



The
Salishan Hills
Community Wildfire Protection Plan



AN ACTION PLAN FOR WILDFIRE MITIGATION

DATE: 12/14/2012

Prepared by: Michael Curran

Organization: Oregon Department of Forestry West Oregon District- Toledo Unit

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The following report is a collaborative effort between various entities. The representatives listed below comprise the core decision making team responsible for this report and mutually agree on the plan's contents.

It is one of the goals of this document to help educate the public on the ramifications of living in the wildland-urban interface, including their responsibilities as landowners to reduce the fire risk on their property and to provide safe access to their property for all emergency personnel and equipment. Homeowners building in a high fire risk area must understand how to make their properties more fire resistant using proven fire safe construction and landscaping techniques, and they must have a realistic understanding of the capability of local fire service organizations to defend their property.

Community Representative(s):

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The following federal and other interested parties were consulted and involved in the preparation of this report:

Name	Organization
Jim Reeb	Lincoln County OSU Extension
Hank Walling	Depoe Bay Fire & Rescue

Participants that directly performed data gathering for this plan:

Name	Organization
Michael Curran	Oregon Department of Forestry
Blake McKinley	Oregon Department of Forestry
Brandon McEwen	Oregon Department of Forestry
Kyle Williams	Oregon Department of Forestry
Jim Reeb	Oregon State University Extension Office
Hank Walling	Depoe Bay Fire & Rescue

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Home Ignition Zone: Includes the home and an area surrounding the home within 100 to 200 feet.

The potential for ignition depends on the home’s exterior materials and design and the amount of heat to the home from the flames within the home ignition zone. Firebrand ignitions also depend on the home ignition zone either by igniting the home directly or igniting adjacent materials that heat the home to ignition. See the attached article containing research and examples from Jack Cohen, Research Physical Scientist, Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory, Rocky Mountain Research Station.

1) COMMUNITY BACKGROUND AND EXISTING SITUATION

Community Description:

County: Lincoln Frontage Road:Hwy 101

Latitude/Longitude: N 44°53’19” W 124°01’22”

Nearest Intersection: Hwy 101/Immonen Rd.

Year Established:1976

Nearest Fire Department: Depoe Bay Fire & Rescue /
Gleneden Beach Fire Station

Salishan Hills is a Wildland Urban Interface community located in Lincoln County, Oregon. The community is nestled between Gleneden Beach and the Siletz Bay in Lincoln City. Slope is steep averaging 30%-70% throughout the community. Aspect is generally west. The dominant vegetation includes a western hemlock/western red cedar/Douglas fir overstory, with a dense understory component of brush and shrubs. Salal and blackberries are common in the understory. The fuels have a horizontal and vertical continuous structure. Heavy fuel loading and continuous fuels are a problem especially in creating ladder fuels. Roads are narrow with no turnouts or turnaround locations. Salishan Hills Road is a loop through the community with numerous side streets with no turnarounds and provides the only way in and out of the community. There are limited water sources throughout the community.

Community Size:

Number of Lots:163

Estimated Acres:80

Number of Structures: 175

Development Status: Completed

Community Infrastructure:

Home Owners Association:

Yes

No

Contacts:

Name: Gary Crandall
Address: 403 Siletz View Lane
Phone Number: 541-764-3456
Other Contact Information: mrsbjc@centurytel.net

Resident Population:

- Full Time
- Part Time: 100-75% 75-50% 50-25% Less than 25%

Wildfire Hazard Rating (check one):

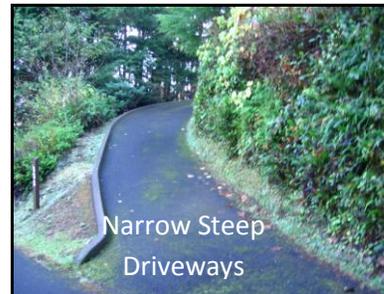
- Low Moderate High Extreme

Date Evaluated: 09/10/2012

Evaluation Process: The community evaluation to determine the Wildfire Hazard Rating and action items for the community was completed as a tour of the community that included Assistant Chief Hank Walling of the Depoe Bay Fire Department. All of the members of the Salishan Firewise Committee completed the evaluation on a separate tour. Participants were given a blank Community Evaluation Form and asked to give responses to each of the items. Opportunity was given for answering questions or clarifying items. All of the evaluation responses were compiled and averaged together to get an overall score on each of the items and final Hazard Rating. This evaluation will be performed annually to update the CWPP and action items.

Community Evaluation Highlights (Important Considerations):

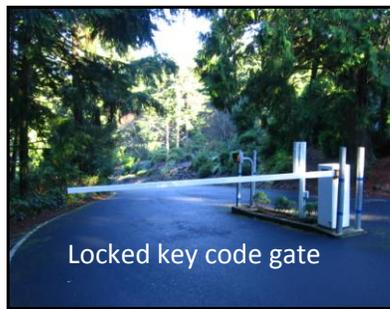
1. Access – Narrow two lane roads, limited turnouts, limited or no turnaround locations, roads either with a small cul-de-sacs or dead ends.



2. Heavy fuels within the community – closed canopy and a dense brush understory. Slash units are located adjacent to the community.

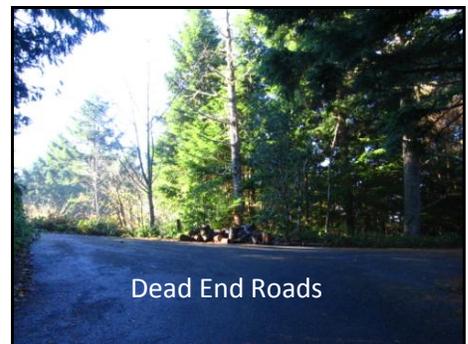
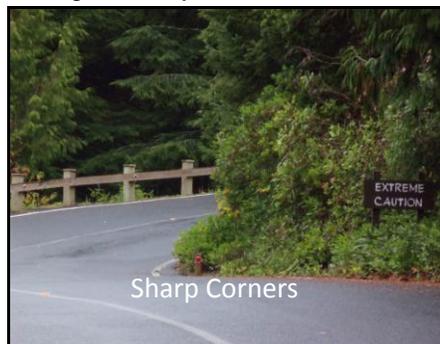


3. Ingress/egress – There is only one way in or out for the community by a locked key code gate.



Observations and Recommendations (During Data Gathering Phase):

Access – Roads throughout the community are narrow and steep making it difficult for structural and wildland fire engines and tenders to maneuver. There are dead-end roads with few and inadequate turn arounds; creating a scenario where backing out is the only option. All side roads off of Salishan Hills Drive are inaccessible by engines except for a small type six 300 gallon engine. Driveways are also inaccessible. It is recommended to enhance and create, where it is feasible, new turnouts in designed locations; enhance turnaround options at dead end streets; and widen the surface of the roads, including brushing and removing trees in the right-of-way.



Heavy fuels within the community – A dense overstory throughout the community creates a continuous fuel scenario that would allow fire to continue to spread. Overstory thinning is recommended to break up the horizontal continuous fuels. Fuel breaks in the form of trails or cleared roads will also break up the fuel. Hiking trails already exist inside the community. It is recommended to continue creating trails to develop more fire breaks. Creation of multiple safe zones inside the community would also create fire breaks and a safe area for emergency personnel and residents if a situation warranted it. Old growth duff stumps are located at almost every residence. The recommendation would be to remove these due to the extreme potential of spreading embers in high winds, and the ability to hold heat for extended periods of time.

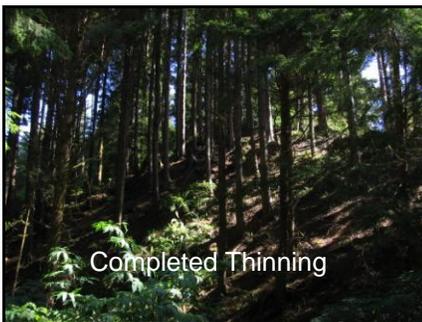
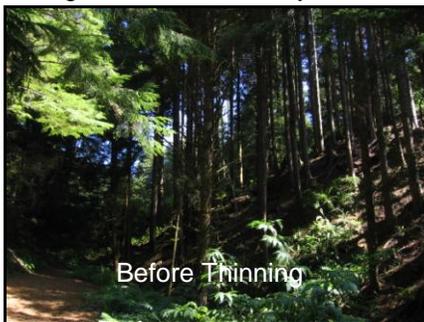


Ingress/egress – There is only one way in and out of the Salishan community. Current road condition is good and usable, but would require a considerable amount of planning and liability consideration. This is a long-term goal for the community. Work could be done with neighboring landowners east of Salishan, to permit access for emergency purposes only.



Successful Firewise Modifications (Noted Assets):

Heavy fuels within the community – The residents of Salishan Hills have a Forest Management Thinning Program of \$10,000, for the common areas of the community, which residents pay into annually. Through this program the understory was thinned, reducing the ladder fuels and creating a low intensity fire environment. Some residents have started clearing fuel in their defensible space/home ignition zone. Examples are pruning trees to reduce vertical continuous fuel, thinning trees to reduce horizontal continuous fuels, and removing brush. Future grant dollars will increase awareness of these techniques, and help financially assist landowners to complete more of these treatments throughout the community.



Community Wildfire History:

Relative Frequency: Moderate amount of Initial Attack situations.

Common Causes: Human (recreation & debris burning)

Areas of Future Concern: WUI communities and adjacent industrial landowners.

Additional Comments: Adapted from the Lincoln County CWPP 2010

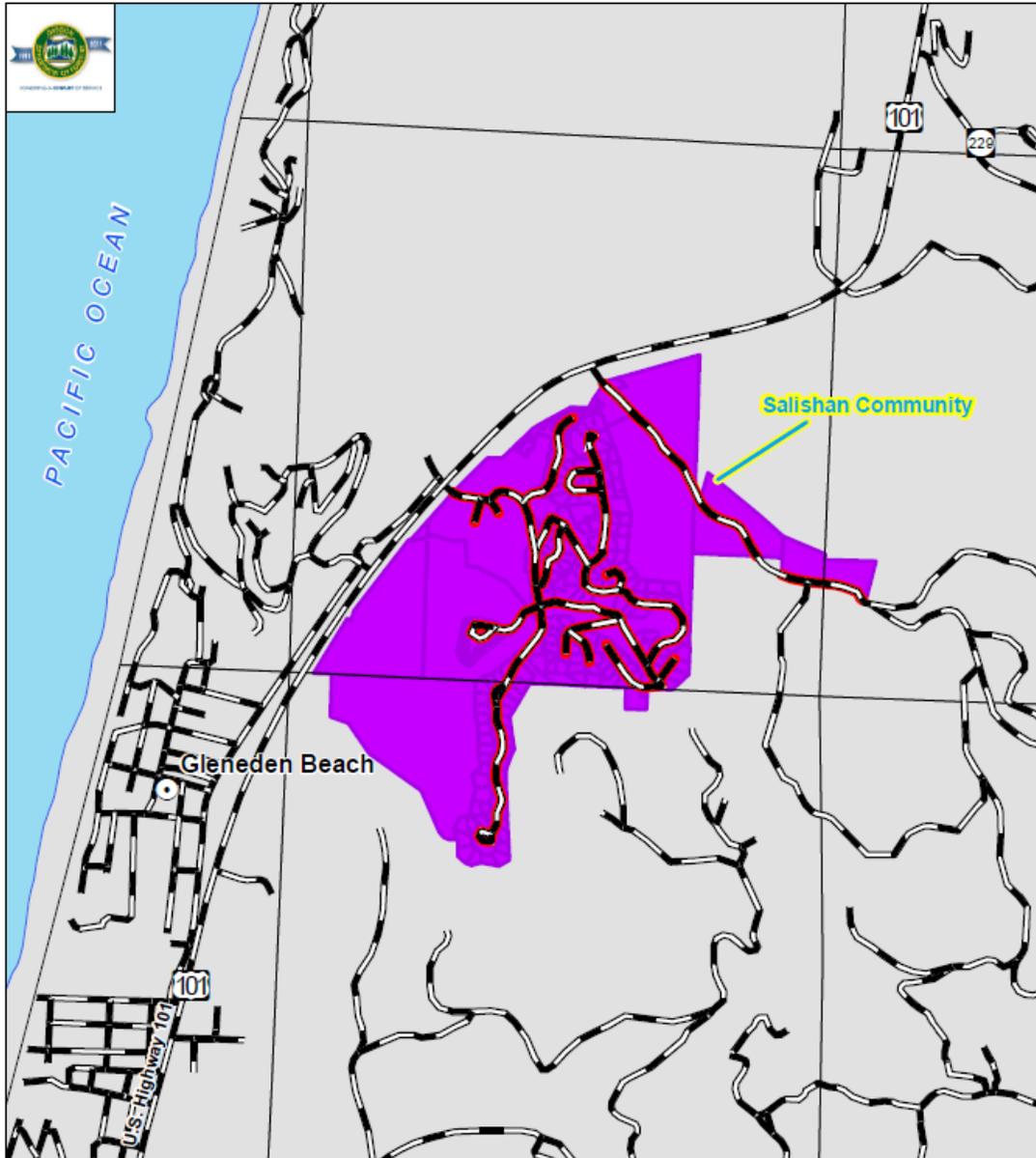
The historic fire regime model in Lincoln County shows most of the county has very long fire return interval (200+ years). Large fires are not expected to occur often; however, when they do occur, fires will tend to burn very intensely and be difficult to suppress. There is a high likelihood that fires in Lincoln County will be forest stand replacing. The transition zone between the valley bottoms and forestlands on the Coast Range historically experienced low and mixed severity fires; however, the return interval is more frequent ranging from 35 to 200 years.

Because wildland fires are being effectively suppressed, the patterns and characteristics of fires are changing. Vegetation that historically would have been minimized by frequent fires has become more dominant. Over time, some species have also become more susceptible to disease and insect damage, which leads to an increase in mortality. The resulting accumulation of dead wood and debris creates the types of fuels that promote intense, rapidly spreading fires.

Areas subject to wildland-urban interface fires have very different fire hazard characteristics. The defining characteristic of the wildland-urban interface area is that structures are built in areas with essentially continuous (and often high) vegetative fuel loads. In other words, structures are built in areas subject to wildland fires. When wildland fires occur in such areas, they tend to spread quickly; and structures in these areas may, unfortunately, become little more than additional fuel sources for wildland fires. The site placement of homes has also changed over time. Historically pioneering families built their homes in low lands, close to water and the fields they intended to work. Within the last 30 years, rural homes have increasingly been built in locations chosen because of the view or other amenities. Thus, many newer homes are in locations more difficult to defend against wildland fires.

Compared to urban or suburban areas fire risk to structures and occupants in wildland-urban interface areas is high. This is due to high vegetative fuel loads and limited fire suppression resources. Homes in wildland-urban interface areas are most commonly on wells rather than on municipal water supplies; which limits the availability of water for fire suppression. Less availability of water resources makes it more likely that a small wildland fire, or a single structure fire, will spread before it can be extinguished. In many areas of Lincoln County, narrow winding roads, dead end driveways, and inadequate bridges impede access by firefighting apparatus. As with water supplies, the lower availability of firefighting personnel and apparatus, and longer response times, increases the probability that a small wildland fire, or a single structure fire, will spread.

2) COMMUNITY BACKGROUND AND EXISTING SITUATION



Salishan Hills Community
December 2012

Legend
■ 2012 WSFM Grant Taxlots
■ Right-of-Way Treatments
— Roads

1:15,000
0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 Feet

North Arrow
Create By: Blake McKinley
West Oregon GIS
Date: 07/14/2011

3) OBJECTIVES/GOALS

Objectives:

The objectives of this plan/report are to set clear priorities for the implementation of wildfire mitigation in the Salishan Hills Community. This includes prioritized recommendations for the community as a whole, and also for individual homeowners where appropriate.

Goals:

The goals are fuel reduction, structure ignitability reduction and improved access that will protect Salishan Hills and its essential infrastructure. It also includes a wildfire pre-suppression plan.

4) PRIORITIZED MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were developed by the Salishan Hills Firewise Committee: As a result of the community wildfire risk evaluation and follow-up communication with local, state, federal, private and community stakeholders. A priority order was determined based on which mitigation projects would best reduce the hazard of wildfire in the assessment area.

Proposed Community Hazard Reduction Priorities:

1. Community Clean-up. Cut, prune and mow vegetation in right-of-ways and shared community areas.
2. Install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, and install evacuation route signs throughout the community.
3. Fuels reduction work to mitigate ladder fuels, create fire breaks and cut out old growth duff stumps.
4. Create an emergency/secondary exit. The best option is working with adjacent industrial timber owners to determine an additional point of entry/exit in cases of an emergency only.

Proposed Structural Ignitability Reduction Priorities: Actions to be taken by homeowners:

1. Create Firewise Defensible Space around structures. This includes fuel reduction techniques like cutting, pruning, and mowing vegetation at least 50 feet around homes and structures. Due to homes close proximity to each other (less than 10 feet in some cases): work with neighbors to get the entire community involved.
2. Clean roofs and gutters.
3. Replace wood siding and roof materials with less flammable synthetic options such as HardiPlank siding and asphalt roofing shingles.
4. Create fuel breaks at least three feet wide, consisting of bare dirt or non-flammable paved or rock materials.

Proposed Education and Outreach Priorities:

Activities planned and implemented by community, Depoe Bay Fire & Rescue, and Oregon Department of Forestry:

1. Annual Firewise Education Day: This will include concepts, techniques, and training to complete fuel reduction and structure improvements on individual properties.
2. Annual Home Evaluation Workshop: This will train landowners on how to complete home evaluations.
3. Neighborhood Fire Prevention Newsletter: Created as a page on the Salishan Hills web site. Electronic or hard copy versions could also be available.
4. Information Packets: Distribute to homeowners in the community.

5) ACTION PLAN

Funding Needs:

(Highest priority projects first.)

1. Community Clean-Up Day/Homeowner Defensible Space: Estimated cost for this project of \$1,000 per 1/3 acre. Additional hazard trees close to structures will cost at least \$1,000 per tree removal. Potential funding sources: ODF grants, landowners, and Lincoln County Title III.
2. Evacuation Route Signs: Estimated cost of \$4,000. Potential funding sources: ODF grants, landowners, Lincoln County Title III. Installation of additional turnouts and access areas will take a substantial planning effort to determine where and if they can occur.
3. Fuels Reduction Work: Continue Salishan Forest Management Work with \$10,000 program that is currently in place. More funding could be available through ODF grants. Estimated cost of \$10,000/acre. Salishan Hills has 21 acres of roads, right-of-ways, and common areas.
4. Emergency Exit/Entry Point: The estimated cost to create this will need to be determined through an extensive planning process working with neighboring landowners and emergency fire personnel. Potential funding sources: ODF grants.
5. Road Improvements: Creation of added turnouts and turnarounds. Work needs to be done on a slope stability report and a feasibility study to determine where these can be added and how many. Potential funding sources: ODF grants, Rural Fire grants, Lincoln County Title III.

Timetables:

(Highest priority projects first.)

1. Community Clean-up Day: Two week homeowner preparation and a one day chipping event to complete the final clearing. Annual spring event, optional fall event. This will be an annual event.
2. Homeowner Defensible Space: Total work period of three days per acre. Start date: Spring of 2013. Targeted completion date: Spring of 2014.
3. Evacuation Route Signs: Total work period estimated to be one month consisting of eight weekend days, for layout, design, and installation. Project completion prior to summer of 2015.
4. Secondary Ingress/Egress: Will be determined once a planning process is completed.
5. Road Improvements: Total work period estimated to be two weeks for improvement and building. Project completion prior to summer of 2016. Slope stability and feasibility study prior to summer 2014.
6. Community Tree Removal: Feasibility study for a cooperative effort to remove selected trees. Approximately 2013.

Assessment:

Strategy used to assess the plans progress and effectiveness:

1. Quarterly review. SHFC input. This will review short term goals and objectives.
2. Yearly review. Community wide input. Agree, change, or update community wide events.
3. Yearly review and update of the Community Evaluation. SHFC members, ODF, and Depoe Bay Fire Dept.
4. Yearly review and update of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. SHFC, ODF, and Depoe Bay Fire Dept.
5. Yearly renewal of Firewise Community certification.

6) WILDFIRE PRE-SUPPRESSION PLAN

A. Wildfire Protection Responsibility

Structural Protection: Depoe Bay Fire & Rescue
 Wildland Protection: Oregon Department of Forestry

B. Incident Command Post Location

Salishan Mall Parking Lot

C. Incident Staging Area Location

Salishan Mall Parking Lot

D. Medical Unit Staging Area Location

Salishan Mall Parking Lot

E.

Alarm Response

First Alarm

Fire Department/Rescue Squad	Travel Distance	Response Time
All Depoe Bay Fire & Rescue Personnel (Depoe Bay Station) -Engine 2301 staffed w/4 and an additional tone out for volunteers	5.9 Miles	8.5 Minutes
ODF: Type 4 and Type 6 engine	25 Miles	37 Minutes

To determine the distance the address for the main Salishan Lodge was used.

Second Alarm (report to designated staging area)

Fire Department/Rescue Squad	Travel Distance	Response Time
Second Alarm would be for mutual aid through: North Lincoln Fire & Rescue Newport Fire Department	5.1 Miles 19.2 Miles	9 Minutes 27 Minutes
ODF: Type 4 and Type 6 engine	25 Miles	37 Minutes

F. Air Support

Fixed Wing

West Oregon District orders retardant through the ODF Salem Coordination Center (SCC). Refer to the Aviation Procedures Manual. Call the Toledo ODF Office at (541) 336-2273.

Helicopter

West Oregon District orders helicopters when needed. Refer to the Aviation Procedures Manual. Call the Toledo ODF Office at (541) 336-2273

G. Water Availability (accessible to fire engines)

Location: Throughout Salishan Community Description: Fire Hydrants

H. Communications

Name	Phone Number	Radio Frequencies
Dispatch/Emergency Services		
911 Dispatch	(541) 265-4231	RX/TX 154.030 (Fire 1) RX/TX 154.325 (Fire 2)
Lincoln County Sherriff	(541) 265-0652	RX 155.070
West Oregon Dispatch	(541) 336-2273	TX 159.3225, RX 151.1675
Oregon Department of Forestry Local Office		
Toledo ODF	(541) 336-2273	TX 159.3225, RX 151.1675 (Euchre Mtn) 151.340 (Red Net) 151.310 (White Net) Aircraft
Other		
US Forest Service	(541) 750-7024	
Bureau of Land Management	(541) 750-7024	

I. Evacuation

The majority of the community has only one way in/out. Evacuation for all side roads within Salishan would funnel to Salishan Hills Drive, which is the main road that encircles the community. Salishan Hills Drive would be the only access point for residents and emergency fire personnel. A plan should be put into place to require a designated pathway for people to exit in one direction and enter in another. Evacuation route signs should be placed in the community to assist people not familiar with the roads or evacuation plan.

J. Resource List

Name	Contact Information	
Support Agencies		
Hancock Forest Management	(541) 838-1610	
Forest Service – Dan Eddy	(541) 750-7000	
Tractor Operators		
Fall Creek Logging	John Hofendbredl	(503) 879-3787
Nicks Timber Service	Nick Domes	(503) 910-1120
Crews		
South Fork (Nathan Seable)	503-815-6126	
Miller Timber Service	541-929-2840	lee@millertimber.com
First Choice	503-588-7294	

Utilities		
Centurylink	1-800-201-4102	
Charter	541-803-8250	
NW Natural Gas	800-882-3377	
Fuel		
Pacific Pride		1410 Southeast Keel Avenue, Lincoln City, OR
Chevron		4648 Southeast Inlet Avenue, Lincoln City, OR
Lincoln City Shell		1410 Southeast Keel Avenue, Lincoln City, OR
Food & Supplies		
Lincoln Beach Thriftway	541-764-2314	lbs45353@yahoo.com
Lincoln City Safeway	541-994-8667	
Lodging		
Best Western Plus Lincoln Sands	541-994-4227	
Siletz Bay Lodge	541-996-6111	
Looking Glass Inn	541-996-3996	

7) ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The Oregon Department of Forestry West Oregon District has prepared a Mobilization Plan. This is a detailed document used by the department during wildfire emergency situations. The document outlines dispatch strategies for resources and protocols used during emergency situations. The Mobilization Plan is updated annually.

8) ATTACHMENTS

- Copy of Salishan Hills Wildland Fire Assessment

Literature Cited

- Lincoln County. 2010. Lincoln County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Lincoln County Planning Department. Newport, OR.
- Firewise. Firewise Website. Available online at www.firewise.org.