

# Executive Summary

## What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan?

The Lane County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies strategies and priorities for the protection of life, property, and infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface. The CWPP is a shared plan held jointly by the Lane County Board of Commissioners, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Lane County Fire Defense Board, and the final contents were mutually agreed upon by all three entities.

The CWPP is a plan for action and will depend upon people and partnerships to carry it forward. The purpose of the CWPP is to provide the following:

1. A foundation for coordination and collaboration among agencies and the public in Lane County to reduce risk to wildfire.
2. An assessment and map of the wildland-urban interface in Lane County.
3. The identification and prioritization of areas for hazardous fuel reduction projects.
4. Recommendations for actions homeowners and local communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures.
5. Assistance in meeting federal and state planning requirements and qualifying for assistance programs.
6. A framework to support the development of local community fire plans within the county.

## Why Develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan?

Lane County recognizes that reducing the potential impacts of wildland-urban interface fire requires a proactive approach that reaches across jurisdictional boundaries, public and private lands, and the diverse geographic regions of the county. The development of a community wildfire protection plan creates an opportunity to encourage communication between agencies and stakeholders, identify and prioritize community values, assess wildfire risk areas, and increase education and awareness of communities and homeowners.

# How is the Plan Organized?

The Lane County CWPP is organized into the following sections:

## **Section 1: Introduction**

The introduction explains the purpose of the CWPP and the process used to develop the plan. This section also briefly describes wildfire history, forest characteristics, wildland-urban interface fire risk, current fire protection frameworks, and existing plans and policies addressing wildfire in Lane County.

## **Section 2: Risk Assessment**

This section, developed by Lane County Land Management, presents the findings from the Lane County Wildfire Risk Assessment including the methods used to develop the assessment, the limitations, ideas for long-term assessment updates and maintenance and key findings.

## **Section 3: Community Outreach and Collaboration**

This section presents the findings from the three outreach efforts, which include the landowner survey, stakeholder interviews, and the Firewise Workshop. The section concludes with a summary of the key issues identified through these community outreach strategies.

## **Section 4: Action Plan**

This section describes the framework and methods used to develop the goals, objectives, and action items that make up the Action Plan.

## **Section 5: Plan Implementation and Maintenance**

This section presents the methods for implementing the Action Plan, the process for prioritizing projects, and a schedule for updating and maintaining the plan.

## **Appendices:**

*Appendix A: Action Item Worksheets* – Describes in a worksheet the key issues addressed, ideas for implementation, coordination and partner organizations, timeline, and plan goals addressed.

*Appendix B: Implementation and Maintenance Documentation* – Documents the agendas, meeting minutes, and other outcomes of the CWPP Advisory Committee meetings, as well as the processes of, successes, and lessons learned from the pilot project.

*Appendix C: Risk Assessment Methods* – Documents the process used to develop the Risk Assessment maps and conclusions.

*Appendix D: Fuel Treatment Types for Lane County* – Describes and analyzes potential fuel treatment types available for use in Lane County.

*Appendix E: Landowner Survey Summary* – Describes the purpose, methods and findings of a landowner perception survey.

*Appendix F: Stakeholder Interview Summary* – Describes the purpose, methods and findings of stakeholder interviews.

*Appendix G: Firewise Workshop Summary* – Describes the purpose, methods and findings of the Firewise workshop.

*Appendix H: Wildfire Resources* – Documents existing wildfire resources.

*Appendix I: Glossary of Terms* – Provides definitions of terms used throughout the Lane County CWPP.

## **Who Participated in Developing the Plan?**

Lane County Emergency Management convened a steering committee to oversee and guide the development of the Lane County CWPP. The steering committee was a collaborative group responsible for making decisions and agreeing upon the final contents of the plan. The members of the steering committee included representatives of the following agencies:

- Lane County Sheriff's Office
- Lane County Fire Defense Board
- Lane County Land Management Division
- Lane County Public Works Department
- Lane County Fire Prevention Cooperative
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon State Fire Marshal
- United States Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management

## **What are the Plan Goals?**

The plan goals help to guide the direction of future activities aimed at reducing risk and preventing losses from wildfire. The goals listed here serve as the guiding principles for agencies and organizations as they begin implementing action items.

**GOAL 1:** Provide countywide leadership through partnerships to implement wildland-urban interface fire mitigation strategies in Lane County.

**GOAL 2:** Improve community strategies for reducing the impacts of wildland-urban interface fires.

**GOAL 3:** Promote wildfire risk reduction activities for private and public lands in Lane County.

## **How are the Action Items Organized?**

The plan identifies action items developed through various plan inputs and data collection and research. CWPP activities may be considered for funding through state and federal grant programs, including the National Fire Plan or Title II/Title III funding.

To facilitate implementation, each action item includes information on key issues addressed, ideas for implementation, coordinating and partner organizations, timeline, and plan goals addressed.

### **Key Issues Addressed:**

Each action item includes a list of the key issues that the activity will address. Action items should be fact based and tied directly to issues or needs identified throughout the planning process. Action items can be developed from a number of sources including participants of the planning process, noted deficiencies in local capability, or issues identified through the risk assessment.

### **Ideas for Implementation:**

Each action item includes ideas for implementation and potential resources. This information offers a transition from theory to practice. The ideas for implementation serve as a starting point for this plan. This component of the action items is dynamic as some ideas may be not feasible and new ideas can be added during the plan maintenance process. (For more information on how this plan will be implemented and evaluated, refer to Section 5 of the CWPP).

The action items are suggestions for ways to implement the plan goals. Ideas for implementation include things such as collaboration with relevant organizations, grant programs, tax incentives, human resources, education and outreach, research, and physical manipulation of buildings and infrastructure. A list of potential resources outlines what organization or agency will be most qualified and capable to perform the implementation strategy. Potential resources often include utility companies, non-profits, schools, and other community organizations.

### **Coordinating Organization:**

The coordinating organization is the organization that is willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, and oversee activity implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

### **Internal Partners:**

Internal partners are within the CWPP advisory committee and may be able to assist in the implementation of action items by providing relevant resources to the coordinating organization.

### **External Partners:**

External partner organizations can assist the coordinating organization in implementing the action items in various functions and may include local, regional, state, or federal agencies, as well as local and regional public and private sector organizations. The internal and external partner organizations listed in the CWPP are potential partners recommended by the project steering committee, but not necessarily contacted during the development of the plan. The coordinating organization should contact the identified partner organizations to see if they are capable of and interested in participation. This initial contact is also to gain a commitment of time and or resources towards completion of the action items.

### **Timeline:**

Action items include both short and long-term activities. Each action item includes an estimate of the timeline for implementation. Short-term action items are activities that may be implemented with existing resources and authorities within one to two years. Long-term action items may require new or additional resources and/or authorities, and may take between one and five years to implement.

## **How Will the Plan be Implemented?**

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) requires that three entities must mutually agree to the final contents of a CWPP:

- Lane County Board of Commissioners;
- Lane County Fire Defense Board; and
- Oregon Department of Forestry

The Lane County CWPP is a shared plan and was developed and implemented based upon a collaborative process. The plan will be adopted by resolution by the Lane County Board of Commissioners and acknowledged by the Lane County Fire Defense Board and Oregon Department of Forestry in order to meet HFRA and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation requirements. The effectiveness of the Lane County non-regulatory CWPP will be contingent upon the implementation of the plan and action items

identified therein. The action items provide a framework for building and sustaining partnerships to support wildfire risk reduction projects.

## **Advisory Committee**

In accordance with action item 1.1.1, the plan development steering committee will become the advisory committee (the committee), and will: oversee implementation, identify and coordinate funding opportunities and sustain the CWPP. The committee will act as the coordinating body and serve as a centralized resource for wildfire risk reduction and wildland-urban interface issues in Lane County.

Additional roles and responsibilities of the committee include:

- Serving as the local evaluation committee for wildfire funding programs such as National Fire Plan grants, Senate Bill 360, and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program;
- Developing and coordinating ad hoc and/or standing subcommittees as needed;
- Prioritizing and recommending funding wildfire risk reduction projects;
- Documenting successes and lessons learned; and
- Evaluating and updating the CWPP in accordance with the prescribed maintenance schedule.

## **Co-Conveners**

Lane County Emergency Management and Lane County Land Management Division will serve as co-conveners to oversee the plan's implementation and maintenance. They will co-chair the CWPP advisory committee and fulfill the chair responsibilities. These two entities will be responsible for calling meetings to order at scheduled times or when issues arise, (e.g., when funding becomes available or following a major wildfire event).

Emergency Management roles:

- Coordinate committee meeting dates, times, locations, agendas, and member notification;
- Document outcomes of committee meetings in CWPP Appendix;
- Serve as a communication conduit between the committee and key plan stakeholders, (e.g., monthly meetings of the Fire Defense Board); and
- Identify emergency management related funding sources for wildfire mitigation projects.

Land Management roles:

- Serve as gatekeeper to the project prioritization process;
- Incorporate, maintain, and update Lane County's Wildland-Urban Interface Risk Assessment GIS data elements (Action 2.2.3); and
- Utilize the Lane County Wildland-Urban Interface Risk Assessment as a tool for prioritizing proposed fuel reduction projects (Action 2.3.1).