

Linn County Wildfire Ready Night

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 5:30pm-7:30pm

Project Webpage: bit.ly/linncwpp

Overview of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Process

What is a CWPP?

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan is a guiding document for identifying and prioritizing projects related to wildfire preparedness and mitigation. It includes a fire risk assessment for the County, current priority projects, and future mitigation ideas for various agencies including the County, Rural Fire Protection Districts, Oregon Department of Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, and others. The CWPP is a 100% voluntary plan, not a regulatory document.

What is the process for developing and adopting the plan?

The CWPP was originally adopted in 2007. The County began the update process in 2022, assembling a core group of agency representatives to guide the revisions. Local governments, land managers, fire districts, nonprofits, service providers, and others were invited to focus groups to identify their priorities and concerns around wildfire. A draft action plan is shared tonight for community input.

The final draft will be adopted by the Linn County Fire Defense Board, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the County Board of Commissioners. The CWPP will inform the 2024 update of the Countywide Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP).

Questions about the Plan? Contact PlanOffice@co.linn.or.us

Partners Involved:



Looking for a defensible space assessment of your home?

Schedule a FREE defensible space assessment for your home or business. Go to the link below and click on the yellow button. Enter your address and click on your house/business on the map to find your provider. Contact your provider at the phone number or website link listed. The assessment will be completed by your local fire agency or an OSFM staff member.

oregondefensiblespace.org/about

Request an assessment

Never miss a wildfire evacuation notification!

Sign up for Linn-Benton ALERT – Emergency Notification system.

You can create an account and alerts will be sent to all devices that you register, including landline phones, cell phones & email

linnsheriff.org/community-resources/emergency-preparedness



Contact List:

Regional and State Organizations

<p>Linn County Planning & Building Department Director, Steve Wills swills@co.linn.or.us Linn County Courthouse, Room 114, 300 Fourth Avenue SW, Albany, Oregon 97322 Ph: 541-967-3816, Email: planoffice@co.linn.or.us linncountyor.gov/planningbuilding and bit.ly/linncwpp</p>	<p>Linn County Emergency Management Emergency Manager, Ric Lentz rlentz@linnsheriff.org linnsheriff.org/community-resources/emergency-preparedness <i>Follow the Sheriff's Office on Facebook for up-to-date information:</i> facebook.com/LinnSheriff</p>
<p>Linn County Fire Defense Board Fire Defense Board Chief, Shane Wooton linncountyfiredefense.com <i>Follow the Fire Defense Board on Facebook for up-to-date information:</i> facebook.com/linncountyfiredefenseboard</p>	<p>North Santiam Watershed Council Director, Brandin Hilbrandt bhilbrandt.nswc@gmail.com 284 E Water St, Stayton, OR 97383 Ph: 503-930-8202, Email: council@northsantiam.org northsantiam.org</p>
<p>Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Find a Stewardship Forester for your area: oregon.gov/odf/working/pages/findaforester.aspx South Cascade- Sweet Home Unit Ph: 541-367-6108 North Cascade - Santiam Unit Ph: 503-859-2151</p>	<p>Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) South Willamette Valley Regional Representative, Patrick Wingard 1715 Franklin Blvd., Suite 221, Eugene, OR 97403 Ph: 541-393-7675, Email: patrick.wingard@dlcd.oregon.gov oregon.gov/LCD</p>
<p>Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Fire Risk Reduction Specialist, Stephanie Stafford Stephanie.S.STAFFORD@osfm.oregon.gov 3991 Fairview Industrial Drive SE Salem, OR 97302 Ph: 503-378-3473, General Email: ask.osfm@osfm.oregon.gov oregon.gov/osfm/wildfire/Pages/wildfire2.aspx</p>	<p>Oregon State University (OSU) - Extension Services Forester for Benton, Linn & Polk Counties, Lorelle Sherman lorelle.sherman@oregonstate.edu Ph: 541-713-5016 More Info: extension.oregonstate.edu/forests/fire</p>
<p>South Santiam Watershed Council Director, Shannon Richardson s.richardson.sswc@gmail.com 4431 US-20, Sweet Home, OR 97386 Ph: 541-367-5564 sswc.org</p>	<p>United States Forest Service (USFS) Sweet Home District Ranger, Nikki Swanson 4431 US-20, Sweet Home, OR 97386 Ph: 541-367-5168 r6.willamette.wweb.frontdesk@fs.fed.us fs.usda.gov/recarea/willamette/recarea/?recid=4208</p>

Local Fire Agencies

<p>Albany FD Fire Chief, Shane Wooton shane.wooton@cityofalbany.net 120 34th Ave SW, Albany, OR 97322 Ph: 541-917-7700</p>	<p>Brownsville RFD Fire Chief, Kevin Rogers chief@brownsvillefire.com 600 E Blakely Ave, Brownsville, OR 97327 Ph: 541-466-5227</p>
<p>Gates RFPD Fire Chief, Jack Carriger jack.carriger@outlook.com 140 E Sorbin St, Gates, OR 97346 503-897-2929</p>	<p>Halsey-Shedd RFPD Fire Chief, Travis Hewitt halseyfire503@rtinet.com Station 51 - 740 W 2nd St, Halsey, OR 97348 Ph: 541-369-2419</p>
<p>Idanha Detroit RFPD Fire Chief, Fred Patterson fpatterson@idanhadetroitfire.com 107 OR-22, Idanha, OR 97350 Fire station Ph: 503-854-3239 Admin Office Ph: 503-854-3540</p>	<p>Harrisburg F&R Fire Chief, Bart Griffith bgriff@harrisburgfire.org 440 Smith St, Harrisburg, OR 97446 Ph: 541-995-6412</p>
<p>Jefferson RFPD Fire Chief, Levi Eckhardt jefferson.chief@jeffersonfire.org 189 N Main St, Jefferson, OR 97352 Ph: 541-327-2822</p>	<p>Lebanon FD Fire Chief, Joseph Rodondi jrodondi@lebanonfire.com 1050 W. Oak Street Lebanon, OR 97355 Temporary Address: MBVA Building, 550 S Main St. Lebanon, OR 97355 Ph: 541-451-1901</p>
<p>Lyons RFPD Fire Chief, Robert Johnston ldchief@wvi.com 1114 Main St, Lyons, OR 97358 Ph: 503-859-2410</p>	<p>Mill City RFPD Fire Chief, Elias Breen mcrfpd2@wbcable.net 400 S 1st Ave, Mill City, OR 97360 Ph: 503-897-2390</p>
<p>Scio RFPD Fire Chief, Kyle White chief@sciofire.org 38975 SW 6th Ave Scio, OR 97374 Ph: 503-394-3000</p>	<p>Stayton RFPD Fire Chief, Jay Alley jay.alley@staytonfire.org 1988 W Ida Street, Stayton, OR 97383 Ph: 503-769-2601</p>
<p>Sweet Home F&A Fire Chief, Nick Tyler ntyler@sweethomefire.org Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program Manager, Christian Whitfield cwhitfield@sweethomefire.org 1099 Long Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386 Ph: 541-367-5882</p>	<p>Tangent RFPD Fire Chief, Chris Griffin cgriffin@tangentfire.com 32053 Birdfoot Dr, Tangent, OR 97389 Ph: 541-928-8722</p>

Linn County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Proposed Action Items

December 6, 2023

#	Action Item	Timeline*	Lead Organization (& Partners)	Location
Goal 1: Enhance wildfire and emergency response and recovery capabilities to protect life, the built environment, and natural systems.				
1.1	Assess and address deficiencies in equipment and resources available for wildland firefighting for rural fire departments.	Ongoing, Medium Term	Linn County Fire Defense Board (Linn County Road Dept., Linn County EM, ODF, power companies, hospitals, private contractors)	Countywide
1.2	Inventory alternative firefighting water sources in Wildfire Urban Interface, including helicopter dip sites.	Ongoing	Oregon Department of Forestry (Fire Defense Board (local districts), Water Districts)	Primarily within District boundaries and in areas identified by with fire districts as lacking water supply
1.3	Improve addressing and visibility in rural areas.	Ongoing	Linn Fire Defense Board and Local Fire Districts (Linn County GIS, Roads, Dispatch, and Planning)	Countywide
1.4	Enhance interoperable communications by addressing communications deficiencies.	Ongoing, Medium Term	Linn County Sheriff-Dispatch, Linn County Undersheriff, Linn County Emergency Management	Countywide
1.5	Increase evacuation preparedness in high-risk WUI areas.	Ongoing	Linn County Emergency Management	Countywide
1.6	Augment volunteer fire fighter training to improve response capacities, especially in rural fire districts.	Ongoing, Short Term	Linn County Fire Training Council (Linn County Emergency Management)	Rural Fire Districts Countywide
1.7	Seek funding to build a smaller secondary substation on the east side of the Harrisburg Fire & Rescue's fire district.	Ongoing, Short Term	Harrisburg Rural Fire Protection District	3328 Mt. Tom Drive, Harrisburg
1.8	Enhance signage that addresses bridge weight limits in the rural areas	Ongoing	Linn County Road Department (Fire Defense Board, ODOT, cities/road managers)	Countywide
1.9	Assure firefighters have properly fitted, and current PPE that meets accepted PPE standards.	Ongoing, Short Term	Fire Defense Board (Fire Departments)	Countywide

*Key: Timeline for Target Completion: Short Term (1-3 years), Medium Term (4-10 years), Long Term (10+ years). No anticipated end date if term not noted.

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#	Action Item	Timeline*	Lead Organization (& Partners)	Location
1.10	Formalize and maintain strong, flexible partnerships and seek funding to stage supplies and support at emergency wildfire evacuation sites and clean air shelter sites in local communities.	Ongoing, Medium Term	Linn County Emergency Management and Health Services	Albany, Brownsville, Harrisburg, Santiam Canyon, and Sweet Home
1.11	Review emergency communication systems and procedures to improve accessibility by residents and consistent messaging across jurisdictions.	Ongoing, Short Term, w/ continued coordination	Linn County Emergency Management	Countywide
Goal 2: Empower residents and other stakeholders with knowledge, decision-making tools, and resources to understand and reduce wildfire risks and increase preparedness.				
2.1	Collaborate with developers/builders, fire protection agencies, and relevant County agencies to collect and distribute educational materials regarding fire-resistant construction materials, fire code standards for access, water supply, fuel breaks, defensible space, and fire-resistant vegetation and landscaping in the WUI.	Ongoing	Linn County Planning & Building Department	Unincorporated Linn County & contract cities (Brownsville, Halsey, Lyons, Mill City, Millersburg, Scio, Sodaville, Tangent and Waterloo). Other jurisdictions (Sweet Home, Albany, Lebanon) could potentially partner.
2.2	Expand and promote existing communication campaigns to educate visitors and recreators about wildfire prevention (i.e., accidental ignitions) and risk mitigation while visiting Linn County.	Ongoing	CWPP Committee or Fire Prevention Cooperative, if established (Linn Fire Defense Board, Linn County Emergency Management, OSFM, ODF, USFS, BLM, Potential Partners: Keep Oregon Green, Linn County Parks, Oregon State Parks, local tourism boards/visitor association)	Countywide, with a focus on tourism and recreation areas
2.3	Formalize the dissemination of educational campaign materials for WUI residents about ignition prevention, with an emphasis on promotion during burn bans.	Not Started	Linn FDB and ODF (Linn County Communications, Fire Districts PIO Group, OSFM)	Countywide, with focus on the WUI
2.4	Continue supporting and expanding the Smokey the Bear Fire Protection Programs in schools	Ongoing	ODF (US Forest Service)	Countywide, with focus on the WUI

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2.5	Engage K-12 students with place-based fire ecology, behavior, and risk lessons to support the next generation in understanding the ecological role of fire on Linn County landscapes and learning to live alongside fire.	Not Started, Short Term: curriculum pilot, Long Term: establishing year-round courses	Watershed Councils - North/South Santiam and Calapooia (OSU Extension/Outdoor School Program, ONREP, local school districts incl. Sweet Home, East Linn, GAPS, North Santiam, forestry clubs, CTC)	Countywide, potentially start with Eastern Linn County schools / youth programs
2.6	Establish and maintain programs to aid vulnerable populations during unhealthy and hazardous air quality conditions caused by wildfire.	Ongoing for education, Medium Term for supply distribution programs	Linn County Public Health	Countywide
2.7	Identify opportunities and barriers to support fire-vulnerable populations (e.g., low-income, elderly, disabled, non-English speaking) with wildfire disaster preparedness. Work to embed wildfire disaster preparedness within ongoing community health education efforts in fire-vulnerable populations.	Ongoing, Short Term	Linn County Public Health (Linn County EM, Regional Healthcare Coalition, Linn Benton Lincoln Health Equity Alliance, local healthcare providers and nonprofits)	Countywide
2.8	Conduct a Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code audit to determine the efficacy of current wildfire mitigation policies and development standards. Update the Linn County Comprehensive Plan Natural Hazards (Goal 7) element and Linn County Land Development Code to align with statewide wildfire mitigation statutes and new legislation.	Not Started, Short Term	Linn County Planning & Building Department	Legislative code updates would affect unincorporated Linn County only.

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2.9	Support formal and nonformal educators in planning, integrating, and implementing wildland fire focused education for Linn County K-12 students via at least two professional development opportunities.	Not Started; Medium Term	Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resource Extension Service (OSU Extension Fire Program & Oregon Natural Resources Education Program (ONREP), local school districts (Sweet Home, Lebanon, North Santiam), Western Oregon Outdoor School, North and South Santiam Watershed Councils)	Mid-Willamette Valley, including Linn County
Goal 3: Reduce structural ignitability through the use of non-regulatory incentives.				
3.1	Enhance structural protection in structurally unprotected areas.	Ongoing	Linn County Planning & Building Department (OSFM, Linn County GIS, local fire districts)	Areas outside a local fire protection district
3.2	Complete the fire structural risk assessments in Albany, Brownsville, Lebanon, and Sweet Home fire districts, and utilize this as a model program for other Linn County fire districts for conducting voluntary defensible space assessments for homes within the WUI; document results using Survey 123, a centralized online platform,	Ongoing	Linn Fire Defense Board, Oregon State Fire Marshall (Fire Districts, ODF)	Albany, Brownsville, Lebanon, and Sweet Home fire districts and other fire districts serving WUI communities.
3.3	Share information about State fire hardening building code standards for voluntary use and seek funding for a home hardening cost-share/incentive program.	Ongoing for education, Medium Term for home hardening program	County Planning & Building and WUI cities	Countywide, for grant program consider targeting high-risk WUI areas and socially vulnerable populations
3.4	Seek funding to upgrade critical infrastructure sites through building hardening retrofits such as fire-resistant roofing, siding, and screening, and water supply improvements such as adding community water tanks or emergency vehicle access to natural water sources, for identified critical infrastructure throughout Linn County.	Not Started, Long Term	Linn County Emergency Management & local jurisdictions (Special Districts, local construction companies)	Potential sites identified across the County, see worksheet for more information

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Goal 4: Prioritize and implement fuels treatment projects on private and public land to reduce risk, increase resiliency, and create defensible landscapes.				
4.1	Incorporate, maintain, and update Linn County's Risk Assessment and GIS data elements, and maintain an inventory of priority fuels reduction projects in high-risk areas. Refer to Appendix X of the Plan for priority areas.	Ongoing	Linn County Emergency Management as CWPP Advisory Committee Convener (Linn Planning & Building and GIS, ODF, and FDB)	Countywide
4.2	Engage in pre-suppression fire planning with partners and collaborators to create fuel breaks and enhance access across landownerships	Ongoing	USFS (ODF, BLM, and private industrial landowners)	Various
4.3	Support small woodland owners to make management decisions about forest health and fuels management through educational workshops, courses, field tours, and/or voluntary inventories of private timber land.	Ongoing, Long Term	OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources (ODF, NRCS, South Santiam Watershed Council/North Santiam Watershed Council, Oregon Small Woodlands Association)	Countywide
4.4	Seek additional resources and manage and administer grants to provide cost-share to private forest landowners to manage fuels, buffer high value resources, and reduce landscape-level wildfire risk.	Ongoing	ODF and South Santiam Watershed Council / North Santiam Watershed Council (Landowners, Local Loggers & Contractors, NRCS, Linn SWCD, OSU Extension, Oregon Small Woodlands Association)	Priority fuels reduction areas, WUI areas
4.5	Identify incentives for improving maintenance of fire breaks and reducing hazardous vegetation.	Ongoing	Oregon Department of Forestry	Priority areas can shift from year to year depending on fire regime and local priorities and concerns.

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4.6	Implement landowner assistance programs to support creating defensible space around communities particularly with vulnerable populations (i.e., elderly, disabled, isolated or fire-affected areas, etc.) and incentivize fuels reduction activities. Create local workforce development opportunities through employment of fuels reduction crews.	Ongoing	Linn County Juvenile Department, Community Services Consortium, Santiam Canyon Long Term Recovery Group, and Stayton Fire District (ODF, OSFM, local fire districts)	Multiple locations countywide, including WUI areas with elderly/disabled landowners. medium to extreme risk WUI areas primarily, Sweet Home and Lebanon; Lyons, Mill City, Gates, Idanha, and portions of unincorporated Linn County that were affected by the 2020 Beachie Creek Fire; within Stayton Fire District boundaries.
4.7	Identify partners and interest to explore and promote opportunities for multiple uses of small diameter biomass within fuels reduction projects and marketing for other uses.	Not started	CWPP Committee (Potential partners: ODF, USFS/BLM, Sweet Home Fire District, Linn FDB, Small Woodlands Association, Freres Lumber)	
4.8	Explore the development of a Linn County Fuels Management Cooperative through the Small Woodland Association for sustaining fuels management within the WUI.	Not started	Oregon Department of Forestry (Small Woodlands Association, Fire Defense Board)	
4.9	Work with forestland managers and watershed managers to protect watershed health in high-risk areas while reducing wildfire hazards.	Ongoing	Oregon Department of Forestry and Watershed Councils (USFS/BLM, ODFW, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Local governments, Linn SWCD, ODA, NRCS, water control districts, other community-level partners.)	In high-risk areas/watersheds countywide

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4.10	Inventory road conditions along high -risk community routes and reduce hazardous vegetation in public right of ways to enhance access and create fuel breaks, and to keep access roads large enough for emergency vehicle passage.	Ongoing	Linn County Roads Department in consultation with ODOT, local jurisdictions, and local fire agencies	County-wide in each maintenance district: Albany (northwest), Scio (northeast), Halsey (southwest) and Sweet Home (southeast). Specific priority areas/projects identified in Appendix X.
4.11	Seek funding to implement fuels reduction efforts surrounding critical infrastructure sites, including removal and possible replacement with nonflammable landscaping material.	Not started, Medium Term	Linn County EM and local jurisdictions (ODF, Fire Districts, surrounding public & private land managers)	Identify specific critical infrastructure in fire-prone areas
4.12	Seek grant funding to support fuels reduction and creation of defensible space around communities in Sweet Home Fire District.	Ongoing	Sweet Home Fire District (ODF)	Sweet Home
4.13	Conduct electrical system Right of Way tree trimming and vegetation management.	Ongoing	Consumers Power Inc. (contractors: Asplundh and Jensen's)	System wide throughout the CPI service territory including many WUI areas in Linn County.
4.14	Conduct CPI Electrical Transmission and Distribution System Hardening.	Ongoing	Consumers Power Inc.	System wide throughout the CPI service territory. Focus on high fire risk areas as defined by CPI.
4.15	Enhance CPI Electrical Transmission and Distribution System Intelligence.	Ongoing	Consumers Power Inc.	System wide throughout the CPI service territory. Focus on high fire risk areas as defined by CPI.
4.16	Increase Environmental Intelligence: Use weather data for operational planning and decision making.	Not started, Short Term	Consumers Power Inc.	System wide at substations and communications facilities located in high fire risk zones as defined by CPI.

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Goal 5: Increase opportunities for collaboration, coordination, and building capacity to implement wildfire projects.				
5.1	Create and formalize a CWPP Advisory Committee to oversee implementation, identify and coordinate funding opportunities, and sustain the Linn County Wildfire Protection Plan.	Not Started, Short Term	County Emergency Management (FDB)	Countywide
5.2	Work to establish a sub-committee or a Fire Prevention Cooperative to coordinate and sustain effective countywide public education and outreach activities.	Not started	CWPP Committee (Fire Defense Board, Sweet Home Fire District, ODF, OSFM, USFS/BLM, OSU Fire Extension (strategic planning support))	Countywide
5.3	Resource a Fire Adapted Communities (or general Hazards Mitigation) Coordinator position to coordinate implementation of the CWPP, secure external funding, manage community-focused education and support programs, and seek additional opportunities for partnerships that advance wildfire resilience in Linn County.	Not Started	Linn County Emergency Management, Linn County Planning & Building (OSFM, OSU Fire Extension)	Countywide

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