

JOSEPHINE COUNTY FORESTLAND-URBAN INTERFACE CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

November 14, 2006, 1:00 p.m.
Search & Rescue Bldg.
250 Tech Way
Grants Pass

Attendees: Tom Atzet, Tom Link, Vince Pyle, Charlie Phenix, Cody Zook, Brian Ballou

Call to order: 1:10 p.m.

Three committee members and one alternate member were in attendance. In the absence of a quorum, the committee decided to hold a work session.

The committee asked Mr. Ballou to invite Charley Martin and Gary Gnauck to the next meeting to discuss new digital fuels/vegetation models, and whether these tools would benefit the committee in its fire-risk classification task.

Review minutes of October 16 meeting: Approved as written.

Review committee members' work on identifying forestland-urban interface lands:

The working group reviewed forestland-urban interface lands' identification mapping that committee members completed. Mr. Zook pulled together the digital files in ArcMap and displayed the maps for the working group. The only county region for which draft maps were not available was the area around the city of Grants Pass. Mr. Atzet and Mr. Pyle volunteered to review candidate forestland-urban interface lots in this region and produce recommendations for the committee's next meeting.

The working group reviewed some of the candidate lots in the Grants Pass area, specifically neighborhoods in the Starlight Drive vicinity. It was noted that some of the candidate lots within the city limits were paying fire patrol assessment, but not all. Mr. Ballou noted that other county committees sometimes chose to include unclassified lots that are clustered within or scattered among lands that are currently paying the fire patrol assessment to the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Mr. Phenix proposed using the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan's fuel and risk assessment layers in the Josephine County forestland-urban interface classification process. Mr. Zook agreed to add the fire plan's weather, topography and fuel layers to the forestland-urban interface committee's working data layers.

The working group discussed its classification criteria and parameters. Should topographic and vegetation hazard factors be evaluated lot by lot, or expanded across entire forestland-urban interface areas (groups of lots)? Mr. Ballou explained that a goal of classification is to assign risk values that apply to groups of lots because fire risk stretches beyond property boundaries. By discussing this with Mr. Zook, the working group asked Mr. Zook to apply averaging models for topography to see how this affects candidate lots and groups of lots, and bring the result to the next meeting.

Mr. Phenix, Mr. Atzet and Mr. Zook will review fuel model data generated during the Josephine County Fire Plan process and come to the next meeting with discussion points about whether that information can be used in this committee's fire risk classification process.

New business: None

Public comment: None

Good of the order: None

Next meeting: Monday, Dec. 4, 10:00 a.m., Josephine County Search & Rescue Bldg.

Adjournment: 2:30 p.m.

Brian Pike, Secretary/Vice Chairman

Date