

Defensible Space Action Team Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm
La Pine Fire Station #101

This is the monthly meeting of the Defensible Space Action Team, an Action Team of the Newberry Regional Partnership.

The Defensible Space Action Team is a part of the NRP's broader efforts to create a more wildfire-adapted and resilient community. The team works in partnership with other organizations to educate and assist homeowners with creating and maintaining defensible space. Defensible space is the area around a home that is strategically managed to reduce the risk of it catching fire during a wildfire.

By promoting defensible space, the Defensible Space Action Team helps to create safer neighborhoods for residents and provides a safer environment for firefighters responding to a wildfire.

Action Team Leader: Monte Dammarell kmriverhaus@gmail.com

- **ATTENDING:** *Heather Miller, Monte Dammerall, Lauren Street, Kevin Moriarty, Jim and Glenna Larson, Helen Marston, Chief Holsey, Ken Kennedy, Kathy DeBone*
- **CHECK-INS & How can we help?**
 - FireWise - Austin Reimer

Our CWDG application for round 4 is still being edited prior to submission which will likely be this fall/winter. I have not heard anything on round 3 results yet. In other news however, we are planning on implementing our La Pine Basin Community Assistance grant for fuels reduction in the area this fall. We do have quite a few folks on that waitlist, so I would be hesitant to guarantee funding for new landowner sign-ups, we probably won't know what money we will have left to obligate until later this fall.

As far as Firewise communities go, it sounds like Julie Shattler is trying to have a meeting Sunday, September 21st at 10 am for the Ponderosa Pines Firewise community; it sounds like there has been changes in leadership there that I am not fully aware of. I will be unable to attend as I will be out of town that weekend. If you'd like to reach out to her and connect her email is jashattler@gmail.com

Heather may know more about what is going on with that community, but I cannot confirm on that.

In other news, the La Pine Basin All Lands Partnership had its preliminary ops and implementation team meeting which Jerry attended. To me it seemed like a productive meeting that identified some actions and outputs of that team which adds some structure and organization to getting work done in the La Pine Area. There's more to come on this as that group is getting its bearings, but I believe Jerry and myself have been designators as leaders of that team. I also believe that team will have a nexus with the NRP defensible space action team.

- UDRC Updates

Reimbursement grants have been exhausted. Applications happen January and July. Reports due by 12/15/25. We ask for receipts and photos of the work. They do not reimburse developers, one owner of one lot every two years.

Low income and Seniors closed July 5, 2025. Funds exhausted. 13 projects completed with 4 pending. The grant was for \$1000 in 2025 and will be \$1200 in 2026. All grants focus on the 30 foot area from the house.

Heather reminded us that Ponderosa Pines received funding from OSFM for Senior and Disabled. Ends in the fall of 2026.

- Project Wildfire - Grant applications

Applications open from Sept 1 through September 30. Preference will be given to FireWise communities. Others can apply with a fiscal sponsor.

- NRP - Public Lands Cleanup on 9/13

Sign up at cleanup@newberryregionalpartnership.org

- Transportation Routes - ***Critical Transportation Routes***, Deschutes County Emergency Dashboard. Monte and Kevin will work to get Road Department and Emergency Management in to talk to us about "Improvement to Wildfire Evacuation Routes and Signage".

- **Wildfire Home Protection Strategies Workshop - Heather**

Saturday, October 18, 2025. This 4-hour training will include a 4 hour Wildfire Home Protection Strategies Workshop. Includes a one hour session for landscapers, contractors and insurance agents. Location to be announced.

- **GRANT UPDATES**

- Community Wildfire Defense Grant 3 - Lauren - *Hope to hear by the end of the year*
- Community Wildfire Defense Grant 4- Austin - *See Austins comments above*
- EPA Thriving Community Grant - Megan/Kathy - *Hope to hear by the end of the year*

OCTOBER MEETING: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm at La Pine Fire Station #101

UPCOMING EVENTS - *Wildfire Home Protection Strategies Workshop ON OCTOBER 18, 2025*

Defensible Space Action Team

We envision a Resilient Newberry Country, where we develop information and resources to prepare for, prevent and respond to wildfire and other adverse events that threaten our community's health, safety, and well-being.

See **"RESILIENT NEWBERRY COUNTRY – Our Plan for Wildfire & Public Safety"** on page 8 of the Strategic Action Plan 2025-2030.

Expand Funding and Education for Wildfire Preparedness and Prevention

Game Changer Strategy: *Establish local government and community-based support for fire-safe education and funding for property owners' wildfire safety improvements. Conduct regular community-based meetings with fire officials to educate residents about wildfire preparedness and prevention steps. Identify resources to help property owners create defensible space, install fire-safe landscaping, and undertake fire-safe building retrofits. Create a community-based Fire Prevention and Protection Coordinator position that serves Newberry Country.*