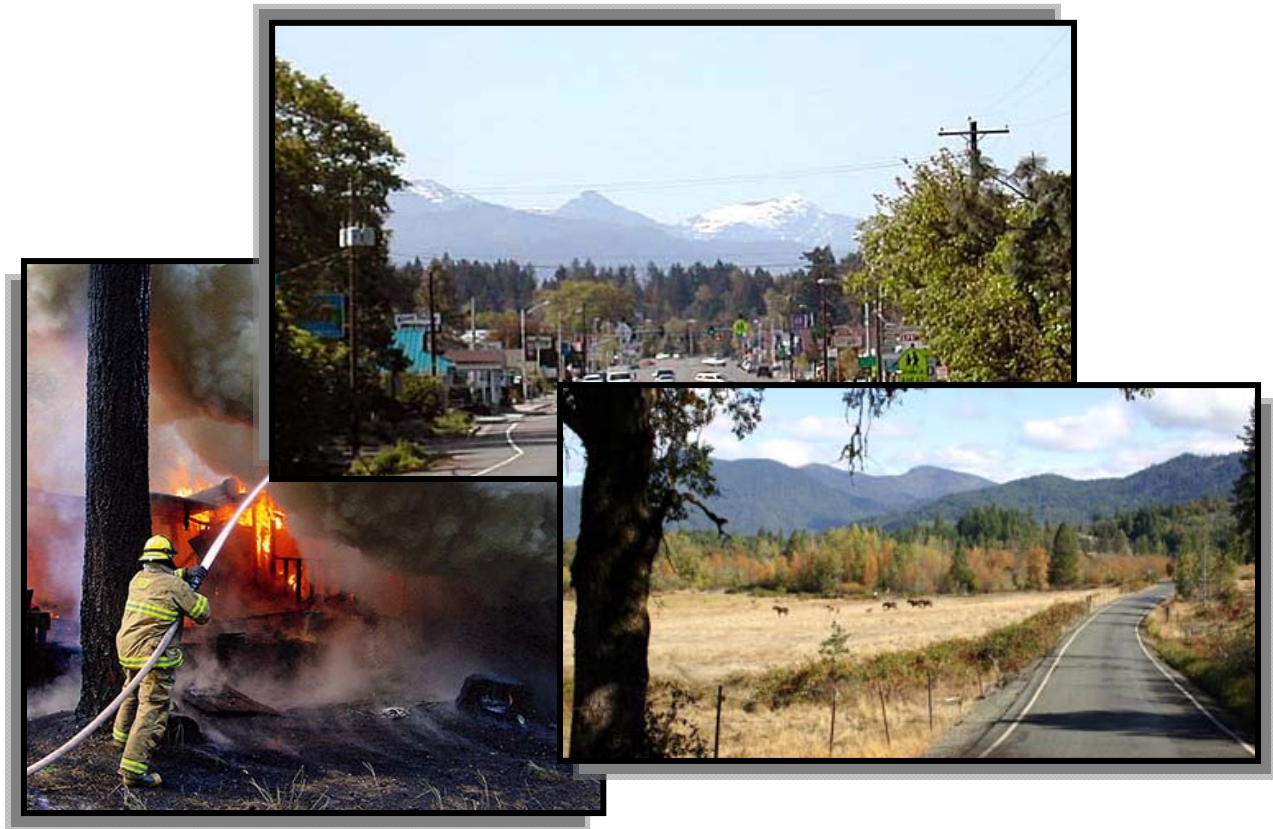




# Illinois Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan



June 2011 Update



*Prepared for:*  
**Illinois Valley  
Rural Fire Protection District**

*Prepared by:*  
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## Declaration of Agreement

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 requires that the following three entities must mutually agree to the final contents of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP):

- The applicable local government (i.e., county or cities),
- The local fire department; and
- The state entity responsible for forest management.

The Illinois Valley CWPP specifies four signing entities: Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District, Josephine County Board of Commissioners, Oregon Department of Forestry, and in addition the City of Cave Junction. This is not a regulatory document. These entities approve this update to the existing Illinois Valley CWPP in order to receive the benefits of a CWPP.

The undersigned have reviewed this update and agree to its addition as an addendum to the Illinois Valley CWPP originally completed and approved March 2005.

Harry Rich, Chief  
Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District

Sandi Cassanelli, Chair  
Josephine County  
Board of Commissioners

Rick Dryer, Assistant District Forester  
Oregon Department of Forestry

Simon G. Hare, Vice Chair  
Josephine County  
Board of Commissioners

Carl Jacobson, Mayor  
City of Cave Junction

Dwight F. Ellis, Commissioner  
Josephine County  
Board of Commissioners



## Contact Information

### **Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District**

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Cave Junction, Oregon 97523  
541-592-2225  
<http://www.ivfire.com/>

### **Josephine County**

Josephine County Courthouse  
500 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Street Dept. 6  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
541-474-5221  
<http://www.co.josephine.or.us/index.asp>

### **Oregon Department of Forestry**

Grants Pass Unit  
5375 Monument Drive  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526-8513  
541-474-3152  
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/>

### **Grants Pass Interagency Office**

Medford District Bureau of Land Management  
2164 NE Spalding Avenue  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
541-471-6500  
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/index.php>

### **Wild Rivers Ranger District**

Rogue-River Siskiyou National Forest  
26568 Redwood Hwy  
Cave Junction, OR 97523  
541-592-4000  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/>



## Purpose and Need

### Information in the Update

This plan contains updated information as well as selected summaries of information from the March 2005 Illinois Valley CWPP (IV-CWPP).

Since the creation of the IV-CWPP in March 2005 the plan has been applied as designed by private landowners and public agencies.

The IV-CWPP was developed to augment the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP) approved by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners on November 8, 2004.

### Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan

The mission of the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP) is *to reduce the risk from wildfires to life, property, and natural resources in Josephine County*. Guiding principles of the JCIFP are to:

- Promote wildfire and public safety;
- Build citizen awareness of wildfire;
- Support the roles and functions of each of the County's Fire Districts and Fire Service Providers;
- Instill a sense of responsibility for taking preventative actions;
- Communicate to residents, visitors, and business what it means to live in a region with high wildfire risk;
- Focus on collaborative decision-making, citizen participation, and landscape-scale fuels treatment projects; and
- Improve survivability to people, homes, and the environment when wildfire occurs.

The JCIFP is available online at <http://tiny.cc/jcifp>. Each year Josephine County compiles an annual report to highlight the successes and challenges faced in the implementation of their Community Wildfire Protection Plans. These annual reports are available on the website.

Since 2005 Josephine and Jackson Counties have worked closely together in the recognition that strong collaboration will leverage limited resources and more effectively reduce wildfire risk in the region. Due to this significant collaboration the two counties agreed in 2009 to create a joint annual report.

### Illinois Valley CWPP Objectives

The Illinois Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan (IV-CWPP) is a project of the Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District (IVFD). While the Josephine County Plan was being developed, community leaders in the Illinois Valley began discussing how to create a plan that would better prepare local residents for the next wildfire. The County Community Development Department participated in this discussion. In late 2003, County staff invited the Illinois Valley Fire District to apply for HR 2389 Title III funding from the County for the development of the Illinois Valley Fire Plan.

The IVFD's objectives for this project:

- To engage people of all viewpoints on the issue of fire safety and fuels reduction through project activities.
- Develop the Illinois Valley Fire Plan through a community-input process.
- Provide educational information on defensible space and fire safety for the residents, agencies, and organizations of the Illinois Valley in addition to the plan's wildfire mitigation strategy.
- This plan is intended to meet the requirements of Community Wildfire Protection Plans as part of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

### **Illinois Valley CWPP Update**

The March 2005 IV-CWPP has met many of its objectives and it will continue to serve as the primary document providing guidance and direction to the Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD). Over the past 6 years there have been some changes, and the IV-CWPP is in need of an update of accomplishments, events, priority projects and activities. This update was funded by Title III grant monies.

Changes identified include:

- Under the March 2005 plan the Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council was established and tasked to implement the plan and encourage further fire safe planning and organizing at both the neighborhood and community level. The Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council has disbanded and there is no one group specifically handling implementation of the plan.
- Fuel reduction work in the Illinois Valley is handled through the Fuels/Risk Committee, a sub-committee of the JCIFP. This committee also prioritizes this work and grant applications for Josephine County.
- Outreach and education is conducted by the Illinois Valley Fire District at various community events.

The Illinois Valley Fire District hired BOLA Consultants to update the plan, determine if plan implementation activities are being met, and make recommendations on further implementation efforts (outside of fuels reduction work). The Illinois Valley Fire District charged staff members with researching accomplishments, advertising and conducting community meetings and working with the contractor. BOLA Consultants worked with the Josephine County Emergency Management Board to ensure that plan updates are in agreement with the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan.





## Healthy Forests Restoration Act

In 2002, President George W. Bush announced the Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) designed to identify and remove barriers to the implementation of projects that were developed to restore the health of the nation's forests.

Congress enacted the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) in November 2003. This legislation:

- Directs federal agencies to collaborate with communities in developing hazardous fuels reduction projects and in the prioritization of treatment areas as defined by a community wildfire protection plan (CWPP).
- Encourages streamlined environmental analysis of HFRA projects.
- Title III of the act encourages the development of CWPPs under which communities will designate their wildland urban interface areas where HFRA projects may take place.
- Requires using at least 50% of the dollars allocated to HFRA projects to protect communities at risk of wildland fire.
- Encourages biomass energy production through grants and assistance to local communities to create market incentives for removal of less valuable forest material.

The National Fire Plan (NFP) was established after a landmark fire season in 2000 with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while assuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The NFP is a long-term commitment intended to help protect human lives, communities and natural resources, while fostering cooperation and communication among federal agencies, states, local governments, tribes and interested publics. The National Fire Plan calls for the development of Community Fire Plans to aid in effectively implementing NFP goals.

The minimum requirements for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan as described in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act are:

- **Collaboration:** A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- **Prioritized Fuel Reduction:** A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
- **Treatment of Structural Ignitability:** A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

This update of the Illinois Valley CWPP was prepared in accordance with *Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan*, March 2004, and the supplemental resource guide, *Community Guide to Preparing and Implementing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan*, August 2008 (Western Governors Association, [www.westgov.org](http://www.westgov.org)).



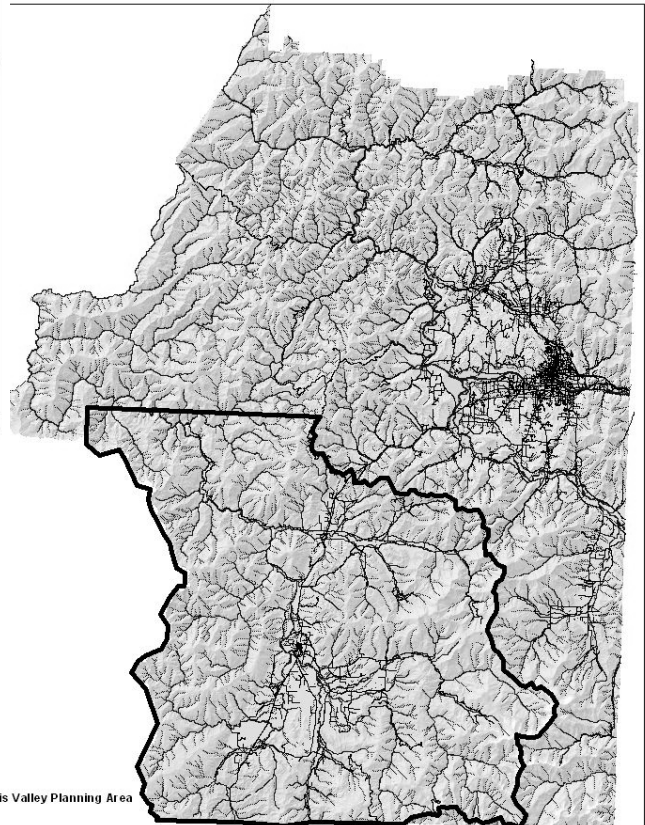
## Illinois Valley Community Profile

### Illinois Valley

The Illinois Valley is part of Josephine County in the southwest corner of Oregon and is located less than fifty miles from the Pacific Ocean. On the west side of the Illinois Valley is the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (including the Kalmiopsis Wilderness) and coastal Curry County, Oregon. To the east lies more of Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, the Oregon Caves National Monument, and the Williams Valley. To the north of Illinois Valley is the Applegate Valley, Grants Pass (the Josephine County seat), and the California border is south.

The area is dominated by forests and is defined by the Illinois River and its tributaries, bounded by mountains. It lies at the western edge of the Siskiyou Mountains, where they abut the Coastal Range. Elevation ranges from below 1,000 feet along the Illinois River to Oak Flat, to 3,400 feet in the west at the top of Woodcock Mountain, to 7,055 feet on Grayback Mountain to the east.

### Illinois Valley CWPP Planning Area



□ Illinois Valley Planning Area

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### Illinois Valley Planning Area Josephine, County, Oregon



0 1 2 3 Miles

Illinois Valley Land Ownership	
Ownership	Acres
Privately Owned	99,600
US Forest Service	245,555
Bureau of Land Management	71,565
National Park Service	480
Oregon State Land Board (Common School Forest Lands)	3035
Josephine County	6,585

### Weather

Given its proximity to the Pacific Ocean, the area enjoys a relatively moderate climate with cooler summers and warmer winters than areas located further inland. Annual rainfall lessens as you travel east in the Illinois Valley. For example, Grants Pass typically receives 30 inches of rainfall per year, while Cave Junction receives up to 60 inches. O'Brien can get up to 82 inches of rainfall per year, and the mountains on the west edge of the valley average 150 inches per year. Rainfall usually begins in November and ends in May. Snow usually occurs on the valley floor in the winter and is seldom more than six inches, while at higher elevations snow accumulation can be substantially more. Winter temperatures rarely fall below 15 degrees.

### Wildfire Season

While the residents of the Illinois Valley enjoy moderate winters during the summer they can expect long drought periods, low humidity with temperatures that sometimes exceed one-hundred degrees, and frequent lightning storms. Some landscapes are affected by autumn east winds that occur when stable air pushes across a mountain range and then descends on the leeward side. The air becomes warmer and drier as it descends and can lead to increased, sometimes extreme fire behavior in lower lee side locations. Summers bring perfect weather conditions for extreme wildfires.

Lightning strikes are frequent during the summer months, and the numerous strikes have the potential to ignite numerous fires.

- *James Agee, US Forest Service Fire Researcher, reported that the Siskiyou Mountains exhibit the highest patterns of lightning occurrence in the Pacific Northwest, as much as twice the number of lightning ignitions that occur in either the Cascades or Olympic Mountains. The higher number of lightning ignitions is due to both increased lightning frequency and decreasing summer precipitation patterns characteristic of the Klamath-Siskiyou Region.*

### Transportation

Transportation systems are of critical importance in wildfire planning. Road systems provide access for fire suppression units and a means for residents for evacuation. Roads also increase the potential for wildfire starts.

US Highway 199 bisects the Illinois Valley. It runs from Interstate 5 at Grants Pass to US Highway 101 on the coast at Crescent City, California. The highway connects to both California and Oregon making it an important route for tourism as well as transport of goods.

Additional information regarding a profile of Illinois Valley may be found in appendix B of the 2005 IV-CWPP.

### **Wildland Urban Interface Description**

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act, section 101 (16) defines wildland urban interface (WUI) as an area within or adjacent to an at risk community that has been identified by a community in its community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) or, for areas that do not have such a plan, as an area:

- Extending ½ mile from the boundary of an at risk community, or
- Extending 1 ½ miles from the boundary of an at risk community when other criteria are met such as a sustained steep slope or a geographic feature that creates an effective firebreak, or is classified as fire condition class 3 land, or
- That is adjacent to an evacuation route.

(Source; Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, March 2004)

### **Illinois Valley Wildland Urban Interface Boundary**

The Josephine Country Integrated Fire Plan designated the entire Illinois Valley and all communities within the Illinois Valley as Wildland Urban Interface.

### **Communities at Risk**

The Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council identified the following seven community planning areas as principal population centers in the Illinois Valley. These communities are all interface communities, as they are pockets of residential inhabitation within a wildland landscape.

1. Selma
2. Kerby
3. Cave Junction
4. O'Brien
5. Holland
6. Takilma
7. Sun Star

### **Fuel Hazards and Ecotypes**

Fire has been a major evolutionary force in the Illinois Valley for thousands of years. As more and more people are moving into areas such as the Illinois Valley, which is surrounded by heavily forested mountainous terrain; it is becoming increasingly important for agencies, communities, and individuals to understand the natural fire dynamics of these areas.

Fire has played a major role in shaping the globally outstanding forest of the Siskiyou eco-region and any fire management plan striving to protect human lives and property must also be careful to sustain this fundamentally important ecological process.

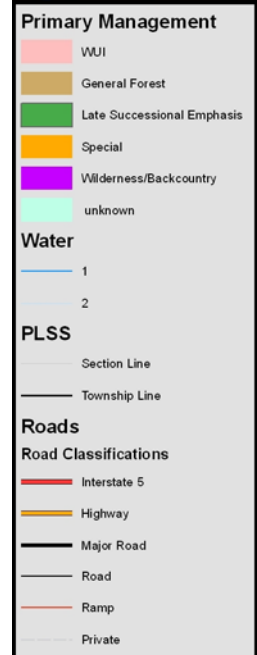
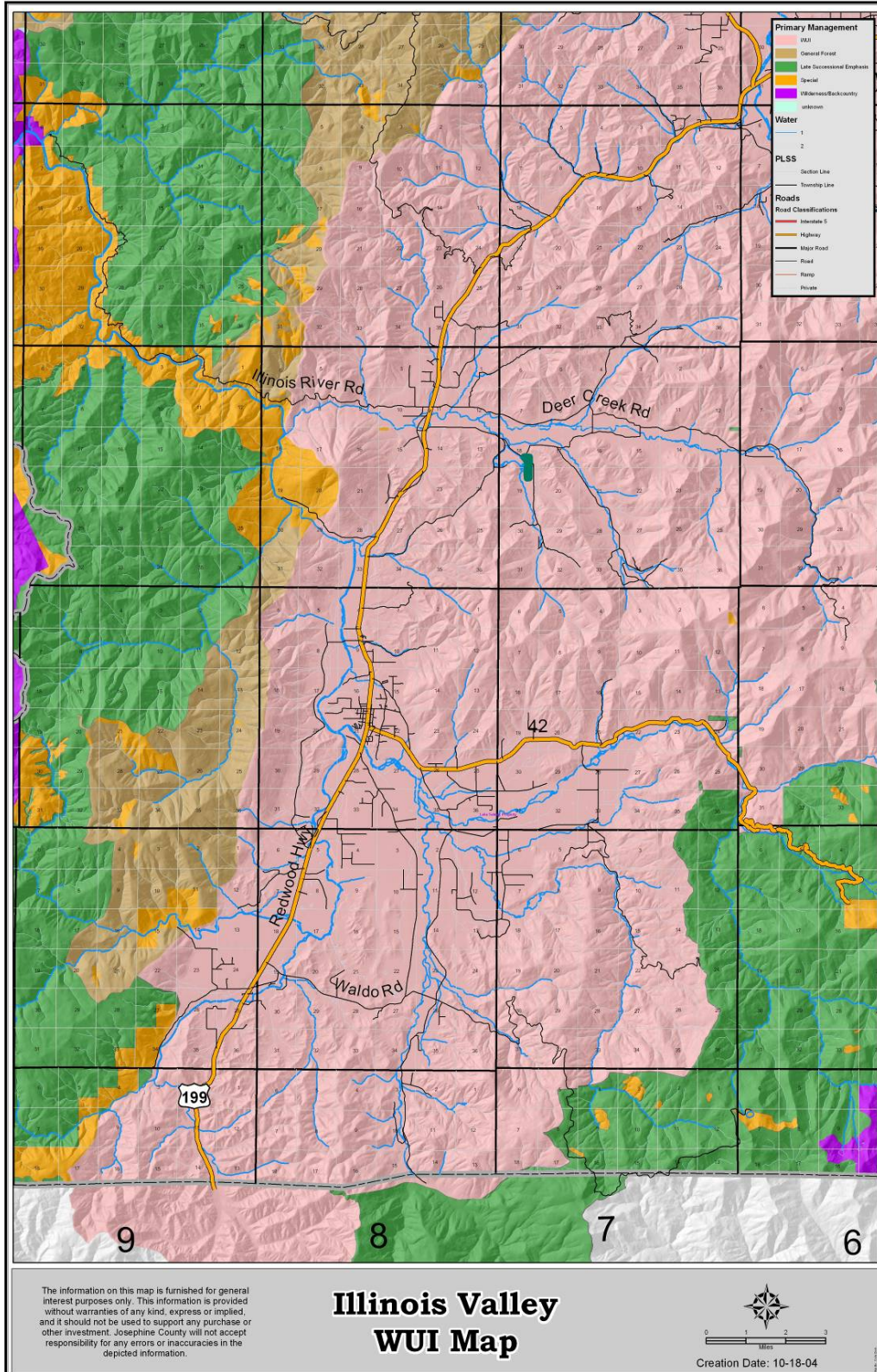
The Siskiyou eco-region is extraordinarily rich in flora and fauna and contains the most diverse temperate forests on the planet. For example, the region contains a continental maximum of temperate conifer species (30) with as many as 17 conifer tree species recorded living together within a single stand. More than 3,500 plants, including 220 endemics, are known to occur in the region. The area is recognized as a place of Global Botanical Significance by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

It is one of six global priorities in the United States for the World Wildlife Fund. It is also a global Centre of Plant Diversity (Wagner 1997). Environmental factors such as geology, topography, climate, time, and fire have shaped this landscape for thousands of years.

See Chapter 4, Forest Conditions and Wildfire in the Illinois Valley, 2005 IV-CWPP for a complete description of this unique ecosystem and a history of fire in the Illinois Valley.



# Illinois Valley Wildland Urban Interface Boundary



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## Illinois Valley WUI Map





## Updated Background Information

This section on updated information describes significant wildland urban interface fires, notes changes to be addressed in the grant for this IV-CWPP update, and reports hazardous fuels accomplishments in the Illinois Valley.

### **Large Wildland Urban Interface Fires**

The Illinois Valley experienced two significant wildland urban interface fires since completion of the Illinois Valley CWPP in March of 2005. From August 25 to August 28, 2005, the Deer Creek Fire burned over 1600 acres, destroyed 5 homes and a number of outbuildings, and threatened over 100 residences. Through the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan, partners' organized two post-fire forums to discuss lessons learned and needs for future wildfire events.

The first event was a briefing for fire service and county agencies on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005. Josephine County Emergency Management and the Josephine County Fire Defense Board led an agency debriefing to review operations, response, evacuation and other issues. Participants reflected on the fact that interagency communication has strengthened through the fire planning process and resulted in stronger coordination during the Deer Creek Fire than had existed during the Redwood Highway Fire in 2004.

On September 28th, 2005, the Illinois Valley Fire District hosted a community meeting to talk with residents about their experiences during the 2005 Deer Creek Fire. Over 85 people attended this meeting, including representatives from local, state, and federal agencies, and community organizations. The meeting provided an opportunity to gather information on the experiences of residents directly affected by the fire and to understand their concerns.

There were a number of areas that agencies and community members identified as concerns during the Deer Creek Fire, primarily related to evacuation and community outreach and notification. Agencies identified challenges with evacuation in terms of limited communication, notifying many rural residents that live in rural, isolated areas, and the fact that the event was a quick moving fire with little time to notify residents. The agencies acknowledged that it is still a struggle to get information out to the public. JCIFP partners agreed to include this as a task for working groups to address. Finally, a suggestion was made that portable evacuation signs be made for first responders.

One of the primary outcomes from the meeting was the emphasis placed on community opportunities to volunteer with the fire district and the Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council. The Illinois Valley Fire District shared information about how residents can get involved by doing work around their home, partnering with agencies such as ODF and the BLM, and by becoming a local volunteer. During the community meeting, researchers from the University of Oregon and the University of Memphis interviewed over 30 households about their experiences during the fire, their perception of wildfire risk, and their level of preparedness. (2005 Annual Report, Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan)

In August 2009, the Lone Mountain Fire, started near Lone Mountain and spread rapidly in dense, dry fuels towards the community of O'Brien. With flame lengths exceeding 100

feet, the fire began to threaten homes and other structures. While no homes were lost, five buildings were destroyed. Two homes in particular survived because of fuels reduction around the house that created a defensible space and access/escape routes, providing safe passage for fire trucks. Along one driveway, work had just been completed, resulting in a dramatic reduction of dense brush and small trees, which allowed an Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) truck access. The IVFD was able to assist the property owner in saving his house and evacuating livestock and pets. The properties in the line of fire had benefited from hazardous fuel-reduction work through support from a National Fire Plan (NFP) grant or by the homeowners themselves. The NFP grant had been awarded to the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) to conduct fuels reduction work in the O'Brien area. The project work was administered in partnership with the Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) and is credited with saving at least one home near Lone Mountain. (2009 Annual Report Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan)

### **Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council**

Under the March 2005 IV-CWPP a voluntary community association known as the Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council was established. The primary purpose of the Council was to implement the plan and encourage further fire safe planning and organizing at both the neighborhood and community level. Since the adoption of the plan this group has disbanded and there is no one group specifically handling implementation of the IV CWPP.

### **Josephine County Risk/Fuels Committee**

Fuel reduction work in the Illinois Valley is handled through the Fuels/Risk Committee, a sub-committee of the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (CWPP update grant). An Illinois Valley Fire District staff member represents Illinois Valley on this committee.

The Josephine County Risk/Fuels Committee collaborates between fire plan partners and local communities to identify, prioritize, and implement fuels reduction projects in Josephine County. The committee's objectives are to identify communities at risk, the Wildland Urban Interface WUI boundary, maintain and update the risk assessment, identify and prioritize fuel reduction projects, identify strategies for coordinating projects on a landscape scale, administer grants for fuels reduction, provide opportunity for special needs citizens, and identify opportunities for biomass marketing and utilization. (2009 Josephine Jackson Counties Annual Report)

### **Emergency Detour Contingency Plan, Redwood Highway, US 199**

The Redwood Highway, US 199 bisects the Illinois Valley running from Interstate 5 at Grants Pass to US Highway 101 on the coast at Crescent City, California. The highway connects California and Oregon making it an important route for tourism as well as transport of goods.

In response to the 2004 Redwood Highway Fire, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation with the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan Emergency Management Committee, Josephine County Public Works, the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), and other interstate partners came together to draft an emergency detour contingency plan in April 2005.

The procedures in the plan provide for guidance and instructions for emergency responders to ensure personal safety, safety to the public and environmental protection



while managing traffic during highway closures. It establishes agency roles and responsibilities, short and long term traffic control, detours and sign placements, and guidelines for staging areas.

### **Outreach and Education**

The JCIFP Education and Outreach committee created a wildfire risk display in 2006 which rotated between Josephine County libraries including the library in Illinois Valley. Also in 2006, a “Living with Wildfire” guide was produced and distributed under the sponsorship of First American Title Company across Jackson and Josephine Counties including the Illinois Valley. This “Living with Wildfire” guide was updated and redistributed in 2009.

Outreach and education was conducted by the Illinois Valley Fire District and Oregon Department of Forestry.

- In conjunction with the Oregon Department of Transportation and CALTRANS, set-up the Redwood Hwy US 199 Emergency Detour Contingency.
- Conducted pet and livestock evacuation planning meetings with the community.
- Provided community members with one-on-one wildland fuel reduction training on their properties.
- Conducted outreach to landowners surrounding unimproved properties to re-enforce the need for a fuels buffer around their property lines.
- Conducted community outreach meetings emphasizing the importance of wildland fuels reduction and emergency planning.
- Conducted interactive home fire safety instruction with children around the community (Fire Safety House).
- Established annual fire prevention outreach at community-wide events (Labor Day).
- Establish annual fire safety training for elementary-aged children (TEAM Teaching).
- Provide the IV community with timely, seasonal fire safety information using the local media (newspaper ads and radio spots).
- Conducted periodic visits with businesses such as realtors to reinforce importance wildfire safety and preparation.
- In 2010 created the Josephine County “Wildfire: Are You Prepared” display as a fire prevention tool for community events.

### **Oregon Forestland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act**

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) began implementing the Oregon Forestland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (SB360) in Josephine County November 2008. Note that implementation of this act began after adoption of the Illinois Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan (March 2005).

A complete description of the Oregon Forestland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act is found in the section on reducing structural ignitability. Property owners receive a self-certification form in the mail for their identified risk classification. In the Illinois Valley risk classifications include moderate, high, or extreme.

To date only 23 percent of Illinois Valley residents have returned their certification card to the Oregon Department of Forestry.

### **Article 76 Wildfire Safety Standards**

Article 76, Wildfire Safety Standards, Josephine County Rural Land Development Code, was updated and adopted in October 2005. Article 76, establishes minimum wildfire and safety mitigation standards for the development, replacement, substantial improvement, or relocation of structures.

### **Hazardous Fuels Treatments**

As part of the ongoing wildfire risk management of the surrounding public and private forestlands many organizations and private landowners have been engaged in hazardous fuels treatment projects across the Illinois Valley. These include:

- Medford District, Bureau of Land Management
- Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest
- Josephine Soil & Water Conservation District
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Josephine County
- Illinois Valley Fire District
- Illinois Valley Community Development Organization
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- Private Homeowners of the Illinois Valley

### **Bureau of Land Management**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages a portion of public lands in the Illinois Valley. The following is a summary of BLM fuels treatment projects during the past 5 years:

The Grants Pass Resource Area Medford BLM completed 1,142 acres of treatment in the Illinois Valley. Project areas include:

- Anderson West: Treatment of 399 acres was accomplished in several units located north of the community of Selma. The treatments included thinning, hand pile and cover, hand pile burning, biomass removal and underburning that were completed from 2007-2010.
- Crooked Cedar: Treatment of 83 acres was accomplished in several units located east of the community of Selma that were completed in 2007. The treatments included thinning, hand pile and cover, and hand pile burning.
- Deer Selmac: Treatment of 18 acres was accomplished in the unit located north of the community of Kerby. The treatments included thinning; hand pile and cover, and hand pile burning that were completed in 2007.
- Deer Willy: Treatment of 399 acres was accomplished in several units located east of the community of Selma. The treatments included thinning, hand pile and cover, hand pile burning, biomass removal and underburning that have been ongoing since 2009.
- Democrat Tarter: Treatment of 22 acres was accomplished in the unit located east of the community of Cave Junction. The treatments included thinning; hand pile and cover, and hand pile burning that were completed in 2007.

- Junction Overlook: Treatment of 22 acres was accomplished in two units located west of the community of Cave Junction. The treatments included thinning; handpile and cover, and hand pile burning that were completed in 2010.
- Logan Lo Cal: Treatment of 60 acres was accomplished in two units located south of the community of Cave Junction. The treatments included thinning; hand pile and cover, and hand pile burning that were completed in 2007.
- Robman: Treatment of 37 acres was accomplished in two units located east of the community of Cave Junction. The treatments included thinning; hand pile and cover, and hand pile burning that were completed in 2007.
- Tall Timber: Treatment of 11 acres was accomplished in the unit located east of the community of Selma. The treatments included thinning; hand pile and cover, and hand pile burning that were completed in 2007.
- Tennessee Lime: Treatment of 91 acres was started in one of the units located north of the community of Cave Junction in 2010. The treatments include thinning, hand pile and cover, and hand pile burning that will be ongoing in 2011.

Two projects, Tennessee Lime and East Fork Illinois received protests from interested groups on the decisions. Issues were recently resolved with the interested parties on the Tennessee Lime decision and the protests were withdrawn. The Tennessee Lime project will move forward when funding becomes available.

### **U.S. Forest Service**

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, manages the Wild Rivers Ranger District (WRRD) in and around the Illinois Valley. The following is a summary of USFS fuels treatment projects since adoption of the IV CWPP:

On the south and south-eastern portion of the WRRD, including lands in California, the USFS has treated approximately 1,950 acres of managed stands with 5 treatments: release, pre-commercial thin, pruning, pile & burn.

Out of the 1,950 acres, 375 acres are still not burned (planned in winter of 2011). Areas treated include Grayback Creek, Sucker Creek, White Rock, Yeager Creek, China Left, Dunn Creek, Wood Creek, Sanger, Trapper Gulch, Brushy Creek, Hazel Creek and Elk Creek. In addition, the WRRD has a 336 acre Timber Sale (GRAY ELK) that should be completed this summer and will begin a 200 acre commercial sale on Page Mountain. The WRRD has completed 99 acres (several entries over a 5 year period) of Port-Orford-Cedar eradication in the Grayback Watershed (eastside WRRD).

### **Josephine Soil and Water Conservation District**

The Josephine Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) applied for and received several PL 110-343 Title III SRS 2008 grants in 2009. One grant was for hazardous fuel reduction at fifteen properties across Josephine County under the Three Rivers School District jurisdiction.

Within the Illinois Valley this hazardous fuel reduction grant included:

- Illinois Valley High School
- Lorna Byrne Middle School

- Evergreen Elementary School

The JSWCD did an assessment of the current condition of each property and created a hazardous fuels prescription. The prescription provided for protection of native species, wildlife habitat, and all riparian areas, thinning in a manner to create a healthy forest, slash removal, and aesthetics. All properties were successfully treated prior to fire season of 2010.

**Oregon Department of Forestry**

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) assists landowners with wildland fuel reduction treatments through a defensible space rebate program. As of 2010, the program has been on-going for almost ten years. Upon request, an ODF forest officer visits a site and assesses the level of work that needs to be completed on the property. Together with the landowner, a written agreement is prepared outlining fuel reduction recommendations that will help the property owner improve their home’s chances of survival in the event of a wildfire. At the landowner’s request, ODF will make a final inspection of the property to insure it meets the agreement reduction guidelines. After satisfactory completion, the property owner can receive a rebate of up to \$400 per acre treated. Under the rebate program agreement, the landowner is responsible to maintain the fuel reduction treatments on their property for a period of five years. Between 2005 and 2010 a total of 589 acres have been treated on 204 residences in the Illinois Valley.

<b>ODF Funded Defensible Space and Fuels Reduction Projects on Private Land</b>		
<b>Community</b>	<b>Total Acres Treated 2005-2010</b>	<b>Total Residences Treated 2005-2010</b>
Selma	436	123
Kerby	4	3
Cave Junction/Takilma	133	69
O’Brien	16	9
Totals	589	204

**Illinois Valley Community Development Organization**

The Illinois Valley Community Development Organization, (IVCDO), formally the Illinois Valley Community Response Team, is a 501(C)(3) non-profit, working to improve economic and social conditions in Oregon’s rural southwest through programs designed to enhance the standard of living, create jobs and encourage sustainable community development.

Working in conjunction with the Illinois Valley Fire District, Josephine County and the Bureau of Land Management the IVCDO manages a number of projects to make neighborhoods safe from wildfires by reducing brush and small diameter trees on private property. (<http://ivcdo.projecta.com/sectionindex.asp?sectionid=9>)

Illinois Valley Community Development Organization							
Illinois Valley Acres Treated							
Project	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
<b>NFP Grants*</b>							
Thompson Creek	208						208
Selma North	8	216	126	52			400
IV South				30	230	65	325
<b>Title II &amp; III Grants</b>							
Special Needs		14	15	20	11	26	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1019</b>

\*National Fire Plan Funded Projects, Community Assistance and Western States Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

### **Lomakatsi Restoration Project**

Lomakatsi Restoration Project (LRP) is a non-profit organization formed in 1995 to develop and implement pro-active community-based ecological restoration projects throughout the Klamath-Cascade-Siskiyou eco-regions of southern Oregon and northern California. LRP achieves its goals through education, vocational training, specialized workforce development, and the utilization of restoration by-products, encouraging the recovery of ecosystems and the sustainability of communities, cultures, and economies. LRP has assisted in the regeneration, and rehabilitation of thousands of acres of impacted forests, woodlands, riparian areas and stream reaches throughout the region. In addition to ecological restoration efforts and the creation of more resilient landscapes, Lomakatsi's work, strongly emphasizes the development community-based forestry and watershed stewardship programs that cross land ownership boundaries. (<http://lomakatsi.org/>)

### **Illinois Fuels Reduction Partnership Project**

From 2005-2006, with funding from the National Fire Plan, Lomakatsi Restoration Project treated 100 acres of hazardous fuels around Cave Junction. The project was administered by the Grants Pass Resource Area, Medford BLM.

### **South Stew Stewardship Contract**

Beginning in 2004 this is a seven year contract between the Grants Pass Resource Area Medford District BLM and Lomakatsi Restoration Project to implement hazardous fuels reduction, forests restoration, and by-product utilization on approximately 2,000 acres through Josephine County in the forests of the Illinois, Applegate and Lower Rogue watersheds.

### **Hope Mountain Stewardship Project**

The Hope Mountain Stewardship Project is the first stewardship project in Josephine County under a 2008 ten-year, ten thousand acre Master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) between the Siskiyou Project, Lomakatsi Restoration Project and the U.S. Forest Service. The area addressed in the MSA is know as the Wild Rivers Ranger District and lies within the borders of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The Forest received funding for the project under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The MSA was entered into to achieve a variety of goals; ecological restoration and climate change resiliency, reduction or risk of fire, community collaboration, workforce training and jobs, and significant local restoration capacity. Forest restoration activities within the project area are aimed at reducing fuel hazards and enhancing structural and species diversity on approximately 1,300 acres of even aged tree plantations within Late Successional Reserves (LSR) (LSR is a NW Forest Plan land designation to promote and maintain old-growth characteristics and wildlife habitat for threatened and endangered species.)

In an effort to reduce fuel hazards on plantations within the Hope Mountain Stewardship area and restore both structural and species diversity, Lomakatsi restoration crews and subcontractors implemented over 750 acres of ecological treatments from April 2009 thru December 2009. (2009 Highlights, Josephine Jackson Counties Integrated Fire Plan Annual Report)

### **Takilma-Rockydale Strategic Fuels Reduction Project**

Lomakatsi Restoration Project (LRP) applied for and was awarded grant funding from the National Fire Plan for the Takilma-Rockydale Community Fuel Hazard Reduction Project. LRP is in the process of conducting landowner site visits, project planning and community organization for the implementation of this 450 acre project, rated by the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan Hazard Risk Assessment as a priority area of concern. Fuel hazards will be reduced on private and directly adjacent federal lands to reduce fire risk in isolated areas of the Illinois Valley.

LRP is working in partnership with the BLM, ODF, IV Fire District and the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization through a collaborative process to compliment additional fuel hazard reduction efforts. LRP is organizing 35-50 landowners to reduce fuels on approximately 450 acres, providing a full range of services to reduce wildfire hazards in the community-forest interface while creating workforce training and employment opportunities that will create over 100 full time jobs and 37 indirect jobs for the emerging restoration forestry and biomass utilization industry of Josephine County.

### **What is Stewardship Contracting?**

Stewardship contracting helps achieve land management goals while meeting local and rural community needs, including contributing to the sustainability of rural communities and providing a continuing source of local income and employment. It focuses on the end result ecosystem benefits and outcomes rather than on what is removed from the land.

Under section 323 of Public Law 108-7, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have been granted authority, until September 30, 2013, to enter into stewardship contracting projects for up to 10 years in length.

Agency staffs collaborate to build community partnerships with cooperating Federal, State, and local government agencies; tribal governments; nongovernmental organizations; and any interested groups or individuals to develop projects. Project proposals can be initiated from external sources as well as from within the agency. Examples of interested groups or individuals include resource advisory committees, fire safe councils, resource conservation district, conservation groups, and watershed councils. (<http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/stewardship/>)



## Community Assessment of Risk

### What is a Wildfire Risk Assessment?

One of the core elements of a community fire plan is developing an understanding of the risk of potential losses of life, property and natural resources during a wildfire. For the Illinois Valley this assessment was done by the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP) Risk Assessment Committee. This was a thorough analysis and was not repeated in the update of this plan.

The analysis takes into consideration a combination of factors defined below:

- **Risk:** the potential and frequency for wildfire ignitions. Based on an ODF database with 35 years of fire ignitions with an emphasis on the last 20 years to focus on the more recent history of settlement and use
- **Hazards:** the conditions that may contribute to wildfire (fuels, slope, aspect, elevation, crown fire potential, and weather)
- **Values:** the people, property natural resources and other critical resources that could suffer losses in a wildfire event. Tax assessment information, aerial photography, and community values identified in public meetings
- **Protection Capability:** the ability to mitigate losses, prepare for, respond to and suppress wildland and structural fires, community education programs
- **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 whether or not there is defensible space or fuels reduction around the structure)

### Communities at Risk

The JCIFP designated the entire Illinois Valley as a “community at risk.” Therefore all communities within the Illinois Valley are designated as “at risk” communities.

### Community Values at Risk

The values being considered for the assessment are residences.

A community is more than just residences. Additional values are considered after the risk assessment has been completed and community input has been gathered on historic, economic, environmental, cultural and other values. Community input can be factored in as an increase in score or included as an overlay to the initial assessment and used in making decisions about priorities for treatment.

See the section in this update for a summary of community input and see chapter 7, 2005 IV-CWPP, for community input on values, risks, hazards, safe zones, evacuation routes, and priority fire safety projects.

Community values include:

- Businesses and commercial

- Ecologically sensitive areas and ecosystem health
- Wildlife/Habitat/Plants/Water and Watersheds
- Air Quality
- Natural resource management areas: range, timber, agriculture
- Tourism and recreation
- Access, transportation and infrastructure
- Water availability, hydrants
- Critical facilities and infrastructure
- Cultural resources
- Environmental resources

### Strategic Planning Units

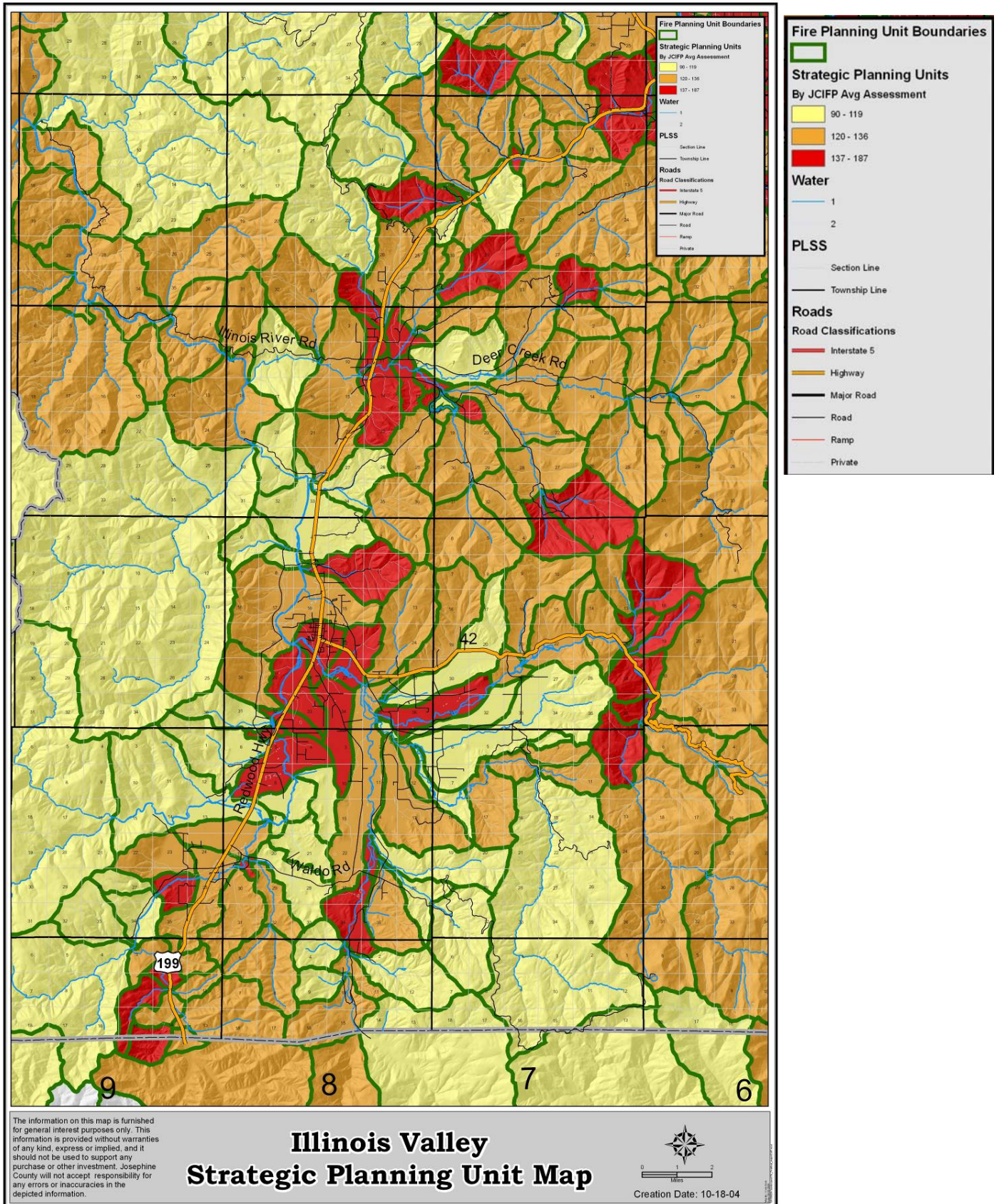
The JCIFP Risk Assessment Committee analyzed five categories: risk, hazard, values, protection capability and structural vulnerability, and condensed this information into numeric values to identify high-risk areas. Table 7, high-risk strategic planning units in the Illinois Valley, from the IV-CWPP is repeated below in this update. Map #12, Strategic Planning Units, chapter 5, 2005 IV-CWPP, is displayed following this table.

*High-Risk Strategic Planning Units in the Illinois Valley, from 2005 IV-CWPP*

NAME	ACRES	Houses	Land Ownership				
			BLM	PRIVATE	STATE	COUNTY	FS
Cave Junction	1058.2	690	20	758	47	3	0
Selma	500.4	75	0	475	0	0	0
East Fork Illinois River	1466.9	142	252	1038	131	2	0
Second Bridge	211.4	33	6	184	0	5	0
Draper Creek	618.3	38	7	595	0	2	0
Deer Creek Too	575.9	43	161	410	0	0	0
Page Creek	40.8	2	0	36	0	4	0
Anderson Creek	798.5	31	56	706	0	1	26
Lakeshore North	445.3	28	174	149	0	104	0
Lower Thompson Creek	247.7	12	30	204	0	5	0
Arrowhead	713.9	40	0	694	0	1	2
Mill Creek	1218.1	99	270	877	0	0	0
Illinois Divide	1466.4	87	241	1194	0	1	0
Rough and Ready Mill	1873.8	116	438	1202	26	173	0
Gilligan Butte	913.5	6	455	330	0	12	0
Little Grayback Creek	547.4	5	294	65	0	0	187
Elk Creek	336.9	15	0	304	0	28	0
Thompson Creek W.	1177.4	14	952	214	0	6	0
Sailor Jack Creek	1312.0	70	561	646	0	2	89
Hope Spring	121.5	13	0	118	0	0	0
Cedar Guard Station	1178.8	9	520	213	0	86	343
Caves HWY	58.2	2	20	38	0	0	0
Holton Creek	2002.3	94	466	1346	0	168	0
Upper Crooks Creek	914.8	5	566	346	0	0	0
Deer Creek	1663.7	105	238	1361	0	0	0
Mooney Mountain	1876.8	2	1020	598	0	256	0



Thompson Creek East	2518.7	42	1243	944	292	12	0
Wood Creek	30.3	4	0	28	0	0	0
Elder Creek	276.0	10	153	120	0	0	0
Sucker Creek	1572.6	114	107	1421	0	14	0
Squaw Mountain	861.6	4	1	68	0	0	660
Draper Trib	369.5	2	13	354	0	1	0
Tarter Gulch	870.9	1	427	323	0	121	0
Blue Creek	605.3	14	54	536	7	0	0
East Fork Chapman	2543.9	46	1053	1475	0	0	0
Takilma	1714.8	71	287	1118	0	2	276
Skag Creek	521.5	17	18	322	0	0	176
Rattlesnake Creek	2391.2	40	645	1704	16	1	0
Crooks Creek	2490.0	62	929	1504	0	22	0
Grosh Creek	907.0	1	498	409	0	0	0
Gilligan Creek	635.4	16	14	545	0	72	0
Lower Elk Creek	623.4	3	104	333	0	186	0
George Creek	4689.3	277	1667	2779	112	2	0
Transmission Line	1170.8	14	673	492	0	6	0
Upper Althouse Creek	584.5	2	288	293	0	0	0
Little Grayback Road	1290.0	11	244	914	0	119	0
Harmon Creek	1000.5	2	496	503	0	0	0



## Protection Capability

There are four agencies providing fire suppression service in the Illinois Valley:

1. Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District
2. Oregon Department of Forestry
3. U.S. Forest Service
4. Bureau of Land Management

### Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District

The Illinois Valley Rural Fire Protection District, also known as the Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD), provides first-response fire and medical service to approximately 19,500 residents in their 144-square-mile District in the Illinois Valley.

Approximately fifty-four local residents currently volunteer with IVFD, approximately half of whom are “active” firefighters, with the other half providing support functions. There are seven paid staff members: Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, Maintenance Chief, Executive Administrator, Administrator, and Mechanic. The Department is funded primarily through a parcel tax assessment collected and distributed by Josephine County totaling approximately \$850,000 annually. In 2010, this assessment was \$1.87 per \$1,000 of taxed property value. Additional funding is received through grants for specific equipment purchases, as well as some fundraising and community donations. IVFD has an Administration Office located at 681 Caves Highway in Cave Junction. There are six fire stations located throughout the Valley, as shown in the table below.

Station #	Address	Community	Approximate # of Volunteers
1	681 Caves Highway	Cave Junction	15
2	18505 Redwood Hwy	Selma	18
3	10 Lone Mountain Road	O'Brien	7
4	5465 Holland Loop Road	Holland	3
5	4240 Lakeshore Drive	Dryden	9
6	8399 Takilma Road	Takilma	2

The amount of time it takes first responders to arrive at a scene will have a big impact on their ability to save a structure from fire or treat a person with a medical emergency. Within the Illinois Valley, IVFD can respond to incidents in the entire District within 20 minutes. Ninety percent of the District can be reached within 10 minutes, sixty percent within 5 minutes, and approximately half of the District is within a three-minute response from one of the IVFD stations or engines. For those areas more than a few minutes away from emergency response such as: Takilma (while there are no volunteer firefighters staffing that station), areas of Holland Loop, Grayback, Upper Deer and Thompson Creeks, and Dryden, it is especially critical for residents to have an effective defensible space area around the home.

In addition to providing service within the Illinois Valley, IVFD on rare occasions will respond outside of the District boundaries to incidents in California, Grants Pass, and Medford. IVFD has mutual aid agreements with Rural Metro (Grants Pass area), Gasquet Fire Protection District (California), American Medical Response (ambulance), US Forest Service (USFS), and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and therefore can request the services of these entities if deemed necessary, or respond to needs when requested. In addition, there are auto aid agreements with these same entities except Gasquet FPD for certain situations. All wildfire/brush incidents are

automatic aid with the USFS and ODF, meaning that all three entities are notified of the incident simultaneously. American Medical Response and IVFD have auto aid for serious medical incidents (Code 3), where both are dispatched.

The following table shows the extent of equipment resources currently available to IVFD and where those resources are located. Only two of the structural engines—those used for structure fires such as homes, are less than 20 years old, but none are in need of replacement. All of the water tenders are over 17 years old. There are six wildland brush trucks, those engines capable of fighting a wildland fire, and all are currently assigned to officers. More quick-attack brush trucks have been identified as a priority need for IVFD.

<b>Station</b>	<b>Engine #</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Gallons of Water Capacity</b>
<b>Structural Fire Engines:</b>			
1 – Cave Junction	8901	2001	1000
1 – Cave Junction	8911	1981	500
2 – Selma	8902	2001	1000
3 – O’Brien	8903	1975	1000
4 – Holland	8904	1981	1000
5 – Selma	8905	1976	1000
6 – Takilma	8906	1984	750
<b>Brush Trucks (Wildland fire engines, assigned to officers):</b>			
	8961	1996	200
	8962	1991	200
	8964	1991	200
	8967	1995	200
	8968	1992	200
	8969	1993	200
<b>Water Tenders:</b>			
1 – Cave Junction	8941	2009	3000
2 – Selma	8942	1995	3200
3 – O’Brien	8943	1979	3000
4 – Holland	8944	1970	4500
5 – Selma	8945	1986	3000
6 – Takilma	8946	1969	3000
<b>Air Truck:</b>			
1 – Cave Junction	8971	1993	

### **Volunteers Needed**

In addition to the equipment needs identified above, one of the greatest resources needed by IVFD is volunteers. Currently, Takilma Station #6 has one volunteer. Because of a lack of volunteers in that area, we are unable to rapidly mobilize enough personal and equipment to protect Takilma residents. Other IVFD volunteers will likely take ten to fifteen minutes to reach Takilma. Residents in other Illinois Valley communities are also needed as volunteers, especially in the Holland Loop and O'Brien areas. The National Fire Protection Association recommends 12-14 volunteers to safely and effectively fight a single structure fire. More community volunteers are needed so IVFD can meet this national standard on a more regular basis.

### **Water**

Water is another critical resource for effective fire protection. If residences have water available to firefighters it needs to be visibly accessible to firefighters, in a place where they can quickly and efficiently use it, either directly from an engine, or by a pump or helicopter. For residents on well systems, a generator/pump backup system is critical, as power is often lost during fires. IVFD engines can most rapidly access your water system if you have a 2 ½-inch National Fire Thread hose adapter on your water storage standpipe.

In addition to residential water storage, a series of community water tanks for fire-fighting was been identified by location in the 2005 IV-CWPP.

### **Access**

There are numerous roads in the Illinois Valley that are difficult to access with structural fire engines. Many of these are identified in community priorities as well, with some prioritized in action plans. Residents are encouraged to look at their road and driveway access in terms of quick and efficient emergency response. IVFD engines need at least twelve feet wide by fourteen feet on turns by thirteen feet six inches high of clearance to get a structural engine down the road. In addition, fire engines need approximately 50 feet or a "T" to safely turn an engine around. They generally will not take an engine into an emergency situation if they cannot safely and quickly retreat.

### **Addressing Signs**

IVFD volunteers conduct fundraising activities and use the proceeds to provide free home address signs to all IV residences. Without a home address sign it is difficult for emergency responders to quickly locate a home.

### **Burning Permits**

Burning is not allowed in the Illinois Valley during fire season. When burning is allowed outside of fire season you need to obtain a permit from the Illinois Valley Fire District. You can contact IVFD at the Administration Building, 681 Caves Highway, Cave Junction, 541-592-2225, during normal business hours.

### **Oregon Department of Forestry**

ODF provides wildland fire protection for private, county, state, and BLM lands. Every year ODF determines the beginning of the fire season based on fire danger. Fire season typically starts in June although it has started as early as April. Fire season lasts until the fire danger diminishes to a point where there is no longer a significant threat of wildfire. Typically, fire season ends in October; however, it can end earlier in September or be extended to November. During fire season loggers and other forestland operators

must have fire suppression equipment and a watchman at the operation site. As fire danger increases, more restrictions are placed on ODF-protected lands. Included in these restrictions are Industrial Closures for any commercial operations on state-protected lands. The restrictions limit the amount, type, and timing of activities, for anyone using machinery for commercial purposes. These operations must have a permit to operate any power-driven machinery (no cost).

ODF provides wildland fire protection to approximately 18,000-20,000 residents in their 200- to 250-square-mile service area in the Illinois Valley. The geographic area that ODF serves in Illinois Valley stretches from the California border to Wonder and east and west to the Forest Service boundary. It includes the communities of Cave Junction, Holland, Kerby, O'Brien, Selma, Takilma, and Wonder.

There are six paid staff members in the Illinois Valley: two Forest Officers and four wildland fire suppression specialists. There is one fire station located in the Valley at 27575 Redwood Highway in Cave Junction, as shown on the Illinois Valley Fire Suppression Resources map.

ODF suppression crews can respond to incidents within the entire service area of the Illinois Valley. The ODF Cave Junction Fire Station is centrally positioned within the Illinois Valley to provide the most efficient and timely incident response. During wildfire season ODF crews will respond to structural fires for assistance with wildland fire spread. ODF crews are only equipped and trained to fight wildland fires, not structural fires.

In addition to providing service within the Illinois Valley, ODF will respond outside of the service area boundaries to incidents throughout the State of Oregon. Approximately thirty percent of the incidents they respond to are outside of the Illinois Valley. ODF has mutual aid agreements with the Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) and the US Forest Service (USFS), and therefore can request the services of these entities if deemed necessary, or respond to needs when requested. All wildfire/brush incidents are automatic aid with IVFD and USFS, meaning that all three entities are notified of the incident simultaneously.

The following table shows the extent of equipment resources currently available to ODF in the Illinois Valley. ODF's equipment is replaced on a rotational basis based on age and mileage.

Type of Equipment	Engine #	Year	Gallons of Water Capacity
<b>Brush Trucks (Wildland fire engines):</b>			
	282	2006	300
	583	2006	650

**United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture**

The United States Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (USFS) provides wildland fire protection to 245,555 acres in the Wild Rivers Ranger Districts of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The Wild River Ranger District is the combined units of the former Illinois Valley and Galice Ranger Districts. The two active stations that host fire fighting operations are at the Ranger Station in Cave Junction and at the Merlin Fire

Center. It includes the communities of Cave Junction, Galice, Selma, Takilma, O'Brien, Kerby, and Wonder.

There are seven to fifteen primary fire suppression employees plus other agency employees as available at the Wild Rivers Ranger District: one Fire Management Officer, one Assistant Fire Management Officer, two Module Leaders, two Assistant Module Leaders, two Senior Firefighters, two to ten Seasonal Firefighters, and two seasonal Prevention Technicians. One Type 6 Engine Module is staffed seven days a week from July 1 through October 1 and is stationed in Cave Junction. There is one six person Hand Crew Module stationed at the Merlin Fire Center from June 21<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a 16-person initial attack helitack/rappel module and helicopter available at the Grants Pass Interagency Fire Center at Merlin that covers southwest Oregon.

The Wild Rivers Ranger District Station is located in the Valley at 26568 Redwood Highway in Cave Junction, as shown on the Illinois Valley Fire Suppression Resources Map.

Within the Wild Rivers Ranger District, the USFS can respond to twenty-five percent of the area within fifteen minutes, five percent within five to ten minutes, and approximately one percent of the area is within a three-minute response from the USFS Wild Rivers Ranger District Station.

All of the incidents responded to by the USFS are wildland fires. The USFS will respond to structure fires during fire season, but they can only fight the wildland fire. In other words, they cannot enter a structure on fire.

In addition to providing service within the Wild Rivers Ranger District, the USFS will respond outside of the service area boundaries to incidents in Six Rivers National Forest, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, and the Medford area. Approximately five percent of the incidents they respond to are outside of their service boundary. USFS has mutual aid agreements with the IVFD, ODF, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), BLM, and the National Park Service (NPS). All wildfire/brush incidents are automatic aid with IVFD and ODF, meaning that all three entities are notified of the incident simultaneously.

The USFS has one wild land, 300 gallon, 4x4, brush truck stationed in the Valley.

In terms of training, USFS firefighting personnel have wild land fire operations qualifications and expertise. There is a need for interagency drills, proficiency training, as well as the coordination of incident operations.

### **Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior**

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides fire protection and wildland fire suppression for the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) through a cost reimbursable contract. This contract gives the responsibility for fire protection of all BLM lands within the Medford District to ODF. The contract directs ODF to take immediate action to control and suppress all fires. The contract requires ODF to control 94 percent of all fires before they exceed 10 acres.

BLM provides project inspectors to administer the fire suppression contract when fires occur on BLM lands. The BLM also provides resource advisors to ensure that unnecessary resource damage does not occur due to fire suppression efforts.

The Medford District BLM is divided into four resource areas. The Grants Pass Resource Area manages 71,565 acres of BLM public lands in the Illinois Valley. The total area that the Medford District serves encompasses approximately 1,500 square miles and approximately 200,000 residents. This area includes the communities of Applegate Valley, Ashland, Butte Falls, Eagle Point, Galice, Glendale, Gold Hill, Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Jacksonville, Medford, Merlin, Murphy, Rogue River, Shady Cove, Williams, Wimer, and Wolf Creek.

Due to the complexity and variety of work programs, the Medford District employs the largest workforce of any District in the Bureau of Land Management, approximately 220 permanent and numerous seasonal employees. Many BLM employees assist with wildfire emergencies depending on their qualifications and physical fitness capabilities. The BLM provides numerous overhead personnel from single resource boss to operations section chief in the operations branch. BLM also has employees qualified as information officers, safety officers, wildland fire cause and determination investigators, water handling specialists, fire behavior analysts, as well as staff that provide support in logistics, planning, finance, and law enforcement.

There are two interagency offices located in the Medford District (none are in the Illinois Valley), as shown in the following table. The Medford District fire cache is located at the Medford Interagency Office.

	Address	Community
Medford District Office	3040 Biddle Road	Medford
Grants Pass Interagency Office	2164 NE Spalding Avenue	Grants Pass

In addition to providing service within the Medford District, the BLM will respond outside of the district's boundaries to incidents nationwide, and even occasionally to other countries. Approximately fifty percent of the incidents they respond to are outside of the Medford District. BLM has mutual aid agreements with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the USFS.

The following table shows the extent of equipment and resources currently available on the Medford District. Engines are staffed on an as needed basis for prescribed burning as well as during fire season.

**BLM Equipment Resources for the Medford District**

Type of Equipment	Engine #	Year	Gallons of Water Capacity
<b>Brush Trucks (Wildland fire engines):</b>			
	591	2002	400
	592	2002	400
	593	2002	400
	594	2002	400
	595	2002	400



	596	2002	400
<b>Other Equipment:</b>			
Portable pumps, fire hose and appliances, fold-a-tanks, chainsaws, firing equipment, government vehicles, and hand tools.			

### **Emergency Operations**

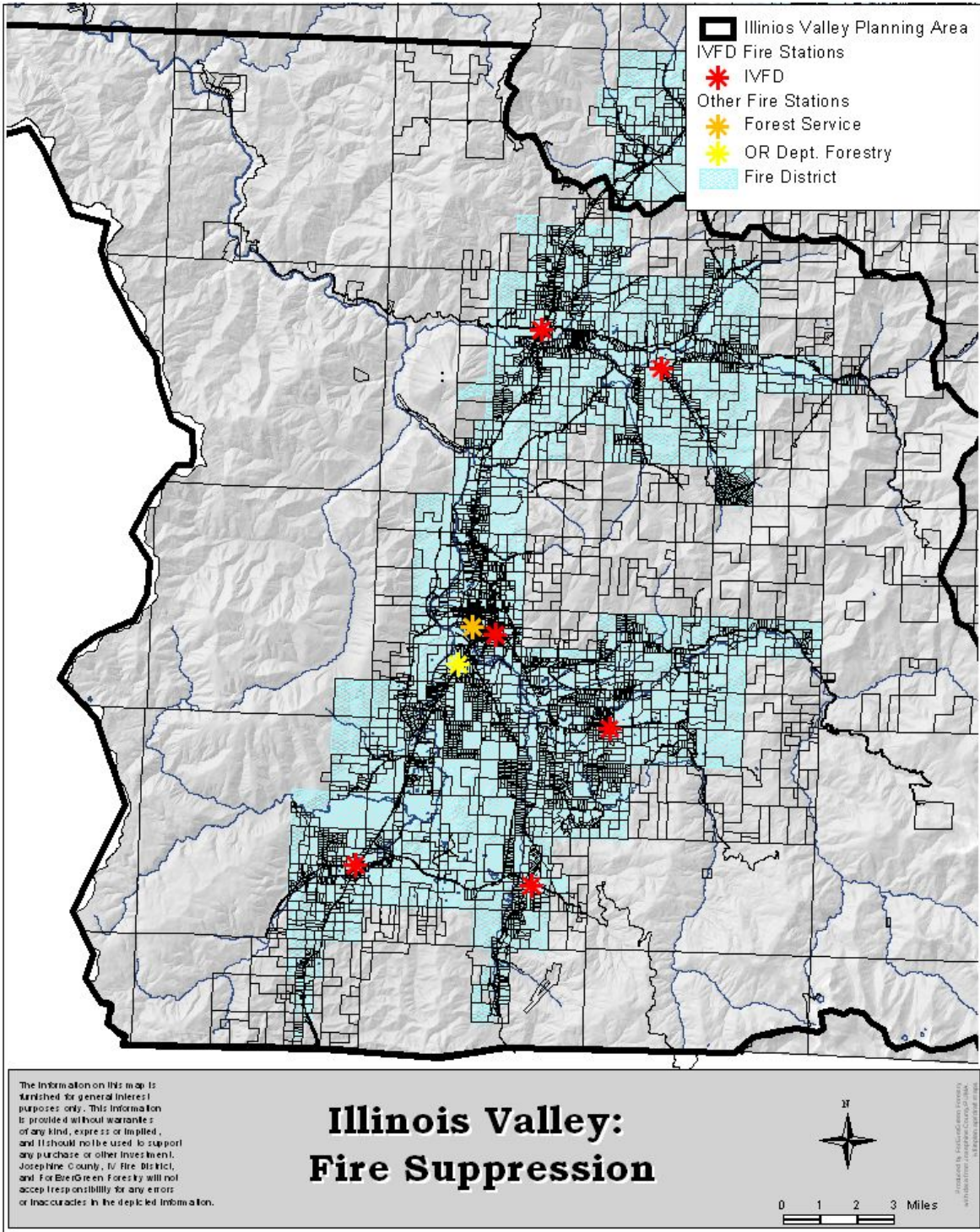
The County Emergency Manager, an employee of the Josephine County Sheriff's Office, is responsible for coordinating emergency management throughout the Illinois Valley. Rural Fire Protection Districts are often the first responders not just to fire, but natural and human-caused disasters as well. In 2011 the County updated the Josephine County Emergency Operations Plan. This provided a baseline of information to make connections to fire professionals and strengthen emergency management procedures related to fire protection (JCIFP).

The Josephine County Emergency Management Board was created in 2003 to develop the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan. The Emergency Management Board:

- Supports the Josephine County Emergency Manager
- Addresses all-risk emergency management needs in the County
- Serves as the steering committee for implementation of the JCIFP and the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

In addition the Oregon State Police assists law enforcement efforts and cooperates with Josephine County for protection in the Illinois Valley.

# Illinois Valley Fire Suppression Resources





## Reducing Structural Ignitability

### Fire Safety and Defensible Space

Chapter 1 of the 2005 IV-CWPP states “the plan provides educational information on defensible space and fire safety in addition to the wildfire mitigation strategy for the Illinois Valley. It is written primarily for the resident of the Illinois Valley, as well as agencies and organizations who work in the Valley.”

This objective is important because individual responsibility is a vital key to reducing structural ignitability.

It is the homeowner who has control over the structural components of their home, and the creation and maintenance of fire-safe landscaping within the home ignition zone.

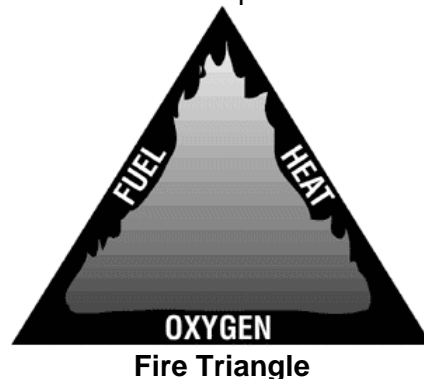
Two of the primary tools for reducing structural ignition vulnerability in the Illinois Valley are:

1. Oregon Forestland Urban Fire Protection Act of 1997 (Senate Bill 360)
2. Article 76, Josephine County Wildfire Safety Standards.

These standards and guidelines to lesson the ignitability of structures are not arbitrary but are based on fire science, case studies, fire investigations, and research. Both tools are described later in this section.

### What is fire?

Fire is a chemical reaction that can only exist under the conditions that supply it fuel heat, and oxygen in the right proportions. It is called the fire triangle. Take away one of these elements and fire does not meet the requirements for combustion.



*“Fire doesn’t spread in a mass movement like an avalanche, a landslide or a flood that engulfs objects in its path. We understand from the fire triangle that fire only spreads to those locations that meet the requirements for combustion.”* (Jack Cohen, Research Scientist, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Missoula Fire Lab, U.S. Forest Service)

### Three Ways that Home Ignite

1. Intense radiated heat from burning vegetation or structures too close to the home ignites the home’s roof, siding, decks or porches.
2. Combustible fuels on or directly touching the home ignites and spread fire to the home.

3. Burning materials called fire brands fly through the air and land on combustible materials on the home.

As a homeowner you are interested in the fuel and heat elements of the fire triangle. You can reduce, take away or modify the flammability of your home and landscaping.

### **Wildfire Behavior**

The intense crown fires that we see on television tend to consume their fuel in about 60 seconds causing them to move on before igniting most structures. Research indicates that homes must be within 100 feet of the flames to be ignited by the radiant heat from a large fire.

We assume when a fire is hot enough to burn our skin, it will also ignite a wooden structure. Jack Cohen's research has measured that the radiant heat that will cause second degree burns on a person in 5 seconds will take at least 27 minutes to ignite wood at 100 feet. *"Our perception is that this great flame front comes through and it travels everywhere and incinerates everything, except that's not how it happens. You can have a very intense fire with big flames, but more often than not, it's not the big flames that burn the house down, it's the little things"*, Cohen says.

Firebrands are often the cause of houses burning down. A fast moving intense wildfire produces a firebrand blizzard. Thousands of firebrands can travel more than a mile ahead of the fire front, and when they land on something flammable, such as a wood shake roof, they start many small fires. On a hot dry windy day these small fires become larger fires that burn together quickly.

Cohen has looked at large wildland urban interface case studies and performed post wildfire investigations where he has found many instances where homes have burned, and yet the vegetation surrounding them is living and green. We live in homes that are more ignitable than the vegetation that surrounds them, so that when the firebrands land on the homes or the dry fuels next to them, the homes ignite and are destroyed.

A wildfire's behavior is dictated by weather, fuels and topography. Fire moves more quickly uphill, and has longer flames than fire on flat ground. Fuels uphill are closer to these longer flames, which increase their heating and drying, and the fire moves more rapidly. On a steep slope you will have to increase the distance below and to the sides of your home to separate the home from the fuels.

Dry windy weather significantly contributes to the spread of wildfire. Drought conditions and low humidity lead to dry vegetation. The direction of the slope will influence how much sunlight and natural heating the fuels will receive. Wind causes fires to spread quickly and will carry fire brands long distances from the main fire.

*"The climate and geologic conditions of Josephine County create an environment conducive to wildfire...winters are wet and cool; summers are characterized by long drought periods occasionally punctuated by electrical storms."* (Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan)

## **Prepare Your Home to Survive a Wildfire**

This information is actually good news to the homeowner. It means with adequate preparation and maintenance you have the opportunity to enhance your homes survivability.

Your objective is to create an ignition-resistant home within a modified landscape so that the house can defend itself against wildfire without depending upon intervention by yourself or firefighters.

### **Home Ignition Zone**

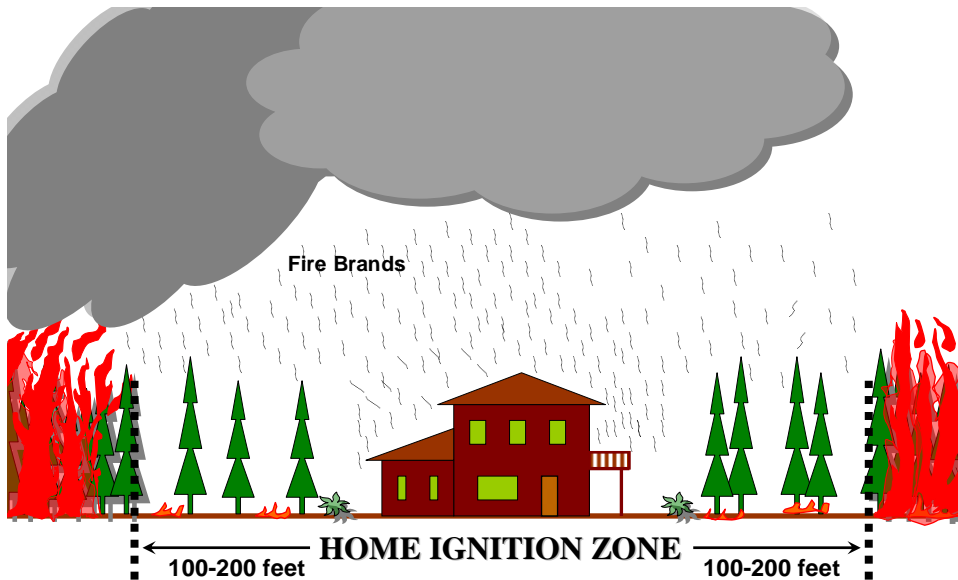
The "home ignition zone" is a concept developed by Jack Cohen of the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station. Jack's research of large fires has revealed that over eighty-five percent of homes with at least 30 feet of defensible space and a fire-resistant roof have survived wildfires.

The home ignition zone primarily determines a home's ignition potential. The zone includes the house and the immediate surroundings up to 200 feet. Under low or moderate conditions 100 feet may be enough distance to treat. In areas of heavy fuels or slopes where more intense fires are possible, you will want to treat fuels 200 feet from the house. By reducing your home's ignition potential you can lessen the chance your home will catch fire even with an intense crown fire.

As you prepare to adapt your home and landscaping let's simplify the things we have learned about wildfires:

- You want to keep the big flames 100 to 200 feet away from your home.
- You want to keep the small flames 30 feet away from your home.
- You want to reduce the combustible characteristics of your home so that firebrands landing on your home have nothing to burn.
- Note that the home ignition zone primarily lies under your private ownership.

Your roof is the most vulnerable part of the house. This is a large surface where firebrands will land. If you have a wood shake roof you should replace it with non-flammable roofing.



For more information visit the National Firewise website, [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). Information on this website is provided by the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the National Association of State Foresters.

Visit [www.firelab.org/](http://www.firelab.org/), and search “Preventing Home Ignitions” to view online an excellent 19 minute video, “Preventing Home Ignitions” which describes the above information. This video can be ordered from the National Firewise website, [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

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

Two of the primary tools for reducing structural ignition vulnerability in the Illinois Valley are the Oregon Forestland Urban Fire Protection Act of 1997 (Senate Bill 360), and Article 76, Josephine County Wildfire Safety Standards. These standards and guidelines to lesson the ignitability of structures are not arbitrary but are based on fire science, case studies, fire investigations, and research.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) began implementing the Oregon Forestland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act in Josephine County November 2008. Note that implementation of this act began after adoption of the Illinois Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan (March 2005).

A recent (undated) ODF brochure titled “Six Steps to Wildfire Protection” describes measures for forestland-urban interface areas classified “extreme” under the Oregon Forestland Urban Interface Fire Protection Act.

### Six Steps to Wildfire Protection

#### Step 1

If there is a home or other structures on your property then a fuel break is required to be established around it. A structure is defined as a permanently sited building that is at least 500 square feet. The purpose of a fuel break is to keep an approaching wildfire from reaching your house and other structures.

If no home or other structure exists on property then fuel reduction treatment is not required on the property. However, it is recommended that you send in your self-certification form; check the “no structure” box on the form, sign, and return the form to ODF.

If the home has flame-resistant roofing (class A, B, or C), a 50 foot fuel break is required. If the home is roofed with cedar shakes or other flammable material, the fuel break must be 100 feet in size.

A **fuel break** begins at the outside edge of a home’s furthest extension. This may be the edge of the roof eave, or the outside edge of a deck attached to the home. The shape of the fuel break mirrors the footprint shape of the home and anything that is attached to it. A fuel break’s distances are measure along the slope, and does not need to extend beyond the property line.

The fuel break may use natural firebreaks, such as a rock out-cropping or a body of water, or it can be completely man-made.

The vegetation within the fuel break must meet the following guidelines:

- Ground cover should be substantially non-flammable or fire-resistant. Examples include asphalt, bare soil, clover, concrete, green grass, ivy, mulches, rock, succulent ground cover or wildflowers.
- Dry grass should be cut to a height of less than four inches.
- Cut grass, leaves, needles, twigs and similar small vegetative debris should be broken up so that continuous fuel bed is not created.
- Shrubs and trees should be maintained in a green condition, be substantially free of dead plant material, and have any potential “ladder fuels” removed.
- Trees and shrubs should be arranged so that fire cannot spread or jump from plant to plant. Some thinning may be necessary to accomplish this.

## **Step 2**

On a driveway that is at least 150 feet long, it is necessary to remove obstructions over the driving surface, and create a fuel break along the driveway’s fringe.

The driving area must meet these specifications:

- The horizontal clearance must be at least 12 feet.
- The vertical clearance must be at least 13 ½ feet

The fuel break along the driveway must extend 10 feet from each side of the driveway’s centerline, creating a total fuel break area that is at least 20 feet wide, including the driving surface.

The vegetation must be modified to the same standards as a fuel break around a structure.

Likewise, the driveway fuel break’s distance is measured along the slope, and does not need to extend beyond the property line.

### **Step 3**

Sparks from a chimney connected to a fireplace or wood-burning stove could catch tree branches on fire. To reduce the chance of this happening, trim all branches ten feet away from a chimney that vents a wood-burning fireplace or stove.

### **Step 4**

All dead branches overhanging any portion of the roof must be removed. Also remove accumulations of leaves, needles, twigs, bark and other potentially flammable debris that may be on the roofing surface, in the valleys or in the rain gutters.

### **Step 5**

Keep the space under wooden decks and exterior stairways clean and enclosed is one of the best ways to keep a house safe during fire season. Firewood and lumber need to be removed, and dry needles, leaves, and other litter need to be cleared.

### **Step 6**

Firewood and lumber piles near a structure can become a source of intense, sustained heat if they should catch fire. This could ignite nearby vegetation, or cause windows to break, admitting fire into the structure.

During the months of fire season, move firewood and lumber piles at least 20 feet from any structure. A better solution is to put firewood and lumber into an enclosed shed.

### **How the Act Works**

The Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act, also known as SB 360, was passed in 1997. The purpose of the fire protection act is to:

- a) Provide a forestland-urban interface fire protection system in Oregon that minimizes cost and risk while maximizing effectiveness and efficiency for protection of the values at risk for fire.
- b) Promote and encourage property owner efforts to minimize and mitigate fire hazards and risks in the forestland-urban interface.
- c) Promote and encourage the involvement and interaction of all levels of government and the private sector that have a direct or indirect interest and role in the forestland-urban interface situation over the long term.

Under SB 360, The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) establishes the criteria and system that classifies the forestland-urban interface areas. In Josephine County three classifications were established that consider fire hazard, risk, and structural characteristics within the forestland-urban interface areas. The risk classifications include moderate, high, and extreme. Structures within the forestland-urban interface areas must meet a structural density of four residences per 40 acres to be included under SB 360. Unimproved properties may be included in forestland-urban interface areas, but fuel reduction treatment is not required.

Senate Bill 360 is administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Identification and classification of forestland-urban interface areas is done by classification committees established in each Oregon County. Classification committee representatives include three county-appointed members, one appointed by the state fire marshal, and one member appointed by the state forester. The classification



committees analyze factors such as wildland fuel types and the local geographic features, to determine the risk classification for each forestland-urban interface area. The county classification committees convene once every five years to identify and classify areas to be included under SB 360.

Property owners in each forestland-urban interface area identified by the county classification committee received a SB 360 self-certification form in the mail for each five-year classification cycle. During a county's first classification cycle, property owners receive a two-year fire cost recovery grace period to complete fuel-reduction treatments on their properties, sign, and then return the certification forms to the Oregon Department of Forestry. Subsequent five-year classification cycles have no cost recovery grace period unless new properties are added to interface areas, or forestland-urban interface areas' risk classifications have been changed. New properties added receive the full two-year grace period while those property's whose risk class has changed receive a six month cost recovery grace period. Josephine County's fire cost recovery grace period ended in November of 2010.

Oregon Senate Bill 360 was established to help reduce losses to life, property, and natural resources. The bill empowers landowners to take proactive steps in reducing their home's vulnerability to wildfire. Property owners who have not filed an SB 360 self-certification form with ODF may be liable for fire suppression costs of up to \$100,000 if:

- Required fuel reduction work is not done and a self-certification form is not received by the Oregon Department of Forestry prior to the start of a fire, AND
- The fire originates on the person's property, AND
- The fire spreads through parts of the property where fuel-reduction should have been done, AND

The Oregon Department of Forestry uses fire suppression resources not regularly budgeted to suppress the fire.

Residents can get help certifying their property by using an accredited assessor. An accredited assessor is a professional who can evaluate forestland-urban interface properties. There are three types of accredited assessors:

1. An independent contractor who holds an Oregon Construction Contractor's Board or Oregon Landscape Contractor's Board License.
2. An authorized agent of a structural fire department or fire protection district.
3. An authorized agent of a home or property owners association.

In all cases accredited assessors must have wildfire suppression or prevention experience, or forestland management experience, and a signed accreditation agreement from the Oregon Department of Forestry.

More information on the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act can be obtained online at [www.swofire.oregon.gov](http://www.swofire.oregon.gov).

## **Article 76: Josephine County Wildfire Safety Standards**

Whereas the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act applies to all Illinois Valley residents, Article 76 applies principally to any new construction within the Valley.

Article 76, Wildfire Safety Standards, Josephine County Rural Land Development Code, adopted October 2005, establishes minimum wildfire and safety mitigation standards for the development, replacement, substantial improvement, or relocation of structures.

Any one of these actions requires an owner to adhere to specification including; structure construction, access, signage, fire protection service or on-site fire protection plans, on-site water for fire protection, and vegetation mitigation. These standards are intended to reduce threats to human life and safety, to structures and to wildlands, and to improve access in emergencies.

Article 76 Wildfire Safety Standards are available on the Josephine County website [www.co.josephine.or.us](http://www.co.josephine.or.us). It is recommended that the resident speak with an official in the County Planning Office for specific information when planning new construction or a remodel.

### **Prepare for an Evacuation in 3 Steps**

Everyone who lives in the Illinois Valley should be prepared for a wildfire evacuation. Since the Illinois Valley CWPP of March 2005 was written, the American Red Cross ([www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)) have suggested three steps to prepare for an evacuation.

#### **Step One: Prepare (Get a Kit)**

In the case of a wildfire evacuation you may not have much time to pack. Below is a basic list of supplies that you can add to or subtract from as it applies to your family. If there are items you will need to take but that you can't pack ahead of time, make a list, and keep it with your kit. Place the supplies in an easy to carry container such as a backpack or duffle bag and store it in a central location for easy access.

##### Essentials

- Water, one gallon/person/day
- Non-perishable food
- First Aid Kit, extra eye glasses, dentures, hearing aid batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Radio; hand-crank or battery-powered and extra batteries
- Medical contact list
- Prescription and allergy medications
- Pet supplies

Copies of important personal documents (store in a waterproof container or zip-lock bag)

- Driver's license, Social Security card, insurance policies, family records, prescriptions, wills, deeds and titles, birth and marriage certificates, tax records

Sleeping bag and clothing for each family member

Items that could not be replaced such as family heirlooms, photographs, home inventory

#### **Step Two: Make a Plan**

Your evacuation plan will provide a sense of control during an emergency.

- Make a family emergency plan. Your family may not be together when a wildfire occurs. Plan how you will contact one another and what you will each do in case of emergency.
- Family meeting place; Identify where your family will meet inside and outside of your immediate neighborhood.
- Identify an out-of town contact to communicate between separated family members. Be sure every member of your family knows the contact's phone number.
- Identify several places you could go in an emergency.
- If you have a car, keep the gas tank at least half full. If you do not have a car plan an alternate means of evacuating.
- Plan to take your pets with you.

Review, update and practice your plan each year prior to wildfire season.

### **Step Three: Stay Informed**

- Stay updated on emergency plans that have been established in your area by emergency management agencies.
- Stay tuned to your local radio or television station, and be prepared to evacuate.
- Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together during an emergency.
- Plan to evacuate early.

### **Prepare Your Home and Landscaping**

- Protect your home by creating an ignition resistant structure within a landscape prepared and maintained with wildfire safety in mind.

### **Citizens with Special Needs in Josephine County**

Josephine and Jackson Counties have a “disaster registry” which is a computer program that includes maps and GPS services, and is used by emergency planners and workers to locate and help people who need special assistance during a disaster. The registry can make it easier for emergency workers to get you or your loved ones the specialized help you need when a disaster strikes.

Visit [www.rvcog.org](http://www.rvcog.org) and click on “Disaster Registry” to apply online or to print a form that you can complete and mail.

### **Illinois Valley Contractors and Related Resources**

A 2010 community meeting suggestion requested a contractor list for fuels mitigation. While appendix J of the 2005 Illinois Valley CWPP contained a list of “Illinois Valley Contractors and Related Resources” as of July 29, 2004 it will not be updated in this 2011 IV-CWPP.

This contractor list is available in the publication, “2010 Forest Landowner Resource Guide Jackson & Josephine County” from the Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development Council, 541-476-5906.



## Community Priorities and Recommendations Community Meetings

### March 2005 IV-CWPP

A series of seven community meetings were held at various locations in the Illinois Valley. There were two purposes for the meetings:

1. Community Education: Provide education to community members about the Illinois Valley Fire Plan, Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP), defensible space and wildfire safety.
2. Community Collaboration: Provide community members to collaborate on their issues and concerns about wildfire in their communities. The process garnered local input on risks, hazards, values, safety zones, evacuation routes, and priority fire projects in the Illinois Valley.

In addition to the community meetings a survey was sent to approximately 800 residents in areas identified as higher hazard by the JCIFP risk assessment. These areas included the neighborhoods in O'Brien, Kerby, Upper Thompson, Deer Creek, and some Cave Junction neighborhoods. Forty-five surveys were returned and that information was incorporated into the community meetings identified information.

### March 2005 Community Priorities

See chapter 7, 2005 IV-CWPP, for the complete report on the series of community meetings which identified each communities':

1. Highest priority projects
2. Other priority projects
3. Community mitigation strategy
4. Evacuation routes and safety zones

### 2010 Community Meetings

A series of communities were held throughout the Illinois Valley in November and December of 2010. The purpose of the meetings was to elicit through community collaboration additional community priorities for identifying areas of local fire concerns, and priority projects to reduce the risks and hazards from wildfire.

#### Record of residents attending the following community meetings:

Selma, IVFD Station 2, 11/10/2010	One attendee
Cave Junction, 11/11/2010	Seven attendees
O'Brien, 11/17/2010	Five attendees
Takilma, 11/18/2010	No attendance at this meeting-meeting cancelled
Holland, 12/1/2010	One attendee
Selma, Deer Creek Grange, 12/2/2010	Five attendees

### Summary of 2010 Meeting Notes

#### What in your community is at risk from wildfires?

- Abandoned buildings

- Schools
- Ruff and Ready Lumber Mill
- City Water storage
- Power Plant
- Communication risk (incoming telephone and dispatch land lines)
- Telephone switching station at Thompson Creek and Lake Shore
- Medical services (local clinics)
- Historical Buildings
- Botanical Wayside
- The Nature Conservatory 8 dollar Mountain property
- Special needs population list-Southern Oregon Council of Governments.
- Selma Center-Old Selma Grade School
- Grange Hall
- Selma Lake Resort
- Post Office
- Power station on the Illinois River Road
- Power line corridors

#### **What can be done to reduce that risk?**

##### Reduce Hazardous Fuels

- Burn Piles (unattended-urban)
- Community fuel reduction
- BLM lands not maintained, overgrowth
- Lack of evacuation routes. Some lands buffer Federal lands but they are not included in escape routes
- Evacuation routes need to be discussed with community
- Fuel breaks from property to property
- Power line routes are not maintained, heavy fuel load
- Co-operative brush reductions-specials needs grant to help folks that can not conduct their fuel mitigation
- Contractor list for fuel mitigation
- Dispose of the old burn piles
- Absentee landowners need to maintain their property

##### Improve Protection Capability

- Knowing response times required for emergency responders
- Post address sign so it is visible day and night
- Clear road access for emergency response
- Personal accountability
- Pre-planning/evacuation plan
- Emergency Safe Zones
- Update water sources for fire fighting
- Access
- Communications needs-no cell service in the O'Brien area
- Preattack water sources
- Evacuation Routes – one way roads

Education and Outreach

- Burning alternatives/Green alternatives/Bio-mass
- Education/publicity
- Community involvement (lack of participation/Firewise)
- Future Firewise Designed Residential Development
- Burning, educate the public about value of burning, how to burn safely. Establish reclamation depots
- What can be done with the cut brush and tree limbs instead of burning? Can they be used productively?
- Community Groups-harness the energy of community groups, develop a community cooperative, and get residents involved in their own mitigation measures
- Outreach and education-provide IV residents with a monthly schedule to reduce hazardous fuels around their homes
- Create a community campaign
- Maintenance education-when you cut brush what can you do prevent it from resprouting
- Maintenance education-when thinning, how to select one leader to get a good tree rather than more brush
- Maintenance education-what can be done about Scotch Broom

**2010 Illinois Valley Fire District Website Responses**

In addition to the six community meetings, public input was solicited through a “survey-monkey” posted on the Illinois Valley Fire District website, [www.ivfire.com](http://www.ivfire.com), *“the purpose of the (Illinois Valley) fire plan is to identify community priorities for reducing the risks of wildfire in the Illinois Valley. We are currently updating the Plan and we want to involve residents in the process. Illinois Valley residents and property owners, give us your feedback.*

Seven responses were received:

**Question 1:** What do you consider the most important areas in your neighborhood (other than homes) to protect in the case of a wildfire? (For example; schools, cultural or historical sites, ecologically significant areas, businesses, power stations, etc) Please list those areas here.

Response 1	Schools, power stations, doctor’s offices, grocery store
Response 2`	Dome School, Tree houses, Frog Farm
Response 3	Businesses and schools
Response 4	Medical, communications, utilities, and those in the example
Response 5	We really don’t have any of these
Response 6	Power stations, communication boxes
Response 7	Since the public is not in contact with lookouts they need reliable escape routes and safety zones

**Question 2:** Which places do you think a fire would start in your neighborhood? Why do you think it would start there? Please describe those places here.

Response 1	Wooded and grassy areas by the river where people are there a lot and some people will have a campfire even during extreme fire danger
Response 2`	All over out here, not too many people mess with the fire hazards,

	i.e. picking up old dead stuff
Response 3	In yards that are dry and not mowed, fire could start from power lines and humans
Response 4	Madrona, Fir, Dogwood, Oak and toward Football Field
Response 5	We have a heavily wooded area across the street from us. We have been here 4 years and so far no one has camped or started a fire in that area
Response 6	3444 Dick George Road, careless neighbors, 2 fires in past 5 years
Response 7	Anywhere humans drive, work, or dwell, ridge tops where lightning might strike

**Question 3:** Which places do you think in your neighborhood would be most difficult to control if a fire started there? Why those places? Please describe those places here.

Response 1	Some neighborhood due to houses being so close together. There are some very old and extremely cluttered houses and properties in IV
Response 2	All around because of crazy driveways, gates, and mountains
Response 3	Places with areas to get fire engines into
Response 4	Several wooded areas but neighbors are working on clearing ground and ladder trees
Response 5	Corner of Burgandy and Handby, large wooded area where trees have been cut down, lots of deal limbs on the ground. In Primrose subdivision south of us, some of the dead weeds were over 6 feet tall, lots of people hang out there on summer nights
Response 6	Variety of properties off Ridge Vista, at the end of Beaver Meadows
Response 7	Large tracts of public and private land that are in early to mid successional stage, also older stands that are crowded and/or unhealthy

**Question 4:** Where are there roads that would be difficult for a fire engine to access, or be hazardous for an emergency evacuation? Please describe those roads here.

Response 1	Some driveways are narrow
Response 2	Right after my house on Takilma Road towards the green bridge
Response 3	Many back roads off Caves Hwy because roads are only one way and engines would be slowed down because of people exiting their homes
Response 4	Madrona 300 Block on Right of Way
Response 5	Our neighborhood has substandard width lanes, if cars are parked on both sides of the street could be difficult
Response 6	Greenview Drive, off Dick George. Many heavily forested home sites-the majority well maintained
Response 7	Davis Creek Road, Portions of Upper Deer, Crooks Cr., Thompson, McMullen, and Reeves Cr Roads

**Question 5:** What steps do you think need to be taken to protect you and your neighbors from a wildfire? Please describe those steps in as much detail is possible here.

Response 1	Some fire prevention presentations for kids at school before they go home for the summer
Response 2	Cleaning up old dead stuff

Response 3	Keep up on clearing brush, long grass and ladder fuels
Response 4	More clear on the road
Response 5	Clean up the property in the heavily wooded areas and in the Primrose subdivision, they need to keep control of the weeds and keep them mowed
Response 6	Give priority to publishing guidelines, timelines and requirements for controlled burns, Include items not to be burned
Response 7	The steps to take are many. They are also perpetual. In other words, one will never be able to take a list of honey doo's, and once completed, they will be fire safe. Folks need to comprehend the fact that once deferred maintenance is all caught up, they need to schedule time, money, and resources on an annual basis if they choose to live in the woods in a safer manner. Landowners who happen to be located in the center of an actively managed cluster are way better off than those on the fringes.

**Question 6:** What projects would you like to see done in your neighborhood to improve fire safety? Please describe those places here

Response 1	Fire hydrants
Response 2	Cleaning up old dead stuff
Response 3	More information and signs bout fire season
Response 4	No response
Response 5	Clean up the property in the heavily wooded areas and in the Primrose subdivision, they need to keep control of the weeds and keep them mowed
Response 6	Stress home fire safety in the schools
Response 7	Active and ongoing efforts on federally managed land. Community driven establishment and maintenance of escape routes and safety zones where folks can meet at least once a year to do the work and continue the important dialogue than enhances the groups efforts

**Question 7:** Where are there sources of water in your neighborhood that can be used for firefighting (such as water tanks, pools, or ponds)?

Response 1	The river
Response 2	The river in the back yard, green bridge, the pools at Out N About
Response 3	Selma, deer creek
Response 4	None
Response 5	We have 2 fire hydrants, one at the corner of Gamay Drive and Burgandy and the other near Burgandy and Lindi Lu Lane, don't know of any pools or ponds
Response 6	Althouse Creek, cattle pond on Dick George Road
Response 7	Tall Timbers Ranch has several lakes/ponds that were utilized during the Deer Creek Fire. There are also several ponds on Draper Valley/Indian Cr Roads

**Question 8:** Where have fuel reduction and/or defensible space projects already occurred in your neighborhood? Please describe those here, with a detailed description of the place.

Response 1	People always seem to wait until the last possible moment to cut dry grass
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Response 2`	?
Response 3	I have seen 5 places in Selma, unsure on location
Response 4	39-08-22-CA-001800-00
Response 5	No response
Response 6	Am not aware of any
Response 7	Kamron has that data for Selma North project. ODF has additional customers who have completed work

**2005 IV-CWPP Mitigation Strategies by Community  
Selma Mitigation Strategy**

- Implement future phases of Thompson Creek collaborative fuel reduction project. The current project is progressing very well, with many participating landowners. It is important to maintain the momentum in this very high hazard neighborhood by exploring and continuing future phases.
- Develop signage for the emergency evacuation routes out of Selma, including the Deer Creek and Crooks Creek roads to Williams, and Deer Creek to Caves Highway. This should be done in conjunction with community education events sponsored by ODF, BLM, IVFD, and IVFSC. A Saturday afternoon could be spent taking local residents and media on tours of the various evacuation routes, to familiarize the community with these alternative routes.
- IVFD, ODF, and BLM can identify priority locations for water tanks around Selma for fire suppression, and funding sources to purchase and install them. Two areas are Upper Thompson Creek Road and upper Draper. Programs to supply matching funds for private water storage should be explored within this project.
- Residents in the forested areas in and around Selma must be diligent in creating and maintaining their defensible space. For those in interface areas with forest and brush close to their homes, this should be to a minimum of one hundred feet. Funding sources should be explored and obtained to purchase a community chipper to be housed at the Selma Community Center or one of the IVFD fire stations here. Once received, community chipper days can be organized in conjunction with defensible space education.
- South Deer Project between BLM and Deer Creek Valley Natural Resources Conservation Association is a model local project for community involvement in public lands management, including fire hazard reduction. This project should be supported and fully implemented by all participating entities.
- Explore development of strategic shaded fuelbreaks, beginning with Deer Creek Road as it heads towards Williams. This could serve as a break from fires coming from the east, while also improving this road as an evacuation route.
- Fuels reduction in north Selma adjacent to Highway 199. This project was identified by JCIFP Fuels Reduction Committee for FY 2005 National Fire Plan funding and is already in process of being developed.

### **Kerby Mitigation Strategy**

- County, City, and IVFD work together to fix the address numbering system on Westside Road, and number the power line roads. There are problems with residents here having addresses tied to the main roads, not the actual roads where they live. This makes it difficult for efficient emergency response.
- Residents in the forested areas and narrow roads around Kerby must be diligent in creating and maintaining their defensible space. For those in interface areas with forest and brush close to their homes, this should be to a minimum of one hundred feet. Several residences along Holton Creek and Glendon Roads have already created defensible space and undertaken additional fuel hazard reduction on their properties.
- IVFD, ODF, and BLM can identify priority locations for water tanks around Kerby for fire suppression, and funding sources to purchase and install them. Possible areas are upper Holton Creek and Kerby Mainline roads.
- Explore development of strategic shaded fuelbreaks between Kerby and BLM or USFS lands.
- CJ, IVFSC, and others cooperate to remove dead trees along the Kerby ditch.

### **Cave Junction Mitigation Strategy**

Identify priority fuel reduction treatment areas, along roads with high-density neighborhoods or especially dangerous evacuation routes, including:

- South Barlow Street from Hamilton to Sherwood Hills side
- West River from 199 to North Junction
- Manzanita Lane area through Oak Drive to Dogwood
- Kenrose Lane. This has been identified as a priority FY 2005 project by the JCIFP Fuels Reduction Committee for National Fire Plan funding.
- Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council (IVFSC) work with IVFD, ODF, FAC, Siskiyou Project, FS, BLM, and law enforcement to coordinate community-wide education effort regarding defensible space, fire safety, and safe evacuation.
- IVFD, City of Cave Junction, ODF, FS, and BLM can identify priority locations for water tanks around the non-hydrant areas of Cave Junction for fire suppression, and funding sources to purchase and install them.
- IVFSC work with USFS, Siskiyou Project, and Forestry Action Committee to identify location on west side of town for a shaded fuel break to protect Cave Junction in the event of a reburn of any areas of the Biscuit Fire. This needs to be a location and prescription that can be agreed upon by all members of the community.
- Continue defensible space assessments, education. IVFSC, IVFD, and ODF work with JCIFP and IV Family Coalition to provide these to low-income households, especially in areas of high hazard as identified by JCIFP Risk Assessment.

- Residents in the forested areas and narrow roads around Cave Junction must be diligent in creating and maintaining their defensible space. For those in interface areas with forest and brush close to their homes, this should be to a minimum of one hundred feet. These include the neighborhoods around Kenrose Lane, Barlow, Rockydale, River, Manzanita Lane, Hanby, South Kerby, Sawyer, Tracy, Idylewild, Mesa Verde, Stevenson, and other areas with dense brush near residences.

### **O'Brien Mitigation Strategy**

- IVFD, ODF, and FS can identify priority locations for water tanks around O'Brien for fire suppression, and funding sources to purchase and install them.
- Create shaded fuel breaks or brush clearance (depending on forest cover) along:
  - Lone Mountain Road
  - Naue Way and spur roads
  - Arrowhead Street
- The Forest Service can implement fuels reduction on roads to Mars Swimming Hole and Seats Dam. Work with local schools to develop educational signs about fire safety to place at these popular spots.
- IVFSC work with The Nature Conservancy and FS to create a shaded fuelbreak and/or brush clearance along the boundary with private residential properties.
- Residents in the forested areas and narrow roads around O'Brien must be diligent in creating and maintaining their defensible space. For those in interface areas with forest and brush close to their homes, this should be to a minimum of one hundred feet.
- IVFSC and O'Brien residents explore fuel reduction with riparian enhancement along West Fork Illinois east and west of 199, through private properties.

### **Holland Mitigation Strategy**

- IVFD and County work to upgrade both Holland bridges to allow safe fire engine passage.
- Residents in this area need to volunteer with IVFD to staff Station #4. Without adequate volunteers, IVFD could be forced to close this station, which provides emergency fire and medical response to this community.
- Create shaded fuel breaks or brush roads (depending on forest cover) along the dense areas of the following roads:
  - Dick George
  - Greenview
  - Browntown
  - Beebe Drive
- Residents in the forested areas and narrow roads around Holland and Dick George must be diligent in creating and maintaining their defensible space. For

those in interface areas with forest and brush close to their homes, this should be to a minimum of one hundred feet.

- IVFSC and IVFD support efforts of local neighborhood organizing regarding phone tree, mapping, etc.
- Clear brush in Section 12 near Dick George, the old-growth forest south of Llama ranch (while maintaining old-growth forest overstory), and in the fallow fields. Include mowing areas of high grass.
- IVFSC work with residents to identify risks, hazards, and potential projects in neighborhoods further out toward Grayback.

### **Takilma Mitigation Strategy**

- Residents in the Takilma area need to volunteer and train with IVFD if they want to maintain IVFD Station #6 here. Given the distance from Takilma to primary medical care or other emergency services, maintenance of this station is a priority here.
- Create a shaded fuelbreak and/or brush clearance (depending on forest cover) along Takilma Road from approximately Four Corners and downtown Takilma to approximately #9710 (where the road drops).
- Implement fuel hazard reduction at two large buck brush areas. One is between Takilma Road and East Fork Illinois River across from intersection with Meadows Road. The other is from approximately 8650 to 8900 Takilma Road.
- IVFSC, IVFD, and FS identify the most strategic location for one or more shaded fuelbreaks between Takilma and Sun Star.
- IVFD, ODF, and FS can identify priority locations for water tanks around Takilma for fire suppression, and funding sources to purchase and install them.
- ODF work with landowners to implement fuel hazard reduction and remove logging slash on property of and around Hope Mountain Road logging.
- Education program with Dome School to create signs for fire safety on nearby public lands, targeted to recreational users and hunters, as well as residents.
- Residents in the forested areas and narrow roads around Takilma must be diligent in creating and maintaining their defensible space. For those in interface areas with forest and brush close to their homes, this should be to a minimum of one hundred feet.
- FS implement fuels reduction around camping areas at Hogue's Meadow.

### **Sun Star Mitigation Strategy**

- Water storage for fire is critical here. IVFD and the Del Norte Fire Safe Council (DNFSC) worked with Sun Star residents to identify locations for a series of community water tanks for fire-fighting. The following five tank locations were

identified through this process. Two tanks are currently being installed at site 4 in a cooperative project between the IVFD, Gasquet Fire Protection District, and DNFSC. These came from DNFSC's existing Del Norte Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) tank project that had been designated for the Gasquet area and offered by Gasquet FPD. A proposal is being developed for three more tanks to submit to the Del Norte RAC.

#### Water Tank Locations

1. Midslope, fairly dense young forest and brush on south side of Sun Star, on the west side of the valley. The entire west side is dependent on two small tributaries which have very little flow during fire season. There is one dwelling at this location with a conventional lawn about 30 feet out from house.
  2. At the southwest corner of Sun Star, the highest point on the property. The proposed tank location is actually on SRNF land on spur 017 of Forest Service Road 4906, just above house, next to domestic-use water tank. Because of elevation and slope, any fire on the west side of Sun Star is likely to move up here. Immediately above this location is 50-year-old tree plantation.
  3. At base of slope on west side between two residences about 75 yards apart. Base of slope is one hundred yards or more distant from Dunn Creek. There are other dwellings in the vicinity.
  4. On the east side of Sun Star between firehouse and meadow safety zone. It would be primarily to protect safety zone in the event of major fire.
  5. Located in a major population center on east side of Sun Star. This would afford protection should fire destroy water line from North Fork Dunn Creek, which supplies six residences in this vicinity.
- Fuels reduction and shaded fuelbreaks are the other critical component to protect this community. As discussed above, USFS fuel reduction projects in the Hogue's Meadow and Longwood Fire areas are a priority here. Creating a shaded fuelbreak to protect the community from down-canyon fires also makes sense here. The ridge between Long and Cedar Gulches has been identified by this community, as well as by the Takilma Community. An assessment of other areas for potential shaded fuelbreaks to protect this remote community is a necessary next step for these residents in cooperation with Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, to protect both the public and private resources.
  - A top priority for this community is improving its ability to defend itself from wildfire. To that end, the Del Norte Fire Safe Council has facilitated donations of fire-fighting equipment from the Smith River and Gasquet Fire Protection Districts. All nearby fire organizations should donate equipment or training to this local fire crew when possible.



## 2005 Mitigation Strategies and Accomplishments

The 2005 community strategies were combined and prioritized in the 2005 IV-CWPP based on the following:

- Overlap between community-identified projects and JCIFP hazard and risk assessment ratings.
- Community support: Which projects were prioritized by the local community?
- Population density and other values at risk affected by the project.
- Project readiness: How ready the proposed project was to begin. For some projects that were already funded, the project rank was lowered to encourage new projects in the area.
- First response and fire suppression needs were generally given a higher priority.
- Projects to be implemented by agencies were generally put ahead of resident projects. This was done to encourage the larger-type agency projects, with the understanding that resident implementation is a planned result of this entire process.

The following is the status report for each 2005 IV-CWPP mitigation strategy:

<b>Reduce Hazardous Fuels</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>
<b>Reduce Hazardous Fuels</b>	Ongoing guidance & rewrite for 2011, (1.a.)	All fuelbreaks created through this plan should maintain the highest level of shade canopy possible to reduce regeneration. <del>A shaded fuelbreak that prescribes opening the canopy should only be done in agreement with IVFSC members. Lomakatsi can provide guidance on these prescriptions.</del>
	Ongoing guidance & rewrite for 2011, (1.b.)	FS, BLM, and ODF monitor burned-areas surrounding IV communities and focus fuel hazard reduction and forest restoration efforts there, <del>in cooperation with IVFSC,</del> to minimize possibilities for reburn of dead fuels.
	Rewrite, not a strategy but introduction to fuels reduction projects	IVFSC, IVFD, ODF, FS, <del>IVCDO,</del> City, and County cooperate to implement the following priority fuel reduction projects:

<b>Top-Priority Fuel Reduction Projects</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>
<b>Reduce Hazardous Fuels in these Top-Priority Projects</b>		<b>Identify priority fuel reduction treatment areas in Cave Junction, along roads with high-density neighborhoods or especially dangerous evacuation routes, including:</b>
	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kenrose Lane. This was also identified as a priority project by the JCIFP Fuels Reduction Committee.</li> </ul>
	Carry over to 2011, (1.c.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Barlow Street from Hamilton to Sherwood Hills side</li> </ul>
	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West River from 199 to North Junction</li> </ul>
	Carry over to 2011, (1.d.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manzanita Lane area through Oak Drive to Dogwood</li> </ul>
		<b>Create shaded fuelbreaks or brush roads (depending on forest cover) along the dense areas of the following roads in the Holland area:</b>
	Carry over to 2011, (1.e.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dick George</li> </ul>
	Carry over to 2011, (1.f.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenview</li> </ul>
	Carry over to 2011, (1.g.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Browntown</li> </ul>
	Carry over to 2011, (1.h.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beebe Drive</li> </ul>
		<b>Create shaded fuelbreaks or brush clearance (depending on forest cover) in O'Brien along:</b>
	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lone Mountain Road</li> </ul>
	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Naue Way and spur roads</li> </ul>
	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrowhead Street</li> </ul>
	Partially completed, carry over to 2011, (1.i.)	Create a shaded fuelbreak and/or clear brush (depending on forest cover) along Takilma Road from approximately Four Corners and downtown Takilma to approximately #9710 (where the road drops).
	Completed	Reduce fuels north of Selma adjacent to Highway 199. This project was identified by JCIFP Fuels Reduction Committee for FY 2005 National Fire Plan funding and was submitted by the County for funding.

	Completed	Implement future phases of Thompson Creek collaborative fuel reduction project. The current project is progressing very well, with many participating landowners. It is important to maintain the momentum in this very high-hazard neighborhood by exploring and continuing future phases.
	Delete-private property	Reduce fuels at two large buck brush areas in Takilma. One is between Takilma Road and East Fork Illinois River across from intersection with Meadows Road. The other is from approximately 8650 to 8900 Takilma Road.
	Carry over to 2011, (1.j.)	FS implement fuels reduction around camping areas at Hogue's Meadow.

<b>Second-Priority Fuel Reduction Projects</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>
<b>Reduce Hazardous Fuels in these Secondary Priority Projects</b>	Rewrite and carry over to 2011, (1.k.)	Explore development of strategic shaded fuelbreaks between Kerby and BLM or FS lands.
	Omitted-not an IVFD deliverable strategy	South Deer Project between BLM and Deer Creek Valley Natural Resources Conservation Association is a model local project for community involvement in public lands management, including fire hazard reduction. This project should be supported and fully implemented by all participating entities.
	Carry over to 2011, (1.l.)	FS implement fuels reduction on roads to Mars Swimming Hole and Seats Dam. Work with local schools to develop educational signs about fire safety to place at these popular spots.
	Completed	ODF work with landowners to implement fuel hazard reduction and remove logging slash on property of and around Hope Mountain Road logging.
	Rewrite and carry over to 2011, (1.m.)	<del>IVFSC</del> work with The Nature Conservancy and FS to create a shaded fuelbreak and/or brush clearance along the boundary with private residential properties in O'Brien.
	Completed	IVFSC, IVFD, and FS identify the most strategic location for one or more shaded fuelbreaks between Takilma and Sun Star.
	Completed with Rough & Ready Fire	IVFSC work with FS, Siskiyou Project, and Forestry Action Committee to identify location on west side of town for a shaded fuelbreak to protect Cave Junction in the event of a reburn of any areas of the Biscuit Fire,



		possibly on the first ridge west of Highway 199. This needs to be a location and prescription that can be agreed upon by all members of the community.
	Completed with Deer Creek Fire	IVFSC with BLM, FS, DCVNRCA, and others explore development of strategic shaded fuelbreaks in Selma, beginning with Deer Creek Road as it heads towards Williams. This could serve as a break from fires coming from the east, while also improving this road as an evacuation route.
	Delete	IVFSC and O'Brien residents explore fuel reduction with riparian enhancement along West Fork Illinois River east and west of 199, through private properties.
	Delete	Clear brush in Section 12 near Dick George, in the old-growth forest south of Ilama ranch (while maintaining old-growth forest overstory), and in the fallow fields. Include mowing areas of high grass.
	Completed	City, IVFSC, and others cooperate to remove dead trees along the Kerby ditch.
	Delete	IVFSC work with agencies and participating landowners to ensure ongoing maintenance of treated areas, including funding for this maintenance. An "adopt-a-fuelbreak" program is an option for fuels treatments near populated areas, where local residents regularly check the adopted area for dead materials and undesirable regeneration to remove. This could be done in conjunction with local schools creating educational signs to be posted in these areas explaining the project and encouraging participation.
	Delete	ODF, FS, and BLM ensure all land management activities in the Illinois Valley do not result in accumulation of hazardous fuels, such as following logging operations, unless done so for specific restorative purposes.

### Reduce Structural Ignitability

The table below is a combination of the prioritized mitigation strategies for "defensible space" and "reducing structural ignitability". Creating and maintaining a defensible space around the home leads to reducing the ignitability of the structure.

The two primary tools of the IVFD and ODF for reducing structural ignition vulnerability in the Illinois Valley are the Oregon Forestland Urban Fire Protection Act of 1997 (Senate Bill 360), and Article 76, Josephine County Wildfire Safety Standards.

The Oregon Forestland Urban Fire Protection Act of 1997 applies to many properties with structures in the Illinois Valley.

Article 76 Josephine County Wildfire Safety Standards establishes minimum wildfire and safety mitigation standards for development, replacement, substantial improvements, or relocation of structures.

<b>Reduce Structural Ignitability</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>
<b>Reduce Structural Ignitability</b>	Rewrite and carry over to 2011, (2.a, b, c, & d.)	Continue and enhance existing defensible space assessments and education. <del>IVFSC, IVFD, and ODF work with JCIFP and IV Family Coalition to provide these services to low-income households, especially in areas of high hazard or risk as identified through this process and by JCIFP Risk Assessment.</del>
	Rewrite and carry over to 2011, (2.a, b, c & d.)	Residents in areas with dense forest and/or brush and narrow roads around the Illinois Valley must be diligent in creating and maintaining their defensible space. For those in interface areas with forest and brush close to their homes, this should be to a minimum of one hundred feet.
	Carry over to 2011, (2.a.)	All new developments must adhere to Josephine County Article 76. County, City, IVFD, and <del>IVFSC</del> work together to educate residents on these new standards.
	Rewrite and carry over to 2011, (2.a.)	Roofing <del>IVFSC, IVFD, ODF, FS, City, and County</del> educate residents, realtors, and developers on the importance of replacing wood-shake roofs.
	Delete, beyond scope of IVFD	City and County explore incentive programs for shake roof replacement and/or replacement upon sale of property.
	Delete	Vent Openings <del>IVFSC, IVFD, ODF, FS, City, and County</del> educate residents, realtors, and developers on importance of steel vent screening. City and County explore incentives for homeowners to encourage steel screening of vent openings.
	Delete	Decks <del>IVFSC, IVFD, ODF, FS, and others</del> educate residents on importance of fire-safe decking. City and County explore regulations regarding use of synthetic decking materials.
	Delete	Outbuildings <del>IVFSC, IVFD, ODF, FS, and others</del> educate residents on need for separation of heat loads from their residence.
	Delete	Wood Piles <del>IVFSC, IVFD, ODF, FS, and others</del> educate residents

		on need to have a minimum of 20 feet separation of firewood piles and woodsheds from their residence.
	Delete, covered under fire code	Propane Tanks IVFSC, IVFD, ODF, FS, and others educate residents on need to have vegetative and flammable material clearance around propane tanks near their residence, and on need to keep propane tanks and other flammable materials at least 20 feet from homes and outbuildings.

<b>Increase Fire Protection Capabilities</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>
<b>Increase Fire Protection Capability</b>	Partially completed, carry over to 2011, (3.a.)	IVFD and County work to upgrade both Holland bridges to allow safe fire engine passage.
	Partially completed, carry over to 2011, (3.c.)	County, City, and IVFD work together to fix the address numbering system on Westside Road, and number the power-line roads. There are problems with residents here having addresses tied to the main roads, not the actual roads where they live. This makes it difficult for efficient emergency response.
		<b>Improve Evacuation Routes</b>
	Rewrite and carry over to 2011, (3.j.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law enforcement, IVFD, ODF, BLM, and FS cooperate to develop and post escape route signs for all key evacuation routes in the Illinois Valley.</li> </ul>
	Rewrite and carry over to 2011, (3.j.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IVFSC, IVFD, and others work with law enforcement to educate residents on safe evacuation.</li> </ul>
	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law enforcement, City, and County work with neighboring governments to create alternate evacuation sites.</li> </ul>
Rewrite and carry over to 2011, (3.j.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law enforcement, FS, BLM, and IVFD develop signage for the emergency evacuation routes out of Selma, including the Deer Creek and Crooks Creek roads to Williams, and Deer Creek to Caves Highway. <del>This should be done in conjunction with community education events sponsored by ODF, BLM, IVFD, and IVFSC. A Saturday afternoon could be spent taking local residents and media on tours of the various evacuation routes, to familiarize the community with these alternative routes.</del></li> </ul>	

Carry over and rewrite to increase IV Volunteer capacity overall, (3.g.)	<b>Increase Volunteer Firefighters</b>
Delete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents in the Takilma area need to volunteer and train with IVFD if they want to maintain IVFD Station #6. Given the distance from Takilma to primary medical care or other emergency services, maintenance of this station is a priority here. Without more volunteers, it is likely that this station will be closed to more efficiently use the resources.</li> </ul>
Delete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents in the Holland area need to volunteer and train with IVFD to staff Station #4. Without adequate volunteers, IVFD could be forced to close this station, which provides emergency fire and medical response to this community.</li> </ul>
Carry over and rewrite for IVFD to create, map, and maintain IV water sources, (3.h.)	<b>Develop Water Sources</b>
	<b>IVFD, ODF, BLM, and FS identify priority locations for water tanks and develop, install, and maintain them in and around:</b>
Delete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-hydrant areas of Cave Junction</li> </ul>
Delete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>O'Brien</li> </ul>
Delete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Takilma</li> </ul>
Delete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upper Holton Creek and Kerby Mainline roads</li> </ul>
Delete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upper Thompson Creek Road and upper Draper Valley Road in Selma</li> </ul>

	Completed	Sun Star is in the process of receiving two water tanks. A proposal is being developed for three more tanks to submit to the Del Norte RAC. IVFSC, IVFD, and FS support this effort to get additional water storage at Sun Star.
	Delete	IVFD, IVFSC, City, County, ODF, and FS educate residents regarding use of dry hydrants with ponds and facilitate their installation.
	Delete	IVFSC educate residents on opportunities and logistics of rainwater harvesting.

### Increase Education and Awareness

Many people are motivated to create a fire safe home if they understand why it is to their advantage. In addition, little is known by most residents regarding safe evacuation. To this end, educational programs targeted at local residents can be very successful.

<b>Increase Education and Awareness</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>
<b>Increase Wildfire Education</b>	Ongoing, rewrite, combine, & carry over to 2011, (4.a.)	<del>IVFSC work with</del> IVFD, ODF, City, County, FS, BLM, local insurance industry, and others to implement an area-wide community fire safety education program, including public service announcements in all local media.
	Ongoing, rewrite, combine & carry over to 2011, (4.a.)	<del>IVFSC work with</del> IVFD, ODF, FAC, City, County, Siskiyou Project, FS, BLM, and law enforcement to coordinate a community-wide education effort regarding defensible space, fire safety, and safe evacuation.
	Component of above	IVFSC and IVFD work with area schools to develop community fire safety educational signs in conjunction with fire safe curricula.
	Component of above	IVFSC and IVFD work with Takilma Dome School to develop an education program there to create signs for fire safety on nearby public lands, targeted for recreational users and hunters, as well as residents.
	Delete	IVFSC and IVFD explore instituting a “Big Red Truck Program” for defensible space education and assessments. Explore state and federal funding options for the program.

### Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council

The Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council (IVFSC) was created in part to implement this fire plan, in cooperation with all participating agency and organizational partners. The

Council's ongoing development is critical for effective implementation and community acceptance of this plan. To this end, supporting their efforts is essential.

<b>Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>
<b>Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council</b>	Delete, IVFSC no longer exists	IVFD provide ongoing administrative support to IVFSC.
	Delete, IVFSC no longer exists	All local, state, and federal public and private land management agencies appoint a representative to actively and regularly participate in the Fire Safe Council.
	Delete, IVFSC no longer exists	Public and private-sector organizations and individuals work with IVFSC to develop ongoing financial and in-kind support for FSC activities and development.
	Delete, IVFSC no longer exists	All partners work together to fund a part-time IVFSC coordinator position through IVFD. This will likely be a key step in the IVFSC ability to successfully address fire safety issues in the Illinois Valley.
	Rewrite changing IVFSC to IVFD and move to next section, (5.c.)	<del>IVFSC members participate in all committees of the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan to ensure adequate Illinois Valley representation. There are already several IV residents participating in one or more of these committees. This existing participation should be in conjunction with the IVFSC, to ensure the Council is actively involved with implementation of the JCIFP in the Illinois Valley.</del>
	Delete, IVFSC no longer exists	IVFSC and IVFD support efforts of Holland/Dick George neighborhood organizing regarding phone tree, mapping, etc.

**Implementing the Illinois Valley Fire Plan**

Implementation of this plan is clearly a far bigger task than creating it. There is much work to be done to reduce the increased fire risks and hazards created over the last century. Collaborative processes and projects are proving to be most effective at tackling such complex problems. Therefore, the Illinois Valley Fire Safe Council is perfectly suited to address the long-term fire issues in the Illinois Valley, provided that it continues to be an active organization with real participation by all relevant parties.

<b>Implementing the Illinois Valley Fire Plan</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>
<b>Implementing the Illinois Valley Fire Plan</b>	Delete, IV Fire Safety Council no longer exists	IVFSC, IVFD, and others hold neighborhood-level community meetings throughout the Illinois Valley to further refine and implement this Plan. This will also serve to familiarize more residents with the FSC,

		likely resulting in increased participation.
	Rewrite and carry over to 2011, (5.a.)	IVFSC work with residents to identify risks, hazards, and potential projects in neighborhoods further out the Caves Highway toward Grayback. This is in accordance with the IVFSC purpose to continue fire-planning efforts at the local level in the Illinois Valley.
	Rewrite and carry over to 2011, (5.b.)	<del>IVFSC apply for National Fire Plan, Homeland Security, and other federal funding sources to implement the priority projects identified in this plan. Work with local organizations, agencies, and individuals to provide cost-share matches to these projects.</del>
	Completed June 2011	<del>IVFSC and partners</del> IVFD review the Illinois Valley Fire Plan every five years and update it as needed, using a collaborative public process. This could be done as an Appendix to this document.

**Policy, WUI, and Utilization-Carry over to 2011 (6)**

Although some county-wide policy issues were discussed here, especially in terms of reducing structural ignitability, most policy-level mitigation strategy issues are addressed in the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan. The JCIFP designated the wildland urban interface boundary for the Illinois Valley and communities at risk. Prioritization and selection of hazardous fuel reduction projects is determined through the Josephine County Fuels/Risk Committee. Biomass and utilization issues are also addressed for the Illinois Valley in the JCIFP. The JCIFP is located at <http://tiny.cc/jcifp>.



## **2011 Mitigation Strategies**

This section outlines the 2010/2011 mitigation strategies for the Illinois Valley Fire District CWPP.

The 2005 strategies have been accomplished, deleted, or carried-over and re-written as necessary. These carried-over strategies can be cross-referenced to the 2005 strategy section by their number/letter designation. New strategies have been identified as a result of this updating process and added in this section.

This update to the 2005 CWPP revealed that many strategies did not take into consideration the Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) as a complete area or community at risk from wildfire. The action items were more specific to single items addressed in community meetings.

This mitigation strategy considers the IVFD as one area, at risk from wildfire and the complete District should be considered and evaluated as action plans are developed to accomplish mitigation strategies.

The strategies below were created for the IVFD to develop action plans for each item. An action plan should evaluate, map, schedule, and describe the desired outcome in order to evaluate success for the period June 2011 through May 2016.

### **1. Reduce Hazardous Fuels**

- a. All fuelbreaks created through this plan should maintain the highest level of shade canopy possible to reduce regeneration. "A shaded fuelbreak is built in timbered areas where the trees on the break are thinned and pruned to reduce the fire potential yet retain enough crown canopy to make a less favorable microclimate for surface fires." (National Wildfire Coordinating Group Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology, <http://www.nwccg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary/index.htm>)
- b. IVFD, USFS, BLM, and ODF should monitor all prescribed and wildland fire burn areas surrounding IV communities and focus fuel hazard reduction and forest restoration efforts there to minimize possibilities for reburn of dead fuels.

IVFD, ODF, BLM, FS, City, County and Non-Government Organizations (NGO) should cooperate to implement the following priority fuel reduction projects:

#### **Top Priority Fuel Reduction Projects**

Complete fuel reduction treatment areas in Cave Junction, along roads with high-density neighborhoods or especially dangerous evacuation routes, including:

- c. South Barlow Street from Hamilton to Sherwood Hills side
- d. Manzanita Lane area through Oak Drive to Dogwood

Create shaded fuelbreaks or brush roadsides (depending on forest cover) along the dense areas of the following roads in the Holland area:

- e. Dick George



- f. Greenview
- g. Browntown
- h. Beebe Drive

Create shaded fuelbreaks or brush roadsides (depending on forest cover) in O'Brien along:

- i. Complete the shaded fuelbreak and/or clear brush (depending on forest cover) along Takilma Road from approximately Four Corners and downtown Takilma to approximately #9710 (where the road drops).
- j. Takilma residents in 2005 identified the camping area at Hogue's Meadow as needing hazardous fuels reduction. IVFD should write a letter to the USFS requesting hazardous fuels reduction around camping areas at Hogue's Meadow.

#### **Second-Priority Fuel Reduction Projects**

- k. IVFD should meet with the USFS and BLM regarding creation of strategic shaded fuelbreaks between Kerby and adjacent public lands.
- l. O'Brien residents in 2005 identified the access roads to Mars Swimming Hole and Seats Dam as needing hazardous fuels reduction. IVFD should write a letter to the USFS requesting hazardous fuels reduction on roads to Mars Swimming Hole and Seats Dam. IVFD should work with local schools to develop and post educational signs about fire safety at these popular spots.
- m. IVFD to work with The Nature Conservancy and USFS to create a shaded fuelbreak and/or brush clearance along the boundary with private residential properties in O'Brien

#### **New Hazardous Fuels Mitigation Strategies**

- n. The communities in the Illinois Valley are surrounded by public land. Hazardous fuels treatments on public land can protect a community and make wildfires easier to manage and control. Priority areas for BLM and USFS hazardous fuels reduction projects in the Illinois Valley are shown on the IV Strategic Planning Unit Map in the section, "Community Assessment of Risk."
- o. Identify, map, and treat additional priority hazardous fuels reduction treatment areas within the IVFD. Special consideration should be given to areas that may allow fire spread to the District or from the District into the wildland.
- p. Identify, map, and treat additional priority areas that require shaded fuel breaks or brush roadsides (depending on forest cover) along the dense forested or brushy areas of the IVFD.

After the areas for fuels reduction or fuel breaks have been identified and mapped:

- a. Prioritize areas by highest to lowest risk. The IV Strategic Planning Unit Map is a valuable tool to assist in prioritizing areas for treatments.
- b. Develop a hazardous fuels prescription for each area.
- c. Create a risk reduction timeline for each risk category.

- d. Educate and involve residents on the importance of the fuels reduction process and creating a “Fire-Safe” community within their community.
- e. Conduct a fuel reduction process with cooperating partnerships; federal and non-government organizations.

## 2. Reduce Structural Ignitability

The Illinois Valley Fire District in conjunction with other cooperating agencies and community groups shall address the following opportunities for reducing structural ignition vulnerability in the Illinois Valley.

### Mitigation Strategies

- a. **Regulation:** Oregon Forestland Urban Fire Protection Act of 1997 (Senate Bill 360), and Article 76, Josephine County Wildfire Safety Standards. Discuss regulations and enforcement with community to increase accomplishment of these standards on private land.
- b. **Information:** Utilize information, materials, and program ideas from valuable and proven Wildland Urban Interface programs such as the Firewise.org website, “Living with Fire”, “FireFree”, and “Fire Safe-Inside and Out.”
- c. **Education:** Conduct community and individual property assessments for wildfire risk. Organize, develop and schedule community or neighborhood meetings related to Wildland Urban Interface education.
- d. **Firewise Communities USA:** Establish recognized Firewise Communities in the Illinois Valley. To ensure success, start small and think big. Create a campaign to establish (\*) number of recognized communities each year. Utilize a step by step process either by dividing the IVFD into grids or by using the seven communities at risk. \*IVFD to determine number of communities each year.

### Program Development

- 1. Grid map (or use the seven communities) to prioritize education areas by risk.
- 2. Establish education modules by area.
- 3. Establish timelines of implementation for each area.
- 4. Determine assistance from agencies and cooperators.
- 5. Implement public programs (Regulation, Information, Education, and Firewise Communities USA).

## 3. Increase Fire Protection Capabilities

### Mitigation Strategies

#### Road and Bridge Evaluation and Addressing

- a. Complete work to upgrade Holland bridges to allow safe fire engine passage.
- b. IVFD and Josephine County Roads Department shall develop a plan to evaluate IV roads and bridges for accessibility.
- c. IVFD, Josephine County, and Illinois Valley Communities at Risk shall continue to work together to improve the road and residential addressing numbering system.

- d. IVFD and County to evaluate road signs and addressing for mapping and pre-fire planning.
- e. IVFD Volunteers to continue program of distributing address signs to residents.

#### **Equipment Capabilities**

- f. IVFD should continue to evaluate fire suppression equipment, budget requirements, and grant opportunities.

#### **Personnel Delivery System**

- g. IVFD to evaluate personnel delivery system. Develop Volunteer recruitment and retention campaign, and future budget request for career personnel as needed.
- h. IVFD assure wildland fire training and wildland urban interface operations for all response personnel prior to wildfire season.

#### **Water Supply**

- i. IVFD should map non-district water sources prior to wildfire season.

#### **Evacuation Route System and Mapping**

- j. IVFD improve evacuation mapping, conduct resident education on safe evacuation, and post signage for wildland fire evacuations. Evacuation signing to abide by the standards set in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

### **4. Increase Outreach, Education and Awareness**

#### **Mitigation Strategy**

- a. IVFD, ODF, City, County, USFS, BLM, local insurance industry, and other cooperators should continue to work together to implement a community-wide wildfire safety education program including: creating and maintaining defensible space, fire safety, evacuation procedures, and coordinated public service announcements. As mentioned in (2b) utilize information, materials, and program ideas from Wildland Urban Interface programs such as the Firewise.org website, "Living with Fire", "FireFree", and "Fire Safe-Inside and Out."

IVFD should continue their community education and outreach activities which have included:

- Pet and livestock evacuation planning meetings with the community.
- Interactive home fire safety instruction with children around the community using the fire safety house.
- Annual fire prevention outreach at community-wide events.
- Annual fire safety training for elementary-aged children.

## **5. Implementing the Illinois Valley Fire Plan Mitigation Strategies**

- a. IVFD should continue to work with residents to identify risks, hazards, and potential projects in all Illinois Valley neighborhoods.
- b. IVFD should continue to apply for grants from county, state, and federal funding sources to implement the strategies identified in this plan. Work with local organizations, agencies, and individuals to provide cost-share matches to these projects.
- c. IVFD personnel should continue to participate on all committees of the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan to ensure adequate Illinois Valley representation.
- d. As mentioned in (2d), IVFD should use the Firewise Communities USA program to establish recognized Firewise Communities in the Illinois Valley.

## **6. Policy, Wildland Urban Interface, Utilization**

Although some county-wide policy issues were discussed here, especially in terms of reducing structural ignitability, most policy-level mitigation strategy issues are addressed in the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan. The JCIFP designated the wildland urban interface boundary for the Illinois Valley and communities at risk. Prioritization and selection of hazardous fuel reduction projects is determined through the Josephine County Fuels/Risk Committee. Biomass and utilization issues are also addressed for the Illinois Valley in the JCIFP. The JCIFP is located at <http://tiny.cc/jcifp>.



## **Evaluation and Monitoring**

The Illinois Valley CWPP should be a living document to promote priority fuels reduction, public education and other important projects to decrease the risks of loss from wildfire in the Illinois Valley.

Monitoring and evaluation is an important piece of keeping any plan valid and current. Creating this update after a period of six years was a difficult task. It is recommended that the Illinois Valley Fire District review accomplishments and share progress with the Illinois Valley Community on an annual basis. Timing of this process should coincide with the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan Annual Report.

Evaluation and monitoring review could include:

- Tracking accomplishments and identifying the extent to which goals have been met.
- Examining collaborative relationships and their contributions to CWPP implementation, including existing partnerships and potential new partners.
- Setting a course for future actions.
- Identifying community and home owner outreach and education programs.
- Identification of new or revised priorities.
- Discussion of grant opportunities and determination of projects eligible for funding.
- Celebrate accomplishments with the community and keep them diligent and active in creating and maintaining a residence safe from wildfire.



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