



Collaboration on Creating Defensible Space in Residential Areas

2/10/25 at the La Pine Community Center (LPRD)

Attendees:

Monte Dammerall - Community Champion, UDRC
Kevin Moriarty - County Forester, Project Wildfire
Chief Holsey - La Pine Rural Fire Protection District
Asst Chief Daugherty - La Pine Rural Fire Protection District
Helen Marston - UDRC
Andy Meeuswen - Country Insurance
Allison Green - Oregon State Fire Marshal Office
Jim & Glenna Larson - UDRC
Deputy Jon Ebner - DCSO, NRP, Trash on Public Lands Action Team
Brooks Eilertson - Newberry Estates
Vicki Russell - NRP
Megan Tuck - NRP, COIC
Kathy DeBone - NRP

Brainstorm (Action Items)

EDUCATION

Allison Green will send basic NFPA defensible space literature to:

- South County DCSO
- La Pine Fire Admin
- Sunriver and La Pine Chamber of Commerce
- City of La Pine

It was discussed that **mail** is expensive, but a great way to get the word out. It was also discussed to use church newsletters, Midstate bills, Republic Services bills, etc..

A Wildfire Resource Preparedness Fair was mentioned.

Andy told us it's important to note that these activities will not affect insurance rates.

The Fire Dept send people to the **OSFM website** at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/osfm/wildfire/pages/defensiblespace.aspx>

NRP has an extensive **list of stakeholders and a facebook page**. We can help get the word out!

Newberry Regional Partnership can keep its website ([Defensible Space page](#)) updated with resources and educational tools with input from this team.

OTHER PLANS

Stay informed as to the content of other plans such as:

- [Community Wildfire Protection Plan La Pine](#)
- [Community Wildfire Protection Plan Sunriver](#)
- [La Pine 2045 Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire](#) (CPAW)
- Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) *I need more info on this*
- Newberry Chapter of the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan

ASSESSMENTS

Glenna brought up that UDRC has trouble with having enough assessors. La Pine Fire Conducts assessments as well as OSFM. *How do we work together?*

Allison said there is a **no-cost Assessors Training available through OSFM**. It could be held in La Pine to train local (Newberry Country) residents. This would be a great asset for all. **Monte** will look into this training by following up with **Allison** and/or Heather Miller.

The benefit would be to have consistent information and assessments by our neighbors and not necessarily the state. Each neighborhood could have a certified assessor.

BUDGET

UDRC needs more funding for its **Defensible Space programs**. These could be addressed through the Thriving Communities grant and the Community Wildfire Defense grant. [UDRC has two programs:](#)

- Defensible Space Reimbursement Program
- Low-income Senior or Low-income Disabled Defensible Space Program

There was discussion about the need for a **FT central point person** who is out in the public talking to neighborhoods about defensible space. Sharing education and resources. We discussed having this person under contract through the Fire Dept. Chief was agreeable.

Kevin also said it could be part time with a seasonal ODF employee who fights fire in the summer and does this work in the winter.

OTHER

Noxious weeds program. Kevin Moriarty reminded us that there is [financial assistance](#) for noxious weeds. Learn more here:

<https://www.deschutes.org/road/page/noxious-weed-program>

The “weed van” will be at the Rhubarb Festival this year!

