

Section 1

Introduction

Plan Purpose

The Lane County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies strategies and priorities for the protection of life, property, and infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface. The CWPP is a shared plan administered jointly by the Lane County Board of Commissioners, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Lane County Fire Defense Board; the contents of this plan were mutually agreed upon by all three entities.

The CWPP is an action plan and depends upon people and partnerships to carry it forward. The purpose of the CWPP is to provide the following:

- A foundation for coordination and collaboration among agencies and the public in Lane County to reduce risk to wildfire.
- An assessment and map of the wildland-urban interface in Lane County.
- Identification and prioritization of areas for hazardous fuel reduction projects.
- A set of recommendations for actions homeowners and local communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures.
- Assistance in meeting federal and state planning requirements and qualifying for assistance programs.
- A framework to support the development of local community fire plans within the county.

Why Develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan?

The development of structures in and near forestlands exposes greater numbers of people and property to the wildfire hazard. In 2002, one of the worst fire seasons in recent history, wildfires burned nearly seven million acres and 2,000 buildings across the United States. In 2003, wildfires destroyed 4,090 homes, primarily in California.¹

According to the Oregon State Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, “over 41 million acres of forest and rangeland in Oregon are susceptible to wildfire.”² The wildland-urban interface—the area where human development mixes with forestland—is growing in many Oregon communities. According to the State Natural Hazards Risk Assessment, Lane County has a high probability of and vulnerability to wildland-urban interface.³

The destruction caused by recent fire seasons illustrates that fire response and emergency management efforts alone are not enough to prevent losses.

Reducing a community's risk to wildfire is a shared responsibility that requires the participation of federal, state, and local government agencies, the private sector, and citizens. Risk reduction strategies are most effective when organized at the local level. Through community-based fire planning it is possible to address the specific values and needs of a local community and to build citizen awareness of living in a fire prone area.

The dramatic losses of the 2002 and 2003 fire seasons increased public awareness of wildfire risk and contributed to the Federal government's adoption of the National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA). This legislation encourages improved intergovernmental collaboration and increased partnerships between public and private entities to implement vegetative fuel reduction projects and improve risk reduction activities in at-risk communities. HFRA also encourages local communities to create their own strategies for wildfire mitigation through development of a community wildfire protection plan.

Lane County recognizes that reducing the potential impacts of wildland-urban interface fire requires a proactive approach that reaches across jurisdictional boundaries, public and private lands, and the diverse geographic regions of the County. The development of a community wildfire protection plan creates an opportunity to encourage communication between agencies and stakeholders, identify and prioritize community values, assess wildfire risk areas, and increase education and awareness of communities and homeowners.

In December of 2004, the Lane County Board of Commissioners directed County Staff to work collaboratively with fire protection districts and federal and state agencies to develop a community wildfire protection plan, using funding from Title III of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The planning process was designed to meet the funding eligibility requirements of the National Fire Plan, the HFRA of 2003, and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

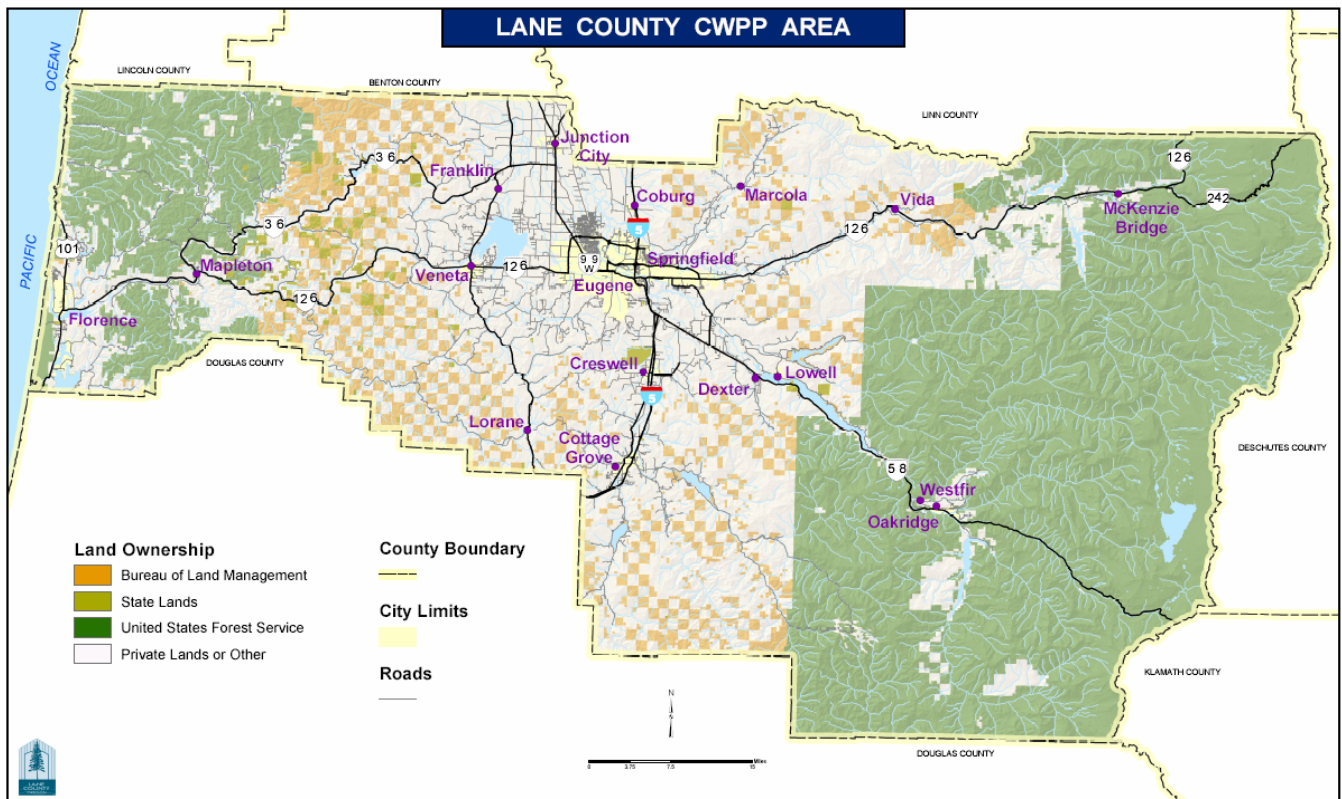
The Lane County CWPP focuses on achieving the three minimum requirements for community wildfire protection plans described by the HFRA:

- (1) Collaboration:** A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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.

What area will the CWPP affect?

Lane County covers 2.9 million acres, stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Crest of the Cascade Mountains. Nearly 90% of the County is forestlands. In a county this size, identifying high-risk areas and carrying out public outreach efforts at a meaningful scale is difficult. The Lane County CWPP addresses issues of scale and the County's diverse geography, population, and land management authorities by dividing the County into five assessment areas based roughly on watershed boundaries. The plan identifies general areas with high wildfire risk and provides a framework of technical support and guidance to assist local communities in developing and refining their own community wildfire protection plans and risk assessments. The CWPP does not have authority over incorporated communities within the County, but seeks to develop strategies for sharing information and resources between the county and local communities.

Figure 1.1: Lane County CWPP Area Map



Source: Lane County Public Works GIS, 2005

How is the CWPP organized?

The Lane County CWPP is organized into the following sections:

Section 1: Introduction

The Introduction explains the purpose of the CWPP and process used to develop the plan. This section also briefly describes wildfire history, forest characteristics, wildland-urban interface fire risk, current fire protection frameworks, and existing plans and policies addressing wildfire in Lane County.

Section 2: Risk Assessment

This section, developed by Lane County Land Management, presents the findings from the Lane County Wildfire Risk Assessment including the methods used to develop the assessment, the limitations, ideas for long-term assessment updates and maintenance and key findings.

Section 3: Community Outreach and Collaboration

This section presents the findings from the three outreach efforts, which include the landowner survey, stakeholder interviews, and the Firewise Workshop. The section concludes with a summary of the key issues identified through these community outreach efforts.

Section 4: Action Plan

This section describes the framework and methods used to develop the goals, objectives, and action items that make up the Action Plan.

Section 5: Plan Implementation and Maintenance

This section presents the methods for implementing the Action Plan, the process for prioritizing projects, and a schedule for updating and maintaining the plan.

Appendices

Appendix A: Action Item Worksheets – Describes in a worksheet, the key issues addressed, ideas for implementation, coordination and partner organizations, timeline, and plan goals addressed.

Appendix B: Implementation and Maintenance Documentation – Documents the agendas, meeting minutes, and other outcomes of the CWPP Advisory Committee meetings, as well as the processes of, successes, and lessons learned from pilot project.

Appendix C: Risk Assessment Methods – Documents the process used to develop the Risk Assessment maps and conclusions.

Appendix D: Fuel Treatment Types for Lane County – Describes and analyzes potential fuel treatment types available for use in Lane County.

Appendix E: Landowner Survey Summary – Describes the purpose, methods and findings of a landowner perception survey.

Appendix F: Stakeholder Interview Summary – Describes the purpose, methods and findings of stakeholder interviews.

Appendix G: Firewise Workshop Summary – Describes the purpose, methods and findings of the Firewise workshop.

Appendix H: Wildfire Resources – Documents existing wildfire resources.

Appendix I: Glossary of Terms – Provides definitions of terms used throughout the Lane County CWPP.

Planning Process and Methods

Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup and Lane County Emergency Management designed the Lane County CWPP planning process based upon the requirements of the HFRA, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, and the guidelines in the *Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan*⁴ handbook.

The planning process for the Lane County CWPP reflects the collaborative emphasis of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act requirements. Collaboration is the process of bringing different stakeholders together to address a problem by identifying common goals and finding consensus on potential solutions. A collaborative plan recognizes that the implementation process and its outcomes are more successful when support comes from multiple sources throughout the community. Collaboration ensures that the final document reflects the community's highest priorities.

Why Collaboration?

Here are a few of the benefits of a collaborative planning process:

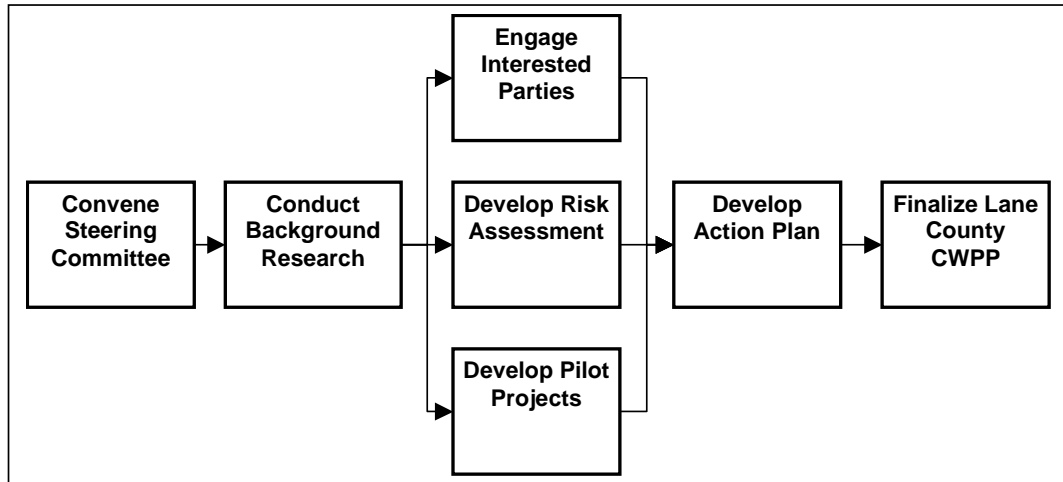
- Defines common values and goals
- Builds understanding of different perspectives
- Reduces conflicts
- Increases ownership in and support of decisions
- Increases legitimacy of final product

Source: Wondolleck and Yaffee. 2000. *Making Collaboration Work: Lessons from Innovation in Natural Resource Management*.

Steps to Developing Lane County's CWPP:

The following section summarizes the steps of the Lane County CWPP planning process. The steps are portrayed graphically in *Figure 1.2*.

Figure 1.2: The Lane County CWPP Planning Process



Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Step I. Convene Steering Committee and Engage Federal Partners

Lane County Emergency Management convened a steering committee to oversee and guide the development of the Lane County CWPP. The steering committee is a collaborative group responsible for making decisions and agreeing upon the final contents of the plan. The members of the steering committee included representatives of the following agencies:

- Lane County Sheriff's Office
- Lane County Fire Defense Board
- Lane County Land Management Division
- Lane County Public Works Department
- Lane County Fire Prevention Cooperative
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon State Fire Marshal
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management

Step II. Research Existing Wildfire Resources, Plans, and Policies

Background research was conducted prior to beginning the planning process for the Lane County CWPP. ONHW reviewed existing federal, state, and local policies and plans related to wildfire planning, protection, or mitigation, as well as recent community wildfire plans from across the nation. Other background information included recent research by the U.S. Forest Service and other literature on wildland-urban interface fire.

Step III. Engage Interested Parties and Stakeholders

The steering committee used a three-tiered process to engage stakeholders in the development of the Lane County CWPP:

1. Landowner Survey - A survey was mailed to 1,500 randomly selected landowners from areas in Lane County. The survey questions were designed to gain information about landowners' perceptions of wildfire risk and assess their attitudes towards potential actions that communities and homeowners can take to reduce their risk of wildfire.
2. Stakeholder Interviews - ONHW conducted phone interviews with key stakeholders to gain information about key issues, concerns, and current activities related to the Lane County CWPP objectives of collaboration, prioritization of fuel reduction projects, and treatment of structural ignitability.
3. Firewise Workshop - Oregon Department of Forestry and ONHW invited stakeholders such as agency staff, planners, developers, realtors, insurers, utility providers, and non-profit organizations to attend a Firewise Communities workshop. The workshop sought stakeholder participation in identifying obstacles and opportunities to reducing wildfire risk in Lane County.

Step IV. Develop a Community Base Map and Wildfire Risk Assessment:

Using GIS technology and information from the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Bureau of Land Management, Lane County Department of Public Works created a base map of the community and adjacent land important to the CWPP. The map identifies inhabited areas containing critical human infrastructure that are at risk from wildfire and preliminarily designates Lane County's wildland-urban interface zone.

The County adapted a statewide risk assessment methodology from the Oregon Department of Forestry to evaluate wildfire risk. The County also conducted a survey of rural fire protection districts to gather data related to the known wildland urban-interface fire threats and protection capabilities at the fire district level. The following risk factors were assessed to determine the risk rating:

Risk: Assesses the potential and frequency that wildfire ignitions may occur by analyzing historical ignitions over the past 10 years.

Hazard: The natural conditions including vegetative fuels, weather, topographic features that may contribute to and affect the behavior of wildfire.

Values: The people, property, and essential infrastructure that may suffer losses in a wildfire event.

Protection Capability: The ability to both plan and prepare for, as well as respond to and suppress, structural and wildland fires.

The risk assessment also provides a process for the prioritization of areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments to protect at-risk communities and essential infrastructure as required by the HFRA.

Step V. Develop Pilot Projects

The steering committee identified two sites for pilot projects to demonstrate fuels reduction projects and document lessons learned. The Oregon Department of Forestry worked with Northwest Youth Corps and local community members to reduce fuels at the Triangle Lake School in Blachly, Oregon. The outcome of this pilot project is documented in *Appendix B: Implementation and Maintenance Documentation*. The second pilot project, a fuels reduction project at the Eugene Water and Electric Board's substation facility in Leaburg, was still under development at the time that the plan was finalized.

Step VI. Develop an Action Plan and Project Prioritization Method

The findings from the wildfire risk assessment and the input from interested parties and stakeholders were used to create an action plan for the Lane County CWPP. The action plan identifies the goals, objectives, and action items for carrying out wildfire risk reduction strategies in the county. The action plan also establishes roles and responsibilities, funding, and timetables for implementing action items.

The steering committee developed a process for prioritizing community hazard reduction projects that utilizes the countywide risk assessment. The prioritization process is part of the implementation and maintenance component of the plan and helps to ensure that mitigation funding is used efficiently and effectively.

Step VII. Finalize Community Wildfire Protection Plan

ONHW presented a draft CWPP to the steering committee on May 24, 2005 for review and comment. The steering committee-approved document was presented to the Lane County Board of County Commissioners on July 13, 2005. The plan was adopted by resolution on **xx**.

The following entities approved the final document, pursuant to the HFRA:

1. The Lane County Board of Commissioners
2. The Lane County Fire Defense Board
3. The Oregon Department of Forestry

Lane County Background

Wildfire History

Wildfire plays a critical ecological role in many ecosystems across the country, including those in Lane County. Native Americans annually burned large areas of the Willamette Valley and coastal valleys to help maintain grasslands and savannahs.⁵ Forest fires were relatively infrequent, although their size and severity often were large. Between 1846 and 1853, a series of large fires burned over 800,000 acres in the central Oregon Coast Range.⁶

The disruption of natural fire cycles over the last century has created dangerous vegetative fuel loads and forests vulnerable to catastrophic wildfires. Logging came to the region in the early twentieth century, combining with fire to change the landscape of the Coast Range and western Cascades.⁷ During and after World War II, an emphasis on better wildland fire suppression and fire prevention dramatically reduced damage caused by wildfires. More people moved into suburban areas during this same period, increasing the wildland-urban interface.⁸ Oregon Department of Forestry statistics indicate that the trend in the number of wildfires is decreasing, but the number of acres and structures burned by those remaining fires is growing.⁹

There are many examples of disastrous fires, both in Lane County and in surrounding counties that share similar landscape characteristics. In 1910, the Nelson Mountain Fire burned many areas that are now state forestlands in Lane County. Large fires burned again in western Lane County in 1917, 1922, and 1929.¹⁰ The 1966 Oxbow Fire, started by a faulty spark arrester, burned 44,000 acres in the County.¹¹ An example of a catastrophic wildfire in an ecoregion similar to Lane County is the 1933 Tillamook County Fire, which burned 240,000 acres. For more information on the history, demographics, and other characteristics of Lane County, refer to the *Lane County Community Profile in the County's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

Lane County Communities At-Risk to Wildfire

To help states and counties identify the at-risk communities within their borders, various state and federal agencies across the country worked together collaboratively to update a national list of "Communities in the

Vicinity of Federal Lands at Risk from Wildfire.”¹² To identify at-risk communities, state agencies used a process created by an interagency group at the national level which describes the risk factors associated with at-risk communities.¹³ The updated list of at-risk communities across the country was published in the *Federal Register* on August 17, 2001. The at-risk communities within Lane County as identified by the *Federal Register* include the following: Black Butte, Cloverdate, Coburg, Dexter, Dorena, Dunes City, Florence, Lorane, Mapleton, Marcola, Springfield, Swisshome, Triangle Lake, and Walton.

Forest Characteristics

Historic wildfire regimes played a predominant role in the development of the forests of Lane County. Natural cycles of fire disturbance influence all facets of ecosystem dynamics from structure and composition to wildlife habitat and nutrient cycling. Fire suppression, timber harvesting, the introduction of exotic species, and other human factors have disturbed natural fire cycles. West of the Cascade Mountains, fire frequency and severity depend upon environmental variables, such as temperature, moisture, ignitions, and broad, fire-driving winds.¹⁴

Lane County is made up of three distinct ecoregions with differing vegetative, geographic, and fire regime characteristics.¹⁵ These ecoregions are described below:

Willamette Valley : The Valley landforms include floodplains and terraces that are interlaced with surrounding rolling hills. The natural vegetation includes Cottonwood, Alder, Oregon Ash, and Big Leaf Maple. Douglas Fir and Western Red Cedar occur in moister areas. The Valley has lower precipitation, warmer temperatures, and fire regimes of higher frequency and lower severity than adjacent Cascades or Coast Range.

Coast Range: This ecoregion is characterized by steep, highly dissected slopes with narrow ridges. The natural vegetation includes forests of Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock, Western Red Cedar, and Sitka Spruce.

Western Cascades: This ecoregion is characterized by ridge crests at similar elevations, separated by steep valleys. The natural vegetation consists of forests of Douglas Fir and Western Hemlock at lower elevations and Silver Fir and Mountain Hemlock at higher elevations.

Throughout Lane County, Douglas Fir and Western Hemlock are the most predominant forest types.¹⁶ Fire regimes in moist Douglas-fir habitat types are mixed, ranging from low to moderate severity surface fires at relatively frequent intervals (7 to 20 years) to severe crown fires at long intervals (50 to 400 years).¹⁷ Significant annual precipitation and low occurrence of lightning throughout much of Lane County contribute to a low probability of natural fire ignitions in many areas. However, the high vegetative fuel loads are vulnerable to catastrophic fire once ignited. Catastrophic fires are those that “burn more intensely than the natural or historical range of variability,

thereby fundamentally changing the ecosystem, destroying communities and/or rare or threatened species/habitat, or causing unacceptable erosion.”¹⁸

Current Wildfire Protection Framework

Several agencies share responsibility for fire protection in Lane County; these roles are described in the Lane County Emergency Operations Plan.

“The City of Eugene and City of Springfield Fire Departments provide emergency fire services to the most densely populated and developed areas of Lane County. Much of the remainder of the County’s fire protection lies within the jurisdictions of the agencies that make up the Lane County Fire Defense Board and the Western Lane/Douglas County’s Fire Defense Board. The Oregon Department of Forestry is responsible for fire protection on all state-owned forestland, privately owned lands, and Bureau of Land Management lands. The U.S. Forest Service are responsible for national forest lands.”¹⁹

In addition to response capabilities, many fire agencies in Lane County play a role in education and outreach. The Oregon State Fire Marshal provides technical assistance to rural fire protection districts and unprotected areas in the wildland-urban interface. The Oregon Department of Forestry has received funding through National Fire Plan grants for fuel reduction projects and community-level fire protection plans. The Lane County Fire Prevention Co-op facilitates interagency cooperation for the local delivery of fire prevention education messages. *Table 1.2* on the next page portrays the current wildfire protection framework in Lane County, including the roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local fire protection agencies.

Table 1.2: Current Wildfire Protection Framework

<u>Federal</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Municipal</u>	<u>County</u>
<p>US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Manages the majority of Lane County's 2.5 million acres of F1 zoned forestlands. ◆ USFS participates in first response and co-op agreements with Oregon Department of Forestry. ◆ BLM contracts with Oregon Department of Forestry for wildland protection on lands within ODF district boundaries. 	<p>Oregon Department of Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provides wildland protection on 1.4 million acres in Lane County on state owned and state protected lands within district boundaries. ◆ Contracts with private lands to provide wildland fire protection outside of district boundaries. ◆ Participates in first-response agreements with all adjoining counties and with co-op agreements with USFS. ◆ Provides protection to BLM lands within district boundaries by contract. ◆ Promotes education, outreach, and prevention activities. <p>Oregon State Fire Marshal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provides technical assistance to local fire departments and unprotected areas. ◆ Promotes education and outreach in the wildland-urban interface. ◆ Adopted the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan. 	<p>City Fire Departments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide structural fire protection within city limits. ◆ Cities without fire departments contract with rural fire districts for emergency protection. ◆ The cities of Cottage Grove, Eugene, Florence, Junction City, Springfield, Oakridge and Westfir provide fire services inside their own city limits. 	<p>Rural Fire Districts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 24 Rural Fire Districts within Lane County. ◆ Provide structural fire protection within district boundaries throughout the county. <p>Lane County Fire Defense Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Has mutual aid agreements among the 24 rural fire protection agencies in the county and Oregon Department of Forestry. ◆ Focuses on the operational side of fire response. <p>Lane County Fire Prevention Co-op</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Facilitates interagency cooperation in the local delivery of wildfire fire prevention messages and materials ◆ Includes some of the members of the Lane County Fire Defense Board, as well as USFS and BLM

Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Existing Plans and Policies

The CWPP is non-regulatory in nature, meaning that it does not set forth any new policy. The plan does provide (1) a foundation for coordination and collaboration among agencies and the public in Lane County, (2) identification and prioritization of areas for hazardous fuel reduction projects and other mitigation activities, and (3) assistance meeting federal and state planning requirements and qualifying for assistance programs. The CWPP works in conjunction with other County plans and programs, including, but not limited to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, Rural Comprehensive Plan, Emergency Operations Plan, and Parks and Open Space Plan. These plans are briefly described below:

Lane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan - This plan is currently in development and is intended to assist Lane County in reducing its risk from natural hazards by identifying resources, information, partnerships, and strategies for risk reduction. The plan will meet the requirements for mitigation planning in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The CWPP will serve as the wildfire annex for the County's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Lane County Rural Comprehensive Plan - The Rural Comprehensive Plan addresses Oregon State Planning Goals and guides future growth and development in unincorporated areas of Lane County. The comprehensive plan contains a natural hazards inventory to meet the requirements of Planning Goal 7: Areas Subject to Natural Hazards. The wildfire risk assessment in the CWPP could serve as an update for the wildfire hazard inventory for Goal 7. The comprehensive plan also implements state requirements for buildings sited in forest zones.

Lane County Emergency Operations Plan – The Sheriff's Office is updating the Emergency Operations Plan until 2007. The plan currently provides a complete communication model for emergency response. The CWPP builds upon this communication model to facilitate effective coordination and response in wildfire emergencies.

Lane County Parks and Open Space Plan - Lane County manages 71 parks throughout the County. The Department of Parks and Open Space is currently revising the parks plan. The wildfire risk assessment in the CWPP will help identify the wildfire risk in or near parks and prioritize fuels reduction projects countywide.

The Lane County CWPP addresses the requirements for a community wildfire protection plan provided in Title III of the HFRA, as well as meets the guidelines and requirements of other state and federal programs. *Table 1.3* on the next page briefly describes relevant policies and how they are addressed by the CWPP.

Table 1.3: Policy Framework for Wildland-Urban Interface Fire in Oregon

Policy	Requirements	How the CWPP Addresses Policy
<p>Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA): Congress adopted HFRA in 2003 to assist community, state, and federal land managers in the prevention of catastrophic wildfire on public lands through fuels reduction activities. The Act requires 50% of appropriated fuel treatment funding through HFRA is to be used in the wildland-urban interface protection zone and give priority funding to communities with a community wildfire protection plan in place.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Collaboration: A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties. (2) 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. (3) 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. (4) Three entities must mutually agree to the final contents of a CWPP: the applicable local government; the local fire departments; and the state entity responsible for forest management 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The CWPP was collaboratively developed by a steering committee representing local, state, and federal agencies. The plan conducted outreach activities to gain input from public and private stakeholders. (2) The CWPP includes an assessment of wildfire risk in Lane County and a process for prioritizing fuel reduction projects. The plan also includes a table identifying appropriate fuel treatment methods for Lane County. (3) The CWPP recommends actions for promoting risk reduction activities on private and public lands in Lane County. (4) The Lane County Board of Commissioners, the Lane County Fire Defense Board, and the Oregon Department of Forestry approved the Lane County CWPP.
<p>National Fire Plan 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy: The National Fire Plan was developed in 2000, following a landmark wildfire season, to actively respond to severe wildfires and their impacts to communities while ensuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future.</p>	<p>The National Fire Plan addresses five key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Firefighting, – Rehabilitation, – Hazardous Fuels Reduction, – Community Assistance, and – Accountability. 	<p>The CWPP will aid in effectively implementing National Fire Plan goals by providing a collaborative framework reducing wildfire risk to communities in Lane County.</p> <p>The advisory committee responsible for coordinating the CWPP will also serve as the local coordinating body for National Fire Plan projects.</p>
<p>Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000: The Act emphasizes mitigation planning and establishes a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program.</p>	<p>Requires state and local governments to have an approved natural hazard mitigation plan in place to qualify for post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds.</p>	<p>The CWPP will serve as the Wildfire Annex for the Lane County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan currently in development.</p>

Policy	Requirements	How the CWPP Addresses Policy
<p>Oregon Statewide Land Use Goal 7 Areas Subject to Natural Hazards: Goal 7 requires local governments to adopt measures in their comprehensive plan to reduce risk to people and property from natural hazards.</p>	<p>The Goal Requires local governments complete an Federal and state land managers coordinate natural hazard inventories, and local land managers alter land use designations to minimize risk to people and property from natural hazards.</p>	<p>The CWPP includes a wildfire risk assessment for Lane County, which may be used as new wildfire hazard inventory information in the Lane County Rural Comprehensive Plan.</p>
<p>Oregon Forestland Dwelling Units Statute, ORS 215.730: The statute provides criteria for approving dwellings located on lands zoned for forest and mixed agriculture/forest use.</p>	<p>The Statute directs county governments to require, as a condition of approval, that single family dwellings on lands zoned as forestland meets requirements for construction materials, fuel breaks, water supply, and location in fire protection districts.</p>	<p>The Lane County Code and Rural Comprehensive Plan currently meet requirements of the state statute for dwellings on lands zoned forestlands.</p>
<p>Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997 (Senate Bill 360): Promotes the creation of a comprehensive wildland-urban interface fire protection system in Oregon.</p>	<p>The Act contains provisions for county governing bodies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a forestland-urban interface classification committee - Establish a forestland-urban interface criteria and classification program - Encourage landowner forestland-urban interface fire mitigation actions 	<p>The advisory committee convened to coordinate the CWPP may also serve as the forestland-urban interface classification committee.</p> <p>The CWPP includes a risk assessment and designates a wildland-urban interface in Lane County that may be used in the criteria and classification program required by Senate Bill 360.</p> <p>The CWPP identifies actions to promote landowner education and outreach strategies for the treatment of structural ignitability.</p>

Source: ONHW/CPW, 2005

Summary

As human development continues to spread into forestlands, the risk of wildland-urban interface fire escalates. Lane County's diverse geography, population, and land ownership patterns create further challenges to reducing the county's risk of wildfire. Many entities and programs aimed at wildfire risk response, reduction, and education exist, but efforts to share resources and information are limited. The risk assessment and action plan of the Lane County CWPP create opportunities to improve collaboration, enhance wildfire mitigation efforts, and reduce the county's overall risk to wildfire.

Section Endnotes

¹ National Interagency Fire Center. 2005. <<http://www.nifc.gov>>.

² Community Service Center. 2003. *Wildfire Chapter: State of Oregon Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.* <<http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/docs/neap/appendixD.pdf>>

³ Community Service Center. 2003. *Region 3: Mid/Southern Willamette Valley Hazards Assessment. State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.* <http://csc.uoregon.edu/PDR_website/projects/state/snhra/snha_pdf/>.

⁴ National Association of Foresters, Western Governors Association, National Association of Counties, and Society of American Foresters. 2004. *Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.* <<http://www.stateforesters.org/pubs/cwpphandbook.pdf>>.

⁵ Oregon Department of Forestry. 2001. *Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan: Final Plan.*

⁶ Oregon Department of Forestry. 2001. *Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan: Final Plan.*

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ State of Oregon. 2003. *Emergency Management Plan, Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.*

¹⁰ Oregon Department of Forestry. 2001. *Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan: Final Plan.*

¹¹ Ballou, Brian. 2003. "A Short History of Oregon Wildfires." *Wildfire Chapter: State of Oregon Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.*

¹² Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the Interior. 2001. *Federal Register*, Vol. 66, Number 160.

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Pacific Northwest Research Station, and the USDA Forest Service. 2002. When the Forest Burns: Making Sense of Fire History West of the Cascades. *Science Findings* (46).

¹⁵ Loy, William et al. 2001. *Atlas of Oregon*.

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ USDA Forest Service. 2004. *Healthy Forests Pacific Northwest – Fire & Ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest.*
<www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville/hfi/ecosystems/index.shtml>.

¹⁸ National Fire Plan. 2001. *A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment: A 10-Year Strategy.*

¹⁹ Lane County Emergency Management. 2003. *Lane County Emergency Operations Plan, Annex B.*