Acknowledgements

The Committee would like to thank all those who have participated and engaged in the process; its meetings, discussions, workshops and reviews that brought the Columbia County Community Wildfire Plan planning process to life and to its current stage of completion. In particular, the Columbia County Commissioner’s Tony Hyde, Rita Bernhard and Joe Corsiglia who initiated the call to action and the Columbia County Fire Defense Board for their full engagement and support of the process. The Oregon Department of Forestry for its commitment and leadership in the CWPP process. Also, thanks to all the fire district fire staff for their participation in local reviews and the establishment of priorities.

The Plan has laid out a clear mission for action and with continued support this plan will be a valuable working document for the community of Columbia County.

Columbia County greatly appreciates the time, commitment and energy that the following representatives have invested in the Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Columbia County Assessor’s Office
Dave Crawford, Mist Birkenfeld Rural Fire District Chief
Paul Epler, Vernonia Rural Fire District Chief
Joe Flori, Columbia County Mapping/GIS
Jacob Graichen, Columbia County Land Development – Planner
Michael Greisen, Scappoose Rural Fire District Chief – County Fire Chief
Terry Grice, Columbia River Fire and Rescue, Assistant Fire Chief
Vicki Harguth, Columbia County Office of Emergency Management (Co-Chair CCCWPPC)
Larry Hurley, Longview Timberlands and Lower Columbia Watershed Council Member
Dave Johnson, Oregon Department of Forestry – Forest Grove District Forester
Kelly Niles, Oregon Department of Forestry – Protection Supervisor
Randolf “Tad” Pederson, Office of State Fire Marshal – Deputy Fire Marshal
Hyla Ridenour Columbia River Fire and Rescue – Community Liaison
Mike Schu#ft, Oregon Department of Forestry – Salem GIS Section
Mike Simek, Oregon Department of Forestry – Unit Forester (Co-Chair CCCWPPC)
Jay Tappan, Columbia River Fire and Rescue Fire Chief
Ann Walker, Oregon Department of Forestry, National Fire Plan Coordinator
Carl West, Bureau of Land Management – Fire Management Officer
Jim Wolf, Oregon Department of Forestry
Ron Youngberg, Columbia River Fire and Rescue, Division Chief
Wildland -Urban Interface

Wildfire is a fact of life throughout much of the nation’s landscape. Our increasing population and subsequent development into wildfire prone natural landscapes has created a zone known as the wildland-urban interface (WUI). This interface zone; where structures and other human development meet and intermingle with undeveloped forestlands, wildland or other natural cover fuels, poses a tremendous potential risk to life, property, natural and cultural resources. Large wildland fires have been on the rise, in Oregon and nationwide, since the early 1990s. Numerous factors such as extended preclusion of fire and forest health issues have created fuel loads and resulting fire intensities beyond historical levels. Climate changes have also been implicated as a contributing factor to the increasing frequency and intensity of large fires. Fires in the interface are the most dangerous and complicated fire situations our communities and firefighting professionals can face. Columbia County does not have the frequency of fire or the large fire potential as compared to other locations in the State; however, wildfire is a reality in northwest Oregon. The potential for large fire growth can and will develop. Frequency factors indicate a caution, for example just as a 100-year flood event in Columbia County did in 1996, conditions lined up for disastrous results. Normal fire activity levels can present wildfire incidents that pose localized threats to communities and rural populations depending on when and where these fires occur on the landscape. Large wildfires in Columbia County may be a low incidence event, but they are also events that pose the highest risk to life and property. Recognizing these wildfire risks and taking appropriate actions toward mitigation will reduce the vulnerability of our communities and citizens.

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners (CCBOC) are concerned with the potential risk that wildfires pose to the citizens, to critical infra-structure and the natural resources within the county. The CCBOC strongly supports the development of this community wildfire protection plan and implementation of its goals and objectives.

Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The 1 National Fire Plan and the Ten-Year Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment place a priority on working collaboratively within communities to reduce their risk from fires. The National Fire Plan was developed in August 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities.

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) builds on existing efforts of the Ten-Year Strategic Plan and stresses the need for development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). In Oregon, these community wildfire protection plans are a requirement.

---


Columbia County Wildfire Protection Plan
Chapter 1, Introduction – Mission Goals and Objectives
in all National Fire Plan grant processes, including Western States Fire Managers (WSFM) and Community Assistance (CA) grants.

These plans can be simple or as complex as the local community desires. However, there are a few minimum requirements for a CWPP as described in the HFRA.

- **Collaboration**: Local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties, must collaboratively develop a CWPP.

- **Prioritized Fuel Reduction**: A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.

- **Treatment of Structural Ignitability**: A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed in the plan.

This community wildfire protection plan becomes a foundation for understanding wildfire threats relevant to the community. It more importantly serves as a catalyst for action. Action items that serve to involve, educate and protect the community and citizen interests of Columbia County are the goal of this plan.

**County Profile**

2 Columbia County is located in the northwest portion of Oregon. The Columbia River is the northern and eastern boundaries. The western boundary extends into the Coast Range. The northern and eastern parts of the county, as well as its coastal valleys, are relatively flat terrain composed of alluvial flood plains and terraces. Low foothills and mountainous areas merge in the western part of the county. The elevation ranges from sea level to 2,240 feet (Buck Mountain). The County has a modified marine climate with annual precipitation ranging from 40 inches in the eastern portion to 100 inches in the higher elevations of the Coast Range. Average annual precipitation is 61 inches. Winters are relatively wet and mild with summers warm and dry. The summer’s warmer and drier weather is associated with gradually lengthening high-pressure systems. These begin generally in June and

---

2 Soil Survey of Columbia County, Richard T. Smythe, SCS
Total population of Columbia County is 46,971\(^3\). Of this population, a significant portion lies within the wildland-urban interface and is rural in nature. It is estimated that approximately 21,000 citizens live outside the boundaries of incorporated city limits. This rural population density largely defines the wildland urban interface within Columbia County. Population growth and development continues with a 7.8% increase in population from 2000 to 2004. There are seven incorporated cities within the county and include the following ranked according to population: Saint Helens (11,940), Scappoose (5,840), Vernonia (2,340), Columbia City (1,890), Rainier (1,750), Clatskanie (1,675), and Prescott (60). Saint Helens is the county seat. Numerous unincorporated communities exist throughout Columbia County including, but not limited to Alston, Birkenfeld, Chapman, Deer Island, Delena, Goble, Mist, Pittsburg, Swedetown, Trenholm, Quincy, Warren, and Yankton.

Columbia County is the third smallest county in Oregon with a total area of 688 mi\(^2\). The total land base is 657 square miles or approximately 420,480 acres. However, it ranks fifth\(^4\) in the total timber volume harvested. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the county’s timber resources were extracted to the fullest. Old growth timber has since been replaced with second growth forests. Industrial forest owners and many small non-industrial private forestlands practice intensive forest management on approximately 71% of the land base. Since the time of the first European settlements to the present, forest products remain the county’s key industry. Only a small percentage (6%) of the land base is in public ownership. Federal ownership within the

---

\(^3\) 2004 estimate based on 2000 Census, US Census Bureau
\(^4\) Based on ODF harvest levels – Columbia County
The potential that wildland fires, both small and large, will threaten life, property and natural resources is a reality. Fire statistics show that fire incident rates, and therefore risks, are prevalent in the WUI areas of the county. Population growth and development continue to encroach into and fragment forests. Therefore, the strategic planning efforts and actions that result from this plan, and the continued maintenance of this plan, will benefit all residents of Columbia County.

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan is endorsed by the Columbia County Commissioners, Columbia County Fire Districts and the Oregon Department of Forestry. These representatives mutually agree to the final contents of this plan. The plan will not be legally binding in any way. The role of this plan is to be a strategic planning tool and therefore a catalyst for actions involving partnerships that accomplish the following stated vision, mission, goals and objectives.
Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Mission, Goals and Objectives

Vision Statement:

The Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan seeks to create a locally developed and supported wildfire prevention and mitigation strategy that reduces wildfire risks to people, property, natural resources and the environment.

Mission Statement:

Columbia County is committed to providing real and achievable mitigation actions that engage and educate its citizens about wildfire risks, motivates citizen and community involvement and action toward mitigation of wildfire hazards and establishes a clear understanding of issues relative to protection of life, property and resources within the forestland-urban interface of Columbia County.

Goal:

- The identification and implementation of action items that serve to educate, involve and protect the community and citizen interests of Columbia County as it relates to threats from wildfire.

Objectives:

- Complete a comprehensive wildfire risk assessment for Columbia County using local expertise and knowledge and common risk assessment data and methodologies.
- Provide opportunities for meaningful participation among community members, local, state, and federal agencies.
- Identify and map the Community at Risk (CAR) and establish priority areas within the broader Community at Risk designation.
- Identify and map the boundaries of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Identify any developed lands within the county that are not protected by structural fire departments. Address these areas in CWPP and through specific action plans to ensure availability of State’s conflagration resources.
- Develop action plans for mitigation of wildfire threats in these priority areas. The community wildfire protection plan further develops mitigation efforts identified in the FEMA, Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, Section 9 – Wildfire
- Identify broad action items-projects for implementation at a countywide level.
- Encourage the development of specific community wildfire protection plans dealing with pre-suppression response planning, evacuation routes, structural vulnerability assessments and mitigation, targeted fuel reduction, local citizen education and involvement.
- Encourage appropriate communities and developments to become “Firewise Communities” under the Firewise Communities/USA® recognition program.
- Encourage citizen understanding, involvement and homeowners shared responsibility in efforts to reduce risk of property damage and threats to life by actively managing the “Home Ignition Zone” as a defensible/survivable space.
• Based on historical fire causes and trends, develop multi-agency fire prevention action plan to address human caused fire risks.
• Educate owners about their fire prevention role to reduce the threat of fires escaping to resource lands.
• Strengthen communication and coordinate participation among public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations, business and industry.
• Search for pilot project opportunities to engage community and demonstrate values of defensible/survivable space.
• Maintain land development practices and policies that insure education and the required application of fire siting standards in WUI zones.
• Improve county and local opportunities for federal and state funding assistance. Increase probability of federal funding opportunities based on multi-agency, community and business partnership projects.
• Maintain the Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Committee as a standing steering committee to annually review actions and accomplishments.
• Institute a working document philosophy and make changes to the plan as new information becomes available or priorities change over time.
• Meet or exceed the requirements of the National Fire Plan and FEMA for a county level community wildfire protection plan.
CHAPTER 2: Planning Process

In June of 2005, the Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Committee was established. The committee has met numerous times in the development of this Plan. The Committee is composed of the following core members:

Vicki Harguth (Co-Chair)                 Director – Columbia County Emergency Management
Michael Simek (Co-Chair)                Unit Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry
Michael Greisen                        Chief, Scappoose RFD – Columbia County Fire Chief
Terry Grice                            Assistant Chief, Columbia River Fire and Rescue
Dave Crawford                         Chief, Mist-Birkenfeld RFD
Richard Long                          Chief, Clatskanie Rural Fire District
Paul Epler                            Chief, Vernonia Rural Fire District
Randolph “Tad” Pederson               Deputy, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Jacob Graichen                        Planner, Columbia County Land Development Services
Larry Hurley                          Tree Farm Manager, Longview Timber
Carl West                             Lower Columbia River Watershed Council Member

Advisory Members                      Columbia County Agencies, Businesses and Community

Columbia County Wildfire Protection Plan Framework

A number of models exist for guiding the development of community wildfire protection plans. These models, or templates, serve to address the federal legislation promoting these efforts and provide an opportunity for seeking federal and state grant monies. The CWPP has become the planning standard that ensures priorities and actions are well established within the community. The Columbia County CWPP Committee (CCWPPC) chose the document 1st Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan – A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities as its guiding template. This handbook is also referred to as the Healthy Forest Restoration Handbook.

Table 2-1 Community Wildfire Protection Plan Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Wildfire Protection Planning Steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step 1: Convene Decisions Makers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 2: Involve Federal Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 3: Engage Interested Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 4: Establish a Community Base Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 5: Develop a Community Risk Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 6: Establish Community Priorities and Recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 7: Develop a Action Plan and Assessment Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 8: Finalize Community Wildfire Protection Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 1: Convene Decision Makers**

The Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Committee (CCCWPPC) has been established as a long term standing committee to develop the countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Committees mission is to maintain leadership in matters regarding community wildfire planning efforts that ensure protection of our citizens, their communities and natural resources within the wildland urban interface of Columbia County. The Columbia County Fire Defense Board members are also, for the most part, members of the CWPP Committee. The Board has been actively engaged in the process of developing the Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan through it monthly meetings and special workshops.

**Step 2: Involve Federal Agencies**

Columbia County land base (657 mi$^2$) is largely composed of private land ownership. The primary federal ownership is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It manages approximately 11,000 acres in the south-east central portion of the county. Collaboration with federal partners is essential in meeting the objectives of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act and BLM is an active member of the Columbia County CWPP Committee.

**Step 3: Engage Interested Parties**

Fire service professionals within Columbia County, as well as the core members of the committee have provided review and specific input into the plan. The CCCWPP Committee designated each structural fire district to represent the “community center” and primary contact for public outreach and involvement. Media articles and local meetings have engaged local citizens regarding the wildland urban interface. Engaging the community will be a continual process during the implementation and revisions to this plan.

**Step 4: Establish a Community Base Map**

A community base map was developed using best available data from Columbia County, the Oregon Department of Forestry and other geo sources. The Department of Forestry – Columbia Unit developed GIS projects with varied layers for the assessment and public outreach phase. Map products were provided for the assessment phase and community meetings. The base map consists of the following layers: County, city and urban growth boundaries, highway and road layers, 2005 digital aerial photos, local state and federal ownership. In addition, layers showing fire incidence rates and locations, inhabited areas of the county based on population thresholds i.e., defined community at risk, wildland urban interface boundary, slope grid and tax lots. Priority areas within the overall community at risk were digitized based on local input. The color aerial photos (1/2 -1 meter resolution) and their revisions will become the base map standard on which additional layers will be digitized. Future revisions will use best available data and digital aerial photos.
Step 4: Hazard Assessment

An assessment of wildfire hazard was developed using a combination of available statewide assessment data and localized data specific to Columbia County. The assessment process utilized the national standard to assess four factors – risk, hazard, protection capability, and values including structural vulnerability. The full rating sheet is available for review in Appendix C.

Step 5: Develop a Community Risk Assessment

Risk assessment was conducted using the statewide methodology document entitled Identifying and Assessment of Communities at Risk in Oregon, October 2004. The use of this methodology provided a consistent approach to hazard and risk rating. Each priority area within the identified Community at Risk has been rated using this system. Local risk assessment factors based on local fire district expertise and knowledge combined with statistical and GIS based data supported this review. The assessment process included meeting with each fire district and their officers. The statewide assessment data was used as a platform to discuss wildfire hazard ratings and to establish local priorities within each fire district and county non-fire district area. Population density, structural density, structural ignitability, access, response capability and response times, topography and slope, fuels, fire occurrence patterns and density, fire causes and land use patterns were evaluated. See Chapter 3, Wildfire Risk Assessment.

Step 6: Establish Community Hazard Reduction Priorities

Establish Recommendations to Reduce Structural Ignitability

Fire district staff defined priority areas within their district’s populated areas or Community-at-Risk. Risk assessment factors included such factors as structural density vs. fuels, fuel types and terrain, structural ignitability considerations, access, response times, evacuation routes, etc.

In most areas of the county, accurate assessment data is lacking in regards to structural vulnerability. Obtaining such data will greatly assist in understanding the scope of the structural vulnerability problem within each district and the county. Therefore, action plans do specify data collection as part of defining these issues at the local level. See Chapter 4, Structural Ignitability and Chapter 5, Fuel Reduction Priorities.

Step 7: Develop an Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

Action plans and assessment strategies have been developed and cover both priority areas and the general populated areas of the county called our community at risk. The priority areas are based on assessment ratings. These are the main focus of current action plan efforts of the CWPP included in the document. In addition, other action items are presented in the plan that
are broader in scope and focus on overall support for coordination within the county. See Chapter 7 – General Action Items and Chapter 8 – Specific Action Plans.

**Step 8: Finalize the Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

Finalization included review by the CCCWPP Committee, ODF National Fire Plan Coordinator and the review and approval by the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, the Oregon Department of Forestry’s State Forester’s Representative – Forest Grove District Forester and the five (5) Rural Fire Districts within Columbia County.

The CCCWPP will remain a working document that will be modified and adjusted based on local input and updated assessment data as it becomes available. As communities and citizens of the county increase awareness of wildland urban interface issues, the document will reflect new priorities and perhaps new communities at risk. To maintain this level of engagement, the CCCWPP Committee will meet annually to review and document action plan accomplishments, evaluate current priorities and revise the document as needed.

The Columbia County CWPP will be posted on the following web sites:

Primary - Columbia County -  [http://www.co.columbia.or.us/home.asp](http://www.co.columbia.or.us/home.asp)
Columbia County Fire Districts - as developed locally
Fire planning spreads with county growth

Fire safety and forest officials launch plan and education campaign to lower wildfire damage

By Darryl Swan

The South County Spotlight

During the dry summer months, a carelessly discarded match or rogue lightning strike could ignite Columbia County forested areas that are quickly becoming hot spots for residential development.

And in an extreme scenario — one characterized by pinch-point house access, hot and dry weather, unfavorable atmospheric conditions and a surrounding build-up of woodland debris — fire personnel are making no guarantees they'll respond to all fires.

"Those are the types of fires where we'll have to make a decision," said Ron Youngberg, division chief for the Columbia River Fire and Rescue.

Such scenarios are rare for Columbia County and more likely for areas east of the Cascade Mountains. Youngberg admits, but they do occasionally happen.

A new countywide planning and education effort seeks to encourage homeowners living in identified risk areas to self-manage their homes for fire safety.

"Columbia County is an almost explosive growth area now. We're starting to build houses where there used to be farms and forests," said Mike Simek, the district forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Simek co-chaired a committee formed in 2005 that includes fire personnel throughout the county. The committee's goal was to identify "wildland-urban interface" areas where fires could quickly spread and endanger residents' physical health and property.

The focus is part of a national effort to mitigate the fire danger occurring with increasing growth in forested areas.

In response, the committee worked together to draft the Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which serves as the local link to the National Fire Plan, Simek said.

The plan was crafted completely with volunteer hours and no grant support, though it could serve as the springboard for future grant opportunities.

"It was the-right-thing-to-do funded," Youngberg said.

Most people living in wildland-urban interface areas are not aware of the inherent fire dangers, and that adequate planning is typically the exception, not the rule, in St. Helens' and Scappoose's at-risk communities, said Youngberg and Scappoose Fire Chief Mike Greisen.

Though the plan is not set for approval by the Columbia County commissioners until July, segments of it will be implemented regardless of formal approval. Identified in the plan are around 15 areas considered "communities at risk," a bulk of which are areas in or near St. Helens and Scappoose.

The plan looks at fuel supplies, fire history, topography and the possibility of structural ignition in the identified risk areas.

Historically, Columbia County wildfires have been of low or moderate intensity, perhaps driving skepticism into the possibility a larger fire posing higher damage risks could occur.

"We're under an it-can-never-happen-to-us syndrome in Columbia County," Youngberg said.

Ron Youngberg

The Grey Cliffs neighborhood in St. Helens is one of the first communities targeted for an educational campaign, kicking off with a May 9 meeting at the Elks Lodge.

South of Scappoose, the growing Columbia Hills development with its proposed 140 residential lots is a second community at risk, Greisen said.

In 2002, Oregon, Arizona and Colorado had their largest wildfires on record, burning 835 homes, according to information from the National Fire Protection Association.

There is an increasing pattern of fires. Larger and larger fires," Simek said.

Is your home safe from wildfires?

The following are good safety tips for securing your house from the possibility of wildfire damage:

• Maintain a 30-foot non-combustible zone around your house.
• Add fire-resistant plants such as flowering dogwoods, rhododendrons and hostas into your landscaping scheme.
• Remove or thin overcrowded and weakened trees, and prune low-hanging branches.
• Keep a neat, mowed lawn, and be sure to trim back weeds.
• Keep your woodpile and excess building materials 30 feet from your home.
• Clear needles, leaves and plant debris from your roof and deck.
• Make sure the street sign and home address is visible from the road.
• Draft an emergency check-list and action plan detailing what to do in the event of a fire.

For more information on protecting your house from wildland-urban interface fires, visit www.firewise.org.
CHAPTER 3: Wildfire Risk Assessment

The development of a wildfire risk assessment is essential to understanding the potential threats of wildfire within our local community. Through the wildfire risk assessment process, the core committee, fire service professionals and community members have gained an understanding of the potential threats. The assessment is intended to help define locations within the county that are higher priority for mitigation work.

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act, The National Fire Plan, FEMA’s Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the National Association of State Foresters and the Oregon Department of Forestry have all established methodologies for conducting a comprehensive wildfire risk assessment. The methodology used for the Columbia County CWPP follows the Oregon Department of Forestry’s guidance titled “Identifying and Assessment of Communities at Risk in Oregon”.

**Risk:**

*What is the likelihood of a wildland fire occurring in Columbia County?*
*What are the causes of the fires that are occurring?*
*Do we have other potential ignition risks on the horizon?*
*What is our prevention capacity to offset these hazards?*

**Fire Occurrence:**

Figure 4.2, 1Statistical Fires, Natural Cover 1994 – 2005

---

1Source ODF, “Statistical Fires” are reportable fires in natural cover fuels or threatening to spread to natural cover fuels.

Columbia County Wildfire Protection Plan
Chapter 3 - Wildfire Risk Assessment
The fire occurrence adjective class rating is broken into an incident rate of low, moderate, and high. Fire rates are based on the number of fires per 1000 acres per 10 years. This density measure allows a better understanding of the frequency of fires on the landscape. Most wildland fires in Columbia County occur in the more populated and rural wildland interface areas of the county. These WUI areas also represent the greatest risk to life safety and property.

**Figure 4.2: Fire Incident Rate - Adjective Rating**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Size (Acres)</th>
<th>Fuel Type</th>
<th>w/i WUI</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cause Category</th>
<th>Vicinity of Homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scappoose Airport</td>
<td>Scappoose Airport</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Grass/Agriculture</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Burning</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pebble Creek</td>
<td>South of Vernonia</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>Logging Slash/Timber</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Hunter/Smoking</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keasey Dam</td>
<td>West of Vernonia</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>Logging Slash Reproduciton</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Recreationist/Campfire</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald Forest</td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Logging Slash</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Equipment/Logging</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry Road</td>
<td>West of Chtskanie</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Fell/Buck, Slash, Reproduction</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Debris Burning</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolden Road</td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Reproduction</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Debris Burning</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Creek Road</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Reproduction</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Debris Burning</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Road</td>
<td>West of St. Helens</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Logging Slash</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Burning</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburg Road</td>
<td>South of Liberty Hill</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Scrub Oak/Grass</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Recreationist/unknown</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional fires of significance in NW Oregon occurred in 1987 near Dalles Oregon including the 5000 acre Rockhouse Creek Fire and the 1000 acre Shady Lane Fire. These fires indicate the potential for large fire growth within northwest Oregon forests.

**Ignition Risk:**

Historical and potential ignition hazards are important to understand in the development of prevention strategies. Targeted prevention efforts through outreach, education and enforcement can minimize exposure to fires and therefore the threat to communities.

The risk is variable with potential for fires to occur from many types of ignition sources. These causes clearly indicate a risk as a result of human activity resulting from backyard burning and land clearing type of fires.

**Table 4-3: 10-Year Number of Fires and Acres Burned by General Cause Category (1996 -2005)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause Category</th>
<th># of Fires</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lightning</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equip. Use</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recr.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debris Burning</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>77.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slash Burning</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prevention capacity is the ability of local agencies and the public to successfully address and mitigate potential risk of human fire starts. Within Columbia County and throughout the State of Oregon, debris burning is the number one human caused fire category. In the early 90’s, the Columbia County Fire Defense Board adopted a "Burn Ban" policy to be implemented during the fire season. Over time this effort has greatly reduced the number of fires and therefore reduced the risk exposure. The burn ban continues to be an effective measure in reducing the risk of escaped debris burning fires during the critical fire season period. Educating landowners regarding burning regulations and other fire prevention requirements are on-going. The Fire Districts and the Oregon Department of Forestry continue to address local fire potential from human caused activities and have numerous programs to target these priorities. Increased participation and coordination between agencies is a stated goal to bolster countywide prevention efforts.
**Hazard:** What is the “resistance to control” once a wildfire starts? Key factors are Fuels, Weather and Topography

**Weather Hazard Factor:**

This factor is based on the number of days that forest fuels are capable of producing a significant fire event. The rating is based on fire danger indices provided by the Oregon Department of Forestry using the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). In Columbia County, the overall weather rating under the statewide assessment is in the moderate category. Coastal areas including Clatsop County have a weather rating of Low in comparison. “Red Flag” conditions in Northwest Oregon are associated with low fuel moistures and low humidity east wind events. These conditions represent potential fire weather extremes during the months of August, September and October.

Weather Hazard Factor

1 = Low  
2 = Moderate  
3 = High

**Topography Factor:** Slope, Aspect and Elevation Considerations

The overall characterization for slope factor within the Columbia County WUI is low to moderate (0-40% slope) in rural residential areas. However, areas where communities, individual or groups of structures are adjacent to steep slopes, fuel reduction and fire resistive landscaping within the “Home Ignition Zone” and localized community to parcel fuel reduction and evacuation planning becomes critical. Assessment factors of slope were considered when identifying priority areas within the overall community-at-risk or populated areas of the county.

**Figure 4-3:** Slope Class

---

2 Resistance to control is a term used to indicate the level of effort required to control a wildfire. Where fuels are moderate to heavy, slopes are steep, topography is complex and fire weather conditions extreme, resistance to control is very high. Where fuels are light and topography less complex, resistance to control is low.
**Natural Vegetation Factor:**

The statewide assessment data was used to determine the natural vegetation and the associated hazards. GAP vegetation types along with expert hazard evaluation provided the overall hazard rating for the State of Oregon. In Columbia County, the hazard is presented as **Moderate** based on overall composition of natural vegetation and its fire potential including crown fire potential.

**Local Fuels Data:**

Columbia County does not have large-scale forest health damaged stands such as insect infestation areas, windthrow, or older unmanaged or decadent stands with heavy dead and downed debris. Laminated root rot pockets and bear damage are found throughout the county but they do not present a significant forest health issues in relation to fire potential. Swiss needle cast is confined to within 18 miles of the coastline. Timber stands of conifer and conifer-hardwood mix are common throughout Columbia County. Fires within timbered stands are confined to understory vegetation with mixed severity to the overstory. Timber fires involving crowning are rare due to current land management practices and the narrow window of extreme fire weather and fuels. Logging slash from forest management harvest activities are the primary forest fuel under normal fire season conditions. Slash concentrations are variable and across the landscape both in time and space. Current aerial photography is the best available data for evaluating natural vegetation, concentration of slash or recently harvested sites. Landowners, either through scarification or burning treat many areas of slash thereby reducing the hazard. Modern forest utilization often leaves light slash loadings. Other areas involving grass, brush and scrub oak stands around St. Helens are prone to fire.

**Protection Capabilities:**

**What are risks associated with wildfire protection capabilities including the capacity to undertake fire prevention measures?**

The protection capacity on a statewide basis was determined on the absence or presence of structural and wildland fire agencies. In Columbia County, both the structural fire districts and a wildland fire protection district exist. Five structural fire districts cover major portions of the county. These fire districts cover approximately 95% of the structures and development within the county. In addition, mutual aid agreements between local districts and surrounding fire districts in adjacent counties bolster the capabilities of fire responses. Once these mutual aid resources have been exhausted, additional resources are made available under the State’s Conflagration Act. The Columbia County Fire Chief would direct these requests to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). Volunteer firefighter availability is a significant factor in determining availability of firefighting resources beyond initial attack efforts. A large wildfire incident threatening life and property would require significant mutual aid response within and from resources outside the county. Oregon Department of Forestry utilizes a coordinated response based on local, area and statewide resources to meet the demands of the fire situation. In larger fire situations, an ODF Area or State incident management team would be assigned as well as a State Fire Marshal Team to manage Conflagration resources.
Structural Fire Districts within Columbia County
- Clatskanie Fire Rural Fire District
- Columbia River Fire and Rescue
- Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire District
- Scappoose Rural Fire District
- Vernonia Rural Fire District

Wildland Fire Protection District
- Oregon Department of Forestry

Mutual Aid Agreements
- Between all Columbia County Fire Districts and ODF
- Scappoose RFD and Portland Fire Bureau
- Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue and Columbia County Fire Districts/ODF
- Scappoose RFD and Sauvie Island RFD
- Conflagration Resources

Columbia County Fire Departments and Agencies

Clatskanie Rural Fire Department
- Main Station @ Clatskanie,
- Two volunteer sub-stations at Alston and Quincy
- Paid Staff, 3 Chief Officers, 3 Firefighters
- 24 volunteers

Columbia River Fires and Rescue
- 3 Staffed Stations: St. Helens Main, Fairgrounds and Rainier
- 4 Volunteer Sub-Stations: Columbia City, Deer Island, Goble and Fernhill
- Paid Staff: 5 Chief Officers, 36 Firefighters
- Volunteers: 50

Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Department
- Main at Hwy. 202 near Banzer Road
- 3 Sub-stations Fishhawk, Peterson and Sager Creek
- Paid Staff: Two Chief Officers
- 45 Volunteers

Scappoose Rural Fire Department
- 1 Staffed Station: Main @ Scappoose
- 2 Sub-stations at Chapman and Holbrook (Multnomah Co.)
- Paid Staff: 3 Chief Officers and 9 Firefighters
- Volunteers: 45

Vernonia Rural Fire Department
- Main at Vernonia
- One (1) Full-Time Chief
- 25 Volunteers

Oregon Department of Forestry – Columbia Unit
- Main @ Columbia City
- 2 Seasonal Staffed Guard Stations, Pittsburg and Clatskanie Areas
- 3 Full-Time Fire, 5 support/firefighters
- 12 Seasonal Firefighters
For a complete listing of fire fighting resources by fire district and local ODF unit, refer to Appendix B.

**Fire Response:**

Fire response factors were evaluated using the following criteria:
- Areas inside a fire district with structural response under 10 minutes (0 points)
- Areas inside a fire district with structural response over 10 minutes (8 points)
- Areas outside of a fire district with wildland response under 20 minutes (15 points)
- Areas outside of a fire district with wildland response over 20 minutes (36 points)

Response time for structural protection is a major factor in determining priorities. The staffing of the fire district, whether career or volunteer plays an important part in the availability of resources and response times. Though the assessment process, fire staff placed emphasis on this factor in determining local fire district priorities.

**Community Preparedness:**

Community preparedness is evaluated on the following:
- Community has an organized stakeholder group, community fire plan, phone tree, mitigation efforts (0 points)
- Effort is through agency, primarily mailings, informational material available (2 points)
- No effort (4 points)
The current status of community preparedness is not well developed within the county with perhaps the exception of Fishhawk Lake. Numerous efforts to distributed mailings, fire-siting requirements via land development services, fire driveway and public road standards and public outreach by agencies are occurring. This CWPP identifies priority areas or focus areas within the county to develop increased community involvement, shared responsibility and preparedness.

**Values Protected:**

*What are the human and economic values associated with communities or landscapes?*

Overall values to human life are based on areas of human population density thresholds of 28 persons per square mile. Property values are also implied using population density and tax-lot layers assuming dwelling densities of 1 dwelling per 40 acres. These factors define the coarse mapping layer for the “Community-at-Risk” within Columbia County.

**Figure 1: Populated Areas, Values at Risk Areas – Columbia County**

Other community values include essential infrastructure, resource lands; primarily timber producing land, municipal watersheds, critical wildlife habitat, significant recreation and scenic areas. The social, environmental and economic values associated with communities and landscapes will be evaluated on a local level and incorporated into future revisions to this plan.

**Structural Vulnerability:**

*What is the likelihood that structures will be destroyed by wildfire?*

Assessment of structural vulnerability is best accomplished by on-site visits and data collection methods. A number of projects have been identified within priority areas of the Community-at-
Risk/WUI. These projects identify the need to have this on-site assessment as a measure of the potential vulnerability. Factors such as the type of roofing, fuel reduction around structures and access routes, fire safe landscaping and access are key elements in this evaluation. Homeowner understanding and participation is essential to reduce a home’s vulnerability to wildfire.

Stone Road Fire – 1995, Columbia County
CHAPTER 4: Structural Ignitability

Structural Ignitability deals with the home itself and its immediate surroundings; also know as “The Home Ignition Zone”. Whether or not a home is vulnerable to ignition from a low, moderate or high intensity wildfire depends on a number of factors. Low intensity fires can destroy homes with high ignitability whereas low ignitability homes can survive high intensity fires. Most actions to reduce home ignition potential are directed to the home itself and its immediate surroundings within 100 feet. Under some circumstances reducing fire intensity, and therefore the home ignition risk, may involve extending the zone further.

The 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. To view full publication Wildland-Urban Fire – A Different Approach by Jack D. Cohen, go to the following URL: http://www.nps.gov/fire/download/pub_pub_wildlandurbanfire.pdf

The minimum requirements for a CWPP as described in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) is that the CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed the plan. This plan addresses structural ignitability within Columbia County’s Community-at-Risk.

**General Principles in All Action Plans:**

- Obtain structural ignitability intelligence through local assessments.
- Educate homeowners about structural ignitability and measures that can be taken to reduce a structures ignition potential from a wildfire.
- Motivate fuel reduction and fire safe landscaping practices within the “Home Ignition Zone” utilizing in all areas of the WUI.
- Utilize established programs to support community and homeowner education and public outreach.
- Utilize opportunities for media coverage and other public outreach actions involving demonstration projects.
- Seek technical and financial assistance opportunities for addressing fuel reduction efforts, structural ignitability issues and support of demonstration projects.
- Encourage maintenance of the “Home Ignition Zone” over time to keep home ignition risk low for the surrounding conditions.
- Seek opportunities for community debris disposal collection sites that recycle or compost vegetative materials vs. burning.
- Ensure all new development meets fire resistive construction and landscaping codes.
- Assist in maintaining, reviewing and updating appropriate ordinances for all new dwelling construction within WUI.
- Continue to provide Columbia County Land Development Services input through timely review and comments to land use applications.
- Implement Oregon’s Forestland –Urban Interface Act legislation within Columbia County.

**Columbia County Land Development Services:**

**Existing Development:**

Generally, uses in existence prior to zoning and other land use laws are considered to be “grand-fathered,” meaning, though they may not comply with current development standards they are still considered to be legal. Typically, standards such as fuel-free breaks for fire protection, as noted below, cannot be retroactively applied to preexisting “grand-fathered” development. Without governmental regulatory authority to impose fire safety regulations on “grand-fathered” development, such standards can only be implemented given a property owner’s own initiative and desire. This emphasizes the importance of public outreach and education regarding fuel reduction and fire safe landscaping practices to reduce structural ignitability, which is the primary focus of this plan.

**New Development:**

Development within areas in a forest or agriculture/forest zone, Primary Forest (PF) or Forest Agriculture (FA) zones in Columbia County, are subject to both local ordinances and State laws that require primary and secondary fuel-free breaks for fire protection around dwellings. The fuel-free breaks are required for accessory structures (e.g. a detached garage on the same site as a dwelling). In addition, dwellings require appropriate construction practices that help to minimize fire risks. These standards are implemented though conditions of land use decisions (e.g. Conditional Use Permits) if they are required and through the Building Permit process.
Primary guidance is found in the publication Land Use Planning Notes (March 1991): *Recommended Fire Siting Standards for Dwellings and Structures and Fire Safety Design Standards for Roads* [http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/FRP/docs/LUPNote1.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/FRP/docs/LUPNote1.pdf) In addition, Columbia County has adopted Equivalents to Fire Buffers, Board Order No. 239-97, which provides “equivalents” with respect to fuel-free break requirements where these can not be fully met on small lots of record zoned Primary Forest or Forest-Agriculture.


Currently, there is no mechanism to ensure that all properties required to have fuel-free breaks for fire protection, maintain them or other safe landscaping practices after all permits have been obtained to occupy the dwelling. In addition, such fire safety standards are not required for Rural Residential zoned properties (the RR zones in Columbia County) where wildfire risks can be just as significant as in forest zones. As such, public outreach and education are just as important for newer development as with “grand-fathered” development, especially since standards can be forgotten when properties change hands.

When adjacent to forest resource lands, Land Partitions, Subdivisions and other development within rural zoning shall be evaluated and timely comment provided regarding fire wise development. These reviews should address roads and access, appropriate siting, fire resistive construction, structural ignitability and adequate defensible landscapes. In addition, use of and access to water suitable for fire protection (e.g. lake, pond, stream or swimming pool) should be considered.

**Fire Safety Design Standards for Roads**

Columbia County and the Columbia County Fire Defense Board have established standards for new development fire access roads and driveways. These standards address adequate access for firefighting equipment including maximum grade, road width, turning radius, road surface, bridge design, culverts and other road access issues. The standards promote consistent application as it relates to interpretation of the International Fire Code, Oregon Fire Code and County ordinances. The Columbia County Fire Services have the authority and responsibility to process requests for review and the approval of all fire apparatus access roads and
driveways. The Oregon Fire Code, Section 501.3 and the Zoning and Development Ordinance of Columbia County, Oregon require roadway/driveway improvements to a construction or mobile home prior to issuance of a building permit. Land Development Services requires fire service approval of driveways if they exceed 150-feet in length or have steep slopes. This plan recognizes the importance of properly designed and maintained structural fire apparatus access roads. The picture is an example of a road that serves multiple residences. It’s inadequate width and roadside clearance is problematic as it relates to fire response ingress and evacuation egress. In situations that involve roads built prior to the development of fire access standards, local communities and fire services need to seek local options and alternatives.

**The Wildland-Urban Interface Protection Act of 1997 (SB 360)**

The Oregon Forestland Urban-Interface Act of 1997, commonly known as Senate Bill 360, addresses the growing problem of wildland fires burning homes. The State’s population continues to expand rapidly, with many Oregonians moving into forested areas where risk of fire is common. The Act responds to several escalating issues:

- Wildland fires burning homes
- Firefighters risking their lives on conflagrations
- Rising suppression costs

The Act has been implemented in numerous counties throughout Oregon. Implementation processes continue on a county by county basis with northwest Oregon slated within the next 5 years. Under the Act, a local county classification committee identifies areas within the county that fall into forestland-urban interface classifications. In general, these properties are within an Oregon Department of Forestry protection boundary, are 10 acres in size or smaller, improved with one or more structures and grouped with other improved properties that are in a density of at least four structures per 40 acres. Once initiated within Columbia County, the landowner needs to take measures to reduce a property’s vulnerability to wildland fire. In most cases this means:

- Establishing a fuel break around structures and along driveways
- Removing tree limbs within 10 feet of the chimney
- Ensuring that flammable material is removed from beneath exterior wooden decks
- Moving or enclosing firewood piles during the months of fire season

Under this Act, property owners are mailed a package with standards that need to be met to certify. Upon completion of the standards, the landowner responds to the Department of Forestry with a signed self certification form, which satisfies the landowner’s fuel reduction responsibility. Re-certification occurs every 5 years. The Act is a voluntary program, however, up to $100,000 of certain suppression costs can be brought against the landowner if the following applies: a landowner does not certify, a fire originates on the property, the fire spreads within the protection zone around a structure or driveway that does not meet the standards and extraordinary costs are incurred for suppression costs.

Structural Ignitability Concepts:

Important Factors for structural ignitability evaluation include those found in *Identifying and Assessment of Communities at Risk in Oregon*. The general categories for evaluation include the following elements:

- **The Structure Itself** - Roofing, roofing assembly, building materials and building setbacks on slopes.
- **Defensible Space** - Distances 30 to 100 feet or more, separation between adjacent homes.
- **Fire Access** - Roads and driveways (distance), ingress and egress issues, road width and condition.

### STRUCTURAL TRIAGE CHECKLIST

**INCIDENT / CONFLAGRATION NAME** _____________________________________

**ADDRESS** ___________________________ **STRUCTURE** ( ) of ( )

**GPS COORDINATES** __________________ Latitude ___________ Longitude ___________

**Range** ___________ **Township** ___________ **Section** ___________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRIVeway</th>
<th></th>
<th>ROOF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Too Narrow or Steep to back in</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Already Involved in Fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*** IF RED / YES - UNDEFENSIBLE ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branches overhanging driveway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Down dead fuels line driveway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRIVEWAY – Dead End or longer than 200 feet</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td>STRUCTURE TYPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROOF – COMBUSTIBLE – (Asphalt Shingles or Wood)</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td>Single Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROOF – WOOD SHAKE</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Two Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREES – Overhanging Roof</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Wood Frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREES / BRUSH – NOT Thinned in area within 30 feet of structure</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td>A Frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VEHICLES – Parked Outside within 30 feet of Structure</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td>Log Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLOPE – More than 20% anywhere within 30 feet Of Structures</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLOPE – More than 40% anywhere within 30 feet Of Structures</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td>Full Time Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECK / STILT – Not enclosed underneath ( to ground)</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td>Vacation Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POWER LINE – Overhead within 30' of Structure</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td>Out Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Govt. Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Other Hazards;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0-2 YES
  Doesn't Need Defending
  3-5 YES
    Defend Aggressively
  6-7 YES
    Defend Cautiously
  8-10 YES
    UNDEFENSIBLE

**Triage Officer** ___________________________ **Unit #** ___________________________

**Date** ___________ **Time** ___________

**COMMENTS / NOTES ON BACK**
The checklist above is used by structural fire departments on large fires where multiple homes are threatened or potentially threatened under extreme wildfire conditions. Often this is used in an attempt to pre-plan property protection priorities. This form indicates what homes can and can not be safely protected from the perspective of a firefighter. It also indicates the importance of the “Home Ignition Zone” and those contributing factors of the structure itself and its surroundings that make a home defensible or survivable.

Numerous publications and web based resources are available to assist the owner in understanding the important concepts involved and managing the “Home Ignition Zone” to the extent required in protecting your property and your safety. Appendix A has a list of web resources that are valuable to the owner, from downloadable checklists to video based demonstrations.
CHAPTER 5: Fuel Reduction Priorities

Fuel Reduction Priorities within the Wildland-Urban Interface

The highest priority for fuel reduction within Columbia County will be at the homeowner level within the home ignition zone, i.e., the structure itself and the surrounding landscape. Homeowner associations and other organized communities and businesses may develop fuel reduction priorities based on local plans and initiatives. Fuel modification and reduction actions around structures in the wildland urban interface will reduce the potential ignitability of these structures given an adjacent wildland/brush fire threat. These concepts are covered in more detail in Chapter 4, Structural Ignitability.

This plan recognizes that most land ownership within the county is private. Where priority fuel reduction projects are identified by communities beyond the single ownership, information exchange and cooperative partnerships will be the focus to move any fuel reduction projects to reality.

Fuel modification and reduction priorities identified at the community level are recognized as an important element in any localized planning effort. Emerging developments will be encouraged to develop fire wise communities that evaluate the need for fuel reduction efforts within and around the community. This also includes escape routes and other critical traffic corridors. Existing communities, through the evolving development of local plans, will identify strategies for community level involvement and cooperative fuel reduction projects. As projects are identified, they will be added to this document by way of appendix.

The Greater Chapman community is an area where federal lands are proximal to and within the WUI boundary. Fuel reduction efforts in this community and involving adjoining federal lands (Bureau of Land Management) will be a priority. Due to the relationship to federal lands and the priority of this community within Columbia County, grant opportunities and strategic fuel reduction efforts will be a priority especially during harvest level planning efforts. Fuels management will take into account slopes and drainages and where these present elevated risks to the community. Opportunities for Stewardship Contracts under the BLM will be considered utilizing the established application and review process. Refer to the Greater Chapman specific action plan, Chapter 7.

The Scappoose Municipal Watershed is another area where federal lands (Bureau of Land Management) are within or proximal to a valued community resource. Fuel reduction within and adjacent to the watershed may be considered based on local assessments.

Additional areas that involve potential fuel reduction projects are in and adjacent to the Columbia Hills Development Community, Grey Cliffs Community and the Liberty Road area of St. Helens.
Adjoining industrial and non-industrial private forestlands are managed as resource lands using acceptable forest practices. Properties with structures adjoining resource lands shall be encouraged to manage fuel reduction efforts on property under their control, i.e., under the homeowners control. This places the emphasis and responsibility on the individual homeowner for ensuring adequate fuel modification/reduction efforts that reduce structural ignitability and therefore structural survivability.
CHAPTER 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

The maintenance of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) will be directed by the Columbia County Office of Emergency Management in conjunction with the Columbia County Fire Defense Board and core committee members on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Committee. The Plan will be reviewed and updated annually to review and document accomplishments, to re-evaluate priorities for general and specific action items, to evaluate new information as it relates to community at risk identification, fuel reduction priorities and the reduction of structural ignitability throughout the county. The annual review, at a minimum will also allow an evaluation of grant application opportunities and recommended submissions as well as posting edits to the master document. The chair(s) of the CWPP Committee will be responsible for facilitating the review and editing the master document. As a working document, updates and new action items will be added as they develop as well as documenting plan accomplishments.

A complete revision of the CWPP is recommended on a five year basis to incorporate the annual review edits and to evaluate other major changes involving development and population growth within the county, changes in fire risk assessment factors and fuel modification priorities, fire prevention and protection capacity, action planning and other essential redesign elements based on best available information and technologies.

Public Outreach

The continued and progressive involvement of the public is needed to accomplish many of the elements of this CWPP. It is important that every opportunity be taken to collect and disseminate information to the citizens of Columbia County. Allowing for continuing and full participation by citizens and local groups will strengthen collaboration efforts and ensure key issues and actions remain focused and achieving the mission of the Plan.

Copies of the CWPP will be available on the internet as well as at each Library within Columbia County. Development of a county website that provides citizens an opportunity to send comments to the CWPP chair(s) is proposed for development. Web links can be found in Chapter 2 of this document as well as common and useful web sites under Appendix A.
CHAPTER 7: General Action Planning Item Worksheets

The following completed action item worksheets were developed as part of the CWPP planning process. The action items apply to efforts identified as important and support local and countywide CWPP implementation. In comparison, Chapter 8 deals with action plans addressing specific geographic areas of the Community-at-Risk or prioritized areas within a Community-at-Risk population.

Each action item includes a list of key issues that will be addressed. Additional worksheets are available for adding important action items as they arise. This Chapter, as well as the overall plan, is a working document meant to facilitate continued strategic planning efforts. Additions and or relevant changes are encouraged as CWPP implementation will likely be a catalyst for new and innovative ideas.

The following action item worksheets are numbered for reference only. These do not reflect priority. Priorities will be established by the Fire Defense Board.
Columbia County CWPP Action Item  # 1

**Proposed Action Title/Description:**
- Create and maintain county web-site dealing with wildland urban interface issues and to promote the Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Develop key links to other sites that Columbia County citizens can use to create and maintain fire resistive structures and landscapes within the “home ignition zone”. Continue design elements to make relevant to Columbia County and other regional CWPP efforts.

**Rationale for Action Item:**
- Public education and outreach is critical to success.
- Allows timely updates with new information
- Easy reference source for local community

**Implementation Proposals:**
- Establish appropriate material content using local web designer
  - Post Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
  - Post tips to reduce structural ignitability and implement fire safe landscaping
  - Post pictures of “model” homes and landscapes done in local area
  - Post maps
  - Provide information on homeowner fire prevention
  - Provide additional links to Fire Districts, ODF, OSFM, BLM, Firewise®/USA, KOG etc.
- Committee review of content and develop maintenance standards
- Publicize local web page as opportunities come up

**Lead Organization(s):**
- Columbia County - Office of Emergency Management/CWPP Committee/Fire Defense Board

**Cooperating Partners:** Fire Districts, Oregon Department of Forestry, Office of State Fire Marshal, BLM

**Timeline:** (Short Term) July 1 – January 1, 2008

**Estimated Cost:** $1,500 Annual
Columbia County CWPP Action Item  # 2

**Proposed Action Title/Description:**
- Re-establish and maintain fire prevention leadership through the Columbia County Fire Prevention Cooperative.
- Revisit function and scope of activities to include coordinated fire prevention reporting and strategic fire prevention planning. Develop coordinated fire prevention action and public outreach campaigns

**Rationale for Action Item:**
- Increase coordinated fire prevention capacity, develop countywide priorities.
- Reduce wildfire ignition risk in WUI.
- Increased density of homes shown to increase ignition risks, address issues.
- Homeowner and citizen engagement in fire prevention is shared responsibility with fire agencies.
- Provide consistent fire prevention and regulation messages county wide

**Implementation Proposals:**
- Seek Columbia County Fire Defense Board support and appropriate staff leadership to initiate a fully functioning Fire Prevention Cooperative.
- Utilize public information officers to assist in development of targeted public outreach programs.
- Review available homeowner fuels reduction and landscaping programs that may be appropriate for Columbia County.
- Develop local strategic campaign for CAR areas.
- Consider grant applications to assist in support of fire prevention program delivery.

**Lead Organization(s):**
- Fire Defense Board...Columbia County Fire Prevention Cooperative

**Cooperating Partners:**
- Fire Districts/Oregon Department of Forestry
- Office of Oregon State Fire Marshal
- News Media
- Citizen Groups
- Communities

**Timeline:** (Short Term) 1 year, June 2007 – June 2008

**Estimated Cost:** $  Production costs and in kind service. Contracted services for media production. Seek grant opportunities by coordinating fire district grant applications.
**Proposed Action Title/Description:**
- Obtain GIS data for planning efforts within the WUI
  - Obtain and/or digitize structures (address points and/or structure footprints) within Columbia County
  - Obtain associated data regarding structural vulnerability
  - Obtain current digital aerial photography – annual or other updates
  - Obtain improved contour elevation GIS layer
  - Obtain LiDAR data if available, multiple natural hazards mitigation uses/benefits.
  - Obtain localized community GIS layers regarding defensible space to assist in development of community plans
  - Establish and maintain hydrant and water source layer
  - Develop emergency services based GIS user system/program/protocols/map production capacity...

**Rationale for Action Item:**
- The data will enhance on-the-ground structural vulnerability assessments.
- Improve accuracy of WUI boundary and communities at risk (structural density) areas.
- The data will provide efficiency in operational response and functioning.
- The Data provides better information for many areas of natural hazard mitigation risk assessment and planning efforts

**Implementation Proposals:**
- Collaborate with all county GIS users to identify current and available sources of data needs
- Consider contracting for data needs
- Consider grant for priority data needs, RARE Program, other

**Lead Organization(s):**
- Columbia County/C911CD

**Cooperating Partners:**
- Fire Districts/Oregon Department of Forestry/Office of State Fire Marshal
- Columbia 911 Communications District
- Public Utility Districts
- Major Landowners

**Timeline:** (Short – Long Term)

**Estimated Cost: $$$**
Columbia County CWPP Action Item # 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Action Title/Description:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Complete rural addressing and potential data collection, coordinate with local fire district efforts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rationale for Action Item:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Coordinated with GIS Action Item for structure layer needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improve emergency response, provides multiple benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Could include structural vulnerability data collection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation Proposals:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Coordinate county wide addressing issues, completion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead Organization:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fire Districts, Columbia County – Land Development Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cooperating Partners:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Timeline: (Long Term) 2 year + |

| Estimated Cost: $$$ |
Columbia County CWPP Action Item  #5

**Proposed Action Title/Description:**
- Design and incorporate structural vulnerability data collection process that is consistent countywide and is collected as a master data-set

**Rationale for Action Item:**
- Currently, no vulnerability assessment data has been collected in Columbia County.
- Action plans currently identify need for assessments to clarify scope of structural vulnerability and address issue.
- Road access, roof and building material, defensible space and overall home ignition zone conditions should be evaluated as part of this risk assessment.
- Incorporate data into countywide layer - evaluate data and update CWPP/priority areas and action plans

**Implementation Proposals:**
- Begin with a realistic defined community area (community at risk) and collect data using countywide methodology.
  - Create database relating to fuel loads and lack of fire resistive landscaping measures in targeted areas.
  - Create database relative to driveway access and road conditions. Include but not limited to: excessive grade, inadequate width and surface, encroachment into road with failures or vegetation, limited or lack of turnouts, condition and load capacity of bridges, turn-arounds or hammerhead or lack of at terminus, water supplies, and other restrictive conditions.
  - Create database to identify the number of residences outside rural fire protection districts
  - Continue to coordinate with County Road Department and Land Development Services regarding assessment data.
- Bring both structural point data and structural vulnerability data into GIS layer. Map based on L-M-H thresholds or other accepted standards. Evaluate data implications.

**Lead Organization:**
- Columbia County Fire Defense Board/Office of State Fire Marshal

**Cooperating Partners:**
- Oregon Department of Forestry

**Timeline** (Short Term) 2 year

**Estimated Cost:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Action Title/Description:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Provide CWPP Assessment GIS layers/data to Columbia County Mapping Section.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rationale for Action Item:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Central location for data-sets/layers that allow uses for other planning and natural hazard mitigation efforts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation Proposals:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Upon completion of CWPP, provide county with project layers/data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead Organization:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Oregon Department of Forestry/Community Wildfire Protection Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cooperating Partners:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Term July 1 – October 1, 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Cost:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A, In Kind</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Proposed Action Title/Description:
- Engage homeowner insurance companies to promote incentives that reward fire resistive structure and landscaping practices within the home ignition zone.

### Rationale for Action Item:
- HFRA goals of collaboration, fuels reduction and structural ignitability reduction
- Comments regarding insurance companies as an important element in promoting reduction of risk on private property.
- Lower premiums with lower potential losses from wildfire

### Implementation Proposals:
- Contact local insurance companies and determining if incentive can be provided if homeowners meet standard.
- Explore methods to validate and ensure maintenance of home ignition zone

### Lead Organization(s):
- Oregon State Fire Marshal, Fire Districts

### Cooperating Partners: ODF, Insurance Companies

### Timeline (Short Term) 1 year or by June 2009

### Estimated Cost: $
Columbia County CWPP Action Item  # 8

**Proposed Action Title/Description:**
- Formalize the Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Committee to oversee implementation, identify and coordinate funding opportunities, act as the Local Wildfire Coordinating Group in establishing funding priorities, and sustain the implementation and revisions of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

**Rationale for Action Item:**
- Leadership in mitigation of wildfire hazards within Columbia County.
- Establish countywide community at risk priorities.
- Collaboration, Fuels Reductions and Structural Vulnerability as defined in HFRA
- Support future actions under SB360, Wildland Urban-Interface Classification Committee
- National Fire Plan – Grant opportunities

**Implementation Proposals:**
- Ensure County Homeland Security and Emergency Management leadership representation
- Establish CWPP review process, reports to Committee and process for updates
- Determine Chair for upcoming year.

**Lead Organization:**
- Columbia County

**Cooperating Partners:**
- Membership representation on the Columbia County CWPP Committee

**Timeline:** Ongoing – Long Term

**Estimated Cost:**
### Proposed Action Title/Description:
- Develop consistent countywide administration and enforcement of open burning regulations.

### Rationale for Action Item:
- Major cause of escaped fires within the WUI is open burning of yard and land clearing debris
- Consistent and accurate message to public.

### Implementation Proposals:
- Develop issue paper for Fire Defense Board discussion
- Draft basic outline of concepts that address the issue(s)
- Consider intergovernmental agreements, options
- Utilize education campaign, DVD or other media, see Clatskanie CAR Action Plan (Alston-Delena)

### Lead Organization:
- Columbia County Fire Defense Board

### Cooperating Partners:
- State Fire Marshal, Columbia County Law Enforcement Agencies

### Timeline:
- (Long Term)

### Estimated Cost:
- $$$
Columbia County CWPP Action Item  # 10

**Proposed Action Title/Description:**
- Implement cost share or other incentive programs to assist landowners with fuel removal and disposal projects that occur within the home ignition zone and travel corridors.

**Rationale for Action Item:**
- Reduction of structural ignitability within Community at Risk (CAR)
- Increased participation with cost share approach
- Support for special needs population

**Implementation Proposals:**
- Apply for grant for funding of pilot project(s).
- Focus on high priority areas of Community at Risk
- Educate local landscape contractors and expand service availability for homeowners
- Pursue local opportunities for recovery and use by local composting facility/other bio fuel industry
- Explore partnerships with local business and industry

**Lead Organization:**
- Fire Districts, Oregon Department of Forestry

**Cooperating Partners:**
- Columbia County, Columbia County Waste Management, Local Landscaping Businesses

**Timeline:** Long Term

**Estimated Cost:** $$$ Based on obtaining grant for project(s). Focus on high priority areas
Columbia County CWPP Action Item  # 11

**Proposed Action Title/Description:**
- Evaluate Land Development Services ordinances relating to fire siting standards, obtain understanding, acceptance and support and provide input to ensure accuracy and consistency of application.

**Rationale for Action Item:**
- Bolster understanding of land development processes as relates to fire siting standards and exceptions.
- Equivalents to the primary and secondary fire breaks requires revisiting to identify issues and concerns with application.
- Address other concerns and issues with Land Development Services
- Introduce LDS staff to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

**Implementation Proposals:**
- Schedule a meeting with Land Development Services to review processes and identify issues.

**Lead Organization:**
- Fire Defense Board/Columbia County Land Development Services

**Cooperating Partners:**
- 

**Timeline:** Short Term

**Estimated Cost:** $$$
CHAPTER 8: Action Planning - Communities at Risk

The Communities at Risk (CAR) within Columbia County are identified based on population density and assumed values at risk for threats to life, property and infrastructure. These are defined broadly and may be refined further in future revisions of this plan.

Communities at Risk are identified within the jurisdictional boundaries of each Rural Fire Protection District in the county. Public outreach, planning and implementation of action plans are based on these community centers, i.e., RFPDs. CAR outside a structural fire protection district are identified within the county (outside structural fire protection district) designation. Oregon Department of Forestry will take lead in cooperation with closest structural fire district.

**Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District - Community at Risk**
- All populated areas within the District
  - Priority Areas
  - City of Clatskanie and vicinity
  - Alston – Delena
  - Palm Creek – Cedar Grove
  - Upper Swedetown

**Columbia River Fire and Rescue Protection District – Community at Risk**
- All populated areas within the CRF&R District
  - Priority Areas
  - City of St. Helens – Grey Cliffs
  - Smith-Robinet-Columbia City
  - Canaan – Meissner

**Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District – Community at Risk**
- All populated areas within the District
  - Priority Areas
  - Fishhawk Lake

**Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District – Community at Risk**
- All populated areas within the District
  - Priority Areas
  - Chapman and Vicinity
  - Columbia Hills Development – Callahan Road
  - JP West, Mtn. View (West Hills of Scappoose), Pisgah, Siercks
  - Panorama Terrace

**Vernonia Rural Fire District – Community at Risk**
- All populated areas within the District
  - Priority Areas
  - City of Vernonia
  - Adams (Elk Run), Noakes and Stoney Point Roads

**County (Outside Structural Protection District) – Community at Risk**
- Priority Areas
  - Upper Meissner
  - Trenholm/Upper Pittsburg
# Community-At-Risk Assessment Matrix – Scoring Factors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary – Assessment Factors</th>
<th>Point Breakdown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RISK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fire Occurrence (# Fires/1000 Ac./Year)</td>
<td>0-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Home Density (rural/suburban/urban)</td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ignition Risk Potential</td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HAZARD</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Weather Zone (Coastal/Interior only)</td>
<td>0-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Topography (Slope/Aspect/Elevation)</td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Natural Vegetation (Fuel Models)</td>
<td>0-30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| - Crown Fire Potential  
(Passive/Active/Independent) | 0-10 |
| **PROTECTION CAPABILITY**   |                 |
| - Scoring dependent on organized structural response to no structural or wildland fire protection | 0-36 |
| - Community Preparedness | 0-4 |
| **VALUES PROTECTED**        |                 |
| - Home and population density | 0-30 |
| - Community Infrastructure | 0-20 |
| **STRUCTURAL VULNERABILITY** |                 |
| - Flammable Roofing (A/B/C/Non-Rated) | 0-30 |
| - Building Materials | |
| - Building Set-Backs | |
| - Defensible Space (<30 ft. – >100 ft.) | 0-30 |
| - Fire Access (roads and driveways, ingress/egress, road width, all season condition, fire service access, street signs) | 0-30 |

The complete assessment form used for prioritization of Communities-At-Risk is found in Appendix C.
## Assessment Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community at Risk Designations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Incorporated Cities in Columbia County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Populated Rural Areas w/i RFPDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Populated Rural Areas Outside RFPDs w/i County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Scappoose RFPD Populated Areas - CAR</th>
<th>Infrastructure / Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>197</td>
<td>Scappoose RFPD - Greater Chapman</td>
<td>Scappoose Watershed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>182</td>
<td>Scappoose RFPD - Callahan Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177</td>
<td>Scappoose RFPD - JP West / Mtn. View/Pisgah/Sierck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Scappoose RFPD - Panorama Terrace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>Scappoose RFPD - General WUI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Columbia River Fire &amp; Rescue Populated Areas - CAR</th>
<th>Infrastructure / Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>185</td>
<td>Columbia River Fire &amp; Rescue - Gray Cliffs / City of St. Helens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>Columbia River Fire &amp; Rescue - Smith / Robinette Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156</td>
<td>Columbia River Fire &amp; Rescue - Cannan / Meissner Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>Columbia River Fire &amp; Rescue - General WUI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Vernonia RFPD Populated Areas - CAR</th>
<th>Infrastructure / Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>163</td>
<td>Vernonia RFPD - City Perimeter WUI</td>
<td>City Planning: Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149</td>
<td>Vernonia RFPD - Adams / Noakes / Stoney Point Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Populated Rural Areas w/I VRFPD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Populated Areas - CAR</th>
<th>Infrastructure / Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD - Fishhawk Lake</td>
<td>Facilitate Fishhawk Community Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD - General WUI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Populated WUI Areas</th>
<th>Infrastructure / Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>172</td>
<td>Clatskanie RFPD - City of Clatskanie/UGB/Vicinity</td>
<td>Conyers Creek Watershed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163</td>
<td>Clatskanie RFPD - Alston/ Delena</td>
<td>Roaring Creek Watershed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>Clatskanie RFPD - Palm Creek / Cedar Grove Road</td>
<td>Midland Watershed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>Clatskanie RFPD - Upper Swedetown Road</td>
<td>Marshland Watershed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>Clatskanie RFPD - General WUI</td>
<td>Benson Pt. Microwave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>County (Outside Structural Fire Protection)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>173</td>
<td>County – Upper Meissner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161</td>
<td>County – Trenholm / Upper Pittsburg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Columbia County Ranking – Priority Areas

### Local Priority Thresholds

<130 = Low / 130 – 174 = Moderate / 175+ = High

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Priority Area</th>
<th>Community at Risk (CAR)</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>197</td>
<td>Greater Chapman</td>
<td>Scappoose RFPD CAR</td>
<td>Top priority for SRFPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>185</td>
<td>Grey Cliffs/City of St. Helens</td>
<td>Columbia River F&amp;R CAR</td>
<td>Top priority for CRF&amp;R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>182</td>
<td>Columbia Hills - Callahan Road</td>
<td>Scappoose RFPD CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177</td>
<td>West Scappoose</td>
<td>Scappoose RFPD CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>Smith/Robinette/Columbia City</td>
<td>Columbia River F&amp;R CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>173</td>
<td>Upper Meissner</td>
<td>Outside Structural – County CAR</td>
<td>Top priority Outside Structural Fire - County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>172</td>
<td>City of Clatskanie/UGB</td>
<td>Clatskanie RFPD CAR</td>
<td>Top priority for CRFPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163</td>
<td>City of Vernonia</td>
<td>Vernonia RFPD CAR</td>
<td>Top priority for VRFPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163</td>
<td>Alston-Delena</td>
<td>Clatskanie RFPD CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161</td>
<td>Trenholm/Upper Pittsburg</td>
<td>Outside Structural – County CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>Palm Creek/Cedar Grove</td>
<td>Clatskanie RFPD CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156</td>
<td>Cannan-Meissner</td>
<td>Columbia River F&amp;R CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>General WUI-CRF&amp;R</td>
<td>Columbia River F&amp;R CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149</td>
<td>Adams/Noakes/Stoney Point</td>
<td>Vernonia RFPD CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>General WUI-SRFPD</td>
<td>Scappoose RFPD CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>Upper Swedetown</td>
<td>Clatskanie RFPD CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>General WUI - VRFD</td>
<td>Vernonia RFPD CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>Fishhawk Lake</td>
<td>Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD CAR</td>
<td>Top priority of M/BRFPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>General WUI –M/BRFPD</td>
<td>Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD CAR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executive Summary

The Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a strategic planning document that forms a foundation for a realistic assessment of wildfire risks in our county and develops plans or action statements of what we can do as a community to mitigate wildfire threats to life, property, and natural resources.

With the forming of a Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Committee in April 2005, the process of reviewing local issues and concerns and developing action plans specific to each fire district has evolved. The process has been invaluable toward building an overall understanding of the issues, deepening relationships, building on collaborative efforts and most importantly, developing achievable action plans to address wildfire threats in the wildland urban interface of Columbia County.

The Plan identifies the “Community-at-Risk” (CAR) in Columbia County as the populated areas of the County, both city and rural where natural cover and wildland fires pose a potential threat to people and their homes. Each rural fire district and the area outside of a rural fire district within the county have communities at risk. To develop local priorities, the committee decided that each fire district would become the community center for planning and public outreach efforts. The process began by engaging each fire district regarding assessment factors and utilizing local knowledge regarding community concerns and priorities. Once these areas were identified specific action plans were developed by each district to address the concerns within the wildland-urban interface.

Even before this plan’s completion, action plan implementation was initiated. In the Columbia River Fire and Rescue CAR, Grey Cliff residents were invited to a community meeting where partnerships between agencies and a local landscaping business presented material where homeowners could start fire safe landscaping efforts. In addition, the fire district is making an assessment of access roads, reviewing individual homes for fire resistive construction and landscaping practices and offering recommendations. In Scappoose Fire District, the emerging community of Columbia Hills on Callahan Road has been addressed through its forming homeowners association. The developer and the builder understand the issues and are taking actions that support becoming a “Firewise Community”. The Mist Birkenfeld Fire District has also approached the Fishhawk Lake Community to become a Firewise Community. These actions are indicative of a successful platform that was laid down during the formulation and process of developing this plan. Much more is to come and this document is a working plan that will adapt to new ideas, innovations and understanding.

The Columbia County Community Wildfire Protection Plan meets the criteria for a CWPP under the National Fire Plan. As such, potential federal and state grants may be available to the Fire Districts, the County and the Oregon Department of Forestry for implementation of the CWPP Plan elements.
The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) requires three decision makers mutually agree to the final contents of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The applicable local government
The local fire department(s)
The state entity responsible for forest management

Columbia County:

___________________________
Rita Bernhard
Chair, Board of Commissioners

___________________________
Tony Hyde, Commissioner

___________________________
Joe Corsiglia, Commissioner

Fire Districts:

___________________________
Michael Greisen
Columbia County Fire Chief
Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District

___________________________
Chief Richard Long
Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District

___________________________
Chief Jay Tappan
Columbia River Fire and Rescue

___________________________
Chief Dave Crawford
Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District

___________________________
Chief Paul Epler
Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District