Life on the Dry Side

Serving land managers and owners east of the Cascades
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The region’s mills, in general, had sizeable inventories going into the winter and many are only just now beginning to purchase logs again. Prices at most mills slipped a bit lower in May, but a couple of mills are offering slightly higher prices – so check around before selling.

When checking prices also ask for updated information on the mill’s diameter sorts and preferred lengths. Logs with a too-small or too-large diameters may be cut back to reach the mill’s acceptable sizes – and you might have done better sending them elsewhere. Sending a too-short log to the mill can also be a costly mistake, but so can sending one that is too long. Logs are measured (scaled) based on the small-end diameter, so a longer log will typically have a smaller scaling diameter. While the price increase some mills offer for longer logs can be attractive, do your math. You may find that cutting that long log into two shorter logs (one of which will have a larger scaling diameter) yields more money in your pocket than does the single long log.

Pay attention to haul distances when considering where to send your logs. Lower prices at a local mill may result in more profit to you than higher prices offset by longer haul distances.

Prices noted herein are a snapshot and may represent a composite of regional mills. Always request quotes directly from log buyers as you plan your timber sales, and if you are not an experienced log seller you may benefit from the services of a consulting forester. You can obtain lists of log buyers and consulting foresters from your local Extension Forester.

### LOG MARKET REPORT $/1,000 board feet (or ton) | July 15, 2019

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Log Market Report

Data courtesy John Lindberg (Oregon Log Market Report), supplemented by John Punches
ARE YOU FIRE-SMART?

As long as there is a sun in the sky, an atmosphere around our planet, and carbon-based lifeforms on this world – there will be fire. Our ancestors knew this and our descendants will, too. Fire is a force of nature, like a hurricane or a tornado. The big difference is that we can start fire – and therefore can manage it to a certain extent and under certain conditions.

Where does fire prevention start? Since fire is one of several great constants in our lives – it starts with each of us.

There are thousands of volunteer and professional fire managers and firefighters across the country. Some are well-equipped with the best facilities and equipment – some are not and have to work with shoestring budgets and used/out-of-date equipment. Regardless, these men and women are true heroes, devoting their time and energy to serve and protect. They obtain thousands of hours of training – work odd and grueling schedules – or respond to calls while working full-time at regular jobs. Their work is hot, dirty, physically draining, and risky. These good folks see, feel, and hear things that no one should. My heart and respect goes out to every one of them.

After working with fire for over 50 years, the accomplishment I am most proud of is that everyone directly responsible to me went home. There were innumerable cuts, scrapes, broken things, rips, and tears – but thank goodness, no fatalities or major injuries for anyone who worked for me. There were too many close calls anyway, but especially when someone wanted to sacrifice him or herself for a house, for other resources, even for another life. But we wouldn’t let them (unless a loved one) - and I’m proud of that. We rescued and saved many – but only when we could come out, too.

Having said that, responsibility for you and your family’s ultimate protection from fire rests on you – and your family. Become aware of what fire is and is not. Learn about fire – what it is capable of – how it behaves with what fuels. Know what is flammable in and around your living spaces, around your home, and around your property and/or neighborhood. Practice scenarios of what to do when a fire starts in your home, property, or landscape. Practice evacuation drills with the family (including pets).
Numbers say most home fires start in the kitchen at or around meal time. My experience is that most fires started from chimney flues being clogged with creosote, electrical fires in walls or attics due to overloads, and in basements or outbuildings from improper storage of cleaning fluids, paints, or other flammables. And these fires usually started between midnight and 3AM. Your family should have a clear, practiced plan on what to do, what to take, and where to go and where to meet if calamity should occur in the middle of the night. Magnify this many times when and if a fast-moving wildfire should occur in your area and the front lawn is not an option for escape route or safety.

GET READY

Go through your house and outbuildings. Routinely check smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, chimneys and woodstoves, circuit breaker loads, condition of wiring, storage of flammables (liquid, paper, etc.). Get training on how to use the alarms and extinguishers and differences between the types of extinguishers: A, B, C, D, and K. Check for flames and adjacency to flammable objects. Develop an evacuation map and practice it as though your life and that of your family depended on it. https://www.ready.gov/ website has many more tips.

Teach family members how to use a fire extinguisher. When operating a fire extinguisher, tell residents to remember the word PASS:

- **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.
- **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.

Get a go-bag(s) together well ahead of time – what you want to take for you, your family, your pets, should calamity occur. Choose a bag. Each member of the family should have his or her own. Start with a backpack or a nylon camper’s laundry bag with a drawstring. Take photos of all the rooms in your home, along with all your valuables. Store these photos on a cloud server, and back them up on a flash drive. Scan all your important documents, and save them on a flash drive. You could also save them onto a cloud server if you have an encryption service you trust.


**PREPARE YOUR HOME**

Next, go around your home and become aware of what risks and hazards may exist. Check your design and construction; access; roof; landscape; yard; emergency water supply; and power sources. Consult: [https://www.readygallatin.com/download/website/handouts/wildfire/wildfire.pdf](https://www.readygallatin.com/download/website/handouts/wildfire/wildfire.pdf). Check the three zones of fire safety around your home – check for flammable vegetation, ladder fuels, terrain slope, and aspect. *See back cover for more tips on creating a defensible space around your property.*

Does your family have an adequate escape/evacuation route planned out of your area when needed? How about your neighbors? Fire prevention starts with you and your family – goes to the inside of your home and outbuildings – then around your home and outbuildings – and then throughout your subdivision or property – then throughout the surrounding landscape.

A good way to approach fire awareness and safety is to put yourself in the position of first responders arriving at
THE 7 WAYS TO PREPARE FOR A HOME FIRE

1. Install the right number of smoke alarms. Test them once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year.

2. Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.

3. Ensure that all household members know two ways to escape from every room of your home and know the family meeting spot outside of your home.

4. Establish a family emergency communications plan and ensure that all household members know who to contact if they cannot find one another.

5. Practice escaping from your home at least twice a year. Press the smoke alarm test button or yell “Fire” to alert everyone that they must get out.

6. Make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1.

7. Teach household members to STOP, DROP and ROLL if their clothes should catch on fire.

Source: American Red Cross: https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire/home-fire-preparedness.html

your home at 1:30 AM under dark and cold, maybe wet or snowy conditions. A standard structure fire engine is about 30 feet long, 10 to 12 feet wide and weighs approximately 40,000 pounds. The engine needs to turn around, establish itself so that personnel can do their job with enough room to allow for safe operations. Does your driveway have enough room to do this? An engine may carry 1,000 gallons of water and may or may not have a support water tender with 3,000 more gallons. That 4,000 gallons will not last long at all. Is a water source nearby? Is your family taken care of until they can be assisted by the responders? How about your pets? When responding to home fires in the middle of a Montana winter, inevitably in the middle of the night – first thing was to assist the families huddled in the zero weather waiting for us to arrive.

After all those years of wildland and structure fires, the same question would come back again and again. We would always wonder, “What If?, followed by If Only?”. If only a homeowner would have checked that fire alarm – if only they would have cleared the driveway to enable a fire engine to operate safely – if only they would have checked that bag of firework debris to make sure it was dead out before they placed it on the wooden deck – if only they would have checked the wiring – if only the homeowners would have checked with their neighbors and formed a FireWise community...

All the things to do may seem overwhelming. Instead consider all the resources available to assist you to live safely – and to enjoy your time at home and where you live. Information, education, aids, checklists abound. Workshops are starting to become more common – given by fire agencies and the local Extension Service. It is worth the time. Another recommendation is to get to know the good heroes at the local wildland fire office and structure fire station. Bring them some baked goods – shake their hand, thank them for their service. Invite them to your place. It will be worth it.

HEED THE WARNINGS

Finally, when you hear a “Red Flag Warning” over the TV or radio, please pay attention. A Red Flag condition in regard to wildland fire is one where the moisture in the air is less than 20%; temperature is usually greater than 80 degrees (F); and winds are sustained at 20mph and greater. Three conditions that when combined create a state of danger for potential wildfire. Fuels become dry enough to burn, burn hot, and spread to more fuels – and spread some more. When the warning is indicated become more vigilant in your situational awareness. Rely on your knowledge of fire, your practiced drills – all of your preparation over the previous months and years – and be ready. No fear – just confidence in all the preventative measures you have put in place.

Be safe.
NORTHEAST OREGON NEWS
John Punches, Extension Forester in Union, Umatilla, & Wallowa Counties

LOGGING CONSIDERATIONS SYMPOSIUM

On May 29 we packed the Blue Mountain 4-H Center with nearly 60 forestland owners and forest professionals for a full day of information and conversations around timber harvesting. OSU Extension Specialists conducted classes on harvesting techniques and road considerations, timber marketing and log scaling, and timber tax matters. ODF Stewardship Forester Travis Lowe showed us how to use the FERNS online notification system, pointed out key situations in which it is advisable to contact a Stewardship Foresters, and discussed cost share and technical assistance opportunities. We rounded out the day with question and answer sessions with loggers, log buyers, consulting foresters, and landowners experiences in various aspects of timber harvesting. As a capstone, we toured the 4-H Center property and discussed the implications of its fall 2018 selective harvest. Many thanks to all who participated, and kudos in particular to Extension Foresters Lauren Grand and Alicia Christensen for conceiving the program and helping make it available in NE Oregon!

FOREST HEALTH CLASSES

Forty landowners from around the region met for two evening tours to learn about the insect, fungal, and other pests common to Northeast Oregon. In Lostine Canyon (June 3) nearly the entire neighborhood turned out, and the discussion there focused on how warming trends have resulted in significant grand fir mortality. We also noted the prevalence of dwarf mistletoe in larch and Douglas-fir, and Ips in small diameter pine. At Westminster Woods (June 5, near Meacham) we found similar issues with grand fir, but the show stoppers were the varied root disease pockets. Our informal investigation found clear evidence of Armillaria root rot in one location, and other locations with symptoms suggestive of Heterobasidion (annosus root disease) and laminated root rot.

INTERNS AND TECHNICIANS

This summer two forestry and natural resources college student interns and four forestry technician trainees will be writing mentored management plans for area private forestland owners. The program will include several intensive days of training on northeastern Oregon forests, plant associations, soils, management practices, fire history, forest health, and management plan requirements. The interns and technicians will the write plans under the guidance of consulting foresters, ODF Stewardship Foresters, and Extension Service.

The programs objectives are twofold: to complete as many plans as possible so that landowners have access to cost-share programs, and to develop new capacity for plan writing in our region. If you live in Baker, Umatilla, Union, or Wallowa County, and are applying for cost-share, you may find these talented folks helping with your management plan. The program is a cooperative effort of OSU Extension Service, Wallowa Resources, ODF, NRCS, the American Forest Foundation, and several area consulting foresters.
Biomass Supply

Environmental risks and benefits

PART 2 OF 4

ABOUT THE BIOMASS SUMMIT

On October 19, 2018, the Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative (OFRC) hosted a Biomass Summit in Prineville, OR. Gathering together 16 speakers from all over the western states, the Summit featured four panels with different focus areas: Success Stories and Lessons Learned, Supply and Scale, Emerging Technologies, and Policy and Financial Incentives. This series of blog posts offers a synopsis of the rich content generated from each panel. You can find more information about each of the panels at http://ochocoforest.org/biomass-summit/.

SUPPLY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND BENEFITS

What’s the right size biomass utilization project for your community? How do you assess the supply available in your region, and the viability of a variety of potential sources? In panel two of the OFRC Biomass Summit, our panelists focused on the opportunities and challenges of securing a consistent and adequate supply of small diameter wood for biomass utilization and the top considerations when determining project scale.

The US Forest Service is often the first and primary source of supply to assess when considering a biomass project. Kevin Keown, Natural Resources and Planning Staff Officer for the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River Grassland, presented an overview of supply currently available from regional forest service lands, a snapshot of potential future supply, and highlighted some of the current challenges and opportunities in tapping into this supply. As Kevin explained, Regional Foresters are assigned two “flagship” targets each fiscal year: volume of timber sold and acres of hazardous fuels treated. In his jurisdiction, the 2018 timber volume target was set at 30,917 CCF. As of October, the USFS has already exceeded this target, with 33,387 CCF accomplished. Likewise, USFS has surpassed its 2018 target for acres of hazardous fuels treated (target of 9,500 acres, 22,174 treated). To accomplish this, Kevin and his colleagues used a variety of methods including prescribed burning, commercial and non-commercial thinning, piling, and pile burning. While there are a number of projects still outstanding in the region, many face significant challenges to implementation. Viable timber sales are limited by low product value and low volume per acre, long haul distances, harvest limitations, and few local manufacturing facilities. Nonetheless, there are opportunities to access this supply from federal lands in the future. There is a significant volume of NEPA shelf stock, new grant and other funding opportunities, new tools and Authorities recently established, and ongoing collaboration that may help ensure consistent supply from USFS lands that would be adequate for a biomass utilization project in Crook County.
The desire for viable juniper utilization is a common refrain in Central Oregon. Juniper in Oregon has exploded due to European expansion and fire suppression activities since the 1880s. Areas classified as juniper forests have increased from 420,000 acres to over 3 million today! In addition to highlighting these startling statistics, Tim Deboodt, OSU Extension Professor Emeritus and current Crook County Natural Resources Coordinator, shed some light on the potential benefits of incorporating juniper biomass into a regional utilization project. Tim discussed the economic opportunities of watershed enhancements and forest fuel reduction, machinery involved with these types of projects, and the variety of forest products that can be created from juniper biomass. Accessing this supply source requires coordination between public and private landowners and can be more labor-intensive than other species, making it harder to balance economic viability with adequate supply. However, Tim's presentation made it clear that utilizing juniper biomass can yield huge benefits for forest and rangeland health in Central Oregon.

To better understand potential supply on private lands, we asked Brian Reel, Stewardship Forester at Oregon Department of Forestry, to give an overview of current conditions. Brian again touched on the proliferation of Juniper, noting that historically in Crook County there were only 5-15 trees per acre, while today's levels vary widely from 150-1,000. This is a great potential source of biomass in Crook County, but private landowners are finding it hard to fund the work of removal and disposal. According to Brian, hauling costs are currently the biggest barrier for landowners. When landowners do elect to remove juniper, most chose to burn it onsite to avoid high hauling costs. ODF issued burn permits for 2,500 acres in 2018. Using BLM estimates, this would account for 40,000 tons of material removed! This hints at just a fraction of the private supply that might be available if a viable market was established.

When it comes time for project implementation, supply is just one of four important factors to consider when determining the right scale for your community. Meagan Hartman, Project Development Manager at Wisewood Energy, shared insights garnered from years of project development and her graduate research at OSU. She discussed appropriately-scaled biomass activities, the different tensions of scale, and different biomass energy technologies. In addition to supply, she called out social acceptance, economic viability, and existing forest sector supply chains as top factors in determining the appropriate scale of a new project. Using examples from a number of projects she helped develop throughout the western United States, Meagan discussed the process that project leaders have followed to determine the most appropriate scale for their community, an improve community buy-in. Local examples included Wisewood's design for district energy at OSU-Cascades in Bend and the Harney Community Energy facility in Burns.

As we consider the possibilities for biomass utilization projects in Crook County, available supply is one of the most important factors to determine both viability and scale, but not the only factor. Working with the Forest Service, Department of Forestry, and Bureau of Land management to compile more detailed supply estimates for the next five to ten years could help attract potential entrepreneurs or investors, while community conversations about social acceptance in relation to scale may help determine what type of project Crook County chooses to endorse.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- There is significant biomass supply in Central Oregon, but some barriers exist. To access this supply we must address transportation costs, navigate harvest limitations, and develop new local infrastructure.
- Collaboration and coordination between various supply chains (federal, state, and privately held lands) is vital to create a consistently adequate volume of supply.
- Juniper is a huge potential supply source and juniper biomass utilization offers tremendous benefits for forest and rangeland restoration. However, market development is critical to making juniper restoration cost effective.
- The four factors that will determine the right size utilization project for Crook County (or any community) are: available supply, social acceptance, financing options, and adequate forest sector supply chains.
- Project champions and local entrepreneurs are vital to project success, at any scale.

LOOKING FOR MORE INFO ON BIOMASS IN CENTRAL OREGON?

Visit [http://ochocoforest.org/biomass-summit](http://ochocoforest.org/biomass-summit) for additional articles and summaries from the OFRC Biomass Summit.
What To Do After Thinning

John Punches, Extension Forester for Union, Umatilla, and Wallowa Counties

Forest owners conduct thinning operations for a host of reasons. Thinning reduces stand density and is a key tool for mitigating fire hazard, it can be used to improve forest health and to enhance stand conditions, it can generate income and is a tool for modifying wildlife habitat... just to name a few potential benefits.

The choice to thin your forest almost always comes with side effects. Some common ones include soil disturbance and some degree of soil compaction, damage to residual trees (particularly along skid trails), and slash (leftover tops and branches). If the stand was dense prior to thinning it’s not uncommon for the remaining trees to experience some thinning stress and subsequent bark beetle attack, and for some trees to experience windthrow. Thinning modifies wildlife habitat, and if you have boundary fences they may get damaged in the logging process. You should also count on road wear or damage (logging equipment is heavy), and invasive species could hitch a ride on that equipment. It’s also likely you’ll have tax implications to consider.

If you’ve hung around an Extension Forester, you’ve probably been encouraged to plan your thinning operations carefully to ensure they meet your objectives. That’s good advice, but we should also be encouraging you to plan for what may need to happen after the thinning operation is complete.

Here are some key actions to take following your thinning operation:

- Inspect your forest and determine whether the contractor completed the job per your specifications. Ideally this should occur before the contractor moves equipment off your property, so they can do remedial work if needed.
- Examine the stand for tree damage and consider salvage if there are trees that were significantly damaged. Again, this is best done before the contractor vacates your property.
- If you qualified for cost-share funding, promptly submit all required documentation to ensure you are reimbursed in a timely manner.
- Organize your records and pay your taxes. Seek guidance from a professional that understands the state and federal implications of timber sales and timber management expenses.
- Ensure that slash is properly managed. This may mean scheduling follow-up for pile burning. If harvesting pine, take appropriate precautions against Ips beetles (see the Slash Management article in the Winter 2019 issue of Life on the Dry Side).
- Inspect your roads and perform any needed repair or maintenance. This should be completed prior to the next rainy season.
- Inspect and maintain any essential fences.
- Determine whether you’ll want, or need, remediation of skid trails. This could be for erosion control, or for aesthetics.
- Look for evidence of invasive species and take prompt action if you find any. Their management will be much easier if accomplished before they become well established. Continue to monitor for at least three years.
- Watch for and salvage (or manage) beetle infested trees, and windthrown trees. Both should be expected following any partial harvest. If it’s just an occasional tree that’s affected, no action may be needed – but if
Boy does time fly when you are having fun!

After 15 years of serving Oregon’s rural and urban forest-dependent communities, I have chosen to accept a position that will allow me to take what I have learned from all of you and contribute to the success of my colleagues and partners within Extension, so that they in turn can best meet the needs of all Oregonians. Starting May 28th, I will step into the role of Oregon State University Extension Service Central Oregon Regional Director, formally held by Dana Martin. For those of you who know Dana, these are not small shoes to fill. Please wish her the best as she pursues the joys of retirement!

Through site visits, workshops, and field tours, I have had the distinct pleasure of petting your dogs, walking your land, and getting to know many of you and your vision for your properties. You continually impress me with all the work and dedication you are putting into setting your woodlands up to be healthy in an uncertain future, which is not an easy feat in this landscape! We have an engaged, vibrant, and inclusive woodland owner community in Central Oregon, and I fully expect that to continue.

I have also had the opportunity to participate in both the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project and Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative, two groups that work to bring diverse perspectives together to learn from the best available science and to build consensus for important forest restoration, community safety, and economic resilience projects on public lands. These groups have also catalyzed conversations regarding the development of new wood products and biomass markets, all leading towards increased ability to meet our goals of more resilient, healthy, and diverse forest ecosystems and thriving forest-dependent communities.

It is our ability to collaborate across boundaries and create synergistic solutions that make Central Oregon such a great place to live and work. Thank you for your partnership and hard work in creating a resilient and inclusive landscape. We will refill this OSU Extension Forestry position, but due to budget cuts, we will implement a several month delay before we begin our search, so I thank you in advance for your patience. If you are interested in participating in the hiring process, please reach out to me.

Best,

Nicole
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**Change is in the Air**

On March 1, 2019, new rules went into effect governing management of smoke from prescribed burning in Oregon (OAR 629-048). The State of Oregon recognizes that fire plays a valuable and necessary role in maintaining the health and viability of its forests, but it also places strict limitations on how and when prescribed burning can be conducted. Smoke from wildland fires contributes particulates to our atmosphere that can be hazardous to human health. Smoke can also have other undesirable effects, such as impeding visibility on roads or degrading recreation experiences. Oregon’s smoke management rules seek to protect public health, reduce pollution from wildfires, and minimize smoke presence in designated cities and wilderness areas. At the same time the rules are intended to allow use of prescribed fire as a tool to manage forest fuels and mitigate wildfire risk, to facilitate reforestation and forest restoration activities, and manage forest insects and disease.

Oregon’s smoke management rules have been heralded as highly successful, but recent trends in wildfire extent and intensity led the state’s fire and smoke experts to determine the rules where actually a bit too stringent. Initially written to minimize smoke intrusion into populated areas and other sensitive areas, the rules set very low thresholds for acceptable levels of smoke particulates (well below federal air quality standards). While intended to result in cleaner air, the stringent standards significantly limited forest managers’ opportunities for utilizing prescribed fire (including the burning of slash piles).

As Dr. Paul Hessburg, a research landscape ecologist for the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, has effectively noted, the western United States’ 100-plus-year history of fire suppression (98% effective) has resulted in extensive changes in our forests. We have much higher fuel loads, the proportion of trees sensitive to fire has increased, forests have expanded into previously non-forested areas, and forest structure has become more dense and multilayered. In addition, we

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**Watch Dr. Paul Hessburg’s Era of Megafires TED talk online at:**
https://www.ted.com/talks/paul_hessburg_why_wildfires_have_gotten_worse_and_what_we_can_do_about_it
have significantly more people living in previously remote areas. These conditions make firefighting more difficult, and when coupled with climatic warming tends we have found ourselves in what Dr. Hessburg has termed the “Era of Megafires.” Continuing to exclude fire from these forests is no longer an option. The question is not whether forests will burn, but when and at what intensity. And since we’re talking about smoke management, we can also state that it’s not a question of whether we will have smoke, but when and how much.

Wildfires tend to burn during the driest portions of the year and when fine fuel levels (e.g., grasses) are dry and high. They also tend to occur under adverse weather conditions (hot, low humidity, windy). These fires consume substantial quantities of vegetation and can result in high concentrations of smoke-related particulates accumulating in the air. In contrast, prescribed burns are timed to result in less intense fires that consume less of the forest's organic matter and thereby release smaller amounts of smoke during times of cooler and higher humidity. They can also be timed to avoid atmospheric conditions that would accumulate smoke in sensitive areas. So, in general, forest managers can achieve effective fuels reduction through prescribed burning with less smoke that would be present if that same area burned in an un-controlled wildfire.

**HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR SMOKE?**

To allow more effective use of prescribed fire, Oregon’s smoke management rules now tie the definition of “smoke intrusion” in sensitive airsheds to two specific thresholds: short-term (hourly), and long-term (average over a 24 hour period). The short-term threshold is 70 micrograms of particulate per cubic meter of air (a level still below that considered unhealthy for vulnerable persons). The long-term threshold is 26 micrograms per cubic meter (measured from midnight to midnight). This remains well below the federal threshold of 35 micrograms per cubic meter averaged over 24 hours. The goal is to use prescribed fire in a way that keeps smoke particulates below these thresholds, and the new rules take into account existing smoke. If an airshed is already smoky from other sources the amount and type of prescribed burning would be adjusted accordingly. Additionally, communities that want to utilize prescribed fire can choose to exempt themselves from the short-term threshold provided they have a response plan in place to ensure residents can be informed and protected.

This allows greater local control for wildfire mitigation efforts.

The overall result of the rule changes should be more burn days available for purposeful burning, both broadcast and of piles. Over time we hope this will result in a return to forests that are healthier and less susceptible to catastrophic wildfire, which in turn will lead to healthier atmospheric conditions for communities and persons at risk.
Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project

Daniel Leavell, Extension Forester in Klamath & Lake Counties

We were fortunate enough to obtain a Joint Chief’s grant for project implementation on public and private lands within the project area – its second year of operation. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) fire crews have been completing fire risk abatement treatments (primarily brush reduction) and have acquired a new “brush hog” rotary mower in increase production by the ODF crews. Landowners throughout the Chiloquin landscape project area have been signing up for assistance with land management planning. Over a million dollars have been allocated for private land treatments.

If you’re interested in cost-share or other assistance programs targeting wildfire risk reduction contact your Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Forester or your OSU Extension Forester.
Both landscape efforts are following the 9-step process:

1. Form a Partnership
2. Identification of a Landscape (NEPA-ready)
3. Landowner Outreach and Education
4. Mapping and Inventory
5. Support to Private Landowners
6. Grant Writing for Implementation
7. Agreements
8. Implementation
9. Ecological, Social, and Economic Benefits

For more information on the process the Klamath-Lake Forest Partnership (KLFHP) has used to plan and implement cross-boundary restoration projects, download the free e-book, Planning and Implementing Cross-boundary, Landscape-scale Restoration and Wildfire Risk Reduction Projects.

https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw707

KLAMATH BASIN NEWS
Daniel Leavell, Extension Forester in Klamath & Lake Counties

NORTH WARNERS

Our landscape efforts at cross-boundary, landscape-scale management have been successful. Within the first year of active management, we completed forest thinning, slash abatement, fuels risk mitigation, juniper thinning, riparian area improvement, weed treatment, aspen restoration, and wildlife habitat improvement on 20,000 acres of public and 6,000 acres of adjacent private acres. Success in project implementation has been very satisfying, but has resulted in 1,000’s of tons of slash produced. Piles are scattered across the entire landscape, with some having more than 100 tons of accumulated and stacked slash piles. Most of these piles (especially the larger ones) are scheduled to be burned when conditions are right.

For more information on how this and other projects have been formulated, see Extension publication EM9116 Fire-Adapted Communities: The Next Step in Wildfire Preparedness. Fire-adapted communities, while located in a fire-prone areas, require little assistance from firefighters during a wildfire because residents have taken proactive steps to prepare their homes and property to survive wildfire; they are ready to evacuate early, safely and effectively; and know how to survive if trapped by wildfire. This manual helps landowners gain the knowledge and skills to make their communities fire-adapted.

https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9116

The third year of project implementation on public and private land is positively transforming the landscape – and making it a lot more fire resistant. Ecologic, social, and economic benefits.
CREATING A DEFENSIBLE SPACE

**Design/Construction:** Use ignition resistant construction for roofs/roof assemblies, gutters, vents, desks, exterior walls, and exterior windows. Enclose the underside of eaves, balconies and above ground decks with fire resistant materials. Show your 100 feet Defensible Space on plot plan. Build your home away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points of a ridge. Consider installing residential sprinklers. Make sure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained per code. Contact qualified individuals to perform electrical maintenance and repairs.

**Access:** Make sure that your street name sign is visibly posted at each street intersection. Post your house address so it is easily visible from the street, especially at night. Address numbers should be at least 3 inches tall and on a contrasting background. Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood. Clear flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways. Cut back overhanging tree branches above access roads. Construct roads that allow two-way traffic. Make sure dead-end roads, and long drive ways have turn-around areas wide enough for emergency vehicles. Design bridges to carry heavy emergency vehicles. Post clear road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, and weight and height limitations.

**Roof:** Install a fire resistant roof. Contact your local fire department for current roofing requirements. Remove dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters. Remove dead branches overhanging your roof and keep branches 10 feet from your chimney. Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh.

**Landscape:** Create a Defensible Space of 100 feet around your home. Create a “LEAN, CLEAN and GREEN ZONE” by removing all flammable vegetation within 30 feet immediately surrounding your home. Then create a “REDUCED FUEL ZONE” in the remaining 70 feet or to your property line. Remove lower tree branches at least six feet from the ground. Landscape with fire resistant plants. Maintain all plants with regular water, and keep dead branches, leaves and needles removed. When clearing vegetation, use care when operating equipment such as lawnmowers. One small spark may start a fire; a string trimmer is much safer. Yard and stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and remove vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles. Above ground Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LP-gas) containers (500 or less water gallons) shall be located a minimum of 10 feet with respect to buildings, public ways, and lot lines of adjoining property that can be built upon. Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard. Contact your local fire department to see if debris burning is allowed in your area; if so, obtain a burning permit and follow all local air quality restrictions.

**Emergency Water Supply:** Maintain an emergency water supply that meets fire department standards through one of the following: • a community water/hydrant system • a cooperative emergency storage tank with neighbors • a minimum storage supply of 2,500 gallon on your property (like a pond or pool). Clearly mark all emergency water sources. Create easy firefighter access to your closest emergency water source. If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during a power failure.

**Source:** [http://www.readyforwildfire.org/docs/files/File/Checklist.pdf](http://www.readyforwildfire.org/docs/files/File/Checklist.pdf)