



NRP Defensible Space Action Team

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

2:30pm-4:00pm

La Pine Rural Fire Protection District
51550 Huntington Rd, La Pine, OR 97739

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

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.

- Monte Dammarell - Action Team Leader
- Ben Crowley - Wild River
- Jacob Fritz - Deschutes Collaborative
- Linda Beard - Sunriver Homeowners
- Mike Applegate - Sunriver Homeowners
- Helen Marston - Upper Deschutes River Communities
- Jona Ensley - Cascade District, Wildland Fire Service
- Robert Newey - USFS
- Jodi Shipman -
- Adam Lohner - Deschutes Water and Soil Conservation District
- Heather Miller - Oregon Fire Marshal
- Nick Huggins - COIC
- Matt Mahoney - COIC
- Danielle Pokorney - Newberry Estates
- Brooks Eilertson - Newberry Estates
- Les Adams - Project Wildfire Neighborhood Coalition
- Chief Holsey - La Pine Fire
- Deputy Jon Ebner
- Ben Hanna - Deschutes County Road Dept.

Adam Lohman, Forest Conservation Specialist, Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant details to be finalized in October 2026

Deschutes Soil and Water Assistance Program - The Forest Resiliency & Fuels Reduction (FR2) SWAP grant will assist private landowners in implementing forest health treatments that extend beyond the 100-ft zone of defensible space.

- Potentially Funded Treatments
- Thinking
- Pile Burning
- Prescribed burning
- Mastication
- Wildlife habitat enhancement
- Replanting

Applicants must be Deschutes County landowners who own forestland (as defined in ORS 321.805) in Deschutes County.

Applicants must agree to provide access for pre- and post-treatment site visits and documentation to verify project completion.

Treatment activities must further the goals of the FR2 SWAP and the Deschutes SWCD.

Applicants must have met with a representative of the Deschutes SWCD and developed a signed Project Design Plan.

Projects must be completed within two years of the award date.

Applicants must not have received an FR2 grant in the last two years.

Deschutes County Natural Resources Update:

2026 Fall Fuel Reduction Grant Program application is live: 2026 Fall Fuel Reduction - Grant Application

Deschutes County has allocated \$50,000 for the fall of 2026 to fund fuel reduction projects aimed at reducing wildfire risk in Deschutes County communities. Preference will be given to communities or neighborhoods that are working towards or have already achieved recognition as a Firewise USA TM site and are proposing projects consistent with their Firewise action plan and community assessment.

Fuel Reduction grants are designed to assist communities with specific, short-term projects or activities related to reducing fuels and improving defensible space.

- Activities eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:
- Equipment rental
- Supplies for community work parties
- Contracting fees for roadside chipping, fuel reduction or defensible space creation
- Debris disposal fees

Applicants must work at a neighborhood or community scale to reduce wildfire risks. Individual properties are not eligible. Activities should focus on reducing wildland fuels and/or improving defensible space around structures.

Wildfire Research Center La Pine Project Update:

The WiRe team visited for a tour of the greater La Pine area and the put on an assessor training for the rapid assessment team

Letters will go out this week to the 2,300 residential properties

Assessment team will be conducting community assessments in the month of September

Project Wildfire Neighborhood Coalition

September 17, 2026

2:00 - 3:30 pm

La Pine Senior Activity Center

16450 Victory Way, La Pine OR 97739

(See agenda attached)



Project Wildfire Neighborhood Coalition – September 17, 2026
La Pine Senior Activity Center
16450 Victory Way, La Pine OR 97739
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Via Zoom:

Note: The 2026 Zoom link was updated in June 2026.

<https://deschutescounty.zoomgov.com/j/1653152799?pwd=OuQ2bZbP9r7s0QAdealmx3xG8owquW.1>

Meeting ID: 165 315 2799

Passcode: 199321

Agenda

2:00 PM Welcome & Introductions

2:05 PM Meeting Minutes & Follow-up

2:10 PM Coalition Mission & Objectives

- Outreach
- Education
 - From Risk to Ready: A Newberry Country Defensible Space Story
 - WiRe Project – South County
- Support / Roundtable Discussion

3:15 PM Project Wildfire Updates (Grants & Other Information)

3:30 PM Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings: Third Thursday of every month, 2:00-3:30 PM, except Jun and Dec

Oct 15, 2026	Deschutes Co Road Dept, 61150 SE 27 th St, Bend
Nov 19, 2026	Redmond Fire Dept, 341 NW Dogwood Ave, Redmond
Dec 17, 2026	NO meeting

Robert Newey, Deputy Fire Staff – Fuels Program Manager, Deschutes National Forest, USFS & BLM , Central Oregon Fire Management Services

Will provide DSAT with Upcoming fuels projects within the La Pine Basin. NRP will publish.

Upper Deschutes River Communities

Defensible Space Reimbursement Program

- Apr 1 - Sep 7 2026
- 90 applications approved
- 44 projects reimbursed (\$22,000)
- 1 application open until program closes for 2026

Low-income Defensible Space Program

- Jan 1 - Sep 7 2026
- 45 applications received
- 2 outside fire district
- 2 no work required
- 4 canceled
- 4 in process
- 11 assigned to contractors
- 22 projects completed
- 1 application open until program closes for 2026
- New applications on hold list until 2027

DSAT Leader - Monte

Please check out [Oregon Wildfire Innovation Lab](#) (OWIL)

Please check out the [XYLO Plan](#)

Central Oregon Living With Fire Grant Funding - Jodie Shipman

Helping Oregon communities find funding for wildfire resilience projects. [Click here to learn more.](#) Resource for smoke preparedness, wildfire information, prescribed fires, how to contact local fire agencies, local fire restrictions and wildfire prevention & preparedness information (Co-Op).

Eligibility varies by program. Some funding is designed specifically for private landowners, while other programs require applications from local governments, tribes, nonprofits, fire districts, or collaborative partnerships.

In many cases, individual landowners participate through projects led by a fire district, nonprofit organization, or local government rather than applying directly.

Heather Miller, Fire Risk Reduction Specialist, Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Unit

Co-op is continuing to do more outreach, shifting to Fire Busters and a home safety focus for the season.

Pay It Forward: KTVZ - Local fire prevention cooperative honored for community education

"The Central Oregon Fire Prevention Cooperative received a \$500 Pay It Forward award from KTVZ, Dutch Bros Coffee and Mid Oregon Credit Union for its fire safety outreach and education efforts across the region."

Jona Ensley , Assistant Fire Management Officer/, Deputy Fire Staff Officer (Fuels & Integrations), Central Oregon Fire Management Officer

You can apply for and purchase Bureau of Land Management (BLM) personal-use permits (such as firewood or timber permits that help clear hazardous fuels) online through the BLM Forest Product Permits Portal. <https://forestproducts.blm.gov/>

Deschutes County Road Dept - Ben Hanna

Road work to begin in the spring as a result of the CWDG grant, 10' to 15' beyond the pavement. This will include mowing and tree removal.

Jacob Fritz, Program Director, Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project

Oregon's Smoke Management Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) is currently reviewing and updating the state's smoke management regulations, holding working sessions through mid-2026 to refine definitions, clarify regulated entities, and structure fee tiers

Current Smoke Management & Rule Updates

Advisory Committee Focus: The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Smoke Management Program and its Rules Advisory Committee have been meeting through mid-2026 (including sessions in July and August) to address proposed level-one and level-two regulations.

Goal of Meetings: Clarifying who is regulated under prescribed burning rules, simplifying class definitions, and streamlining communication protocols without changing overall fee structures.

Local Impacts (Deschutes County): Prescribed burning and slash pile management in Deschutes County fall under regional ODF guidelines and Smoke Sensitive Receptor Area (SSRA) protections, requiring smoke/fire coordination and adherence to local public health advisories

Meeting Details

Where: Virtually online. Anyone can join via the Microsoft Teams video conference links provided on the official ODF Rules Advisory Committees Page. <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/pages/rac.aspx>

COIC - Heart of Oregon Corps, Matt Mahoney and Nick Huggins

Approved Contractors

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2026