

Oregon statewide wildfire risk assessment

The initial version of Oregon's statewide wildfire risk analysis process and guidelines, *Oregon Communities at Risk*, is under review. Each Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) district has received a copy of *Oregon Communities at Risk* on DVD. Districts will be working with community partners to provide input on the risk analysis process. The expertise of the Oregon structural fire service is crucial input in this portion of the risk analysis. The analysis provides a method to help determine those parts of the state most at risk from the threat of wildfire. Fire Protection capability is one of the risk rating components and emphasizes the capacity of local structural fire departments. Comment from the Oregon fire service will provide perspective and value in the review. Please contact your ODF local partners to participate. Please include OSFM in your comments by sending them to Donna Disch (contact information at the end of this article).

Risk assessments have been a key component in development of Oregon's Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). Oregon structural fire service has been an active participant developing CWPPs. For a list of CWPPs, please see: http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/FirePlans.shtml#Community_Wildfire_Protection_Plans_CWPP_.

2007 Grants Update

As the Oregon fire service helps in local leadership to develop CWPPs, funding is needed for implementation. While the grants listed in the column at right are specifically designed for wildfire mitigation fire departments are encouraged to apply for foundation and other grants with a focus on safety, public interest, education and other areas where there may be a good fit for their efforts.

- **Western States Wildland Urban Interface Grants:** Opening and closing dates are pending. These are limited to project proposals effectively treating hazardous fuels or those that provide opportunities for marketing and utilization of wood products. Oregon structural fire departments may work through/with Oregon Department of Forestry to access these funds. More information may be accessed at <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/fire.shtml>.

- **National Fire Plan Grants:** close **February 13, 2006**. Eligible projects include implementation of fuels treatments in the wildland urban interface, small diameter and biomass utilization and marketing demonstrations.

- **Rural Fire Assistance (RFA)/Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grants:** These funds are administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry. At this time there is no funding for RFA grants due to Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Because this status may change, departments should periodically check for updates on the website link below.

VFA grants require adjacency to federal lands under the Department of Interior or Agriculture.

Links to more information and applications for these grants are available on the OSFM website at: http://egov.oregon.gov/OOHS/SFM/Grant_Click.shtml.

For more information on wildfire mitigation projects and community wildfire prevention planning resources, contact Donna Disch at 503-373-1540 ext. 275 or email donna.disch@state.or.us.

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