more consistent among the many different organizations and agencies providing information about fire planning to the public.”*

The stewardship contracting group also added a forum for different groups to *“talk together and find common ground.”* A comment discussing the stewardship group

expressed, *“I feel like we are making some real headway on a topic that may mean the long range success of fuels reduction and healthy forests in the county.”*

## JCIFP and Grant Funds

Members of the JCIFP have expressed both satisfaction related to the strengths of their relationships and difficulties in dealing with financial limitations. As mentioned before, a distinct advantage of this network is its ability to document partnerships and share resources for grant applications. The applications for Title II funds attained by Josephine County from the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service highlighted the diversity of partner organizations and their respective roles in the project. Beyond the Title II funds, JCIFP partnerships helped nearly two-thirds of its organizations receive grant funding.

## Project Successes

Respondents indicated that the creation of partnerships was the greatest success resulting from collaborative efforts with the JCIFP. These activities resulted in better coordination and communication during wildfire events and *“bringing together emergency responders from across the county to the table to help each other solve problems we are all facing in our individual agencies.”* Furthermore, partnerships bring *“non-fire/emergency management staff together to communicate on issues and problems.”* Collaborative efforts in Josephine County also improved coordination with partners in Jackson County. The ability to propose and engage projects with a diversity of groups developed *“a deserved national reputation for collaboration and bringing diverse groups together.”*

Reducing hazardous fuels is another success mentioned by several of the survey respondents. Programs, such as woody vegetation disposal day, create an incentive for people to reduce

hazardous fuels and safely dispose of them. Such initiatives also help educate area citizens about the importance of reducing fuels to benefit both personal property and the community. As more work is done, *“community awareness of wildfire issues is dramatically heightened.”* Collaborating with residents to design fuels reduction projects on private lands, especially when adjacent to public fuels reduction projects, *“creates a larger and landscape-style fuels break between vast wildlands and communities.”*

The availability of grant funds to complete fuels reduction work on private property generated benefits beyond defensible space, public safety, and heightened awareness. The Job Council, a locally-based private organization, worked on a number of fuels reduction projects. By employing area youths and providing job training, youths gain valuable experience and earn money.

## Project Obstacles

Attempts to collaborate with a large number of organizations representing various interests can prove difficult. Perhaps in line with the perceived strengths of the JCIFP, over 40% of survey respondents listed no obstacles in their surveys. The documented obstacles can be divided into categories of time, money, and stewardship contracting.

**“Like everyone else in government, we are trying to do more with less.”**  
*all the meetings.”*

The lack of time is a significant barrier for agencies to actively participate in JCIFP meetings and other efforts. One person remarked, *“Due to our funding and personnel limitations with other projects, we cannot attend*

While time was mentioned as an obstacle, the barrier cited by respondents was money. Lack of funds make it difficult to enact a new program. For regards to education, one person stated, *“We have the funds to print the materials we develop of support for education is frustrating.”* Another individual stated, *“Like everyone else in government, we are trying to do more with less. It would be money for administrative overhead.”* A

**“We don’t always even have the funds to print the materials we develop together. The lack of support for education is frustrating.”**

most common of funding can example, in *don’t always even together. The lack of support for education, we nice to find some telling statement*

in response to collaboration problems read: *“Funding, pure and simple. Coordination efforts aren’t consistent as they’re purely voluntary by committed, but understaffed, organizations.”*

While the stewardship contracting component of the JCIFP is relatively new, two respondents observed two important issues. The first comment noted, *“We need federal agencies to prioritize stewardship contracting.”* The other response stated, *“There probably are obstacles in the case of stewardship contracting, and public land project prioritization”* and that an organization *“still has to follow many mandated policies on federal land and when federal funds are used.”* This person added, however, *“I feel that the partners I have collaborated with have been patient and understanding regarding this matter.”*



## Understanding Collaborative Efforts

There are many reasons that JCIFP efforts resulted in such compelling successes. Regular meetings for the past few years have helped agencies in “*avoiding the duplication of services.*” With the help of an “*excellent facilitator,*” this person “*almost single handedly brought a hugely diverse group of people from a variety of organizations together to make things happen.*” Having a structured group provided a forum for discussing future projects, allowing people to develop common goals, and implementing projects.

**“Working together has helped us to find common concerns and answers to those concerns. The people who came together wanted to make this all work...they made it happen!”**

While collaboration successes received more attention in the surveys, a few responses listed reasons for unsuccessful efforts. Committing time to participate in meetings and actively communicate proved difficult for some agencies. One respondent also mentioned the importance of strong local leadership to make certain that collaboration efforts succeed.

## Recommendations

Current collaborative partnerships among JCIFP partners have helped address emergency management issues, reduced hazardous fuels, and educated area citizens about the importance of wildfire awareness. Data collected through the survey responses indicate a high level of satisfaction among the partners and their ability to address important community wildfire concerns. To ensure that this relatively new program continues to succeed, a series of recommendations follow to address opportunities and potential obstacles.

1. ***Concentrate on JCIFP performance gaps***—Most respondents felt that JCIFP goals were being met through current activities and collaborative partnerships. However, about one-third felt that goals and objectives were being met only “to some extent.” Increase efforts to identify how partnerships activities can be strengthened to better meet JCIFP goals.
2. ***Address funding issues by collaborating on grant applications and leveraging resources***—The Title II grant to reduce hazardous fuels on the properties of citizens with special needs demonstrates how collaboration amongst several agencies can help attain money to carry out projects together. JCIFP partners should focus on collaborating on future grant opportunities.
3. ***Continue to work with the stewardship contracting***—The data documents obstacles in this program’s prioritization among federal agencies. While the stewardship contracting group within the JCIFP is relatively new, it is important to secure the necessary leadership and resources to address pending issues for ensuring long-term success.
4. ***Engage social service agencies***—Partnerships with social service agencies are critical to help JCIFP partners connect with the special needs population.
5. ***Sustain the success of the JCIFP***—The partnerships created through the JCIFP provide partners a means to address important wildfire and emergency management issues. The JCIFP’s early success is promising, however partners must continue to dedicate resources to strengthen collaborative efforts.

## APPENDIX D. CASE STUDY: REDUCING HAZARDOUS FUELS FOR JOSEPHINE COUNTY'S SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION

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*Draft – August 2006*

### Project Overview

The 2002 Biscuit Fire, which occurred largely within Josephine County, burned close to 500,000 acres and resulted in over \$150 million in suppression costs, as well as long-term economic impacts. Lessons learned from the Biscuit Fire and high wildfire risk led to the development and adoption of the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan in November 2004. The plan is inclusive of a broad range of efforts related to fuels reduction, emergency management, and education.

One such effort, initiated by the Oregon Department of Forestry in 2002, provides property owners up to \$330 for creating defensible space around their home. This incentive, however, does not always reimburse landowners the full cost of creating defensible space on an acre of land, which can range from \$600 to \$1200 depending on land conditions. The program has been highly successful in increasing the number of homeowners taking action to reduce wildfire risk. However, partners involved with the fire plan recognized that low-income and physically or mentally disabled individuals who cannot do the work themselves and hire a contractor face greater obstacles in protecting their homes from wildfire.

In 2005, Josephine County received two separate Title II grants from the Rogue River/Siskiyou National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, Medford District Resource Advisory Councils to perform fuels reduction projects for the County's citizens with special needs. The county contracted with the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization to administer the grant and partner with local social service and community organizations, identify eligible residents, and contract and perform fuels reduction.

As of August 2006, this grant is still being implemented. However, with 24 participating households, there are many lessons that have been learned through this process and successes to report. This case study describes the challenges, accomplishments, and next steps related to assisting citizens with special needs reduce their risk to wildfire. Upon completion of the grant, the case study will be updated to reflect the final numbers of participants, acres treated, and other relevant lessons learned.



Site A in Selma, Oregon – before treatment. Photo courtesy of the Job Council



Site A in Selma, Oregon – after treatment. Photo courtesy of the Job Council

## Methodology

Resource Innovations developed this case study of the Title II grants to document the goals and objectives in providing assistance with fuels reduction to Josephine County's special needs population. The study is particularly interested in the benefits, challenges, and impacts of engaging the special needs population in fire protection activities. Resource Innovations conducted interviews with representatives from local government, state and federal forestry and agencies, social service and community development organizations, and a local contractor. Resource Innovations conducted these interviews to identify how the project met intended grant project objectives, obstacles, and successes. The document concludes with recommendations for future collaborative efforts to help special needs populations who are at risk to wildfire and other natural disasters.

## Background

In November 2004, the Board of County Commissioners formally adopted the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP). This collaborative effort of citizens, fire districts, county staff, and agency representatives has resulted in many projects related to fuels reduction, fire prevention education campaigns, and other fire-related programs. The JCIFP also provides important assistance for taking local action by developing community-specific fire plans and participating in countywide activities for wildfire prevention and protection.

Josephine County's climate, topography, and vegetation put the area at considerable risk for wildfires. The high incidence of wildfire in southwestern Oregon poses serious risks to local residents. The threats may be even greater for those with special needs and low-income levels. Outside of Josephine County, special needs citizens have been traditionally overlooked by emergency management planning and response efforts. The impacts to low-income, elderly, disabled, and minority populations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama during Hurricane Katrina underscore this issue.

Josephine County is home to a large number of people with special needs, including, but not limited to, the elderly, physically and mentally disabled, and those with low-income. Josephine County's Special Needs Committee estimates that 10% of the county's population is classified as special need, the majority of whom are 65 years and older. According to the 2000 Census, over 2,400 families live below the poverty level. The county is also diversifying in terms of its population demographics. Latinos now make up over 4% of Josephine County's population.



Site B in Selma, Oregon – before treatment. Photo courtesy of the Job Council



Site B in Selma, Oregon – after treatment. Photo courtesy of the Job Council

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Those who do not speak English as a primary language, as well as undocumented individuals, also comprise a growing portion of residents.

To better serve the special needs population, the JCIFP includes a special needs assessment, as well as a list of local social service agencies and the populations they serve. This assessment provided a series of recommendations, including an action to assist the special needs population to reduce hazardous fuels around their homes.

In 2004, Josephine County applied for Title II funds from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National

<b>Project Partners</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Josephine County</li><li>▪ Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO)</li><li>▪ Rogue Valley Council of Governments Senior Disability Services Division (RVCOG)</li><li>▪ Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)</li><li>▪ Bureau of Land Management, Medford District (BLM)</li><li>▪ The Job Council</li><li>▪ Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest</li></ul>

Forest and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Medford District Resource Advisory Councils. Josephine County received the grants and contracted with the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) to administer the grants. The grant sought to create a total of 138 acres of defensible space for landowners with special needs. In 2005, the Forest Service awarded the county \$62,620 to perform fuels reduction work, and the BLM awarded the county \$90,049. Josephine County contracted with the Illinois Valley Community

Development Organization (IVCDO) to implement the grant. Project implementation began in 2006 and is slated for completion in 2007.

## **Project Goals and Objectives**

Josephine County requested grant funds to implement fuels reduction projects on private lands where there are residents with special needs living in areas at high-risk to wildfire. The project met objectives within the JCIFP in a number of ways. The grant provides critical assistance to low-income and elderly and disabled citizens that lack the means to do the fuels work themselves and hire a contractor to assist them. Other benefits extend beyond just citizens with special needs. Fuels reduction will also help protect the surrounding community from wildfire risk by removing heavy vegetation. Additionally, defensible space creates safer areas to protect properties and firefighters. Fuels reduction projects can also result in increased opportunities for local workers and contractors.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

This project brought together agencies and organizations from several sectors. Fire districts, social service agencies, local government officials, the BLM, Forest Service, and private contractors collaborated to carry out fuels reduction work for homeowners with special needs. Many of these organizations are partners in the JCIFP (or became partners through this grant). People eligible for the grant project had to meet four specific criteria as described below.

### ***Communities at Risk***

The first criterion for eligibility related being in area at high risk to wildfire. Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan included a comprehensive risk assessment that uses layers on risk, hazard, values, protection capability, and structural vulnerability. This assessment provides a relative rating of the highest areas in the county.



Site C in Selma, Oregon – before treatment. Photo courtesy of the Job Council

to  
The  
  
risk

### ***Close to Federal Land***

The grant stipulated that work must be done on homes close to federal land, which covers nearly 70% of the county. Josephine County GIS provided maps addresses for all homes in high-risk wildfire areas near federal land in the county.



Site C in Selma, Oregon – after treatment. Photo courtesy of the Job Council

and

### ***Low-income, and Elderly or Disabled***

Josephine County commissioners specified that the grant should provide assistance to low-income and elderly or disabled citizens who could not physically do the fuels reduction work themselves and afford to hire a contractor. To participate in the project, homeowners had to be elderly or disabled and be at 200% or less of the federal poverty level.

### ***Homeowners***

To be eligible for project participation, all individuals had to own their homes. While many low-income and elderly and disabled citizens are often renters, the way the grant was written required that only homeowners could participate.

## **Identifying Special Needs Participants**

The use of classified data regarding citizens with special needs limited the partners' ability to identify potential participants. The IVCDO, Rogue Valley Council of Government's (RVCOG) Senior Disability Services Division, and other social service agencies worked together to identify eligible special needs participants living in the county. GIS analysis determined that most properties in Josephine County are located in high-risk wildfire areas. The IVCDO began the outreach process by advertising the project through social service agencies, flyers, and an

advertisement in a local newspaper. Interested property owners were asked to call IVCDO and submit their names and addresses to be placed on a list of potential project participants.

After the IVCDO received the names and addresses of interested parties, they sent the list back to RVCOG. A staff member with RVCOG checked whether or not participants met the low-income and elderly or disabled criteria. The staff member then notified the IVCDO about which people were eligible according to the project's income and disability criteria. If an interested party could not produce verification about working with a social service agency, the IVCDO used tax return and county assessor records to check income level and whether the party owned his/her property. IVCDO staff confirmed with special needs property owners that they were still interested in the fuels reduction program before scheduling contracting staff or other site assessors to come to their properties.

### **Site Assessment and Fuels Reduction**

Once the IVCDO had a list of eligible participants, a team of interagency officials conducted site assessments to determine if the property itself needed fuels reduction work and passed National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessments, if required. The Forest Service and BLM handled the site assessment differently.

The BLM required all projects adjacent to BLM land and using BLM funds to have a NEPA assessment. According to the BLM<sup>1</sup>, NEPA requires federal agencies to:

1. Become aware of the environmental ramifications of their proposed actions;
2. Fully disclose to the public proposed federal actions and provide a mechanism for public input to federal decision-making; and
3. Prepare environmental impact statements for every major action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The BLM played an active role in determining which properties were eligible for fuels reduction by conducting the NEPA assessments. The BLM surveyed for threatened and endangered species, as well as cultural resources to make sure that federal grant money would not result in negative environmental impacts. These surveys required the expertise of botanists, a cultural resources specialist, a fisheries biologist, a wildlife biologist, a soil scientist, and foresters. NEPA analysis did not disqualify any properties from project participation.

Since the IVCDO will make decisions regarding which projects to work on using Forest Service grant money, the Forest Service did not require NEPA assessments to determine environmental impacts of fuels reduction work. The IVCDO, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the Job Council, and a few local contractors will likely conduct site assessments for projects using Forest Service funds.

The IVCDO continued coordination for the fuels project and brought various partners together to complete the work. It is important to note that the project is still in a relatively early stage of implementation. Thus far, ODF wrote the prescription for treating many of the properties. However, ODF tends to get busier around fire season, thus limiting its ability to participate in the project. Local contractors, IVCDO staff, and the Job Council, an organization based in

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/Commercial/SolidMineral/3809/deis/glossary.html>

southwest Oregon, also wrote site prescriptions. The Job Council, which provides local youths the opportunity to gain job experience and build professional skills, completed a large portion of the fuels reduction work.

Other local contractors also received contracts to perform fuels reduction work. Their access to a brush chipper, dump truck, and ability to conduct controlled burning was necessary for reducing hazardous fuels.

## Initial Project Outcomes

This project helps reduce the risks faced by special needs citizens by creating defensible space and increasing their safety. The benefits extend beyond helping those with special needs, by also improving community safety and awareness about wildfire issues. According to the IVCDO, 24 households have been declared eligible for hazardous fuels reduction throughout Josephine County. As of July 2006, the Job Council completed work for 15 households, with about two to three acres of land treated per property. A significant amount of work remains yet to be done with the remaining project funds.

## Focus on Special Needs

Due to the additional barriers that special needs citizens face, this collaborative project represents a dramatic shift in how emergency management responders view and work with this population. Without this project, many special needs property owners would not be able to conduct hazardous fuels reduction. Along with creating defensible space around their homes, those with special needs can now feel safer when there is a risk of wildfire. One official added, *“The work improved the ability for special needs people to make it through wildfire without the catastrophic risk of losing properties or their lives. It was great to look at social and fuels reduction aspects come together in this unique project.”*

The property owners were generally receptive to having government officials and other parties come on to their land and complete fuels reduction work. The level of reception varied on a case-by-case basis, perhaps because property owners participated in the grant for different reasons. One local government employee noted that it would be interesting to know why people participated in the project. A few landowners indicated that they felt the work was taking too long. Most of the participants were grateful for otherwise expensive fuels reduction work. *“Some [participants] invited us into their homes, gave us treats and other gifts, and wrote us letters [of appreciation].”*

### **A Landowner Thank-You**

*"I had the pleasure of having work [done] on my property. I live on the top of a very steep hill and the terrain is difficult. They were the best workers! They did an excellent job clearing all of the brush and ladder fuels around my cabin. They were at all times respectful and courteous. I feel much safer from the threat of wildfire now that the work is completed. I can't thank them enough."*

### **Increased Knowledge about Where Citizens with Special Needs Live**

An important outcome of this collaborative effort is the increased knowledge about where special needs citizens live. The RVCOG developed a Special Needs Disaster Registry in 2003, which provides emergency responders with a listing of where people with special needs live and how best to assist them in a disaster. Special needs property owners gain a stronger understanding of fire behavior, evacuation, and how to create defensible space.

### **Increased Fuels Reduction**

The JCIFP calls for landscape scale fuels reduction across public and private lands throughout the county. The benefits of reducing hazardous fuels through this project extend beyond the properties of those with special needs. Fuels reduction allows wildfires to be managed more easily and improves the safety of all Josephine County citizens. Property owners with defensible space also reduce wildfire risk for their neighbors. Some neighbors who saw contracting work done requested information about its importance and how it is completed. If the public becomes more familiar and continues to be educated about wildfire and emergency management issues, the risk posed by such events is reduced. As more defensible space is created, the safety of fire fighters also increases.

### **Economic Development**

The economic gains of this project reported by people interviewed for this case study varied, with "workforce employment" provided as the most frequent response. This project provided employment for local contractors and the Job Council. Other economic benefits were less measurable, such as supporting local convenience stores (for items such as food, fuel, etc.) and contracting supply and equipment stores.

The Job Council performed a lot of the work, giving kids and young adults an opportunity to earn money. Some of these youths come from disadvantaged and at-risk backgrounds. In the long-run, people interviewed for this case study indicated that the community benefits from the Job Council's ability to produce "*an experienced pool of employees through the provision of local jobs.*" Furthermore, "*The kids develop experiences and skills that help them figure out interests and educate them about career choices. In addition to direction, the kids earn money.*"

One of the interviewees, a former Job Council member, reinforced the importance of this group. He added, "*The Job Council pays generous wages, trains future workers, gives kids experience for future jobs, and gets them off the streets.*" Recent success stories of the Job Council include



a worker who earned his GED and entered the professional forestry field as a firefighter with Grayback, a local fire and forestry contractor. Another youth received a job with Josephine County parks doing controlled burns in Selma.

## **Project Challenges**

Partners involved with the grant encountered several challenges. A few people indicated that the primary obstacle was the amount of time the project took. The number of partners involved in the project, as well as the many steps involved in identifying and contacting eligible participants, conducting NEPA assessments, and scheduling the mitigation work, resulted in a delay for when fuels reduction activities could occur. The need to protect the confidentiality of special needs citizens is a major reason that contacting eligible property owners took so long.

## **Working with Special Needs Citizens**

Working with the special needs population presented several challenges for the project partners. The sensitive nature of the project makes it difficult for some people to accept free services or allow government and unfamiliar people access to their land.

Due to confidentiality issues (see HIPAA section below), social service agencies became a critical link between the special needs population and project partners. The greatest challenge expressed by social service agencies is that people with special needs do not always own their homes, which limits their participation in the project. Social service agencies also indicated that it is not easy to identify every person in the county with special needs and then determine if s/he is eligible to participate.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) creates national standards to protect individuals' medical records and other personal health information by setting boundaries on the use and release of health records.

HIPAA legislation makes sharing information about special needs citizens difficult to overcome because social service agencies are required to protect names of clients with disabilities. This prevented other governmental officials from directly accessing special needs property owners.

The difficulty of reaching out to the special needs property owners presented a significant challenge. The project partners wanted to allocate Title II money for fuels reduction work as quickly as possible. Without the list of eligible special needs property owners, however, staff had to wait before it could begin conducting site and NEPA assessments. After connecting with interested property owners, organizations had to determine if people actually lived in forested areas and needed hazardous fuels reduction. Explaining the steps needed for project participation required education about the grant process and the parties who would be involved in fuels reduction work.

## NEPA

Project partners had to wait for site assessments and agreements with contractors to be completed so they could begin the fuels reduction activities. Federal NEPA regulations required the BLM to conduct several different assessments on eligible properties before the mitigation work occurred. Since the projects were located throughout Josephine County, it took a lot of time for specialists to travel between projects and conduct the 24 assessments. Yet without these assessments, the properties could not have been treated to reduce hazardous fuels.

## Awareness

Since the 2002 Biscuit Fire, public awareness about the importance of fuels reduction has continued to grow. However, there is still a lot of work to be done in educating Josephine County residents about the need for thinning hazardous fuels and creating defensible space. Barriers to fully engaging citizens with special needs in this project included the fact that some special needs citizens are distrustful of the government. Others are hesitant to admit having low-income status.

Social service agencies do not specialize in wildfire mitigation issues. Advertising the issue of fuels reduction adds to the amount of work they have to do with limited funds and time. A solution must be created to leverage resources between partners so that traditional social service agencies are not exclusively given responsibility of promoting such projects.

Several agencies mentioned the challenge of attaining information for property owners about defensible space and the process involved to create it. Ideally, there would be funding for a coordinator to gather information from property owners and then educate them about the importance of hazardous fuels reduction. This person could also serve as a liaison between property owners and the various agencies involved in the project. Yet, creating such a position to perform outreach and education efforts would limit the funds available to people with special needs.

## Maintenance

One interviewee expressed concern about what will happen to the treated properties in the future. There is no current program to ensure that the properties will receive treatment in the future. In many areas, fuels reduction activities must occur on a regular basis. Grasses, which burn very hot, must be cut down as needed. Trees, such as madrones and oaks, will continue to sprout up after they have been cut down, thus requiring recurring yearly maintenance.

## Collaborative Partnerships

**“The existing network’s strength lies in the people’s incredible support of goals and emergencies.”**

Project partners overcame a series of obstacles to achieve their goals. The interviews revealed a number of existing strengths in the collaborative partnership. The partners now have greater familiarity with each other and people *“know what others are doing and what partners’ missions and goals are.”* Another person interviewed added, *“Without this network, these groups*

would not interact on a regular basis and exchange information. The face-to-face meeting time is valuable.”

Many of the project partners meet monthly to discuss the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan. When asked about increasing the level of collaboration in the future, the people interviewed generally supported the idea. One individual stated, *“Key players must continue meeting and get to know each other well. In emergency situations, they are immediately familiar with each other. This saves time to protect people and resources. People become more comfortable and familiar with each other. They bring resources into the network to share. For example, money from one agency can be prioritized to go along with other projects to create larger projects.”* Another person added, *“Collaboration was great. It could be expanded to talk about other pressing issues within the community.”*

**“The process went really well. All the involved parties were motivated to make the project a success. This project is a poster child for collaboration.”**

Increasing the level of involvement from partner agencies was the only major suggestion to improve this network. A few respondents mentioned *“obtaining greater involvement from social service agencies”* to improve collaborative efforts.

## Future Opportunities

This project overcame many barriers to successfully meet its goal of reducing hazardous fuels and community wildfire risk. Unfortunately, the case study participants do not expect Title II funds to be available for similar projects in the future. Beyond funding, however, there are other opportunities that could strengthen this program.

Without external grant funding, enacting this type of program to help those with special needs is difficult. Interviewees stated that the possibility of receiving federal funds leaves hope that this program may continue. Some potential funding sources include the National Fire Plan, Western States Fire Manager’s Grants, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Department of Health and Human Services. However, another project partner stated, *“There probably will not be available funds at the federal level. A private funding source would have to step up,”* adding that he is *“not overly optimistic about the prospect of attaining a similar grant.”*

The Oregon Department of Forestry recently submitted two different grants to reduce hazardous fuels for property owners with special needs. One grant, to the National Fire Plan, has been tentatively awarded and will provide assistance to special needs citizens in Jackson and Josephine Counties. A second grant for Title II funds in Jackson County was not awarded.

While grant funding may be unavailable, it is still important to build upon the project and continue to improve the network of interagency relationships. If this program carries on,

**“There needs to be a continuous effort to show that people need help reducing hazardous fuels, engaging community groups, and changing the local culture to embrace these ideas.”**

respondents offered a number of suggestions to strengthen project goals and objectives. Involvement in this program required special needs citizens to *own* their property. Renters were ineligible to participate and many people with low-income and/or disabilities do not own their homes. One project partner expressed concern for low-income renters and their limited access to hazardous fuels reduction. This person

recommended extending the program to renters, “*perhaps by interacting with owners of rental properties to offer discounted fuels reduction activity costs.*” An alternative solution could provide education and outreach to rental property owners to teach them about the importance of reducing hazardous fuels on their properties.

Another person suggested reducing hazardous fuels beyond the special needs properties to include their neighbors and extending the amount of defensible space. Tying the fuels reduction work to the “*landscape level*” can help “*create a continuous scope of defensible space around the land of people with special needs.*” People interviewed for this case study discussed other options that could be used to engage more landowners and reduce hazardous fuels. The first idea proposed dropping the low-income requirement to make the program flexible for meeting needs of those without the strict income criteria. That option, however, may not be economically feasible due to existing funding constraints. A second alternative involves assigning stewards to talk with project neighbors to educate them about the importance of fuels reduction, how to clear the land by themselves, and identify local resources that can provide assistance for this work.

## Recommendations

1. ***Connect project participants with the RVCOG special needs disaster registry***—There is no existing mechanism to ensure that people who participated in this project receive a registration form for the disaster registry. A possible solution involves going back to all initial households and signing up special needs landowners for this database.
2. ***Locate new revenue streams***—Title II money may not be available for funding future projects. Project partners can work together (and through the JCIFP education and outreach and fuels reduction committees) to identify and apply for grant funding that will continue to support fuels reduction for special needs citizens.
3. ***Extend protection of special needs population***—While this project has already enrolled 24 property owners and will likely sign up more, it overlooked some members of this population. If funding is secured for future fuels reduction projects, partners should attempt to engage owners of rental properties to create defensible space for their tenants.
4. ***Increase awareness about the need for fuels reduction projects***—Raising awareness about wildfire risk and risk-reduction strategies among social service agencies can result in better collaboration and connections to the special needs population. Increasing outreach efforts for future projects is also important. Outreach efforts should be designed to reach all eligible participants. These efforts may include an increase in media advertising and outreach to more social service agencies.
5. ***Continue to strengthen relationships with project partners***—Everyone interviewed for this project indicated that there was very strong collaboration. By participating in the JCIFP and similar ventures in the future, partners can continue to share resources and improve their level of collaboration.
6. ***Extend defensible space beyond special needs properties***—Reducing hazardous fuels on the properties of people with special needs increases their safety. Educating and engaging neighbors about how to reduce fuels and extend the number of acres of defensible space will

have even greater benefits by protecting citizens, fire fighters, and minimizing overall wildfire risks.

7. **Conduct follow-up interviews with landowners**—Landowners most likely participated in this project for a variety of reasons. Listening to their experiences, including about how they learned of this program, perceived strengths and limitations, and suggestions for improvement, may prove highly beneficial for future efforts to assist people with special needs.

**For more information:**

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## **APPENDIX E. JOSEPHINE COUNTY STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY**

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Draft – August 2006

*Submitted to Josephine County Stewardship Group*

*By Resource Innovations, University of Oregon*

In fall of 2005, public and private partners in Josephine County began discussions about opportunities to develop stewardship contracting projects that would help implement the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan. Josephine County contracted with *Resource Innovations* to facilitate stewardship efforts for the County and fire plan partners. *Resource Innovations* has prepared this strategy on the goals, objectives, and direction of the stewardship contracting group.

This document presents a strategy for using stewardship contracting in Josephine County on private land and public land administered by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management. The strategy is intended to provide a clear and concise summary of the accomplishments, lessons learned, and current and future strategies being pursued by the Josephine County Stewardship Group. We aim to provide sufficient detail to allow group participants and other interested parties to understand goals, objectives, methods, challenges, and next steps.

### **Introduction and background**

In summer of 2003 the Biscuit Fire burned through an area of almost 500,000 acres in Josephine County. This dramatic event helped motivate a diverse group of local partners to develop the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP). The development of the JCIFP was an unprecedented collaboration for Josephine County that helped strengthen relationships between local fire suppression organizations, county government, local non-profit organizations and state and federal land management agencies. The Josephine County commissioners adopted the plan in November 2004 and implementation initially focused on reducing fuels on private land and improving fire safety education and emergency management programs.

The completed plan helped several of the Josephine County partners secure funds from the National Fire Plan to implement fuels reduction projects on private land. While the plan included a listing of high priority projects on private land, it did not include specific priority project areas for public land. The plan includes a comprehensive risk assessment that the federal agencies have been using to prioritize public land projects in high-risk areas of the wildland urban interface adjacent to communities at risk. As National Fire Plan grant funds become less available and more competitive, there is a critical need for public and private partners to work together on strategic landscape scale planning for fuels reduction to seek alternative sources of funding. Recognition of this need led JCIFP partners to explore stewardship contracting as a tool to help implement the fuels reduction priorities identified in the plan.

JCIFP partners began considering stewardship contracting for several reasons. First and foremost, the group sought a tool to help implement public and private fuel reduction activities that would help protect communities from wildfire. In addition, the group was motivated by a desire to develop more collaborative approaches to land management and build off of the strong working relationships they developed in the JCIFP. Others were excited to use stewardship to

increase local economic development and pursue biomass utilization opportunities. Some partners wanted to use stewardship as means to develop examples of sound forest restoration. Lastly, some were motivated by a desire to craft a model of integrated stewardship and community wildfire protection planning.

### **Stewardship Group Goals**

This diverse collection of people became known as the Josephine County Stewardship Group. The goals of the Stewardship Group are to:

- Reduce fuels and protect communities
- Provide opportunity for community participation
- Promote mutual learning and build relationships
- Support local jobs
- Promote biomass utilization; and
- Restore degraded lands

### **How the strategy is organized**

The strategy is organized into three main sections. Section One describes the organizational process followed by the group. Section Two presents a stewardship action plan that identifies goals, objectives, timelines, and anticipated outcomes. Lastly, the document addresses lessons learned and ongoing challenges and the Appendices contain the key documents developed by the group.

**Section One: Organizational Process** identifies the elements of an effective group process that facilitates strategic and coordinated actions. The organizational process section is comprised of three key elements:

1. Convene key stakeholders and interested parties and reach out to those not represented
2. Provide an effective group process for learning and “discovery”
  - a. Information
  - b. Motivation
  - c. Coordination
3. Communicate “discoveries,” actions, and plans

**Section Two: Stewardship Action Plan** identifies how the Stewardship Group will select and design projects and how those projects address land management issues and community needs and opportunities to implement the JCIFP.

1. Develop projects with high-level of support from the Stewardship Group and local communities
2. Develop stewardship projects that reduce fuels in priority areas and restore fire-adapted ecosystems.
3. Provide local economic benefit by developing stewardship projects that will be accessible and appealing to forest contractors in Josephine County
4. Develop stewardship projects that provide a supply of small diameter logs, woody biomass material, and other byproducts of restoration treatments

5. Communicate group goals, actions, and outcomes to interested stakeholders and publics
6. Develop and implement monitoring strategy to identify outcomes and results

The action plan is followed by a summary of challenges and lessons learned. The appendices contain the key documents developed by the group including:

1. Stewardship Group goals
2. Stewardship Group ground rules
3. Participation and decision-making method
4. Communication strategy
5. Restoration definitions
6. Evaluation criteria for project selection
7. Contractor capacity scope of work

## Organizational Process

### *1. Convene interested parties and reach out to those not represented.*

Many different groups, individuals, agencies, and organizations have a stake in what happens on public land and the surrounding communities. As partners recognized the complexity of stewardship contracting and natural resource management in southern Oregon, there was an initial emphasis on getting the right people and organizations to the table.

*Resource Innovations* sought participation from a wide array of interests when convening the initial meetings. Members of the Josephine County Stewardship Group are self-selected; membership was based on interest rather than a requirement for geographic or categorical representation (e.g. environmental, forestry industry, local government, etc.). The following organizations have been participating regularly in the Stewardship Group.

Josephine County General Services; GIS	Medford District Bureau of Land
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center	Management
Siskiyou Project	Summit Wood Products
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest	The Job Council
Illinois Valley Community Development	Forestry Action Committee
Organization	Applegate Partnership
Lomakatsi Restoration Group	Jefferson Sustainable Development
Wolf Creek Rural Fire Protection	Initiative
District	Resource Innovations
Oregon Department of Forestry	

### *2. Provide clear group process that facilitates learning and discovery*

The Josephine County Stewardship Group is dynamic and is sustained by constant change. The important elements for creating and maintaining a climate for discovery are information, motivation, and coordination.

### *Information*



The group process thrives on information and exchange. Information can come from ideas and feedback imported from the outside environment, new perspectives created through exchanges between members, and examining the results of group actions. Information is what helps the group explore new ideas and make informed decisions. Providing quality and timely information has been an important part of the collaborative process. The Stewardship Group has explored numerous interrelated topics such as:

- Stewardship contracting authorities and examples from other communities
- Policies and implementation strategies from BLM and Forest Service
- Josephine County Fire Plan Priorities
- Current and planned stewardship projects
- BLM evaluation criteria for stewardship projects
- Current forest planning efforts
- Ecological definitions
- Forest Service and BLM work plans

Information sharing and collective learning are ongoing processes. Some of the key information items in the short-term include:

- Assess the capacity of forestry contractors in Josephine County to participate in stewardship contracts.
- Explore the opportunities for group engagement in the Forest Service and BLM land management planning process so that group energy can be directed to appropriate points in the process.
- Explore the possibility of using receipts retained from stewardship project on Forest Service land to help fund priority fuels reduction projects on private land.
- Review completed BLM stewardship projects to determine what worked well and what could be improved.

*Motivation:*

The motivational level of group members combined with the quality of relationships and communication determine the outcomes of the group. The motivations and the quality of their relationships vary within the members of the Stewardship Group. We have used group processes such as goal setting and facilitated dialogue to identify participants' desired outcomes. The discussions have been held with the full group and reported in the minutes so that all participants understand the perspectives of the other members. Most of the members of the group share a desire to:

- Be involved in something positive
- Provide input to process
- Show results on the ground
- Work at a scale that has broad ramifications
- Be a part of a healthy collaborative process
- Get results for the local communities
- Share lessons with other communities

Participation (one indicator of energy and involvement) in the group has fluctuated over time. Techniques that *Resource Innovations* will use to keep group energy high include regular check-ins outside of group meetings with key participants to solicit their ideas about the process in general and upcoming tasks for the group.

### *Coordination*

Stewardship contracting is a relatively new and complex process and one that lends itself to creativity and experimentation. Our approach is intentionally non-prescriptive in the hopes that the group participants will take initiative and responsibility for determining how to achieve their goals. We encourage collaborative partners in the group to take leadership roles and have ownership in the process rather than take direction from *Resource Innovations*.

The Josephine County Stewardship Group has developed several documents that direct its energies including: goals and objectives, ground rules, decision-making methods, and a communication strategy. These documents are contained in Appendices 1-4.

### **3. Communicate “discoveries,” actions, and plans**

With the diversity of participation, the ambitious goals of the group and the decentralized structure of the federal land management agencies clear communication is crucial. *Resource Innovations* records extensive notes at all meetings and field tours to ensure that discussion and decisions are accurately conveyed. Meeting agendas and notes are sent to all participants and posted on the *Resource Innovations* web site.

In addition to written communication, we have held several personal meetings with Forest Service and BLM leadership to ensure that the various levels of the agencies understand the goals of Group and how it intends to achieve results. The need for these types of meeting may decrease in the future as forest and district staffs become more aware of the group’s efforts and achievements.

The process and results from the Josephine County Stewardship Group will be valuable to other groups, agencies, and organizations in southern Oregon and the region. Both federal agencies are beginning to use stewardship contracting more broadly and other groups are pursuing collaborative approaches to federal land management. Several of the members of the Josephine County Stewardship Group are also active in other collaborative venues and could help share the lessons more broadly. *Resource Innovations* will document and disseminate the results and lessons learned to a broad audience.

## **Stewardship Action Plan**

The Josephine County Stewardship Group, its subcommittees, and *Resource Innovations* staff will implement the stewardship action plan.

**1. Develop projects that have a high level of support from the Stewardship Group and local communities**

- a. Use group's evaluation criteria (below) to select an initial suite of projects from both BLM and Forest Service.
  1. Make communities more fire safe
  2. Create high quality, employment opportunities for local contractors and workers
  3. Improve forest and watershed health
  4. Maximize opportunities for collaboration
  5. Create long-term, reliable supply of small-diameter wood/ biomass and support existing infrastructure to utilize it.
  6. Begin implementation in a short timeline
  7. Create a model for future stewardship contracts
- b. Engage with the agencies to learn from the implementation of the off-the-shelf projects that meet the minimum criteria.
  1. Track the progress and lessons learned on the BLM projects Rich N Rocky and Two-Bit Stew.
  2. Provide site selection recommendations to the Forest Service about the development of a 250-acre project selected from the Plantation Thin EA.
- c. Engage with BLM on contract packaging for their upcoming stewardship projects. Incorporate findings from contractor capacity assessment.
- d. Engage with Forest Service on the substance of the East IV Managed Stands EA.
  1. Provide group recommendations about activities and locations that should be analyzed in EA.
  2. Provide group recommendations regarding the use of goods for services and retained receipts.
  3. Provide group recommendations regarding the use of best value contracting and, in particular, the local economic benefit criteria.
  4. Provide a forum for achieving consensus on project activities
  5. Monitor and track progress of project development

**Timeline:** Summer 2006 through Spring 2007

**2. Develop stewardship projects that reduce fuels in priority areas and restore fire-adapted ecosystems.**

- a. Review high priorities from JCIFP
- b. Review FS/BLM Fire Plan
- c. As possible select stewardship projects that reduce fuels in high priority areas

**Timeline:** Winter 2006 through Spring 2007

**3. Provide local economic benefit by developing stewardship projects that will be accessible and appealing to forest contractors in Josephine County.**

- a. Conduct workforce assessment to determine capacity of forest contracting firms in the County and their level of interest in participating in stewardship contracts on federal land
- b. Determine the amount of federal forest contracts captured by firms in Josephine County
- c. Identify the ways that contracts could be design to address contractor preferences and capacities.
- d. Implement actions items and monitor outcomes

**Timeline:** Summer 2006 through Spring 2007

**4. Use the stewardship authorities to provide a steady supply of small diameter logs, woody biomass, and other restoration byproducts.**

- a. Integrate biomass and small diameter material into new stewardship contracts
- b. Build workforce capacity and agency capacity to enter into long-term biomass contracts

**Timeline:** Winter 2006 through Summer 2007

**5. Communicate group goals and results to interested publics**

Develop a media and public relations campaign will to inform the public about stewardship contracting and help them understand the process. Build pre-existing community support for fuels reduction activities to broaden understanding of collaborative restoration.

**Timeline:** Ongoing as media worthy events occur

## **Challenges**

The Josephine County Stewardship Group faced many challenges in the early phases of its development. Stewardship contracting is a complex and evolving process that is interpreted and implemented differently by the Forest Service and the BLM. Furthermore, few examples of successful stewardship contracts exist in southern Oregon. The Stewardship Group faced a steep learning curve and spent significant time and energy early on understanding the stewardship contracting authorities, process, and how it could be used to meet the group's goals.

In addition to the technical and educational challenges, the group struggled to create a productive collaborative environment. Working relationships between some of the participants were either newly formed or strained from previous efforts. The development of ground rules, a process for decision-making, and a regular meeting schedule helped build positive working relationships between the participants.

Another challenge the group faced was systemic in nature. Stewardship contracting, and the collaboration that accompanies it, are new and challenging processes that require an

institutional shift within the BLM and the Forest Service. While the Stewardship Group wanted to begin working directly with both agencies on new projects, there was recognition that agency work plans and budgets left little room to pursue new projects in the short-term. The group elected to work with both agencies on “off the shelf” projects and focus on projects that had completed the required planning processes. The group also articulated a long-term strategy to work with the FS and BLM on identifying new projects that reflected the goals and principles of the group.

The strategy for creating economic benefit from stewardship contracting relies on having good information about what types of contracts will work best for local contractors. Since most contractors work in the field during the day, it is unreasonable that that would be able to attend the monthly meetings of the stewardship group. The Stewardship Group needs to find new ways of informing contractors about the effort and getting their feedback. The upcoming contractor capacity assessment will help establish relationships with local contractors that could be improved on over time.

### ***Lessons Learned***

Since the inception of the Josephine County Stewardship Group we have learned a few lessons (sometimes the hard way!) about what it takes achieve results in the woods, in communities, and keep people engaged.

- People from many different backgrounds and perspectives are interested in seeing the results of stewardship contracts.
- Stakeholders want to be involved in something meaningful. Provide opportunities for the Stewardship Group to engage with both BLM and Forest Service on stewardship projects where they can influence the outcome and learn from the results.
- Schedule regular evaluations to gauge the group’s energy, motivation, and commitment. Evaluate the group’s level of motivation and satisfaction with their progress at the one-year point (November 2006).
- Build common ground. Help the Stewardship Group develop a clearer picture of restoration through learning about specific projects in specific places.
- Link restoration with local economic opportunities. Inform the contract development and utilization discussion with the completion of a contractor capacity assessment. Develop new contracts that incorporate findings from the contractor capacity assessment.

## Appendix 1: Stewardship Group Goals

The list below is a combination of the two goal-setting exercises completed with the Josephine County Stewardship Group in October and November of 2005. This list has not been prioritized.

### *Fire safety*

- Help create fire safe communities
- Reduce hazardous fuels in WUI
- Prioritize stewardship contracts using risk assessment
- Provide long-term funding for fuels reduction
- Implement high-priority projects from the JCIFP
- Increase awareness about fire hazard

### *Restoration*

- Improve forest health
- Emphasize improved forest/watershed restoration (including oak woodlands)
- Create opportunities for wildlife and soils improvement
- Identify environmental sideboards for forest thinning projects

### *Economic Opportunities*

- Contractors must be able to make a profit on the work
- Develop cost effective approaches to land management
- Improve small log utilization capabilities
- Find alternative to traditional timber contracts
- Provide contracting opportunities for small firms

### *Employment and Training*

- Provide targeted raining for small/local contractors
- Conduct training on ecological restoration
- Increase local (public and private) employment/maintain well-paying jobs

- Ensure that forest contractors can make a profit

### *Collaboration*

- Use JCIFP as collaborative tool
- Create community buy-in and lessen resistance through education
- Promote better community interaction with agencies
- Enhance community involvement
- Focus on communities at risk, such as the Illinois Valley
- Provide input from a contracting perspective
- Provide input from past experience
- Find out what's going on in local areas (Colville ex.)

### *Biomass Utilization*

- Strengthen consistency and long-term dependable supply
- Develop sufficient markets for biomass utilization
- Expand or create business capacity for biomass utilization
- Improve local biomass and small diameter wood utilization
  - Increase awareness about small diameter markets

### *Landscape scale approach*

- Projects cross ownership boundaries
- Move projects to landscape ecosystem approaches (20K/40K acres)
- Treat strategic (i.e. most important) acres

### *Personal Education*

- Gain knowledge about stewardship contracting and identify niches
- Bring information back to Jackson County

## Appendix 2: Stewardship Group Ground Rules

The Stewardship Group developed a set of ground rules to help guide behavior and interactions during meetings. The norms were discussed as a set of guidelines to help the members know what is expected of them at Group meetings and to help the Group self correct. The Stewardship Group adopted the ground rules in December 2005.

- Start and end on time.
- Everyone is encouraged to participate
- We seek common ground for collective coordinated action, not agreement
- Have an open mind; seek to understand others' perspectives
- Address ideas not individuals
- Be courteous and respectful
- Raise your hand to speak
- One person talks at a time
- Speak for yourself, use "I" statements
- Monitor your participation (limit or expand your contributions, no lectures)

## Appendix 3: Participation and Decision-Making Method

The group developed a method for decision-making method and guidelines for participation. The purpose of this was to provide a forum for reaching decisions that group members can support following a respectful hearing of all concerns. The group chose to operate using a consensus method with the following elements:

**Modified Consensus**—Every effort will be made to reach decisions that all parties can support, or at a minimum, live with.

**Fallback**—If the group cannot reach agreement after 2 meetings, the topic will be put to vote using a 2/3 majority. 2/3 of the decision-making participants present have to agree for the motion to pass.

**Five Finger Check In**—The facilitators can use the 5-finger method to check-in with the group to gauge their level of support or interest in a proposal.

**Participation**—A group member must have attended 2 of the last 4 meeting to be able to participate in decision-making.

**Proxy**—Participating group members can send proxies to participate in decision-making. Proxies must be an informed affiliate or member of the organization, business, or entity being represented.



## Appendix 4: Communication Strategy

### Objectives

- Bring attention to the collaborative activities of the JCIFP Stewardship Contracting Group
- Increase awareness and create a positive image of stewardship contracting and collaboration
- Highlight current and proposed stewardship contracting opportunities (possibly to attract potential contractors).
- Highlight connections between wildfire risk reduction, stewardship contracting, and woody biomass utilization
- Increase awareness of woody biomass utilization and highlight current WBU efforts in Josephine County

### Target Audience:

The campaign will be targeted to all Josephine County residents, public agencies, and community and environmental organizations.

### Messages

- JCIFP Stewardship Contracting Group is bringing together historically adversarial entities to collaborate on community forestry issues.
- There is considerable agreement between disparate entities regarding stewardship contracting and biomass utilization.
- Agencies are working with communities, environmental groups, and citizens to identify potential stewardship projects.
- Woody Biomass Utilization takes advantage of by-products from forest management and restoration projects to create economic opportunities
- WBU can be used in concert with stewardship contracting to help reduce the costs associated with reducing wildfire risk.

### Identified Outlets

The campaign will use a combination of local and regional newspapers, radio stations, television channels, Internet sites, organizational newsletters, educational signage, public events such as the Josephine County Fair and other events sponsored by the Group.

## Appendix 5: Stewardship Definitions

Reviewed by the Josephine County Stewardship Group May 9, 2006.

### **Restoration:**

Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed (Society of Ecological Restoration). Ecological restoration often requires an action (human or otherwise) to move a degraded site to a level of self-sustainability or provide the site with an opportunity to reclaim dynamic stability.

### **Thinning:**

Thinning is the removal of a portion of the trees from a forest stand. The purposes of thinning can include: reduced competition between trees and other vegetation, improve tree productivity, or reduce the intensity and/or severity of wildfire.

### **Small Diameter**

Small diameter tree definitions vary according to species, region, manufacturing capability, etc. In southern Oregon, federal agencies define small diameter as tree less than 8 inches DBH.

### **Woody Biomass:**

All vegetation grown in a forest or woodland that is the byproduct of management, restoration, or hazardous fuels reduction treatments is biomass. Biomass is material that is sub-merchantable for conventional commercial timber products. Products that can be made from biomass include: firewood, posts and poles, chips for paper, fuel for electricity, and mulch/chips for landscaping, gardening, and animal bedding.

### **Products other than logs:**

Products other than logs (POL) are special forest products including fence posts, rails for fences, teepees poles, firewood, and other uses.

## Appendix 6: Josephine County Contractor Capacity Assessment

### Project Goals:

This project has four related goals. The first is to understand the quantity and types of work contracted by the federal land management agencies in Josephine County and how much of that work firms located in the county capture. The second goal is to understand the capacity of local firms to provide the services sought by the Forest Service and BLM, especially stewardship contracting. The third goal is to apply this information to design stewardship contracts that are more appealing to contractors in Josephine County while still meeting agency objectives. The final goal is to identify gaps in training and/or capacity that need to be filled to meet the group's land management and socio-economic goals.

### *Contract Capture Assessment*

- Quantify the Forest Service and BLM demand for contracted services in Josephine County
  - Identify number of contracts, work types, and dollar volume
  - Identify trends over analysis period
- Determine how much and what types of work were awarded to contracting firms located with Josephine County
  - Identify number of contracts, work types, and dollar volume

### *Contractor Capacity Assessment*

- Gauge the capacity of local contractors to provide the services sought by federal agencies
- Understand the capacity of existing businesses located in Josephine County to perform stewardship and forest restoration work.
- Gauge the level of interest in participating in stewardship contracting and state and federal contracting in general.
- Identify the potential barriers and obstacles to increasing the amount of forest restoration work captured by county firms
- Identify opportunities for training, skill building, and new business opportunities (esp. biomass removal)
- Help state and federal land management agencies understand “who is out there” to do stewardship contracting.
- Increase the capacity of the Josephine County Stewardship Group to develop stewardship projects that provide employment opportunities for local firms.
- Identify ways that stewardship contracts could be packaged so that they are more appealing to local firms and that local firms are competitively positioned to capture them.

### Methods:

- Establish small steering committee to guide project and serve as a sounding board. Participants on the steering committee could include:
  - Federal land management contracting staff from BLM and Forest Service
  - Local contractors (Lomakatsi, Summit Forest Products)
  - Partner organizations (IVCDO, SWOR RC&D, etc)
  - Others

## Working Draft 8/22/06

### Assessment of federal contracting

- Analyze past federal contracts on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Medford BLM within Josephine County.
- Determine work types, dollar volume, and contract capture
- Produce maps detailing contract capture by work type

### Assessment of local contractors

- Review existing contractor information
- Use semi-structured face-to-face interviews with existing contractors to identify
  - Equipment, skills, past projects, crew size
  - Interest in federal contracting especially stewardship contracts
  - Issues, concerns, or training needs
  - Suggestions for improving stewardship contracts
- Conduct follow up phone calls on any issues identified
- Present findings at Josephine County Stewardship Group meeting
- Provide written report and post on web sites

### Schedule:

Review work plan with partners, clarify key questions	Weeks 1-2
Identify roles for partners	Week 3
Conduct interviews	Weeks 4-6
Describe findings, draft conclusions	Week 7
Send draft to Jo Cty Stewardship Group	Week 7
Review draft with Jo Cty Stewardship Group	Week 9
Solicit feedback on draft	Week 9
Develop final report	Week 10
Print, distribute, and post	Week 11

### Deliverables:

- Oral presentation and written report, printed and copies distributed to Jo Cty Stewardship Group and partners (plus extras). Posted on RI web site.