

Rogue River Basin *Source Water Protection and Wildfire* Workshop

Maintaining Clean Water in the Presence of Wildfire Threats: Partnering to Protect and Restore Watershed Health for Communities and Fish

February 28, 2019

Jackson County SWCD Office, Central Point, OR

AGENDA

8:30 am **REGISTRATION** [coffee provided]

9:00 am **INTRODUCTIONS**

9:30 am **FIRE REGIMES AND RISKS IN OUR AREA**

Overview of fire history in the middle and upper Rogue source watersheds and a map-based characterization of fire risks. *Presentation and Q&A* with a local researcher.

10:00 am **POST-FIRE. WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?**

Imagine a major wildfire in the headwaters has just been fully contained and the autumn rains are expected to begin any day. What, if any, changes will there be to water quality and stream flow? This winter? In 5 years? In 10 years? What kinds of treatment challenges can utilities expect as a result? Presentations and Q&A with researchers who study the treatment effects from wildfire and utilities who have experienced wildfire in their source area + facilitated small-group discussions to explore the readiness of utilities in the Rogue to manage post-wildfire conditions.

12:15 pm **WORKING LUNCH** [provided]

12:30 pm **THE FIRE IS HEADED OUR WAY. WHAT DO WE DO?**

Imagine a fire is rapidly moving from our forested headwaters towards one of our communities, threatening drinking water infrastructure. Do we know whom to contact, when? Explore how emergency personnel and drinking water utilities interact, especially with regards to communications. Lunch-time presentation, a west-coast utility's experience with wildfire + facilitated panel discussion with experts in emergency services, forest management, and public health protection.

2:45 pm **TODAY. WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING NOW?**

It is present day. We have the opportunity to better prepare for wildfires, particularly high-intensity wildfires, and for associated changes to water quality and quantity in their aftermath. What should we be working on now for the greatest benefits over the long-run? Presentation on risk reduction strategies being used by other towns with forested source areas + facilitated small-group discussions to prioritize actions among drinking water utilities in the middle and upper Rogue.

4:10 pm **WRAP-UP**

Synthesize the day's discussions and review recommended actions.

4:30 pm **END**