# Rocky Point Community Wildfire Protection Plan

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Drone photo taken by Dustin Wyble RPFE 2022



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Wildland fire is a vital part of many forest and rangeland ecosystems, yet suppression efforts in the United States since the days of European settlement have in many cases removed fire and the role it plays in vegetation management. This change from the historical fire regime has caused a shift in the native vegetation composition and structure of fire-prone ecosystems in some forests and rangelands, resulting in dangerously high accumulations of vegetative fuels. As a result, when wildland fires do occur, they may burn larger and hotter than those in the past, posing an increased threat to human welfare and ecological integrity. The hazard of wildland fires is compounded by the increasing occurrence of human structures and activities in fire-prone ecosystems, and increased development in the wildland-urban interface. The wildland-urban interface (WUI) occurs where human structures meet or intermix with wildland vegetation. In certain situations, specific actions such as fuels reduction around structures and communities, infrastructure improvements and public outreach may reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in the WUI.

The purpose of the Rocky Point Community Wildfire Protection Plan (RPCWPP) is to establish priorities and recommendations that provide for a greater level of protection for the at-risk neighborhoods within the Rocky Point community, its citizens, homes, and essential infrastructure and resources from the destruction of catastrophic wildfire.

Community-based Forest planning and prioritization is not a new concept. However, the incentive for communities to engage in comprehensive forest planning and prioritization was given new and unprecedented impetus with the enactment of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) in 2003. The HFRA landmark legislation includes the first meaningful statutory incentives for the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to consider the priorities of local communities as they develop and implement forest management and hazardous fuel reduction projects. For a community to take full advantage of this new opportunity, it must first prepare a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

In 2009, Congress passed the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act (FLAME Act), which directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to develop a national cohesive wildland fire management strategy to comprehensively address wildland fire management across all lands in the United States. Under the direction of the intergovernmental Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC), the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy effort (Cohesive Strategy) was initiated in 2010 through a three-phased approach to planning, risk analysis, and collaboration by Federal, state, local and tribal governments and non-governmental partners and public stakeholders. The phased approach allowed systematic and thorough engagement by stakeholders throughout the effort. Each phase included milestones that serve as the building blocks for subsequent steps. This report, **The National Strategy, The Final Phase in the Development of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy** (National Strategy), and the companion **National Action Plan** culminate the third phase of the Cohesive Strategy effort.

The National Strategy recognizes and accepts fire as a natural process necessary for the maintenance of many ecosystems and strives to reduce conflicts between fire-prone landscapes and people. By simultaneously considering the role of fire in the landscape, the ability of humans to plan for and adapt to living with fire, and the need to be prepared to respond to fire when it occurs, the Cohesive Strategy takes a holistic approach to the future of wildland fire management.

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) adopted the following vision for the next century:

To safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a Nation, live with wildland fire.

The primary, national goals identified as necessary to achieving the vision are:

- **Restore and maintain landscapes:** Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.
- **Fire-adapted communities:** Human populations and infrastructure can withstand wildfire without loss of life and property.
- Wildfire response: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

The Fremont-Winema National Forest, Klamath Ranger District is currently in the planning phase of the Klamath Landscape Resiliency (KLR) project. The project area is identified as a high priority for restoration in the *Accelerated Restoration and Priority Landscape Plan for the Fremont-Winema NF*. This area is also within the Klamath River Basin, Wildfire Crisis landscape investments designation. The purpose of the project will be to improve forest resiliency by reducing excess vegetation, reduce wildfire risk and provide conditions for improved protection of life, property and natural resources in the WUI. The Rocky Point planning area is roughly 13,000 acres in size, within and surrounding the community of Rocky Point. Proposed fuels reduction treatments include commercial thinning, small tree thinning, hand and machine piling, pile burning, mastication and underburning/maintenance burning. These proposed treatments combined with RPFE fuel reduction activities will improve resiliency to this landscape, lessening the impacts of wildfire. The U.S. Forest Service is committed to completing the planning for the KLR project and anticipate project activities to begin in 2024.

The main purpose of this project is to implement project activities that achieve resource management goals and objectives defined at National, Forest, and local levels. The Klamath Landscape Resiliency (KLR) Project's purpose is to

- 1. Improve forest resiliency by reducing excess vegetation.
- 2. Protect, restore, and enhance late successional and old-growth forest characteristics and habitat for federally listed species.
- 3. Maintain and restore cultural plants, and
- 4. Reduce wildfire risk and provide conditions for improved protection of life and property within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

The KLR project area has been divided into nine distinct planning areas (map 1) with Rocky Point WUI (13,107 acres) as the top priority. The underlying needs for the KLR Project are derived from the differences between the current landscape condition described in resource-specific reports and the goals, objectives, and desired future conditions directed by the *Winema Forest Plan* (USDA, 1990). The primary resource areas this proposed project addresses are wildlife habitat, resource protection (fire and fuels), forest vegetation, botanical resources (including cultural plants) and riparian resources. The two main needs within the resource protection areas are as follows:

- 1. There is a need to restore forest structure, composition, and density toward more resistant and resilient vegetative conditions, realigning the condition class and fire regime with the presuppression historic landscape.
- 2. There is a need to protect life and property by providing for wildfire suppression opportunities around Potential wildland fire Operations Delineations (PODs) boundaries, associated Potential Control Lines (PCLs), and the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to minimize impact of unplanned ignitions on and adjacent to the forest.

Another project targeting the same landscape that will further complement the planned fuels reduction projects within the Rocky Point community and the adjacent public lands, is the Southeastern Cascades Forest and Fire Project (SECFFP) carried out by the Klamath Watershed Partnership (KWP). This project encompasses nearly 197,000 acres in western Klamath County <u>https://www.klfhp.org/secffp</u>. The Rocky Point community lies directly in the middle of the project area. The SECFFP goals align with the USFS's Klamath Landscape Resiliency project and the Rocky Point CWPP. KWP believes in broad scale landscape restoration for forest resiliency, risk reduction, and resource protection from wildfire. KWP plans for fuels reduction treatments and other mitigation measures targeted at the wildland-urban interface on both private and public lands.

These partnerships listed in the executive summary are indicative of a shared responsibility to reduce wildland fire risks to communities, including Rocky Point.

#### **Goals and Objectives**

The goals and objectives of the Rocky Point Community Wildfire Protection Plan are as follows:

#### Goals

- Revise and update previous versions of the Rocky Point CWPP as property owners, infrastructures, and fuel conditions have changed within the community.
- Assess the risk of wildland fire within the response area of Rocky Point Fire & EMS (RPFE) and update the Klamath County Situation Awareness (KCSA) home risk parcel layer within Interra.
- Collaborate with other partners across all landscapes within the RPFE response area to improve forest resiliency to wildfires.
- Develop Rocky Point into a fire adapted community through fuels reduction, education/outreach, and wildfire preparedness.

#### Objectives

- Increase chances of obtaining Federal and State grants for future community protection projects by having an adequate Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- Form a Firewise group within Rocky Point and apply to become a Firewise community through the National Fire Protection Association and the state of Oregon.
- Recommend actions that property owners can take to reduce the ignitability of structures and vegetation within the Rocky Point community and provide assistance with fuels reduction efforts.
- Collaborate specific actions and priorities that could reduce the risks to life and property with partnering agencies and stakeholders which include ODF, RPFE, Rocky Point CWPP Team, USFS Fremont-Winema National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Klamath County, the Klamath Tribes (Klamath, Modoc, Paiute) and other interested parties or persons.

The mitigation actions proposed herein for the Rocky Point community are based on information acquired from the analysis of fuel surveys, home risk assessments, data collected and available in INTERRA, and verbal communications with community members during data collection. Most of the information presented in this plan was gathered during the summer and fall of 2023. Geographic Information System technology was utilized through INTERRA to graphically analyze and display the data to identify the occurrence of risk and hazards faced by the community with regard to wildand fire. The results of this analysis were then used to prioritize fuels treatment projects in the community based on the relative risks and hazards in terms of wildland fire.

#### Methodology

Rocky Point Fire & EMS personnel utilized Community Wildfire Defense Grant funds to conduct Home Risk Assessments in the Rocky Point area to examine the factors contributing to firefighter safety and risk to structures such as presence of survivable space, road access, and other factors that may affect suppression efforts and survivability of a structure threatened by wildland fire. Fuel surveys were conducted by categorizing vegetation, slope, and aspect of the land in the Rocky Point assessment area. FEMA evaluations were conducted at a landscape scale to evaluate the area-wide situation with regard to fuels, infrastructure and structural density of the different subdivisions in order to ascertain which portions of the community are at highest risk from wildfire. The information gathered from the Home Risk Assessments, fuel surveys, FEMA evaluations and fire occurrence data were integrated into this report. The following action items were identified to reduce the hazard of wildfire in the Rocky Point assessment area.

The recommendations listed below are supportive of and in line with the on-going state-wide hazard assessment mapping project that OSU and OSFM are currently working on and the KCSA tool within Interra:

https://apps.intterragroup.com/?group=Keno#/WildfireRisk/HomeriskHomeRisk/42.7434/-123.0721/8

- Develop a complete map of the assessment area, identifying the homes and structures and ratings of risk posed to structures from wildland fire that affect structural survivability.
- Utilize town hall meetings, door to door interactions, social media platforms, community-wide email lists, fire department website, and mailings to disseminate fire prevention education materials to all residents in the assessment area.
- Encourage residents to reduce fuels on their property and utilize grant funding to assist with this effort for those unable to do for themselves.
- Work in partnership with the Fremont-Winema National Forests (USFS) and the Klamath Watershed Partnership (KWP) to maximize reducing fuels on private lands adjacent to current or planned fuel projects on federal lands.

The assessment area surrounding the Rocky Point community was delineated by the Rocky Point CWPP team, RPFE staff, fire management staff from the USFS, KWP, and ODF. A series of BehavePlus Version 1.0.0 computer fire behavior models were run to determine the distance a fire could travel in a 24-hour burn period under the given conditions (see Appendix A). The calculated 24-hour burn period distance (2.73 miles) was then used to buffer the established community boundary and delineated on the base map as the Rocky Point Community Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Boundary. A broad-based evaluation of risk posed to the community at a landscape level (assessment of subdivisions) was conducted by Rocky Point CWPP team members the Klamath County Situation Awareness (KCSA) tool within INTERRA <a href="http://www.kcrsg.org/">http://www.kcrsg.org/</a>.

On the ground risk assessments of hazards posed to structures (Home Risk Assessments), were also completed by Rocky Point CWPP staff using RPFE rating forms (see Appendix C).

#### **Action Plan**

General action includes the adherence to Firewise practices within the assessment area. The vegetation growing around structures needs to be maintained in a fashion that reduces the risk of wildland fire to nearby structures. The recommended distance for survivable space is a 30foot area around a home or structure that is properly landscaped with fire-resistant vegetation. Methods of fuels reduction include mechanical removal or herbicide treatments (limited use). There are numerous instances where large trees are growing close to structures. A professional arborist should carefully remove these trees or remove the limbs that hang over structures. Additionally, existing build-up of brush and debris around many structures needs to be removed. Implementation should be conducted in a manner as to minimize soil disturbance to prevent soil erosion. Improved Firewise practices are general but long-term in nature because they require continual maintenance of vegetation to reduce the hazards posed to structures from wildfire. Recommendations for Firewise practices are aligned with the recommendations set forth in the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997, commonly referred to as Senate Bill 360, The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, and 2021 Oregon Senate Bill 762. These policies were explained in the Executive Summary and will be further explained in subsequent sections of this plan.

## INTRODUCTION

#### **Background and History**

Beginning in the mid 1800's Europeans began to establish settlements in the Rocky Point area. By the 1890's, tourism appeared in the area when homesteaders like A.H. Laurentz and H.H. Lincoln sold their property to J.D. Kendall, who then established the Pelican Bay Lodge on the site that is known today as the Harriman Springs Resort. Throughout the 1900's other businesses came and gone. Rocky Point Resort was established around 1910. The early 1900's brought increased logging, including the construction of the sawmill adjacent to Odessa Creek, which operated for several years. In the twenty years, the area has lost several public businesses that contributed to the tourist trade. Large-scale logging operations no longer occur in the extensive portions of Federally managed property, posing an additional challenge in terms of mitigating wildfire hazards resulting from the lack of fuels reduction which typically occurs in the course of harvest and clean- up activities. A unique situation exists within the Rocky Point community, in that public (Fremont-Winema National Forests) lands are leased for 20-year terms and improved upon with privately-owned cabins which are utilized heavily for recreation in the summer months. The privately owned lands within the Rocky Point community are intermixed with and surrounded by public lands, presenting an additional challenge and necessitating a landscape approach to hazardous fuels reduction which treats public and privately- owned lands alike.

#### History of fire occurrences

Wildfire occurrence in the Rocky Point assessment area is common and results from both natural and human causes. The last large wildland fire occurred on the NE slope of Pelican Butte (lightning caused) in August 2018. The Pelican fire burned to within ½ mile of structures within the Rocky Point community grew to over 3,000 acres before it was contained. The hazard of wildland fire is high because of the buildup of flammable fuels in the mixed conifer forest stands and the proximity of fuels to structures. Both general and specific actions are needed to reduce the risk of wildland fire.

#### **Planning Area Boundaries**

The unincorporated community of Rocky Point is located near Oregon State Highway 140, approximately 25 miles northwest of Klamath Falls. The wildfire hazard assessment area consists of portions of townships T.33S. R.5E., T.33S.R6E, T.34S. R.5E., T.34S. R.6E., T.34S. R.6E., T.35S. R.5E., T.35S. R.6E., T.36S. R.5E., T.36S. R.5E., T.36S. R.6E., T.37S. R.5E. and T.37S. R.6E., and encompasses eight privately owned subdivisions and approximately 4,500 total acres. Public lands surround and intermix with private land throughout the area. Highway 140 runs from the southeast corner through the west edge of the assessment area. Rocky Point Road, a major access road to homes in the area, adjoins Highway 140 and runs essentially north to south.

For the purposes of this plan, the Rocky Point community has been delineated to include the privately owned properties within the areas of Rocky Point, Odessa and Mountain Lakes, and extends north approximately seven miles to include private lands along West Side Road. The community boundary as defined for purposes of this plan extends north along West Side Road to the intersection of Sevenmile Road. The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), as delineated in this plan, incorporates adjacent public lands managed by the Forest Service on which the

aforementioned cabins are located. The eight subdivisions within the Rocky Point Fire & EMS (RPFE) response area are old, and many of the vacant lots have remained untouched for more than twenty years, resulting in a significant build-up of hazardous fuels (see photo below). Public lands border and intermix privately-owned properties (see photo below) throughout the assessment area, further increasing the threat to the community from wildfire.



Photo of a typical undeveloped lot



Photo of USFS lands bordering private lot

#### **Definitions and Descriptions**

#### Wildland Urban Interface

The wildland-urban interface (WUI) occurs where human structures meet or intermix with wildland vegetation. The WUI zone poses tremendous risks to life, property and infrastructure in associated communities and is one of the most dangerous and complicated situations firefighters face. In certain situations, specific actions such as fuels reduction around communities and structures, infrastructure improvements, and public education and outreach may reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in the wildland- urban interface.

Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HRFA) defines the wildland urban interface (WUI) as:

A. An area within or adjacent to an at-risk community that is identified in a

community wildfire protection plan; or

B. In the case of any area for which a community wildfire protection plan is not in effect—

- a. An area extending  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the boundary of an at-risk community.
- b. An area with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the boundary of an at-risk community,

including any land that-

i. Has sustained steep slopes that creates that potential for wildfire behavior endangering the at-risk community.

ii. Has a geographic feature that aids in creating an effective fire break, such as a road or a ridge top.

iii. Is in condition class 3, as documented by the Secretary in the project-specific environmental analysis.

c. An area that is adjacent to an evacuation route for an at-risk community that the Secretary determines, in cooperation with the at-risk community, requires hazardous fuel reduction to provide safer evacuation from the at- risk community.

HFRA states that community wildfire protection plans can identify the wildland urban interface for the at-risk communities in the plan. The Rocky Point CWPP identifies the WUI boundary based on previous work done in the 2005 CWPP with Behave Plus Version 1.0.0 (fire behavior model) outputs and discussions between USFS, ODF, and Klamath County Fire chiefs. Based on this work the WUI boundary was set at 2.73 miles around the communities and subdivisions of Rocky Point (See Appendix A).

#### **Communities at Risk**

A community at risk is one that:

• Is an interface community as defined in the Federal Register notice of January 4, 2001, or a group of homes and other structures with basic infrastructure and services (such as utilities and collectively maintained transportation routes) in or adjacent to federal land.

- Has present conditions that are conducive to large-scale wildland fire.
- Faces a significant threat to human life or property as a result of a wildland fire.<sup>1</sup>

All the communities/neighborhoods identified in the Rocky Point assessment area are considered to be at-risk communities. In fact, Rocky Point, OR, has a higher wildfire risk to homes than 93.9% of communities in the nation. https://wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool/4100063250)

#### **Fire Risk**

Fire risk can be defined as:

• The probability or chance of fire starting determined by the presence and activities of causative agents.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Fire Hazard**

Fire hazard can be defined as:

• The potential fire behavior for a fuel type, regardless of the fuel type's weatherinfluenced fuel moisture content [is] ...based on physical fuel characteristics, such as fuel arrangement, fuel load, condition of herbaceous vegetation, and presence of elevated fuels.<sup>3</sup>

- The amount, conditions, and structure of fuels that will burn if a fire enters an area.  $^{\rm 4}$ 

• A fire hazard is considered to exist where there is a danger of a fire breaking out or spreading quickly. For example, the storage of combustible fuels close to the source of a flame (eg. an electrical spark) would be discouraged as constituting a fire hazard.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Healthy Forests Initiative and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act: Interim Field Guide

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> www.borealforest.org/nwgloss4.htm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> www.cfr.washington.edu/classes.esc.322/glossary.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire hazard

### **Fire Policies and Programs**

#### **National Fire Plan**

After the unprecedented fire season of 2000, Congress approved funds for Federal and State agencies and local communities to better plan and prepare for future wildfire seasons. The resultant planning and preparation is commonly referred to as the National Fire Plan (NFP). The Goals of the NFP are listed below:

#### Goals

- Ensuring sufficient firefighting resources for the future.
- Rehabilitating and restoring fire-damaged ecosystems.
- Reducing fuels (combustible forest materials) in forests and rangelands at risk, especially near communities.
- Working with local residents to reduce fire risk and improve fire protection<sup>6</sup>

#### **Healthy Forest Initiative**

HFI provides several categories of projects that can be categorically excluded from an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement within the NEPA process. Hazardous fuel reduction projects are only one of the categories subject to exclusion. To be categorically excluded under HFI, a proposed hazardous fuel reduction activity must meet the following requirements:

- Hazardous fuel reduction activities using prescribed fire are less than 4,500 acres.
- Hazardous fuel reduction activities using mechanical methods are less than 1,000 acres.
- Activities shall be limited to areas in the wildland urban interface or to areas in Condition Classes 2 and 3 in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III outside of the wildland urban interface.
- Projects shall be identified collaboratively using the framework identified in *A* Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment: 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Healthy Forest Restoration Act**

HFRA authorizes special procedures for Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements for a variety of land management goals including authorized hazardous fuel reduction projects. The Forest Service and the BLM are not required to analyze alternatives to the proposed action, as is typically required by the National Environmental Policy Act, if:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The National Fire Plan: Managing the Impact of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ibid.

The project area is inside the wildland urban interface and is within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the boundary of an at-risk community except if the proposed action does not implement the recommendations in the adopted community wildfire protection plan. In that case, the agencies are required to analyze the recommended actions in the plan as an alternative to the proposed action.<sup>8</sup>

The use of both HFI and HFRA can aid in streamlining the planning process to accomplish more work on the ground. Use of both tools requires the identification of communities at risk, a determination of the wildland urban interface, and a completed community wildfire protection plan.<sup>9</sup>

#### The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

In the past, federal legislation has provided funding for disaster relief, recovery, and some hazard mitigation planning. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000 under the Federal Emergency Management Act) is the latest legislation to improve this planning process. The new legislation reinforces the importance of mitigation planning and emphasizes planning for disasters before they occur. As such, this Act establishes a pre- disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Section 322 of the Act specifically addresses mitigation planning at the state and local levels. It identifies new requirements that allow HMGP funds to be used for planning activities and increases the amount of HMGP funds available to fire departments and non-profits that have developed a comprehensive, enhanced mitigation plan prior to a disaster. States and communities must have an approved mitigation plan in place prior to receiving post-disaster HMGP funds. Local and tribal mitigation plans must demonstrate that their proposed mitigation measures are based on a sound planning process that accounts for the risk to and the capabilities of the individual communities.<sup>10</sup>

DMA 2000 is intended to facilitate cooperation between state and local authorities, prompting them to work together. It encourages and rewards local and state pre-disaster planning and promotes sustainability as a strategy for disaster resistance. This enhanced planning network will better enable local and state governments to articulate accurate needs for mitigation, resulting in faster allocation of funding and more effective risk reduction projects.<sup>11</sup>

#### **Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997**

Also referred to as Senate Bill 360, the act responds to several escalating problems:

- Wildland fires burning homes.
- Firefighters risking their lives in conflagrations.
- Rising suppression costs
- Reduced fire protection for wildland areas<sup>12</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The National Fire Plan: Managing the Impact of Wildfires of Communities and the Environment

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ibid, page 293

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> http://www.fema.gov/pdf/fima/howto1.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997 Brochure

The Act enlists the aid of the only people who can make fuel reduction changes to private land-the landowners themselves. In general, the Act applies to lands classified as "forestland-urban interface" by a local classification committee using the following criteria to identify lands which are:

- Within an ODF protection boundary
- Urban or suburban
- 10 acres in size or smaller
- Improved with one or more structures.
- Grouped with other improved properties in a density of at least four structures per 40 acres<sup>13</sup>

The guidelines provided in the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act are aligned with the recommendations outlined in the Living With Fire, Firewise and Fire Free educational materials.

## **PLANNING PROCESS**

Despite increased funding for hazardous fuels reduction in and around communities, the need for funding far exceeds available resources. Thus, it is important that implementation projects target the highest priority areas.

The purpose of the risk assessment is to gauge the relative risk and hazard due to wildland fire for the lands and communities within the planning area. It is a tool to direct implementation to the highest priority areas and promote cross-boundary coordination. The risk assessment is key to developing an understanding of the risk of potential losses to life, property, and natural resources during a wildland fire. Specifically, the risk assessment:

- 1) Assesses risk, hazard, fire protection capability, structural vulnerability, and values to be protected.
- 2) Identifies the wildland urban interface (WUI) across the plan area. 3) Identifies

and prioritizes areas in which to conduct fuels reduction treatments.

#### **Description of Partners and Committees**

Cooperators for the Rocky Point Community Wildfire Protection Plan include Rocky Point Fire & EMS (RPFE), Rocky Point CWPP Team, Rocky Point Firewise Connection, Fremont-Winema National Forests (USFS-FWNF), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and the Klamath Watershed Partnership (KWP). The community is considered a special district and is led by RPFE and the Rocky Point CWPP team in its fuels reduction and fire safety efforts.

Rocky Point Fire & EMS and the Rocky Point CWPP team will take a lead role in educating landowners within the community with regards to Fire Wise practices and the creation of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Ibid.

defensible space, in addition to directing community fuels reduction projects on private lands. Established in 1975, RPFE is situated on the west side of Klamath Lake, twenty miles northwest of Klamath Falls, Oregon. RPFE jurisdiction includes approximately 30 square miles for structural fire protection and over one hundred square miles of ambulance/rescue protection services.

RPFE's fire station is located on Rocky Point Road in the center of the district. RPFE runs one structure/rescue engine and a second older engine, a Type IV heavy wildland/interface engine, one Type VI wildland engine, one newer 4x4 ambulance, one 3,000-gallon water tender and two support vehicles. RPFE staff consists of one part time paid fire chief and twelve volunteers. The average call volume is nearing one hundred fifty calls a year; 88% of which are highway rescue calls, 7% are wildland fire related and the remaining 5% are structural and miscellaneous calls. RPFE operates from a small tax assessment, rescue income and local community fund raising. The fire district is experiencing an increase in response calls due to new structural and population growth as well as commuter traffic on Highway 140 between Klamath Falls and Medford, Oregon.<sup>13</sup>

RPFE has a close working relationship with the Oregon Department of Transportation, and in a collaborative effort involving both parties, community input has been utilized in discussions pertaining to issues of signage and safety as they relate to areas in and around Rocky Point. These discussions have resulted in several improvements with the signs as well as the establishment of a "Safety Corridor" along Highway 140 from milepost 29 to milepost 47. The "Safety Corridor" is a designation by ODOT to alert travelers to a dangerous stretch of highway. The signs and the increased patrol by law enforcement are designed to improve observance of the 55-mph speed limit from milepost 29 to mp 47 along Hwy. 140.

#### **Description of Rocky Point CWPP Team**

The development of the Rocky Point CWPP was a collaborative effort that relied on the participation and input of many different organizations and individuals and was overseen by the Rocky Point CWPP team in the creation of this plan.

The Rocky Point CWPP team was formed with funding awarded from the 2022 USFS Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) to assist with the following:

- Provide oversight to all activities related to the development of a CWPP.
- Develop and refine goals for fire protection in the planning area.
- Provide recommended actions and remedies to reduce the risk of structure loss due to wildfire within the Wildland-Urban Interface.

The Rocky Point CWPP team began working on the CWPP in the summer of 2023 and was awarded the CWDG grant in late August to complete the CWPP. The Rocky Point CWPP team and the Rocky Point Firewise Connection held many meetings with local partners in the development of this plan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Per discussion with Diann Walker-Pope, Fire Chief

Participants with both teams include:

| Diann Walker-Pope | Rocky Point Fire & EMS Chief           |
|-------------------|--|
| Eric Krueger      | Rocky Point CWPP Team/Project Manager  |
| Dustin Wyble      | Rocky Point CWPP Team Lead             |
| Carl Taylor       | Rocky Point CWPP Team member           |
| Diana Newdall     | <b>Rocky Point Firewise Connection</b> |
| Jerry Higgins     | <b>Rocky Point Firewise Connection</b> |
| Mike Newdall      | <b>Rocky Point Firewise Connection</b> |
| Steve Mckee       | <b>Rocky Point Firewise Connection</b> |
| Whit Simpson      | <b>Rocky Point Firewise Connection</b> |
| Del Ramsdale      | <b>Rocky Point Firewise Connection</b> |
| Rita Donato       | <b>Rocky Point Firewise Connection</b> |
| David Reed        | <b>Rocky Point Firewise Connection</b> |
|                   |  |

### **Collaboration and Community Outreach**

The following is a table displaying CWPP and Firewise meetings held, topics covered, and stakeholders in attendance:

| ······································ |                                    |                             |  |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Meeting Date</b>                    | <b>Topics Covered</b>              | Attendees                   |  |
|  | Rocky Point CWPP team              | RPFE Chief, selected RPFE   |  |
| 4/3/23                                 | selection (3 members), project     | staff, private consultant   |  |
|  | manager selected                   |                             |  |
|  | RPFE Board Meeting:                | RPFE Chief, Rocky Point     |  |
| 4/10/23                                | Introduce Rocky Point CWPP         | community members, Rocky    |  |
|  | Team, go over timelines and        | Point CWPP team             |  |
|  | expectations                       |                             |  |
| 4/11/23                                | Discuss next steps with completing | RPFE Chief, Rocky Point     |  |
| 4/11/23                                | CWDG grant forms                   | CWPP Team                   |  |
|  | Met with GIS contractor,           |                             |  |
| 4/14/23                                | went over expectations and         | Project Manager, private    |  |
|  | discussed proposed work            | contractor                  |  |
|  |                                    |                             |  |
| 4/17/23                                | TEAMS meeting to finalize          | USFS Coop Fire Program Mngr |  |
| 4/18/23                                | CWDG paperwork                     | and Rocky Point CWPP team   |  |
| 4/28/23                                |                                    |                             |  |
| 6/17/23                                | CWDG/Fire Planning                 | Rocky Point CWPP team and   |  |
| 0,1,1,20                               | Meeting to share planning          | fire chief. KWP. ODF. USFS. |  |
|  | efforts and collaboration          | BLM. KC Emergency Mngt.     |  |
|  |                                    |                             |  |
| 8/15/23                                | CWDG/CWPP meeting at               | Rocky Point CWPP team,      |  |
|  | KRD to discuss next phase of       | USFS, Keno FD, Bly FD,      |  |
|  | grants and expectations for        | numerous others             |  |
|  | CWPP                               |                             |  |
| 9/5/23                                 | Official start of grant period.    | Rocky Point CWPP team and   |  |
|  | TEAMS meeting with USFS            | USFS                        |  |
|  | to go over expectations            |                             |  |
|  |                                    |                             |  |

 Table 1: Rocky Point CWPP Team Meeting Summary

| 10/4/23          | Firewise Meeting to officially<br>form a local Firewise group<br>and select a leader       | Rocky Point CWPP team,<br>Firewise Connection members |
|------------------|--|---|
| 11/08/23         | Went over Firewise<br>application process and next<br>steps                                | Rocky Point CWPP team,<br>Firewise Connection members |
| 1/2/23 & 1/12/23 | Discuss being Firewise<br>recognized, next steps.<br>Planning for June 8<br>prevention day | Rocky Point CWPP team,<br>Firewise Connection members |

#### Identifying Communities-at-risk

To determine communities at risk, the Rocky Point CWPP team first had to define "community." The following criteria were used to identify sub-communities (neighborhoods/subdivisions) within the plan area:

- Recognized development (ex. platted subdivisions);
- Any large grouping of structures (ex. private residences along Rocky Point Road)
- Within the RPFE response area

Applying these criteria resulted in the identification of eight communities (see Appendix B).

#### **Communities-at-risk in Rocky Point**

- Malone (northern most subdivisions East of Rocky Point Road)
- Rocky Point Proper (subdivisions south of Malone, east side of Rocky Point Rd.)
- Forest Park (west side of Rocky Point Rd., directly across from Rocky Point
- Proper)
- South Rocky Point (subdivision directly north of Hwy 140)
- Varney Creek (subdivision adjacent to Mountain Lakes)
- Mountain Lakes (subdivision south side of Hwy 140)
- Odessa (subdivision along west side of Hwy 140)
- Driscoll (southernmost residence, east side of Hwy 140)

Privately owned cabins on leased public lands were incorporated into the above communities at risk. Although these cabins are on USFS lands we do intend to treat them for defensible space as well. The results of this assessment will affect public lands intermixed with and adjacent to assessed private lands regarding WUI treatment priority and type.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

#### **Environment and Natural Resources**

The elevation of Rocky Point is 4,159 feet above mean sea level, with general elevations ranging from approximately 4,150 to 5,000 feet. The terrain is mountainous and not easily accessed due to the small number of roads, most of which are unimproved. Current land uses include recreation, hunting, camping, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, sightseeing, and limited timber production. The Upper Klamath Lake is the dominant body of open water. There are no community water sources to draw from, as water is delivered to individual parcels via private wells and springs, however, there are numerous creeks and a couple of ponds within the assessment area.

The climate of the Rocky Point area is characterized by warm, dry summers with average daily high temperatures reaching 80 degrees Fahrenheit in July and August and average daily summertime lows of 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Winter months are typically cool, with average daily temperatures from November to March ranging from the high 40s to the low 10s Fahrenheit. Precipitation is typically low with an average annual precipitation of 14 inches of rain equivalent. Most precipitation arrives during the months of November to March, typically in the form of snow. Summers are dry and prone to frequent thunderstorms that may be wet or dry. These thunderstorms frequently cause multiple fire ignitions during any given storm; July, August, and September are the most active months for wildland fire occurrences.

Due to its geographical location, the Rocky Point community and surrounding areas experience dominate Westerly winds, most pronounced during the evenings of summer months.

The primary vegetative type throughout the community is a mixed conifer forest with fir and cedar occurring on the north slopes. Manzanita and bitterbrush are common throughout the assessment area. Many areas are overstocked and have multiple canopy layers, posing a wildfire risk within the Rocky Point assessment area. Lightning and human-caused fires can easily occur when there is a buildup of hazardous fuels in forest communities and have occurred within the assessment area. The dominant hazardous fuels in the assessment area are the mixed conifer stands with scatterings of brush components that occur throughout the assessment area on both privately owned and adjacent public lands.

The vegetation within Rocky Point community and surrounding area has been categorized by the Forest Service as Condition Class 3. Condition classes are a function of the degree of departure from historical fire regimes resulting in alterations of key ecosystem components such as species composition, structural stage, stand age, and canopy closure. One or more of the following activities may have caused this departure: fire exclusion, timber harvesting, grazing, introduction and establishment of exotic plant species, insects and disease (introduced or native), or other past management activities.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> http://www.frcc.gov/

#### Population, demographics, socio-economic data

The area contains approximately 400 homes and/or structures (as of 10-1-2023), and the current population of the area is approximately 400 full time residents with a seasonal population of approximately 700 residents: The seasonal population swells in the summer when privately-owned vacation homes and private cabins on leased public lands are occupied.

#### Housing and development trends

The area is experiencing continued steady growth both in the subdivisions as well as the surrounding area. Since the 1980s, the area has seen a growth rate of around four homes built per year, and this trend of increased growth is expected to increase over the next five years. As an unincorporated community, Rocky Point does not have a formal government entity to represent and/or address the issues faced by the community, thereby increasing the need for a cohesive plan to reduce the wildfire threat faced by its residents.

#### Transportation, Infrastructure, Land use

As a small, unincorporated community, Rocky Point has little infrastructure to speak of relative to larger communities. The three primary roads (Highway 140, Rocky Point Road and West Side Road) serve as the transportation conduit and evacuation route for residents and visitors. One 350 gallon-per-minute well at the Rocky Point Fire & EMS fire station serves as the primary water source for suppression activities within the area and is supported by a drafting site at the Harriman Springs Resort boat ramp. Domestic wells serve individual residents, and electricity is delivered via dispersed, overhead and underground transmission lines, eliminating a main transmission terminal.

#### **ISO Fire Hazard Rating**

The community of Rocky Point has an ISO rating of 8B-10. This rating is high (on a scale of one to ten) and is due primarily to the remoteness (response time) of the community as a whole and a lack of fire suppression infrastructure (hydrants, water sources, paid fire department, etc.).

## WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessment carried out by the Rocky Point CWPP team was conducted in each of the eight subdivisions (Appendix B) within the Rocky Point community. The Preplan Fire Assessment form (Appendix C), which was developed from several different forms was utilized. Additionally, team members reviewed and updated the Home Risk Parcel data within INTERRA as well, since this tool is utilized by state, federal and county firefighters when wildfires threaten communities. Due to time constraints from the delay in receiving CWDG funding, only 20% of private lots (both developed and undeveloped), were assessed. The Rocky Point CWPP team felt 20% sampling would give a good representation of the overall risk to wildfire. In addition to analyzing the factors contributing to risk, visual calculations of the amount and kind of mitigation work needed to reduce hazardous fuels were also collected.

#### Limitations of the Risk Assessment Data

The assessment did not look at every structure and undeveloped lot within the community. Of course, some lots have more risk and less defensible space than others, but a 20% sampling was all that could be accomplished in the short timeframe we had in order to have a completed CWPP for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the CWDG application process. The rest of the assessments will be completed for all developed and undeveloped lots within each subdivision during the 2023/2024 winter. Finally, some of the data collected is subjective by the very nature of the interpretation process used for data collection.

#### Wildfire Risk Assessment Methodology

The assessment form used for data collection was a culmination of several different forms found on the internet from different state agencies. The CWPP team felt the Preplan Fire Assessment form met the RPFE's needs and also achieved consistency in the CWPP planning approach on a statewide level. The assessment is intended to illustrate the relative level of risk to life, property, and natural resources within the plan area. The assessment is based on recommendations made by the National Association of State Foresters in June 2003 for "identifying and prioritizing communities at risk." The assessment considers five categories in determining the relative severity of fire risk:

• *Risk:* what is the likelihood of a fire occurring (based on past occurrences of human and lightning caused fires)? [Data from both the Oregon Department of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service depicting fire ignition densities was utilized.]

• *Hazard:* what are the conditions that hinder control of a wildland fire once it starts (fuels, slope, aspect, elevation, and weather)? [Fuel surveys, and Home Risk Assessments utilized to collect data.]

• *Values:* the people, property, natural resources, and other resources that could suffer losses in a wildland fire event [Information collected via informal interviews with homeowners (Appendix C) and local resident input]

• *Structural Vulnerability:* the elements that affect the level of exposure of the hazard to the structure (roof type and building materials, access to the structure, and existing defensible space or fuels reduction around the structure.) [Information collected via Home Risk Assessments]

• *Protection Capability:* the ability to mitigate losses, prepare for, respond to and suppress wildland and structural fires [RPFE Protection Boundary Map]

The Rocky Point CWPP team used the WUI defining process used by the initial CWPP writers from 2005. That team began their evaluation of the wildland urban interface with the guidelines set forth by the National Fire Plan, establishing the WUI at 1½ miles around the community as delineated. After completing the risk assessment and considering potential actions to protect communities from wildland fire, the committee determined that the 1½ mile band around the communities did not align with the forest conditions, fuel accumulations, recent fire history, and the direction of prevailing wind. A BehavePlus Version 1.0.0 computer model of predicted fire behavior was run to establish a WUI boundary that would encompass the 24-hour burn period and better serve to protect the community given the area-specific conditions (see Appendix A). The wildland urban interface boundary around the Rocky Point

community was established as a 2.73-mile buffer around the perimeter of the community boundary (see Appendix F, Rocky Point CWPP Base Map).

The mitigation actions proposed herein are based on information acquired from fuel surveys (Appendices J-M), Preplan Fire Assessments (Appendix C), and verbal communications with community residents during the course of conducting the Home Risk Assessments. The majority of information presented in this plan was gathered during the summer and fall of 2023.

#### **Fire Risk**

Risk is quantified through an examination of the density of historical fire ignitions (human and lightning caused) coupled with an examination of structural density, access and other infrastructural factors on a subdivision scale that affect the ability of firefighters to safely fight a fire. Utilizing ODF, USFS, and RPFE data, the Rocky Point CWPP team was able to prioritize the subdivisions by fire occurrence (see Table 3, pg. 28). In addition to analysis of ignition point fire history, the subdivision evaluations also provided information with regard to risk as it relates to infrastructure.

#### **Fire Hazard**

Hazard equates to the conditions that may hinder control of a wildland fire: The hazard layer is a compilation of weather, topography, and fuels information.

*Weather* is the single most important factor in the hazard layer. This factor is based on the number of days per season that forest fuels are capable of producing a significant fire event. The Rocky Point CWPP area resides in south-central Oregon and is in Zone 3—the most hazardous rating. (Weather Zones were generated for the Oregon Forestland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997).

**Topographic characteristics** include slope, aspect and elevation. Steeper slopes can cause wildland fires to spread more quickly and increase the difficulty of suppression efforts. Aspect is broken into two classes corresponding roughly to the amount of insulation or sun exposure expected on the site. This information was captured and quantified using the fuel surveys (vegetation hazard maps) and Home Risk Assessment forms.

*Fuels (Vegetation)* The fuels layer is based on fire regime condition class. Fire regime is a general classification of the role fire would play across a landscape in the absence of modern human intervention. Coarse scale definitions for natural (historical) fire regimes have been developed and interpreted for fire and fuels management. The five natural (historical) fire regimes are classified based on average number of years between fires (fire frequency) combined with the severity (amount of replacement) of the fire on the dominant over story vegetation.

A fire regime condition class (FRCC) is a classification of the amount of departure from the natural regime. Coarse-scale FRCC classes include three condition classes for each fire regime. The classification is based on a relative measure describing the degree of departure from the historical natural fire regime.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> http://www.frcc.gov.

The three classes are based on low (FRCC 1), moderate (FRCC 2), and high (FRCC 3) departure from the central tendency of the natural (historical) regime. The central tendency is a composite estimate of vegetation characteristics (species composition, structural stages, stand age, canopy closure, and mosaic pattern); fuel composition; fire frequency, severity, and pattern; and other associated natural disturbances. Low departure is considered to be within the natural (historical) range of variability, while moderate and high departures are outside.<sup>16</sup>

A portion of the Rocky Point Community Risk Assessment presents and summarizes data for fuel and terrain conditions. This information was captured in fuels surveys (Appendices J-M) and Home Risk Assessments and can be placed in context of the ignition patterns across the landscape to identify areas at greatest risk of both potential fire starts and existing conditions which are conducive to rapidly carrying a fire from the ignition point.

#### **Fuels Data Collected**

The fuels information collected through the Home Risk Assessment process can be summarized as follows (see Appendix C):

• **Slope**: Eighty percent of the assessed lots are on slopes less than 20 percent.

• **Aspect**: Eighty percent of the assessment sites had southern exposures while the remaining 20 percent were on all other exposures.

• **Elevation**: The elevations for all of the assessment sites were between 4150 and 5000 feet.

• Vegetation Type: Fifty percent of the assessment sites had a high vegetation hazard rating; 30 percent of the sites had a moderate vegetation hazard rating, and the remaining 20 percent had a low hazard vegetation rating.

• **Fuel Type**: Seventy percent of the fuel survey points had heavy fuel loads, 20 percent had moderate fuel loads and the remaining 10 percent had light fuel loads.

• Fuel Density: Sixty percent of the sites had a continuous fuel bed and the remaining fuel beds were non-continuous with natural and man-made breaks throughout the area,

• **Fuel Bed Depth**: Forty percent of the sites had a fuel bed depth greater than three feet, while the other Sixty percent had a fuel depth of one to three feet.

• **Fire Condition Class**: The entire assessment area has been identified on the Klamath County Fire Regime Condition Class Map as a Condition Class 3 (USFS).

#### **Protection Capabilities**

Water is drawn from domestic wells for each property in the assessment area; hydrants are nonexistent within the community. The three primary roads in the area (Highway 140, Rocky Point Road, and West Side Road) can accommodate emergency service vehicles. Direct access to approximately forty percent of the properties is possible from these primary roads, while the remaining parcels are accessed by roads which are not improved and/or maintained and are not easily accessed by emergency service vehicles. Community members are encouraged to contact RPFE to ascertain whether or not individual parcels can be easily accessed by emergency response vehicles.

Rocky Point Fire & EMS is typically the first agency to respond to wildland fire within a tenmile radius of Rocky Point. As a small, volunteer-based entity, RPFE faces several challenges in terms of wildland fire suppression, including a lack of personnel (paid and volunteer firefighters), inadequate water supply, a lack of adequate maneuverability and limited access on unimproved/unmaintained roads, and a build-up of forest debris. RPFE has used equipment further limiting their effectiveness. RPFE staff consists of one part time paid fire chief and twelve volunteers.

ODF is assigned primary private wildland fire suppression responsibilities within the assessment area, and through a mutual-aid agreement, the USFS responds to wildfires burning on public and private lands within the vicinity. The resources available through the Lakeview Interagency Fire Center (LIFC) for a high-level (Red, or worse- case scenario) dispatch include nine engines (two to five crew members each), one helicopter, one bulldozer, one 3,000-gallon water-tender and one optional air attack unit if requested. A Type III helicopter is available under contract with ODF as well. Additional wildland fire resources are available upon request and are utilized when extreme weather events are forecasted.

#### **Structural Vulnerability**

The analysis examines the structural vulnerability (the elements that affect ignitability) of existing structures to wildland fire in the plan area. To arrive at the quantitative and qualitative values for this layer, local fire officials developed and implemented an analysis based on their knowledge of the community and professional experience. The goals for reducing structural vulnerability to wildfire are as follows:

#### Goals

- Minimize structural vulnerability of all structures within the plan area.
- Make all communities and structures as defensible/survivable as possible in the event of a wildland fire.

Unlike the other four factors in the risk assessment, structural vulnerability is not based on pre-existing quantitative information. Rather, it is based on local fire professional judgment and quantified using the Preplan Fire Assessment form (Appendix C).

Rocky Point CWPP team members evaluated each private lot that was sampled within the community for structural vulnerability based on the following factors:

- 1. Access infrastructure (roads, bridges, driveways).
- 2. Roofing material and debris accumulation (weakest point of structural ignitability).
- 3. Fuel arrangement and density in proximity of structures (overhanging and/or within 30 feet).
- 4. Other combustible materials.
- 5. Other firefighting hazard factors (power lines, dogs, propane tanks, etc.).

| Assessment<br>Categories | Elements   | Data Source  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Risk                     | Ignition Density (human and lightning caused from 1995-2004).  | Based on visual<br>interpretation of<br>FS/ODF/RPFE Fire<br>History Points |
| Hazard                   | Landscape approach to evaluate Slope, Aspect,<br>Elevation, Weather, Structure Density,<br>Ingress/Egress based on local fire professional<br>experience | Preplan fire<br>assessment form,<br>(Appendix C).                          |
|                          | Fuels survey based on site visits by local fire professionals for vegetation density, fuel type and topography   | Vegetation Hazard<br>Map Layer<br>(Appendices J-M).                        |
|                          | Structural Vulnerability (Home Risk<br>Assessments) based on the professional<br>judgment and experience of local fire<br>professionals                  | Preplan fire<br>assessment form,<br>(Appendix C).                          |
| Values                   | Structural Density based on visual interpretation.   | Derived from 2020<br>Klamath County<br>Tax Assessor's<br>Information       |
| Protection<br>Capability | Based on the boundary of the RPFE response area  | INTERRA<br>www.kcsrg.org   |

**Table 2: Rocky Point CWPP Risk Assessment Factors** 

Note should be taken that the values found in this analysis are subject to change over time with subsequent changes in population and structure density, growth of ladder fuels and forested areas, and fuels treatments on both private and public lands.

The purpose of conducting the Home Risk Assessments was to analyze the plan area for structural density, building materials, proximity to fuels, presence of a survivable space (the vegetation within a 30-foot perimeter around structures) and accessibility of structures by emergency response vehicles. Roughly 500 acres of improved/unimproved private property were evaluated to produce hazard ratings based on the Home Risk Assessments, and many structures evaluated are located within one quarter mile of publicly- owned lands (USFS).

#### **Home Risk Assessment Data**

The results of the Home Risk Assessments conducted on the privately owned parcels are as follows:

- **Structure Density**: The areas of highest structure density are within the Rocky Point Proper and Forest Park communities.
- **Proximity to Structures**: Structures were rated with regards to hazards posed by vegetation and other flammable material within a 30-foot perimeter. Fifteen percent of

the properties were rated at a high hazard level; 22% were rated at a moderate hazard level and 60% of the structures were rated to be at a low hazard level.

• **Predominant Building Materials**: Approximately 55% of the structures were rated as having some type of fire resistance roof, while the roofs of remaining structures were deemed unsafe due to wood shakes and/or needle accumulation.

• **Survivable Space**: 76% of the structures were rated as having survivable space intact but had some other feature (primarily access) that increased the hazard rating.

• **Vacant/Unimproved Parcels within identified subdivisions:** Approximately 60% of the parcels within the Rocky Point community are undeveloped, and a vast majority of these undeveloped lots have no defensible space and/or fuels reduction work implemented to reduce the hazard both on these lots and the parcels adjacent to them. Approximately 75% of the total number of privately owned, improved lots within the community have existing defensible space.

# <u>Therefore approximately 80% of the parcels within the assessment area are at potentially High risk for a catastrophic fire due to unmanaged vegetation on both improved and vacant lots.</u>

• **Roads**: The assessment area consists of three primary two-way roads (Highway 140, Rocky Point Road and West Side Road), while a majority of the roads in the area are predominately narrow with gravel or dirt surfaces, a majority of which are inaccessible to emergency response vehicles. The existing subdivisions are linked by public roads, and current development is occurring primarily on unimproved roads. With regard to private property access, approximately 150 of the driveways within the Rocky Point community are accessed from the three paved roads within the area, namely Highway 140, Rocky Point Road and Westside Road. The remaining two-thirds of private properties in the area are accessed by unpaved, unimproved roads.

• **Response Time**: 100% of the assessment area has a response time of less than 30 minutes for a single fire engine (structural type). 50% of the assessment area has a response time of more than 30 minutes for multiple engines (structural and wildland, multi-agency response).

• Access: 15% of the assessment area has roads with multiple entrances and exits that would accommodate fire truck turnarounds. Roughly 33% of the parcels within the area have limited access routes with only two ways in and out or may have moderate road grades. The remaining (approximate) 52% of the area is accessed by roads which are narrow, single lane, and/or have no turn around area.

Table 3 identifies and prioritizes the main threats and risks to structures and communities calculated from the risk assessments completed in each subdivision. For each threat or risk listed, an action is recommended to address the threat or decrease the risk.

| Community Name (priority)                | Primary Threat/Risk  | Recommended<br>Action/Mitigation   |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Odessa                                   | Ignition History of fire starts  | Education and<br>Outreach  |  |
| (Priority One)                           | Density and Condition of structures/ignitability                             | Education and<br>Outreach  |  |
|  | Vegetation: structure & composition  | Defensible space<br>clearing out to<br>30' from<br>structure                         |  |
|  | Narrow unimproved<br>Access/Egress routes                                    | Widen roads<br>where feasible,<br>turnouts   |  |
| Forest Park<br>(Priority Two)            | Density and Condition of<br>structures/ignitability                          | Education and<br>Outreach  |  |
|  | Vegetation: structure & composition  | Defensible space<br>clearing out to<br>30' from<br>structure                         |  |
| Rocky Point South                        | Vegetation: structure &<br>composition (vacant lots in<br>subdivision)       | Defensible<br>space clearing<br>out to 30' from<br>structure/SFB                     |  |
| (Priority Three)                         | Vegetation: structure & composition (unimproved lots, adjacent subdivisions) | Defensible<br>space clearing<br>out to 30'<br>from<br>structure/SFB                  |  |
|  | Vegetation: structure & composition  | Defensible space<br>clearing out to<br>30' from                                      |  |
| Varney Creek<br>( <i>Priority Four</i> ) | Vegetation: structure & composition (unimproved lots, adjacent public lands) | structure, 100' o<br>to property line<br>where feasible.<br>(SFB) on public<br>lands |  |
| Malone<br>( <i>Priority Five</i> )       | Vegetation: structure & composition  | Defensible space<br>clearing out to<br>30' from<br>structure                         |  |
| Rocky Point Proper<br>(Priority Six)     | Vegetation: structure & composition (unimproved lots, adjacent public lands) | Defensible space<br>clearing out to<br>30' from<br>structure, 100' or                |  |

Table 3: Project Prioritization/Structural Vulnerability Threats and Actions

|                                    |  | to property line<br>where feasible.<br>(SFB) on public<br>lands   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Mountain Lakes<br>(Priority Seven) | Vegetation: structure &<br>composition (vacant lots in<br>subdivision)       | Defensible space<br>clearing out to<br>30' from<br>structure, 100' or<br>to property line<br>where feasible.<br>(SFB) on vacant<br>lots |
| Driscoll<br>(Priority Eight)       | Long Access/Egress route with gate   | Knox box or<br>combo lock for<br>responders   |
|                                    | Vegetation: structure & composition (unimproved lots, adjacent public lands) | Defensible space<br>clearing out to<br>30' from<br>structure/(SFB)<br>on public lands   |

SFB-Shaded Fuel Break

The following general recommendations were identified as actions which can reduce the chances of a structure igniting in the event of a wildfire.

- Replace combustible roof materials.
- Keep roofs clear of flammable material.
- Reduce density and continuity of vegetation within thirty feet of structures and out to 100' or property lines where feasible.
- Remove junk and unwanted materials from property.

#### Values

Members of the Rocky Point CWPP Team, Rocky Point Firewise Connection, and local fire professionals from RPFE, ODF and the USFS contributed their local knowledge of the values to be protected.

#### **Economic values**

Within the greater Rocky Point area, there are forty-two vacation cabins, the Rocky Point Resort (consisting of a store, a motel and eight additional cabins, totaling 10 structures), and the community resources of Mountain Lakes Organizational Camp (six special use permit cabins, a chapel, dining hall and two full time residences), all of which are located on USFS lands. In addition to residences and resort facilities on public lands, the boat docking station at Rocky Point Resort is another economic value at risk. Within the community as delineated, there are approximately 400 livable structures on private land. For the purpose of this plan, all of the abovementioned resources are considered values at risk within the Rocky Point community.

#### Social values

The area is rich in both pre-historic and historic cultural resources. The Klamath Tribes (Klamath, Modoc, Paiute) work in cooperation with the Fremont-Winema National Forests to identify these resources on public land when planning fuels reduction projects and suppression efforts.

#### **Ecological Values**

The community is bordered to the east by the Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, and the area resides within the Pacific Flyway. Numerous waterfowl and upland bird species frequent the area annually. Additionally, there are many other species of wildlife which inhabit the area, including but not limited to bald eagles, deer, elk, black bear, cougar and numerous fish species.

#### **Cultural Resources**

Cultural resources are prevalent throughout the assessment area. Appendix E provides a summary of the resources expected within the assessment area. These resources will be considered and protected at the project level as part of an implementation strategy.

#### **Rocky Point CWPP Base Map**

The base map for the Rocky Point CWPP shows the boundary of the plan area WUI, the eight at-risk communities within the assessment area, land ownership, major roads, water bodies, RPFE protection boundary and the location of the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

#### **Risk Assessment Maps**

The eight at-risk communities in the Rocky Point area are displayed on small- scale "community" or neighborhood/subdivision maps (Appendix F-I). These maps are intended as a tool for more specific project planning and implementation. While the risk assessment identifies risk and hazard across the planning area in order to prioritize fuel treatment projects on a landscape level, the break-out maps help identify priority areas for treatment within and around the individual at-risk neighborhoods (subdivisions).

#### **Final Calculation**

Upon prioritizing the risk and hazard factors for the parcels within the assessment area through use of the Preplan Fire Assessments, each subdivision was prioritized for the need for fuels reduction. Of the eight at-risk communities assessed in the plan, Odessa emerges as the area with the highest risk and hazard and thus the highest priority for fuels reduction project consideration. This is attributed to both the highest relative ratio of improved lots needing defensible space clearing to within 30' of structures and the highest ignition history of fire starts in or near the subdivision. The second highest priority for fuels treatment projects is the area of Forest Park. Factors that contributed to this ranking were a relatively high-density of structures and the need for defensible space clearing near structures. The third-ranked priority area for fuels reduction projects is the subdivision of Rocky Point South, due to the hazardous accumulation and condition of fuels on both vacant and unimproved lots within the subdivision as well as hazardous fuels conditions on public lands bordering the entire south side of the subdivision. The subdivision identified as Varney Creek

was ranked fourth for consideration of fuels reduction treatments, in light of the fact that the area is almost entirely surrounded by public lands which have been treated in the 1990's and in need of further fuels reduction. The area identified as Malone was ranked fifth priority for fuels reduction projects because of the area's low structural density, and proximity to previously treated public lands, despite the lack of structural protection. The remaining subdivisions ranked in order of prioritization are Rocky Point Proper, Mountain Lakes and Driscoll, all of which share borders with public lands needing fuels reduction.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

#### **Community Preparedness**

The level of preparedness at the onset of a wildfire can be a deciding factor for how well a community survives a potentially catastrophic event. This plan sets forth several goals for which the community of Rocky Point should strive to meet to increase the community's survivability in the event of a wildfire:

#### **Goals for Community Preparedness**

- Meet or exceed Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (Senate Bill 360) and Klamath County vacant lot ordinance standards.
- Increase training and emergency response capability through recruiting more volunteers and working with OSFM and DPSST.
- Improve ingress/egress and evacuation routes.
- Educate residents and visitors about appropriate wildland fire response actions (ex. Klamath County Ready, Set, Go! <u>http://www.kcrsg.org/</u>)
- Acquire additional water sources (above ground water storage tanks) for fire suppression (ex. Additional water tender)

#### **Protection Capabilities & Infrastructure**

#### **Fire District Capabilities**

Rocky Point Fire & EMS (RPFE) is typically the first agency to respond to wildland fires within a ten-mile radius of Rocky Point. Refer to Appendix F for an overview of the area served by RPFE. As a small, volunteer-based entity, RPFE faces several challenges in terms of wildland fire suppression, namely, a lack of personnel, inadequate water supply, a lack of adequate access roads, and a buildup of forest debris. RPFE staff consists of one part time paid fire chief and twelve volunteers. Volunteer firefighters do not have federal training records but have been trained in basic wildland fire suppression techniques. RPFE runs one newer structure/rescue engine and a second older engine, a federally loaned Type IV wildland engine, one older Type VI engine, one newer 4x4 ambulance, one 3,000 gallon water tender and two support vehicles which includes the chief's SUV. One 350 gallon-perminute well located at the fire station, and a drafting site at the resort boat ramp are the only dependable local water sources RPFE can draw from to fight wildland fire within the community; domestic wells supply water to private residences in the assessment area.

RPFE has mutual aid agreements to operate radios using shared frequencies with County, ODF, USFS, BLM, NPS, and USFWS resources to remain in communication during wildland fire and all-risk incidents.

#### Inventory of fire protection resources

In addition to the resources of RPFE, fire protection resources are also available from the USFS, BLM, NPS, USFWS, ODF, and adjoining county departments through a mutual aid agreement. https://rpfire.com/klamath-co-mutual-aid

ODF is assigned primary wildland fire suppression responsibilities on private lands within the Rocky Point area, and the USFS responds to wildfires burning on public lands within that same area.

#### Wildland fire suppression procedures

The federal and state resources are available through the Lakeview Interagency Fire Center (LIFC) <u>https://scofmp.org/index.shtml</u> who remains in direct communication with Klamath County 911. Wildland fire suppression procedures are guided by ODF and USFS protocol for dispatching wildland fire suppression resources through pre-identified geographic blocks. Resource dispatch plans are derived based on daily fire danger levels and the level of response increases with a corresponding increase in fire danger. The inventory of available fire protection resources and capabilities listed above are generated using extreme fire danger levels; actual resource deployment is determined by the level of fire danger.

#### Training resources and needs

The chief of Rocky Point Fire & EMS has identified the need for additional training in wildland fire for all RPFE volunteer staff.

#### Mutual aid agreements

A 24-hour, non-reimbursement, mutual-aid agreement exists between the federal, state and rural fire protection district with regards to wildland fire suppression in the Rocky Point community and surrounding area. <u>https://rpfire.com/klamath-co-mutual-aid</u>

**Evacuation, Telephone trees, emergency contacts, community information database** The RPFE chief along with other community members recently completed a new 2021 evacuation plan for the community of Rocky Point. It includes a telephone tree with emergency contacts, two or more escape routes for each subdivision, other local important information. https://rpfire.com/community-emergency-plan

#### **Recommended Actions**

The following recommendations were identified as actions which can enhance the level of wildland fire protection for the Rocky Point greater community. The action items below are recommendations for the community to implement as funding and resources allow:

- Increased firefighting staff
- Enhanced training for firefighters (both structural and wildland fire)
- Adding suppression water storage tanks throughout the response area
- Replacing and/or upgrading fire district equipment.

## MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

#### Purpose

The purpose of the action plan is to guide implementation based on the results of the risk assessment and planning process.

The proposed projects and their priority are based on information obtained from the fuel surveys, Preplan Fire Assessments, CWPP meetings, and verbal communications with property owners and local area fire managers. The following specific action items are proposed to reduce the hazard of wildfire in the Rocky Point assessment area:

- Apply for the 2023 CWDG for the implementation of the plan put forth in this CWPP.
- Reduce the buildup of hazardous fuels within the Rocky Point CWPP assessment area.
- Develop an ongoing education and outreach program throughout the assessment area to encourage Firewise practices.
- Form a Firewise group and work towards becoming a recognized Firewise community.

#### **Current projects and policies**

As an unincorporated community, Rocky Point does not have ordinances which apply to private lands. Currently, Rocky Point Fire & EMS uses social media, an information board outside the station, and the department's website for community outreach to raise landowner awareness and encourage personal responsibility for fuels reduction on private property. In 2020, RPFE staff worked with the USFS to allow Rocky Point residents to dispose of vegetative debris from defensible space clearing at the Fourmile Rock Quarry. This has been a great success and has motivated property owners to reduce fuels on their properties. In 2021, RPFE staff, working with ODF, set up free "Chipper Days" in May where the ODF fuels crew comes through a designated subdivision and will chip any material left out on the edge of the road. This event has also been a great success. The Rocky Point CWPP team plans to strengthen those agreements with USFS and ODF and offer more incentives for property owners to create defensible space around their homes.

#### Community strategy for risk reduction

Informal interviews were conducted with landowners who were present when Rocky Point CWPP staff conducted the assessments to analyze hazard ratings for improved (private) properties. The interviews provided community input and guidance for project implementation. The following is a list of actions that the community felt should take place to reduce fuel hazards in and around the Rocky Point community:

- Reduce the build-up of fuels within the sub-division areas.
- Reduce fuel loading on private lands adjacent to public lands.
- Reduce fuel loading on public lands adjacent to private lands.
- Increase the knowledge and understanding of residents with regards to proper Firewise activities such as landscaping, use of fire-resistant building materials, safe access roads, and emergency evacuation procedures.

- Increase fuel breaks established by Forest Service by reducing fuel loading on private lands that are adjacent to Federal lands.
- Reduce fuel loading on vacant/absentee-owner lots.

#### **Fuels Reduction**

#### **Community partners**

Collaboration amongst stakeholders is paramount to achieving the goals set forth by this plan. In working towards that end, RPFE, USFS, ODF, BLM, USFWS, Klamath County fire departments, and KWP are continuing to work together to reduce the build-up of fuels in and around the communities, and to educate members of those communities as to what role they can play in reducing the risk wildfire poses to the community as a whole.

#### **Current Activities**

The USFS has done some thinning and piling within the Rocky Point assessment area to reduce fuels directly adjacent to private lands (Mountain Lakes Hand Pile Project 2022). Each year in May, ODF has offered up their chipper and fuels crew to remove vegetative material from around structures within Rocky Point. Prior to the creation of this 2023 Community Wildfire Protection Plan, landowners were presented with an opportunity in 2005 to receive consultation and technical assistance from ODF regarding fuels reduction work on private land. Consultations included recommendations for which fuels should be removed, spacing and recommended clearances for fuel breaks. Historically, the Forest Service has completed numerous prescribed burns around several of the subdivisions within the Rocky Point area.

#### **Recommended Actions**

It is strongly recommended that RPFE embark on a community outreach and education campaign to raise community awareness and promote proactive behavior on behalf of landowners to reduce the risk faced by the community from wildland fire.

#### **Biomass Utilization**

To date, biomass utilization of materials generated from fuels reduction projects in the assessment area has not been undertaken. In recognition of increased competition for grant funding to conduct fuels reduction projects, biomass utilization is an important aspect of any CWPP and should be addressed within the plan. The following goals are listed as recommended actions to provide the community with a holistic approach to making fuels reduction projects economically feasible over time.

#### Goals

- Use biomass utilization as an incentive to increase the amount of hazardous fuel reduction completed by offsetting the costs of treatments.
- Provide economic incentives for property owners (public and private) to remove hazardous fuel.
- Support markets for small diameter timber and biomass products.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> http://www.sistersfire.com/Mission\_files/Wildfire/Sisters%20Plan%20&%20Chapters/ SistersPublicDraft.doc

#### **Education and Community Outreach**

Education and outreach are fundamental goals for the Rocky Point CWPP. The two main themes of education and outreach are to create an understanding of living in a fire-prone environment and increasing personal responsibility when it relates to defensible space. Education efforts are intended to help homeowners and communities understand their responsibility to take action and implement protective measures to reduce the threat of wildfire to their lands and structures.

Education around fire and life safety must be approached as an ongoing activity, due to the rapid influx of new and seasonal residents and ongoing maintenance needed to manage vegetation in a fire-safe manner. Many new residents may be unfamiliar with wildland fire and have limited experience with issues like defensible space. In addition to having easy access to resources to help them take action, residents and visitors alike need to see clear examples of what fire resilient forests and communities look like.<sup>18</sup>

The population of the Rocky Point community fluctuates seasonally, due in large part to the privately owned cabins located on leased public lands. This seasonal fluctuation in the resident population presents an additional challenge in raising community awareness of fire safety in the wildland-urban interface.

#### **Purpose of Public Education and Outreach**

The purpose of the community-wide education program is to:

- Educate the public of the dangers of wildfire in the area.
- Urge residents to take responsibility in reducing the risk of wildfire and to create defensible space around their residence and throughout their ownership.
- Increase awareness of the natural role of low-intensity fire in woodland or grassland ecosystems and the benefits of prescribed burns and/or occasionally allowing woodlands or grasslands to burn.

The public education and outreach program could be co-sponsored by the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and ODF through a partnership agreement.

#### **Education and Outreach Goals**

- Increase residents' understanding of living in a fire prone environment and encourage the acceptance of personal responsibility for taking preventative actions to reduce the risks and hazards associated with wildland fire.
- Develop an overall education campaign with one clear, concise message. Ensure that all education and outreach efforts convey a consistent message to the public.
- Task the Firewise group to handle the community outreach and education within the Rocky Point community.
- Target the education campaign at children, residents, and visitors in a wide variety of settings including:

Free debris drop off days (transfer station, Fourmile Rock Quarry, Chipping)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Ibid.

Newsletters, Newspaper articles, Public Service announcements

Firewise packets with educational information

Fire Station tours and other community events

Home Risk Assessments and door-to-door contacts

Post Fire Danger Ratings in local newspapers and bulletin boards (such as at Ranger Station, RPFE Fire Station)

Utilize any and every opportunity, such as a fire, to educate the public about fire safety.

- Increase residents' compliance in meeting the standards set by the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (Senate Bill 360), Firewise and Oregon State Fire Marshall's standards.
- Coordinate education activities with ongoing fuel reduction projects to achieve maximum effectiveness.

Develop educational materials that explain the purpose and methods of the fuel reduction project to the public.

Have education available to talk to the public on projects that are likely to attract Rocky Point area visitors and recreation enthusiasts.

Identify neighborhood champions in key communities that serve as examples of defensible space for their neighbors.

Utilize media coverage of community events and progress, conveying efforts and successes.

- Utilize both active and passive forms of outreach including hands-on, face-to- face, as well as mailings, fliers, web sites, social media, community meetings, etc.
- Distribute the Firewise materials at appropriate opportunities.

#### **Recommended Actions**

Continued public education efforts aimed at encouraging the implementation of Firewise practices on private land are recommended. As lead entity within the Rocky Point community and assessment area, it is recommended that RPFE take a leading role in future outreach efforts.

It is highly recommended that the Rocky Point CWPP Team host several community meetings to introduce the newly revised CWPP to local residents and to solicit their feedback. Fostering public understanding and support for community fuels reduction projects is essential to program success. Below is a brief summary of the goals and objectives to be achieved by holding such public meetings:

#### Goals

• Increase community support and involvement in fuels treatment activities in and around the Rocky Point community

#### **Objectives**

- Inform the community about the purpose of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (ex. Town Hall meeting)
- Identify local residents' most pressing concerns about wildland fire.
- Identify potential emergency response improvements (ex. increased water supply)
- Invite local leaders to participate in the planning process (ex. Rocky Point Firewise Connection)

#### **Outreach Occurrence**

An annual "Firewise Clean-up Day" is one tool that is recommended to encourage residents to create defensible space around their residence. In conjunction with the "Firewise Clean-up Day", specific demonstration projects may be designed and utilized to educate residents about longer-term investments they could make to increase fire safety. The clean-up day would occur in conjunction with public demonstrations, education programs, and speakers on wildfire and Firewise practices.

#### **Outreach Timing**

The annual "Firewise Clean-up Day", education program, and public demonstrations are most effective in the spring to remind people to prepare their properties for the coming fire season. Continue to work with ODF for a free chipper day in May and continue to work with the USFS to allow free disposal of vegetation at the Fourmile Rock Quarry.

#### **Outreach Necessity**

Citizen involvement with wildfire mitigation in and around communities is a necessary element for success. Public education and outreach is an effective means of engaging the public in the process of reducing risks to a community, can help identify problems and solutions for both federal and private landowners, and offer opportunities for partnerships and agreements. Such education and outreach have been shown to motivate landowners to take measures around their individual property, thereby contributing to the reduction of wildfire hazards in the community as a whole.

#### **Recommended Actions Summary**

The subsections provided below summarize the recommended actions identified throughout the plan for each category.

#### **Protection Capability Recommendations**

- Enhance access to privately owned parcels on unimproved roads.
- Increase RPFE staff (both volunteer and paid) during fire season and during project implementation periods through state and federal grants.
- Increase water supply (dry hydrants, above ground storage tanks on private lands).
- Improve and maintain roads for emergency service vehicle accessibility.

#### **Fuels Reduction Recommendations**

- Reduce the fuel load (continuity, composition, density) on private lots (vacant and improved) and adjacent/intermixed public land (ex. Firewise grants, CWDG implementation grants).
- Decrease the structural vulnerability of homes by encouraging the replacement of wood shakes with non-combustible materials when a homeowner decides to replace a roof, in addition to promoting the maintenance of a roof kept clear of accumulations of flammable materials.
- Increase the amount of defensible space around homes and other structures through education and outreach, and possible incentive programs (ex. free disposal at quarry, free chipping days).
- Develop a long-term strategy for sustaining fuels reduction efforts identified in the CWPP.

#### **Education and Outreach Recommendations**

- Create an action plan and timeline for the education and outreach campaign.
- Create an education and outreach campaign targeted specifically at absentee owners to encourage responsibility for fuels management on vacant and seasonally used private parcels.

#### **Collaboration Recommendations**

- Continue working with Klamath County Emergency Management to refine and evaluate the existing evacuation plan for the greater Rocky Point Community
- Work collaboratively with the Forest Service to locate areas of historical significance and/or presence of pre-historic cultural resources for fuels reduction project delineation to avoid disturbance of these resources.

#### **Community Recommendations**

- Reduce the build-up of fuels within the subdivision areas.
- Reduce fuel loading on private lands adjacent to public lands.
- Reduce fuel loading on public lands adjacent to private lands.
- Increase the knowledge and understanding of residents with regards to proper Firewise activities such as landscaping, use of fire-resistant building materials, safe access roads, and emergency evacuation procedures.

• Increase fuel breaks established by Forest Service by reducing fuel loading on private lands that are adjacent to Federal lands.

• Reduce fuel loading on vacant/absentee-owner lots.

#### **Biomass Utilization**

- Use biomass utilization as an incentive to increase the amount of hazardous fuels reduction completed by offsetting the costs of treatments.
- Support markets for small diameter timber and biomass products.
- Provide economic incentives for property owners (public and private) to remove hazardous fuels.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

#### **Prioritization Process of Monitoring**

The following list identifies the areas for which activities should be monitored and subsequently evaluated to assure that the plan is implemented to the fullest and most effective extent possible to protect the Rocky Point Community from wildland fire. Document all accomplishments including:

- Fuel Reduction Acres (private and public land)
- Private Parcel Improvements (addition of structures on private land)
- Road Improvements
- Number of people who attend trainings (volunteer and paid firefighters)
- Number of people taking advantage of free dump days and free chipper days

In addition to the priorities for monitoring listed above, requests for proposals (state and federal grants) often stipulate those specific criteria be monitored and evaluated as a condition of monies being awarded. If different from the items listed above, these criteria will also need to be addressed at the time of application.

#### Implementation

Building a collaborative and cooperative environment between community-based organizations, fire districts, local and state government and the public land management agencies has been the first step in identifying and prioritizing measures to reduce the risk of wildland fire. Maintaining this cooperation with the public is a long-term effort that requires commitment from all partners involved. As the lead entity in the community, RPFE is best suited to head up all monitoring and evaluation efforts.

#### What are the benefits of monitoring?

Monitoring is a critical component of all-natural resource management programs; it provides information on whether a program is meeting its goals and objectives. In addition to program tracking for community purposes, both federal and state grants require a monitoring component.

Adaptive management is a process of learning from our management actions. As applied to the Rocky Point CWPP, it involves implementing an approach to current projects, monitoring and analyzing the effects of that approach, and then incorporating these findings into the next round of projects.

The purpose of this monitoring strategy is to track implementation of activities and evaluate how well the goals of the Rocky Point CWPP are being met over time. The data gathered will assist in the identification of trends within the assessment area and provide the public with a measure of accountability for the community's progress in accomplishing the stated goals and objectives.

#### Goals

• Ensure that the Rocky Point CWPP is implemented and maintained through continued coordination with partners in the planning area.

- Review and update the Rocky Point CWPP annually.
- Develop an annual action plan that lists priorities.
- Establish an ongoing group (ex. Rocky Point Firewise Connection) to guide the implementation, coordination, and monitoring of the Rocky Point CWPP (membership of this group should include the Fire Chief, or representative).
- Convene and produce an annual update within one year of its completion.

| Objective               | Monitoring Tasks  | Timeline         |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|
|                         | Continue to use reliable and usable data that is compatible among the various partner agencies (ex. Interra).                       | Annual           |
| RISK<br>Assessment      | Update risk assessment with new data or changing conditions.  | Annual           |
|                         | Continue to reflect community input from meetings in risk assessment.   | Annual           |
| Fuels<br>Reduction      | Track the number of acres changed from Fire Regime/Condition Class (FR/CC) from 2 or 3 to 1.  | Annual           |
|                         | Track the total acres treated through fuel reduction measures.  | Annual           |
|                         | Track grants and utilize risk assessment data in new applications.  | Annual           |
|                         | Document number of residents that meet the requirements of Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (Senate Bill 360). | Every 3<br>years |
| Fuels<br>Reduction      | Monitor number of evacuation routes and roads treated for fire protection on county, private, state and federal roads.              | Annual           |
| (continued)             | Track education programs and document how well they integrate fuels objectives.   | Annual           |
|                         | Evaluate opportunities for biomass marketing and utilization.   | Annual           |
|                         | Track education efforts around emergency management   | Annual           |
| Emergency<br>Management | Track progress on water source improvements   | Annual           |
|                         | Track progress on evacuation route improvements   | Annual           |
|                         | Track progress on access/egress improvements  | Annual           |

 Table 4: Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

As the outcome of this plan is intended to benefit the residents and valued resources of the Rocky Point Community, members of RPFE, Rocky Point Firewise Connection, and the Rocky Point community are best suited to put into practice the implementation strategy presented above.

## Acknowledgements

The Rocky Point Community Wildfire Protection Plan could not have been completed without the invaluable information, insight, and hard work provided by many local professionals. The following are acknowledged and appreciated as having contributed to the completion of this plan: Diann Walker-Pope, Dustin Wyble, Carl Taylor, Eric Krueger, Leigh Ann Vradenburg, David G. Lilly, Randall Baley, Teresa Williams, Diana Newdall, Pat Oshay, and David Carpenter.

## Appendices

Appendix A-1, A-2: 2005 Behave 1.0 Model Runs Appendix B: Rocky Point Treatment Area Base Map Appendix C-1, C-2: Preplan Fire Assessment Form Appendix D: Rocky Point WUI Map Appendix E: Cultural Resources Write-up Appendix F: Rocky Point Malone Map Appendix G: Rocky Point Proper Map, Forest Park, and South Rocky Point Maps Appendix H: Rocky Point Mountain Lakes and Varney Creek Maps Appendix I: Rocky Point Odessa Map Appendix J: Rocky Point Driscoll Map Appendix K-N: Fuel Inventory Maps

#### ROCKY POINT COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Date: 11 2 2023

Randall Baley, Protection Unit Forester Klamath Unit ODF

Date: 11-1-2013

Date: 11/1/2023 Date: 10/31/23

David Carpenter, Board President Rocky Point Fire & EMS

David. G/Lilly, Fire Management Officer USFS, Fremont-Winema NF, Klamath RD

Diann Waller-Pope Diann Walker-Pope, Fire Chief Rocky Point Fire & EMS

| Thu, Feb 03, 2005 at 13:01:50           |      |             |
|---|------|-------------|
| MODULES: Surface                        |      |             |
| Description                             |      | Rocky Point |
| FUEL/VEGETATION                         |      |             |
| Fuel Model                              |      | <u>10</u>   |
| FUEL MOISTURE                           |      |             |
| 1-h Moisture                            | %    | <u>4</u>    |
| 10-h Moisture                           | %    | <u>8</u>    |
| 100-h Moisture                          | %    | <u>10</u>   |
| Live Herbaceous Moisture                | %    | N/A         |
| Live Woody Moisture                     | %    | <u>30</u>   |
| WEATHER                                 |      |             |
| Midflame Wind Speed                     | mi/h | <u>3</u>    |
| Direction of Wind Vector (from upslope) | deg  | <u>270</u>  |
| TERRAIN                                 |      |             |
| Slope Steepness                         | %    | <u>0</u>    |

#### OUTPUT VARIABLES

Rate of Spread (maximum)(ch/h) Heat per Unit Area (Btu/ft²) Fireline Intensity (Btu/ft/s) Flame Length (ft) Direction of maximum Spread (from upslope)(deg) Maximum Wind Exceeded?

Behave Plus Version 1.0.0

## Rocky Point

| Rate of Spread (maximum)                   | <u>9.1 ch/h</u>      |
|--|----------------------|
| Heat per Unit Area                         | <u>1527 Btu/ft</u> 2 |
| Fireline Intensity                         | <u>255 BTU/ft/s</u>  |
| Flame Length                               | <u>5.8 ft</u>        |
| Direction of Maximum Spread (from upslope) | <u>270 deg</u>       |
| Maximum Wind Exceeded?                     | <u>No</u>            |

#### 15 MPH

OD = 218.4 Chains = 14,414.4 ft = 2.73 mi

Behave Plus Version 1.0.0

# **Rocky Point Subdivision Map**



## **Treatment Areas**

| Driscoll    | Varney Creek      | Mountain Lakes     |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Odessa      | South Rocky Point | Rocky Point Proper |
| Forest Park | Malone            |                    |

#### ROCKY POINT FIRE & EMS 25600 Rocky Point Road-Klamath Falls, OR 97601

<u>Fire Chief</u> Diann Walker-Pope Ph: 541-356-2100 Fax: 541-356-2340

Jennifer Pickle chief@rpfire.com



**Board Members** 

Bruce Harp Pat O Shay David Carpenter

Theresa Peterson

#### PRE-FIRE PLANNING AND SAFETY CHECK

| NAME                        | ADDRESS                  |                                  |         |                  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|------------------|--|--|
| PHONE                       | OCCUPANCY TYPE           |                                  |         |                  |  |  |
| OWNER OR MANAGER            |                          | ADDRESS                          |         |                  |  |  |
| PHONE                       | ADDITIONAL CONTACT NAME  |                                  |         |                  |  |  |
| INSURANCE CO.               |                          | PHONE POLICY #                   |         |                  |  |  |
| BUILDING                    | SQ FT                    | # STORIES                        |         |                  |  |  |
| CONSTRUCTION TYPE           |                          | ROOF COVERING                    |         |                  |  |  |
| HEATING TYPE                | WATER SOURCE             |                                  |         |                  |  |  |
| ACCESS                      |                          |                                  |         |                  |  |  |
| INTERIOR                    | # ROOMS                  |                                  | # EXITS |                  |  |  |
| WALL COVERING TYPE          |                          | FIRE EXTINGUISHERS               |         |                  |  |  |
| FIRE ALARM SYSTEM           | SMOKE DETECTORS          |                                  |         |                  |  |  |
| PERMENANT WIRING            | HOUSEKEEPING AND STORAGE |                                  |         |                  |  |  |
| ATTIC SCUTTLES CLOSED       |                          | COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS SECURED |         |                  |  |  |
| EXTERIOR                    | FLOOR PLAN DRA           | WING                             | SI      | TE PLAN DRAWING  |  |  |
| OUT BUILDINGS SIZE AN       | ND TYPE                  |                                  | PROPAN  | E TANK LOCATION  |  |  |
| SLOPE % AND DIRECTION       |                          | DEFENSABLE SPACE                 |         | BLE SPACE        |  |  |
| ELECTRICAL SERVICE LOCATION |                          | OVERHEAD OR BURIED SERVICE       |         | R BURIED SERVICE |  |  |
| FUEL TANKS # ABC            | OVE OR BURIED            |                                  | SIZE    | TYPE OF FUEL     |  |  |

CHECKED BY

DATE

COMMENTS;

## **Fuels In Home Ignition Zone**

| Fuel Type                  | Location or<br>Distance from<br>Structure (zone) | Description Type<br>(species) | Mitigation<br>Recommendation |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Trees                      |  |                               |                              |
| Understory/Ladder<br>Fuels |  |                               |                              |
| Forest Litter              |  |                               |                              |
| Other<br>combustibles      |  |                               |                              |
| Other<br>combustibles      |  |                               |                              |
| Other<br>combustibles      |  |                               |                              |

I\_\_\_\_\_\_, agree to allow Rocky Point Fire & EMS and/or it's agents to conduct fuel reduction work on my property identified on this form.

X\_\_\_\_\_ date:\_\_\_\_\_

Checked by:

date:\_\_\_\_\_

**Recommendations:** 

## **ROCKY POINT WUI MAP**

P . 





Appendix D

## ROCKY POINT COMMUNITY FUELS PLAN HERITAGE RESOURCE SPECIALIST REPORT 6-21-05

#### **1.5 Management Direction and Federal Laws**

The Forest Service will ensure that heritage resource sites are addressed in a manner that assures compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, and that consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) results in concurrence with the Oregon Department of Forestry Rocky Point Community Fire Plan Process. In keeping with the 1992 amendments to NHPA, the Forest Service will consult with the Klamath Tribes to identify traditional cultural values, Tribal use areas, plant gathering areas, spiritual places, and religious sites. The Forest Service will ensure that Tribal values are considered, and traditional use areas are identified and considered.

#### Heritage Resources

#### **Current Condition**

Cultural Resource inventories were completed in 1989, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1997, 2002, and 2003. A total of 2,450 acres have been adequately surveyed, representing 100 percent of the Rocky Point Community Fuels Reduction Project area on National Forest System land ownership (this excludes private lands). Surveys were conducted on National Forest System lands at the intensive (100 percent) level, consistent with SHPO standards for 100 percent coverage, for all potential project impact areas. A total of 72 archaeological sites are located in or within ½ mile of the Rocky Point Defensible Space Project area on National Forest Systems lands. Recorded prehistoric heritage resource sites include winter village, lithic cambium scatter, rock feature-vision quests, cambium peeled trees and a cemetery. Recorded historic heritage resource sites include can scatters, railroad logging and administrative sites. SHPO concurred that this project would have no effect on significant cultural resources on July 25, 2005.

#### **Effects to Heritage Resources**

Heritage resources sites, both prehistoric and historic activities by project design, avoidance, and protection in place. Sine, the surveys were conducted at an intensive level, it is not considered likely that undiscovered sites would be found within proposed impact areas; however, in the event of an unanticipated discovery during ground disturbing activities according to federal and state law and provides for the protection of newly discovered sites, would be enforced.



# Rocky Point CWPP Map





#### **Appendix I**











