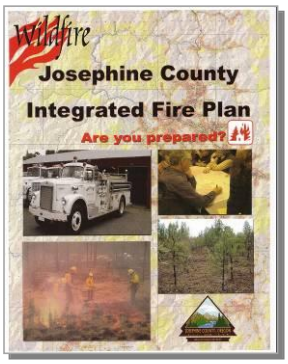
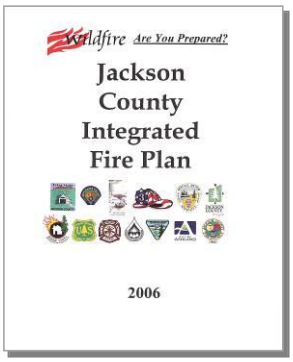
FIRE PLAN UPDATE

Interim 2014





A Joint Update of the Josephine County and Jackson County Integrated Fire Plans

Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of this 2014 Interim Fire Plan Update is to serve as an interim update to the Josephine County and Jackson County Integrated Fire Plans. The interim update is needed to provide revised project priorities and action items identified by fire plan partners until the 5-year plan updates are completed next year.

In the past ten years, over 170 agencies, organizations, and companies in Josephine and Jackson Counties have embraced the national wildfire protection policies and have invested countless hours to reduce the risk of wildfire to southwest Oregon communities. These efforts have had positive results:

- Smaller and less destructive wildfires in or near to populated areas where vegetation fuel reduction has taken place;
- Fewer home losses due to increased homeowner education about defensible space and emergency preparedness;
- Improved coordination among emergency response agencies and better pre-planning for large incidents.

As fire plan partners look ahead to the next five years, they are aligning their counties' Community Wildfire Protection Plans with the **National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy** and its **Western Regional Action Plan**. Current efforts focus on creating **fire-adapted communities**, **fire response**, and **restoring and maintaining fire resilient forests**.

Wildfire suppression and mitigation challenges

Each year, about 350 wildfires are sparked in Jackson and Josephine Counties, and at least once every 10 years several extraordinarily large wildfires (10,000 acres and greater) damage or destroy timber resources, threaten populated areas and blanket the region in dense smoke.

Fire suppression, past forest management, land use decisions and other forest stressors have generated dense overcrowded forest stands, leading to declining tree vigor, and placing the oldest and most structurally valuable trees at risk of high-intensity wildfire. Concurrent with declining forest health are other natural resource concerns such as altered water quality and quantity, air quality, degraded fish and wildlife habitat, and reduced biodiversity and ecosystem resiliency. Fifty-seven percent of the southwest Oregon landscape is now prone to crown fires during hot, dry summers (such as the summer of 2013) and climate change elevates the urgency to promote more fire-resilient forests.

The costs of managing large wildfires in southwest Oregon are climbing dramatically, and their true costs extend far beyond what it takes to extinguish the flames.

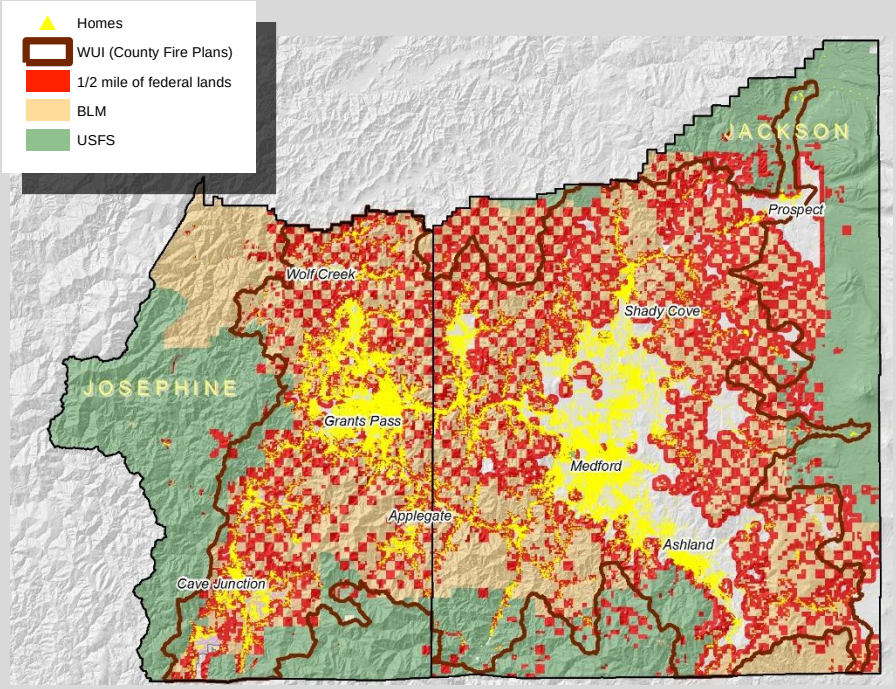
- The 1987 Silver Complex in 1987 burned 99,310 acres and cost $19 million to suppress;
- The 2002 Biscuit Fire burned 499,945 acres at a cost of $150 million;
- The 27,111 acre Timbered Rock Fire, also in 2002, burned on BLM and private forestlands and cost $14 million dollars of Oregon Forest Land Protection Funds to suppress.
- In 2013, four fires sparked by a dry lightning storm burned 47 thousand acres in Josephine County. The suppression cost for the three fires on state protected lands was over $50 million. In addition to suppression costs, there was one firefighter fatality; the fires caused economic damage to local businesses relying on income from summer tourism and private timber owners; and the smoke from the fires created a significant health risk for citizens of both Josephine and Jackson Counties.

All of these fires were lightning-caused and started on federal lands. Overgrown forest fuels, limited access, and low priority ranking for limited suppression forces were all factors in these fires becoming large. These large wildfires threaten more than 27,000 homes in wildland-urban interface areas, watersheds, airsheds, timber and recreational resources on public and private forestlands, tourism, and habitat important for the recovery of several threatened and endangered species. During the Biscuit Fire, for example, real estate sales were brought to a virtual halt in the Illinois River valley for several weeks due to a prolonged evacuation alert in the cities of Cave Junction, Selma, Kerby and O'Brien. During the Biscuit Fire, the 2005 Blossom Complex and this year's Big Windy Complex, recreational use of the Wild & Scenic Section of the Rogue River was halted for public safety, an action that cost the river rafting and support industries millions of dollars in losses.

The mix of federal and private ownership results in widely different approaches to wildfire suppression, as well as challenges for contiguous mitigation efforts.

Ownership Facts for Josephine & Jackson Counties

62% of forestlands are managed by federal agencies. A ranking of all 417 counties in the 11 western states by Headwaters Economics showed that Josephine and Jackson Counties were ranked #1 and #2, respectively, in risk to existing development in fire-prone areas adjacent to public lands. Two-thirds of the 27,500 at-risk homes, 74% of non-federal land, and 86% of industrial forest land are within 1/2 mile of federal lands.



A ranking of all 417 counties in the 11 western states in 2008 showed that Jackson County was #2 in risk to existing development in fire-prone areas adjacent to public lands. The 2013 fire season demonstrated the impacts wildfires burning further away from populated areas can have on the communities. Southwest Oregon's mixed ownership pattern requires all partners to be engaged and focused on a common solution, but it's clear that the goals cannot be met with existing capacity. Local implementation of national wildfire policies is at a tipping point with declining agency budgets and the sunset of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS). Taking no further action will result in increased risk of wildfire to communities and firefighters, a continued decline in the forest health, and an increase in large and expensive wildfires.

Southwest Oregon CWPPs: Stepping Stones to Fire-Adapted Communities

The workforce behind the Jackson and Josephine counties' Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) is comprised of more than 170 agencies, organizations, councils, and businesses engaged in a common mission. The plans' goals and actions are grouped according the National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy (CS) goals for creating fire-adapted communities.

Efforts have focused on reducing vegetation fuel loads in forests and wildland-urban interface areas. Federal grants and other funding sources have been used to assist private landowners with reducing vegetation fuel around homes, increasing wildfire prevention and mitigation education, and monitoring the results of these actions. As a result, many success stories have emerged – situations where wildfires were stopped, or their intensity significantly reduced, to stem threats to life, property and natural resources.

- The USFS and BLM have treated over 190,000 acres during the past 10 years to reduce hazardous fuels;
- An estimated 14,000 private landowners received assistance to reduce wildfire risk;
- Firewise Communities USA Programs were established in Ashland, Grants Pass, Shady Cove, and Jacksonville;
- Wildfires that burned into areas where vegetation fuel treatment had been done, and which resulted in being able to stop the spread of the fires and significant loss reduction, include the 2002 Squires Peak Fire; the 2005 Deer Creek Fire; the Siskiyou, Deer Ridge and Lone Mountain Road fires in 2009; the North River Road Fire in 2011; and the Blackwell Hill Fire in 2012;
- Results from the local Wildfire Public Opinion Survey (2012) indicate that over 90% of respondents understand their responsibility for reducing wildfire risk and 94% have defensible space around their homes;
- Fire plan partners have improved fire notification and evacuation logistics planning for vulnerable populations and animals, increased county government support during fire operations, and developed a local all-risk incident management team.

The Future

Significant progress has been made toward meeting two of three National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy goals – fire response and creating fire adapted communities. Some progress is being made toward restoring fire-resilient forests, and there is public support for thinning federal forestlands to make them more resilient to the effects of climate change and catastrophic wildfire, disease, and insect outbreaks. But we need to do more.

No action will result in the continued decline in forest health, as well as increased risk of large and expensive wildfires that threaten life, property and natural resources.

Priorities:

1) Increase active forest management to restore and maintain fire resilient forests: The Federal Forestland Advisory Committee (FFAC) 2009 report recommends local collaborative partnerships are needed to build trust and help identify scientifically informed and socially acceptable forest management projects to improve forest health. The Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative and partners have been working for several years to promote forest health and resilience, and have developed the following priority steps:

    - Complete a basin-wide landscape level strategy to identify and prioritize economically viable landscapes to improve forest resiliency and protect important community values;
    - Develop guidelines and priorities to increase the efficiency of project planning efforts by focusing effort on projects where agreement exists;
    - Encourage large scale landscape projects that pay their own way;
    - Promote local economic opportunities.

2) Maintain priority areas where vegetation fuel reduction has already taken place: Nearly two hundred thousand acres have been treated to reduce fuels since 2001. Treated areas lose effectiveness within 7-10 years but the cost of maintenance is 12-25% of creating new treatment areas. It will be vital to develop and implement a treatment maintenance plan.

3) Sustain collaborative efforts to create fire-adapted communities and improve fire response: A central interest voiced by fire plan partners is the importance of maintaining the momentum and success achieved over the past ten years creating fire-adapted communities and improving fire response.

Critical Tasks and Fuels Priorities for 2014/15

A complete list of action items identified to date is included in Appendix A. Critical items to be addressed in the next 12 months and the revised fuels treatment priorities are included in the section.

Overarching

Complete Update of Fire Plan(s)

The Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan and Jackson County Integrated Fire Plan have been operational since 2004 and 2006 respectively. The first phase of the update process began in September 2012 and was completed in June 2013. Interviews were conducted of fire plan partners which included fire district personnel, program staff for Firewise and various fuels reduction programs, and federal agencies. Accomplishments were documented. We also sought input and guidance from the many committees and organizational meetings related to the Fire Plan. Additional input was gathered through regular fire plan committee meetings and a Cohesive Strategy brainstorming workshop. These efforts identified what has worked, what hasn't and refocused priorities for future action. A rough draft update was developed, but has not yet been vetted widely with partners, stakeholders, or communities. Information for the update effort was utilized to create a 2013 accomplishment report and interim plan and this 2014 Interim Update.

Tasks yet to be completed:

1) Complete an updated risk assessment and strategy that:

a) Will meet the HFRA requirement to identify and prioritize areas for fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect at-risk communities and essential infrastructure;

b) Is expanded to provide a basin-wide landscape level strategy to identify and prioritize economically viable projects to improve forest resiliency and protect important community values. The assessment should include elements to better understand the return on investment and avoided costs. It will a section that identifies high risk areas, prioritizes their treatment, and creates a plan and schedule for county and federal response;

c) Leverages existing efforts and technical assistance now available from the Dry-Side Forest Health Collaboration Funding Package for Collaborative Capacity and Technical Assistance and Science Support;

d) Considers use of Fire Adapted Communities "Fire Adapted Community Self-Assessment Tool"

e) Includes guidelines and priorities to increase the efficiency of project planning efforts by focusing effort on projects where agreement exists and understanding legislative opportunities such as the new Farm Bill.

f) Encourages large scale landscape projects that pay their own way;

g) Promote local economic opportunities.

h) Includes a treatment maintenance plan.

2) Vet the draft plan widely with partners, stakeholders, and communities which will meet the HFRA requirement for collaboration.

3) Assure Federal interaction of the plan. HFRA requires that the three signatory entities must mutually agree to the final contents of the CWPP and consult with and involve local representatives of the USFS and BLM and other interested parties or persons in the development of the plan:

   a) The applicable local government (BOC);

   b) The local fire department (Jackson County Fire Defense Board); and

   c) The state entity responsible for forest management (Oregon Department of Forestry).

Maintain and enhance communications, coordination, and collaborative efforts

Communications and coordination between groups and agencies working on the Cohesive Strategy's three goals could improve. We need to create and maintain comprehensive communications and sharing. There is potential need for a local group to identify gaps and move forward to meet the three goals. A critical need is to provide funding for a fire plan coordinator.

Fire Adapted Communities

Continue Landowner Outreach and Support

The public needs to be part of the "all hands, all lands" cohesive wildfire strategy as fire and land management agencies cannot do it all by themselves. The public, residents, and landowners have wildfire situational awareness of their risk, understand their responsibility to mitigate risk, and have the knowledge to accomplish the work.

Experience has shown that outreach is also a critical first step in identifying landowners who can be leaders in their communities and neighborhoods. This is important for development of new Firewise Communities and identifying groups of non-industrial forest landowners in the middle ground interested in improving forest health and fire resilience through programs offered by NRCS and others. Collaborative agreements between ODF and NRCS currently exist in Oregon to assist landowners in planning and implementation of projects, however neither currently have a funding mechanism for outreach to increase participation.

To help communities become more Fire Adapted, agencies need the capacity conduct outreach and to provide support to communities and neighbors interested in becoming fire adapted by providing professional technical assistance and coordination, supporting recruitment and training of volunteer efforts such as OSU Oregon Citizen Academy Firewise Communities, OSU Extension Master Land Steward Program, CERT, etc., and leveraging programs such as Firewise Communities USA and Ready, Set, Go!.

Support implementation of priority fuel reduction projects

Grants and cost share programs have been effective as incentives for private landowners to create a fire-adapted landscape in and around homes and in the middle ground. They have provided a means to reduce wildfire threat for the elderly and low income. They have been especially effective when multiple neighbors are engaged and when aligned with BLM/USFS hazardous fuels work with fire plan strategies.

1) Use existing grant and cost share programs and pursue additional revenue sources for private land work to strategically reduce wildfire risk and make communities more fire-adapted in areas identified as high risk in the risk assessment. Projects prioritized in this plan, both in and around communities and in strategic "middle lands" further from communities, should receive priority status. Local CWPP guidance such as the priorities included in the Applegate Fire Learning Network should be used.
2) Implement collaboratively developed projects and on the ground treatments at the local level.
3) Additional assistance should be directed to vulnerable populations (e.g., the elderly, low income, etc.).
4) Seek additional sources of funding
5) Consider contracting authorities (including stewardship contracting), local labor force, and opportunities for biomass utilization in implementing treatments to accomplish prescribed fire, mechanical, and/or chemical treatments.
6) Make greater use of legislative authorities and identify funding sources to enter into procurement contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements for hazardous fuels reduction activities on all lands that benefit resources on Federal Lands. Encourage utilization of Wyden amendment authority to create seamless treatments across ownerships where neighborhood support exists.

Establish and maintain learning networks

Peer to peer learning increases the effectiveness of efforts. The Rogue Basin has been invited to participate as 1 of 18 Fire Adapted Communities network communities (hub). Key actions include:

1) Participate as a pilot community in the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network
2) Increase local support for the work of the FAC Coalition and the increased effective use of Firewise Communities, USA; Ready-Set-Go, CWPPs, and the tools thereof to achieve outcomes.

3) Expand partnership with The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) hub, which has expanded the fire learning network program from the Applegate to the Rogue Basin, and has attracted national attention.
4) Provide a feedback loop from the local to national levels for adaptive management learning and use in the next Cohesive Strategy revision.
5) Consider using the Fire Adapted Communities "Fire Adapted Community Self-Assessment Tool" to support the fire plan update
6) Host a region workshop

Wildfire Response

Develop and sustain agency coordination on evacuation procedures and notification process

The 2013 fires revealed several weaknesses in the evacuation process. A regional and statewide effort is underway to improve how evacuation notices are communicate to the public and to help agencies better understand their roles and responsibilities. Refining animal evacuation procedures is occurring. This plan supports those efforts.

Communication Interoperability

Improving the ability to communicate among the many agencies during a response is a priority concern of the Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association. The Rogue Basin lacks a common repeated command radio frequency available to all agencies. Other technologies exist that allow collaborative gathering and sharing of information. This plan supports those efforts.

Josephine County Unprotected Lands

Over 17,400 homes are outside structural city and rural fire protection districts in Josephine County. While many of these have contract fire protection, not all these services meet safety standards, there is no fire agency with authority to enforce fire prevention codes, and responsibility for mobilization of statewide resources falls on county government. This plan supports efforts that will lead to a full suite of fire protection services, including fire mitigation measures, being available countywide.

Fire Resilient Forests

Complete Landscape Assessment and Strategy

Completion of the landscape assessment and strategy described above will support several important tasks identified by partners, including promote collaborative landscape planning and management, maximize use of existing tools to streamline NEPA planning, identify and prioritize landscapes for treatment, and promote local economic opportunities.

Integrate with, and give direction to, federal forest policy as much as possible

Integrating with federal forest plans and policies can be effective at expediting landscape forest restoration projects than isolated community alternatives. Opportunities exist to give direction to and collaborate with the USFS and BLM policy and plans.

A key short term goal is to work with the Bureau of Land Management during its revision of its Resource Management Plan (RMP) to include programmatic elements of the fire plan and landscape-scale approaches reflecting common, regional agreement.

Fuels Treatment Priorities

The following fuels treatment priorities have been collaboratively established by the CWPP fuels committees and oversight groups (Josephine County Emergency Management Board and Jackson County Integrated Fire Plan Executive Committee.

Strategy

The proven overall strategy is to identify at risk landscapes where groups of landowners, neighborhoods, or communities have interest in becoming more fire adaptive and where grant funding can serve to create specific strategic fuels treatments and/or provide seed money to help these neighborhoods get started and generate additional interest. This plan also supports alignment of BLM/USFS hazardous fuels work with fire plan strategies and areas collaboratively identified with NRCS.

Some of these landscapes are currently known. Others will surface when landowner interest is established resulting from outreach and/or recent fire activity.

These were developed based upon:

1) The county risk assessment and priorities
2) Neighbor of current and planned work a of the FS and BLM,
3) Where local private landowner interest exists as a group through local CWPPS, Firewise Communities, Ready, Set, Go Programs, forest collaboratives, or just a group of interested neighbors
4) Areas where recent fire activity and/or landowner outreach (described above) has identified a group of landowners interested in making their property more fire adapted.
5) Address special needs

Josephine County Priority Landscapes/Communities

Forest Service projects

- The Page Creek Community Forest Project*
- Sucker Creek/River House
- Butcher-Knife
- Oregon Caves (with NPS)
- Applegate AMA
- Briggs Valley

BLM focal areas

- Williams
- Glendale Forest Resiliency

Firewise/Local CWPP

- Grants Pass Firewise
- Wolf Creek CWPP

Special Needs - Countywide

Outreach Neighborhoods/Communities – countywide

- Where outreach effort has resulted in groups of landowners interested in Firewise and middle ground projects

Jackson County Priority Landscapes/Communities

Forest Service projects

- Ashland Forest Resiliency Project**
- Upper Applegate
- Prospect/Union Creek
- Medford and Butte Falls municipal watersheds

BLM focal areas

- Trail Creek
- Evans Creek
- Salt/Wasson Creeks
- Middle Applegate Secretarial Pilot

NRCS/CWPP focus watersheds

- Seven Basins CWPP
  - Foots Creek*
  - Pleasant Creek*
  - Wards Creek*
  - Lower Evans*
  - Table Rocks oaks restoration*
- Applegate Fire Plan
  - Thompson Creek*
- Colestin CWPP
  - Oak Restoration*
- Firewise/Local CWPP
  - Ashland Firewise/Fire Adapted Communities and CWPP
  - Seven Basins CWPP
  - Colestin CWPP
  - Shady Cove Firewise
  - Jacksonville Firewise
  - Anderson Creek neighborhood (developing FW)
  - East Medford neighborhood (developing FW)
  - Hwy 140 neighborhood (developing FW)
  - Greensprings (developing FW)

Other

- Cascade-Siskiyou Monument – Private lands
- Old Stage/Old Military Rd
- Sterling Cr/Little Applegate

Special Needs - Countywide

Outreach Neighborhoods/Communities – countywide

- Where outreach effort has resulted in groups of landowners interested in Firewise and middle ground projects

* NRCS Priority Watersheds/Communities

** NRCS and TNC Priority Watershed/Communities

Appendix A - Action Items

This section describes the Action Items identified by partners of the Josephine and Jackson County Integrated Fire Plans framed and aligned with the goals of the *National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* (CS) and actions of the *Western Regional Action Plan (WRAP).*

Implementation of the Fire Plans is guided by the *Emergency Management Board* in Josephine County and the *Executive Committee* in Jackson County comprised of rural fire protection districts, local government, state and federal agencies, and community-based organizations.

Summary of Action items

Overarching #1	Maintain and enhance communications, coordination, and collaborative efforts
Overarching #2	Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the fire plan
Overarching #3	Institute measures and committee structures which will reflect current realities in order that the Fire Plan may continue to "live"
Overarching #4	Maintain funding for priority implementation needs
Overarching #5	Facilitate access to and use of available GIS data for planning and implementation of the fire plan
Overarching #6	Complete update of county CWPP's
FAC #1	Coordinate and support activities to achieve and maintain fire adapted communities
FAC #2	Support use of codes and ordinances for fire adapted communities
FAC #3	Establish and maintain learning networks
FAC #4	Maintain and enhance the risk assessment using current data and methods
FAC #5	Support implementation of priority fuel reduction projects using best and most feasible resources and tools
FAC #6	Support and align BLM/USFS hazardous fuels work with fire plan strategies.
FAC #7	Minimize the spread of noxious weeds
FAC #8	Minimize public exposure to smoke
FAC #9	Document and monitor fuels treatment accomplishments
FAC #10	Develop and implement a plan for maintenance of existing and future fuel reduction projects
FAC #11	Coordinate, promote and sustain a long-term integrated public education and awareness program
FAC #12	Increase the effectiveness of public education
FAC #13	Continue to expand the partners involved in wildfire outreach and education
FAC #14	Recruit and train fire prevention volunteers
FAC #15	Develop a promotional campaign for pet and livestock emergency preparedness and evacuation
FRF #1	Promote collaborative landscape planning and management
FRF #2	Maximize use of existing tools to streamline NEPA planning
FRF #3	Identify and prioritize landscapes for treatment
FRF #4	Integrate with, and give direction to, federal forest policy as much as possible
FRF #5	Promote local economic opportunities
Response #1	Increase local capacity, including continued development and training of Type 3 Incident Management Teams
Response #2	Develop and sustain agency coordination on evacuation procedures and notification process
Response #3	Develop and clarify policies, procedures, agreements necessary for coordinated emergency management planning and preparedness
Response #4	Support fire mitigation measures within unprotected areas (Josephine Country)

Action Items

Overarching—Structural Elements Necessary for Sustainability

WRAP Goal: Recognize the depth and importance of the Communications Framework and provide resources to implement communications recommendations, as it establishes the foundation of our collaborative process.

Overarching #1	**Maintain and enhance communications, coordination, and collaborative efforts**
Rationale	Effective communications and coordination are goals of this plan and have been a key to its success. As the role of this plan expands to align with the goals of the Cohesive Strategy, communications and coordination are more important. Communication, vertically and horizontally, internally and externally, is important for generating support and participation, and in implementation. Framing, or the different ways that people view the wildfire management issue, are critical. Use of multiple frames that can motivate people to participate in fire plan efforts include forest health, emergency response, land use planning, and homeowner responsibility.
Desired Condition	Consistent, widespread and effective two-way communication occurs between jurisdictions, and members of the public.
Implementation Ideas	1) Sustain communication and coordination through the committee structure and through coordinated program implementation 2) Develop a speakers' bureau to meet with stakeholder groups and other publics to promote understanding, to learn about and respond to stakeholder concerns, and to encourage engagement and action 3) Identify interested groups and seek participants from interested groups and other federal, state, and local agencies to assist in the communications efforts. Ensure that communication is two-way. 4) Enhance and utilize existing networks to share information both internally and externally that relates to policy changes, budget issues, and other pertinent information 5) Harmonize the terms and use them consistently across jurisdictions in order to optimize public awareness and education 6) Develop framed printed materials, such as an executive level white paper to share situation, success, challenges and needs with state and federal leaders and decision makers 7) Evaluate the web sites currently utilized by key partners and develop recommendations for improved information sharing. 8) Plan staff participates in after-action reviews of wildfires & takes ideas to appropriate collaborative committee or group for future implementation.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: Executive committee/Emergency Management Board Partners: JJLCG, FAC committee, SOFRC, TNC,RVFCA, ODF, BLM, USFS, County Commissioners
Timeline	Ongoing

Overarching #2	**Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the fire plan**
Rationale	Adaptive management of the plan is important in these changing times. It will be important to monitor results and promptly adjust plans to maximize the effectiveness—and minimize the adverse effects—of action plan implementation.
Desired Condition	Results are monitored and action items are promptly adjusted to maximize the plan's effectiveness.
Implementation Ideas	1) Meet quarterly to discuss action plan progress and effectiveness. Recommend action plan changes as needed. 2) Annually review analysis of monitoring results and promptly adjust plans and/or reconvene groups to maximize the effectiveness—and minimize the adverse effects—of Action Plan implementation 3) Participate in reporting to state, regional and national outcome measure and activity reporting systems, when developed, to facilitate information gathering and exchange in support of Cohesive Strategy decision-making.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: Executive Committee/Emergency Management Board Partners: All fire plan partners, JJLCG
Timeline	Ongoing

Overarching #3	**Institute measures and committee structures which will reflect current realities in order that the Fire Plan may continue to "live"**
Rationale	In the context of declining budget and declining staff participation, sustainability is a real challenge. Federal and agency staff feel that reducing the number of committee meetings and utilizing existing organization where possible will help them maintain their involvement, as well as reduce potential isolation between program areas, or "stove piping." Aligning committee structure within the context accomplishing the goals of the Cohesive Strategy and taking advantage of existing committees are important. There is universal support from fire plan partners for dedicated third party coordination, monitoring and reporting for the plan.
Desired Condition	Participation is sustained and the fire plan remains viable
Implementation Ideas	1) Reduce the number of committees by aligning with accomplishing Cohesive Strategy goals. Take advantage of existing committees and organizations. 2) Fund, through grants or shared agency support, a third party coordinator.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: Executive committee/Emergency Management Board Partners: all fire plan partners
Timeline	Short term

Overarching #4	**Maintain funding for priority implementation needs**
Rationale	Title III funds have been instrumental to the past and current success of the plan. These and other funding for fire plan implementation are declining.
Desired Condition	Fire plan implementation needs are understood, prioritized, and supported.
Implementation Ideas	1) Conduct a local government needs assessment to identify financial needs for implementation of this plan. 2) Use the needs assessment to articulate the needs to budget allocators 3) Develop a funding plan that aligns needs with potential grants and identifies opportunities for private sponsors.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: Executive committee/Emergency Management Board Partners: JJLCG, all partners
Timeline	Ongoing

Overarching #5	**Facilitate access to and use of available GIS data for planning and implementation of the fire plan**
Rationale	Local, state and national GIS data are available to facilitate planning and implementation of the fire plan. Use of national data to tier to local assessments is encouraged in the Western Regional Strategy. However, the data are not readily understood or accessible for fire plan partners, even in the same office. Different versions of the same data are in use (i.e. WUI boundary). Technologies exist now for hosting, documenting, and sharing data.
Desired Condition	Fire plan partners have ready access to current GIS data and documentation
Implementation Ideas	1) Form a work group to identify the best available GIS data for implementation of the fire plan 2) Support Jackson County GIS to host or link to web services, document, and share the data, and to maintain current data over time.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: Jackson County GIS Partners: all fire plan partners
Timeline	Ongoing

Overarching #6	**Complete update of county CWPP's**
Rationale	A major update of the Josephine and Jackson County Integrated Fire Plans was started in 2012. The purpose of the update is to celebrate the plan successes, to review plan elements which were successful, and some that were not, and to refocus priorities for future action. The updated plans will serve as the wildfire chapter of the county Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans. The fire plan partners are also interested in aligning the plans with the goals of the CS and the WRAP. Local CWPP's are a key implementation tool in these national and regional strategies.
Desired Condition	Josephine and Jackson County have updated CWPP's adopted that broaden scope for local implementation of the CS and refocus priorities for future action.
Implementation Ideas	1) Review draft plan with county commissioners in Josephine and Jackson Counties 2) Revise draft plans 3) Review draft plans with fire plan partners 4) Review draft plans with stakeholders (community) 5) Final plans signed and adopted
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: Executive committee/Emergency Management Board Partners: JJLCG, County Commissioners, all partners
Timeline	2013-14

Creating Fire-adapted Communities

Cohesive Strategy Goal: Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property

FAC #1	**Coordinate and support activities to achieve and maintain fire adapted communities**
Rationale	Numerous agencies and organizations are using a wide range of existing tools to accomplish mitigation, fire education, prevention, and hazardous fuels reduction program activities. Synchronizing these efforts, where appropriate, could accelerate communities becoming fire adapted. To more effectively engage the private rural landowners in Jackson- Josephine Counties, especially those who abut federal lands, so that these residents better recognize and accept their role in the local wildfire equation. A coordinated effort to expand the scope for grants and cost share programs will be needed to continue many of these efforts and existing funding declines.
Desired Condition	Agencies work cooperatively, with complementary goals and actions among programs. Landowners have a sense of personal responsibility and cross-boundary fuel reduction and forest restoration efforts, the feeling of being a true partner in this wildfire picture will help make all of our communities more fire-adaptive. Grant and cost share resources are available to implement programs.
Implementation Tasks	1) Coordinate and support local efforts to achieve and maintain fire adapted communities. 2) Through state/local planning and development guidance, enhanced communications, an increased sense of personal responsibility and cross-boundary fuel reduction and forest restoration efforts, the feeling of being a true partner in this wildfire picture will help make all of our communities more fire-adaptive. 3) Expand scope of existing grant and cost share programs and pursue additional revenue sources for private land work to strategically reduce issues relating to transference of risk and make communities more fire-adapted in areas.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: All fire plan partners
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC #2	Support use of codes and ordinances for fire adapted communities
Rationale	Use and enforcement of fire safety codes and ordinances are a proven means of creating FAC for new construction and development and reducing fire ignitions. Most cities lack codes and ordinances. Also, support for enforcement of applicable county and city regulations is needed.
Desired Condition	Common wildfire prevention and zoning and WUI fire and building and development codes exist and are enforced countywide
Implementation Ideas	1) Inventory codes and ordinances in use by county, cities, and fire districts. 2) Disseminate best practices and sample ordinances for local wildfire zoning and WUI fire and building and development codes 3) Educate county commissioners, planning and fire departments, and code enforcement divisions on the application, maintenance, and enforcement of applicable regulations 4) Support maintenance and enforcement of applicable regulations 5) Support ODF in continued administration of the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (SB360) in both counties.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: RVFCA Partners: County planning, city planning, fire districts, FAC committee
Timeline	Short term, evaluate every 5 years

FAC #3	Establish and maintain learning networks
Rationale	Peer to peer learning increases the effectiveness of efforts. The Rogue Basin has been invited to participate as 1 of 8 Fire Adapted Communities network communities (hub)
Desired Condition	Maximum learning and potential funding
Implementation Ideas	7) Participate as a pilot community in the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network 8) Increase local support for the work of the FAC Coalition and the increased effective use of Firewise Communities, USA; Ready-Set-Go, CWPPs, and the tools thereof to achieve outcomes. 9) Expand partnership with The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) hub, which has expanded the fire learning network program from the Applegate to the Rogue Basin, and has attracted national attention. 10) Provide a feedback loop from the local to national levels for adaptive management learning and use in the next Cohesive Strategy revision.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: SOFRC, TNC, OSU Extension, Firewise Communities, fire departments, RVFCA, local CWPPs
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC #4	Maintain and enhance the risk assessment using current data and methods
Rationale	Identification and prioritization of landscapes for treatment for fire adapted communities are a critical element of this plan. To promote collaborative planning at all levels, across jurisdictional and ownership boundaries, it will be important to utilize a common assessment. The Rogue Basin Landscape Assessment is underway and is utilizing state of the art fire risk modeling and assessment tools. It is important to tier the local assessment to state and regional assessments, such as the West Wide Risk Assessment. In addition, the existing boundaries identifying hazard zones are not aligned across all agencies. There may be need to adjust the WUI boundary given new information.
Desired Condition	A risk assessment exists using the latest data and methods that promote collaborative planning at all levels, across jurisdictional and ownership boundaries. The assessment is tiered to state and regional assessments.
Implementation Ideas	1) Adjust Strategic Planning Unit (SPU) boundaries to include interface areas covered by SB360 and exclude areas with minimal wildfire risk. Update revised SPU's based upon relevant data from revised Rogue Basin Landscape Assessment, past treatments, past funding, etc. Consider using fire intensity or spotting distance to identify homes that are not within wildland fuels, but at risk from embers. 2) Prioritize landscapes and SPU's for treatment utilizing methods to optimize multiple objectives and criteria. Prioritization should include programmatic maintenance of past treatment areas. 3) Assist SOFRA in completion of the Rogue Basin Landscape Assessment, calibration and use of the new LANDFIRE data, West Wide Risk Assessment and other regional risk assessment and ecological and vegetation conditions data, and modeling tools. Use national and regional data to inform scale and interconnectivity of priority landscapes. Identify landscapes according to management focus, such as fuels management to reduce loss from fire, complex forest habitat, ecosystem resilience/timber production, and riparian systems. 4) Evaluate the existing WUI boundaries given new assessment data.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: BLM, USFS, NRCS, SOFRC, local CWPPs
Timeline	Short term

FAC #5	**Support implementation of priority fuel reduction projects using best and most feasible resources and tools**
Rationale	Grants and cost share programs have been effective as incentives for private landowners to fire-adapted landscape in and around homes. They have provided a means to reduce wildfire threat for the elderly and low income.
Desired Condition	Assistance and tools are available and utilized to support treatment of private property in priority landscapes, especially for vulnerable populations.
Implementation Ideas	7) Use existing grant and cost share programs and pursue additional revenue sources for private land work to strategically reduce wildfire risk and make communities more fire-adapted in areas identified as high risk in the risk assessment. Projects prioritized in this plan, both in and around communities and in strategic "middle lands" further from communities, should receive priority status. Local CWPP guidance such as the priorities included in the Applegate Fire Learning Network should be used. 8) Implement collaboratively developed projects and on the ground treatments at the local level. 9) Additional assistance should be directed to vulnerable populations (e.g., the elderly, low income, etc.). 10) Seek additional sources of funding 11) Consider contracting authorities (including stewardship contracting), local labor force, and opportunities for biomass utilization in implementing treatments to accomplish prescribed fire, mechanical, and/or chemical treatments. 12) Make greater use of legislative authorities and identify funding sources to enter into procurement contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements for hazardous fuels reduction activities on all lands that benefit resources on Federal Lands. Encourage utilization of Wyden amendment authority to create seamless treatments across ownerships where neighborhood support exists.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: NRCS, ODF, BLM, USFS, Firewise Communities, VP Committee, OSU Extension, local CWPPs
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC #6	**Support and align BLM/USFS hazardous fuels work with fire plan strategies.**
Rationale	Fires are no respecter of ownership. The intermix of federal/private ownerships and WUI is the highest amount in the West. Support for and alignment USDA/DOI hazardous fuels work, including maintenance, with fire plan strategies is critical to create effective treatments.
Desired Condition	USFS/BLM hazardous fuels work are aligned with fire plan strategies
Implementation Ideas	1) Align USFS/BLM hazardous fuels work with fire plan strategies a. Integration of fire plan priorities into agency planning process b. Annual planning meetings 2) Support on the ground fuel hazard reduction projects identified through CWPPs, regardless of ownership. 3) Encourage integration of fire plan priorities into agency planning process. 4) Investigate the inclusion of this plan into relevant plans (LRMP, FMP, IRMP, etc.)
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: BLM, USFS, NRCS, SOFRC, local CWPPs
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC #7	**Minimize the spread of noxious weeds**
Rationale	The potential negative consequence of the spread of noxious weeds than may occur as a consequence of fuels mitigation work is very high and may easily outweigh the benefit of the mitigation effort.
Desired Condition	Landowners, contractors, agencies and NGO's understand the importance, identification, and control of noxious weeds
Implementation Ideas	1) Work with all partners to provide one central publication on weeds that works for all uses, rather than having several partners spending funds to print separate but duplicate publications. 2) Continue to work with the OSU Extension Service's Land Steward program to educate and energize private landowners to care about and therefore spread the word about noxious weeds. 3) Continue to provide home assessment agents knowledge of and materials on weeds, so that they can easily pass valuable materials and information to any interested private landowner. 4) Work with CWMA to develop a 1-page education document for landowners who have done fuel reduction.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: CWMA, OSU Extension, local CWPPs
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC #8	Minimize public exposure to smoke
Rationale	Approximately 30% of the population is adversely affected by smoke. These affects can be mitigated with proper information and advance notice of planned burning
Desired Condition	Prescribed fire can occur near homes with minimal adverse affect on the public.
Implementation Ideas	1) Promote Explore opportunities to notify citizens with health issues related to smoke prior to prescribe burning. 2) Explore the use of the County Citizen Alert system for burn notification. 3) Continue notification through Twitter. 4) Provide the public with information concerning health impacts of smoke, sources, BMP for landowner burning.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: Vulnerable Populations committee, DEQ, environmental public health services, ODF, BLM, USFS, OSU Extension, local CWPPs
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC #9	Document and monitor fuels treatment accomplishments
Rationale	Understanding to location, treatment type, and year treated of treatments is important of monitoring accomplishments and planning of maintenance and strategic fuel treatments.
Desired Condition	Current GIS data and metadata for past fuels treatments across ownerships is readily available to partners and public.
Implementation Ideas	1) Continue to support the Community and Agency Fuels and Effectiveness Website (CAFÉ). 2) Establish a process and lead for quality assurance and annual updates.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: Jackson County GIS, BLM, USFS, ODF, NRCS, local CWPPs
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC 10	**Develop and implement a plan for maintenance of existing and future fuel reduction projects**
Rationale	Fuels treatments are generally not effective more than 10 years. The cost of maintaining existing treatments is much less than creating new ones or starting over. Over 100,000 acres of fuels reduction has been accomplished in the past 10 years. Most of these lands are now in need of maintenance. Given dwindling federal funds, the most strategic units on federal lands need to be identified for long term maintenance funding. Grant funds have not been available or used for maintenance of past projects on private lands. Finally, proper initial treatment planning can reduce the cost of long term maintenance.
Desired Condition	High priority treatments on federal lands are identified and maintained. Private treatments are maintained. New treatments are conducted to with long term maintenance in mind.
Implementation Ideas	1) Develop and make available educational publications on proper methods for conducting fuels reduction projects 2) Develop and send maintenance reminders to past grant recipients 3) Identify high priority landscapes for maintenance of past federal projects
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: BLM, ODF, USFS, OSU Extension, local CWPPs
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC #11	**Coordinate, promote and sustain a long-term integrated public education and awareness program**
Rationale	The public need to be part of the "all hands, all lands" cohesive wildfire strategy as fire & land management agencies cannot do it all by themselves
Desired Condition	The public, residents, and owners have wildfire situational awareness of their risk, understand their responsibility to mitigate risk, and have the knowledge to accomplish the work.
Implementation Ideas	1) Develop timely articles for the Firebrand newsletter. 2) Post fire prevention messages with ODF fire danger signs. 3) Monitor need to reprint and update "Living With Wild-fire" booklets (include Partners In Fire Education public communications results in future updates). 4) Work with school groups and student interns on wildfire prevention. 5) Provide home assessment program training at local fire districts and wildland agencies. 6) Develop TV and Radio spots for use after a wildfire. Develop more PSA's for other seasons and universal use. 7) Develop list of most frequently asked questions and answers for use of EOC phone operators during a wildfire. Distribute this list to the Rogue Valley Community Organizations Active in Disaster (RVCOAD). 8) Conduct a Prevention Exercise in conjunction with RVFCA spring exercise. 9) Regularly update RVFCA, RVFPC, USFS and BLM on FAC committee wildfire public education efforts, to avoid duplication of efforts. 10) Have a grant committee help write grant proposals, so that they are most effective. 11) Pursue other funding sources for public education programs as Title III funding ends. 12) Put outreach and education component into fuels reduction grants in future. 13) Continue to work with the VP committee to provide outreach & education for vulnerable populations on wildfire situational awareness, the Disaster registry, the Stay/Go Kits, the health impacts of smoke, etc. (article on health effects of smoke was accomplished as a Firebrand article last fall.) 14) Provide public with wildfire evacuation information including what to do if unable to evacuate in a wildfire (shelter in place), & how to identify adequate internal safety zones. Use Ready, Set, Go Campaign as a guide.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: RVFPC, VP committee, ODF, OSU Extension, USFS, local CWPPs, RVFCA
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC #12	**Increase the effectiveness of public education**
Rationale	We continue to learn from experience and from surveys what works. There are recent social science reports focused on the human dimension of wildland fire.
Desired Condition	Public education effectiveness is maximized
Implementation Ideas	1) Use lessons learned and public information needs after wildfires to keep public education messages effective. 2) Set up a monitoring system with the RVFCA to gauge the effectiveness of Home Assessment training; determine factors to monitor, such as increase in Fire District volunteers/support, increased numbers of homes with defensible space, increased calls for home inspections, etc. *3)* Use recent social science reports, such as *Social Science at the Wildland-Urban Interface: A Compendium of Research Results to Create Fire-Adapted Communities, to improve effectiveness of outreach.*
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: RVFPC, VP committee, ODF, OSU Extension, USFS, Jackson County GIS, local CWPPs
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC #13	**Continue to expand the partners involved in wildfire outreach and education**
Rationale	There are key potential partners who interact with landowners regularly who can help provide guidance and incentives for creating fire adapter communities.
Desired Condition	Broader support and increased effectiveness of wildfire outreach and education
Implementation Ideas	1) Continue Fire Resistant Plant displays in more local nurseries. 2) Fire resistant landscaping classes giving landscape professionals continuing education credit. 3) Develop contacts with Real Estate, Insurance companies; home improvement stores and Pet and Stock supply stores. 4) Inform the RVFCA of FAC activities annually. 5) Encourage Fire Districts to include RVFPC blog, twitter, Facebook etc. on their web pages
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: RVFPC, local CWPPs
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC #14	Recruit and train fire prevention volunteers
Rationale	Volunteers greatly increase public outreach & education especially during times of extreme fire danger & during on going wildfires when agency staff are less available for O&E
Desired Condition	Have a trained volunteer pool who can support O&E especially during on going wildfires
Implementation Ideas	1) Seek volunteer management support and program funding 2) Develop partnerships with all active CERTs (Community Emergency Response teams)
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: FAC committee Partners: RVFPC, CERT, OSU Extension Master Land steward Program
Timeline	Ongoing

FAC #15	Develop a promotional campaign for pet and livestock emergency preparedness and evacuation
Rationale	Pets & Livestock need to be planned for in evacuations as the public often will not evacuate without their animals
Desired Condition	Animal owners are prepared and have a personal animal evacuation plan
Implementation Ideas	1) Procedures are currently being developed for both counties for admitting and caring for evacuated animals at shelters 2) Jackson SWCD will meet with various agencies including BLM and USFS. 3) Brochures specific to each county will be developed that outline the key points of preparing and following through with evacuation and sheltering of animals in Jackson Co. Jackson County accomplished this. 4) FAQ's need to be updated for Jackson Co. and created for Josephine Co. 5) Find funding for continued education and exposure to this program for the long term. Start moving the "partners" towards those who can help fund over the long term.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: County Emergency Management Partners: SWCD, OSU Extension, local CWPPs
Timeline	Short term, ongoing

Restoring and Maintaining Fire Resilient Landscapes

Cohesive Strategy Goal: Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives

FRF #1	**Promote collaborative landscape planning and management**
Rationale	Over many years, collaboration has been a critically important process in building shared understanding and community support for active management to address current conditions and promote forest health and resilience in southwest Oregon. Agencies working directly with communities and collaborative organizations have been shown to accelerate restoration work.
Desired Condition	Community agreement of organizations, residents and agencies across broad landscape areas that will allow an active forest management program to move forward
Implementation Ideas	1) Promote and coordinate communications, planning and implementation activities across jurisdictional and ownership boundaries. 2) Support current collaborative processes such as the landscape strategy effort, Middle Applegate pilot, Ashland Forest Resiliency project, Seven Basin's strategic plan, Illinois Valley's Page Creek project, etc. 3) Encourage use of the SOFRC, the Josephine County Stewardship Group, watershed councils, and other community-based collaborative groups in developing project designs and outreach to broaden understanding and agreement around ecological and economic factors. 4) Support and expand existing landscape treatment programs that integrate partnership interactions among federal, state, and local agencies, and NGO collaborators. 5) Encourage participation in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC), and Fire Learning Network (FLN). 6) Encourage use of community-based collaborative facilitation and coordination related to developing specific project design and implementation. 7) Foster outreach to broaden understanding and agreement around ecological and economic factors. 8) Share successes.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: SOFRC Partners: BLM, USFS, TNC, Stewardship Group, watershed councils, FAC committee
Timeline	Ongoing

FRF #2	**Maximize use of existing tools to streamline NEPA planning**
Rationale	The NEPA planning process is expensive and time consuming. Some tools exist that can help streamline the process.
Desired Condition	Federal agencies are able to move projects forward more quickly with less cost.
Implementation Ideas	1) Encourage BLM and USFS to continue and expand use of existing tools and reduce agency planning and NEPA costs. Focus efforts on landscapes and treatment types where broad agreement exists. Examples include BLM Integrated Vegetation Management Programmatic, integrated watershed level planning, HFI and HFRA where appropriate, use of Environmental Assessments (EA) to cover broad landscapes, such as East Illinois Valley Managed Stands EA, etc. 2) Improve utilization of biomass and low value materials through better project planning and coordination, as well as landscape-scale programs to offer greater economies of scale. Include input from contractors.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: SOFRC Partners: BLM, USFS
Timeline	Ongoing

FRF #3	**Identify and prioritize landscapes for treatment**
Rationale	It is important to identify priority landscapes where common agreement exists to plan and implement forest health projects. Oregon's Federal Forest Advisory Committee's *Achieving Oregon's Vision for Federal Forestland (2009)*, encourages local collaborative groups, in cooperation with federal agencies, to assess forest health conditions, plan projects at the landscape scale to address high priority needs, define and delineate the amount and characteristics of older forests that should be conserved and reestablished to maintain ecological sustainability and resiliency.
Desired Condition	Priority treatment areas are identified and decision-making processes agreed upon to expedite implementation as funding and other conditions make possible.
Implementation Ideas	1) Support a collaboratively developed basin-wide landscape level strategy for all lands. 2) Complete the Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative Assessment utilizing the revised burn probability modeling, regional risk assessment and ecological and vegetation conditions data, and fire effects modeling tools. Use national and regional data to inform scale and interconnectivity of priority landscapes. 3) Collaboratively identify landscapes with the highest priority needs according to economic viability and management focus, such as fuels management to reduce loss from fire, complex forest habitat, ecosystem resilience/timber production, and riparian systems. Define and delineate the amount and characteristics of older forests that should be conserved and reestablished to maintain ecological sustainability and resiliency. 4) Develop a Rogue Basin forest restoration strategy. 5) Develop a programmatic plan for maintenance of treatments on all lands.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: SOFRC Partners: BLM, USFS, TNC, Stewardship Group, watershed councils, FAC committee.
Timeline	Ongoing

FRF #4	**Integrate with, and give direction to, federal forest policy as much as possible**
Rationale	Integrating with federal forest plans and policies can be effective at expediting landscape forest restoration projects than isolated community alternatives. Opportunities exist to give direction to and collaborate with the USFS and BLM policy and plans.
Desired Condition	Programmatic elements exist in federal forest policy and plans that promote landscape-scale approaches reflecting common, regional agreement.
Implementation Ideas	1) Work with the Forest Service to include programmatic elements of the fire plan into the CFLRP program and the Forest Plan revision when appropriate. 2) Work with the Bureau of Land Management during its revision of its Resource Management Plan (RMP) to include programmatic elements of the fire plan and landscape-scale approaches reflecting common, regional agreement.
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: SOFRC Partners: USFS, BLM, TNC, JCSG, watershed councils
Timeline	Ongoing

FRF #5	**Promote local economic opportunities**
Rationale	Increasing and sustaining the pace of forest restoration will allow businesses to invest, restoration contractors to hire more workers, and mills to maintain operations and employees. Time is critical. Infrastructure and a skilled work force for accomplish forest restoration work is declining. However, it is important to support the existing infrastructure and to develop market-based solutions. We need to be prepared to move on biomass utilization as the economy turns around and the marginal economics improve.
Desired Condition	Sustainable jobs and infrastructure to provide support to a forest restoration economy
Implementation Ideas	1) Support development of economically-viable treatment on federal lands—those that pay for themselves—in order to accomplish fuels reduction and forest restoration at a landscape scale. 2) Support existing infrastructure with saw log, pulp and biomass. 3) Develop local economic-based opportunities and market-based solutions. 4) Utilize an "all lands" approach as much as possible by bringing in both private and public stakeholders into deliberations of landscape-scale treatment approaches and biomass utilization
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: Lead: SOFRC Partners: BLM, USFS, TNC, ODF, JCSG, SOREDI
Timeline	Ongoing

Responding to Wildfires

Cohesive Strategy Goal: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions

Response #1	**Increase local capacity, including continued development and training of Type 3 Incident Management Teams**
Rationale	Effective management of trained incident responders is critical for the safety of responders and the public, as well as minimizing the size and impact of the incident. National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) has set training standards for compliance. Local IMT capacity can promote more timely use of State Conflagration response resources. County staff reductions are a challenge of recruiting trainees.
Desired Condition	Local capacity exists and is trained and equipped to support Type 3 incidents
Implementation Ideas	1) Review new NIMS requirements and monitor and implement NIMS requirements 2) Provide training to strengthen National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) compliance 3) Find resources for IM training and incentives for participation 4) Support RVFCA IMT recruitment and new membership application 5) Seek opportunities to fill trainee assignments on USFS and ODF teams locally 6) Coordinate with partners, including Oregon State Fire Marshal and Emergency Management, to assure ability to utilize Conflagration resources 7) Coordinate Rural Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance grants to build fire district capacity 8) Support RITA in development of a plan to validate current personnel qualifications for State Mobilization – this includes an audit and then a plan to bring need training to the valley to bring folks up to speed 9) Continue development and training of Type 3 Josephine County All Hazard Incident Management Team (AHIMT) (Josephine county) 10) Support the development of a volunteer pool to provide current prevention & evacuation information during ongoing wildfires utilizing the local fire prevention team protocol. 11) Support RVFCA representation on the OSFM mobilization plan review committee – state level work on mobilization issues
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: county emergency management Partners: ODF, BLM, USFS, RVFCA, RITA
Timeline	Ongoing

Response #2	**Develop and sustain agency coordination on evacuation procedures and notification process**
Rationale	Evacuation plans and processes have been developed by several agencies at different scales – region, state, county, city, as well as difference needs. The RVFCA has adopted the PNWCG FCG Evacuation Guidelines. Local plans have been developed for vulnerable populations and animals. Budget cuts affect the sheriff's ability to conduct evacuations. The public needs to understand their roles and responsibilities during a fire incident. The Jackson County call down system is in place, but needs to be expanded to additional cities and further outreach to encourage public participation.
Desired Condition	Evacuation procedures are coordinated and adapted to changing agency capacities. The public is aware of their responsibility.
Implementation Ideas	1) Develop and sustain agency coordination on evacuation procedures for fire and other incidents including the VP sheltering plan and use of Disaster Registry. 2) Assure that logistics and processes are in place for people, vulnerable populations, pets and livestock. 3) Develop and integrate the VP Branch into local ICS and EOP processes 4) Review agency experiences and coordinate annually at the RVFCA Spring Command and Control meeting 5) Develop and deliver education materials that emphasize the roles and responsibilities of the public in a fire emergency. Consider use of the Ready Set Go program. 6) Jackson County GIS update aerial imagery for structure locations 7) Create update of Jackson County GIS map books with focus rural response rather than urban. Automate the process for the future. 8) Continue Citizen Alert website and outreach to encourage citizens to opt into the call down system 9) Expand call down system to additional cities
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: emergency management Partners: Sheriff, RVFCA, state and local law enforcement agencies, Red Cross, and Public Health departments, SWCD, VP committee, CERT's, Jackson County GIS
Timeline	Ongoing

Response #3	**Develop and clarify policies, procedures, agreements necessary for coordinated emergency management planning and preparedness**
Rationale	Policies, procedures, agreements need to be in place and understood to utilize shared resources. Examples are county GIS resources, command trailers, invoking the state Conflagration Act. Budget cuts affect potential staffing of resources.
Desired Condition	Policies, procedures, agreements are in place and need to be in place and understood to utilize shared resources.
Implementation Ideas	1) Assure the policies, procedures, agreements are in place and understood to utilize shared resources 2) Promote the use of county GIS resources during wildfire operations. Complete recruitment and development of GIS team and protocols. 3) Review agency experiences and coordinate annually at the RVFCA Spring Command and Control meeting
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: Emergency management Partners: RVFCA, ODF, BLM, USFS, Jackson County GIS
Timeline	Ongoing

Response #4	**Support fire mitigation measures within unprotected areas (Josephine Country)**
Rationale	Over 17,400 homes in are outside structural city and rural fire protection districts. More than 15,300 over these are within the Rural Metro service area boundary. While many of these have contract fire protection, there is no fire agency with authority to enforce fire prevention codes.
Desired Condition	The full suite of fire protection services, including fire mitigation measures, is available countywide.
Implementation Ideas	1) EMB will support fire mitigation measures within unprotected areas 2) Build upon the FDBC/OSFM/BCC meeting and resulting Josephine County pre-season coordination meeting was big in bringing awareness of the issues forward and clarifying roles and responsibilities 3) The Rogue Valley FDBC has met with the Jo Co commissioners and is working collaboration with OSFM staff to clarify Unprotected area issues and AHJ (BCC) roles and responsibilities
Coordinating Organizations	Lead: EMB Partners: BCC, OSFM and ODF, FAC committee, Firewise Communities, CWPPs
Timeline	Ongoing