

## **JOSEPHINE COUNTY FORESTLAND-URBAN INTERFACE CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Minutes**

September 11, 2006, 1:00 p.m.  
Search & Rescue Bldg.  
250 Tech Way  
Grants Pass

**Attendees:** Tom Atzet, Brian Pike, Tom Link, Brian Ballou, Charlie Phenix, Bill Gasow, Bruce Bartow and Jerry Schaeffer

**Call to order:** 1:03 p.m.

**Review minutes of August 7 meeting:** The committee will ask Cody Zook, Josephine County GIS, to outline his forestland-urban interface data criteria so this information can be explained clearly to the public. Also, on page 2 of the minutes, in the sentence about the green outline areas, the committee adds that data criteria will not change, or else the mapping already completed may be compromised. Otherwise, the minutes were approved as written.

### **Review committee members' work on identifying forestland-urban interface lands**

#### **Discuss changes/modifications to the digital identification/classification tools**

Committee members discussed some common problems and solutions with the GIS files.

Previously, the committee decided to examine and modify, if necessary, areas colored yellow. Secondly, committee members review and adjust boundaries on lands colored pink.

Mr. Phenix and Mr. Atzet reviewed most of their yellow areas, whereas Mr. Link and Mr. Gasow reviewed approximately 50 percent of their yellow areas. Mr. Pike had technical difficulties with his GIS files, for which he will get assistance from Mr. Zook, and Vince Pyle was away on a fire assignment and was unable to report on his accomplishments.

Mr. Atzet gave a disc of data files of his candidate forestland-urban interface area to Mr. Ballou to give to Mr. Zook. Mr. Phenix displayed and discussed his findings and proposed changes with the committee. Mr. Gasow asked the committee its opinion about including pasture or farmland. Basically, the committee resolved, if the land meets the forestland-urban interface criteria, it should be included.

The committee discussed its options for backup GIS support should it become necessary at any point. Mr. Ballou agreed to research this potential need with ODF staff.

Mr. Link asked the committee to consider the timeframe for completing its draft maps and classifications. Will there be a need for some field trips? Will there be a need to work on these maps as a group? Following discussion, committee members decided they were consistent in their approach to identifying forestland-urban interface lands.

Mr. Gasow recommended one more work period before reviewing all committee members' results for the identification of forestland-urban interface lands. Mr. Bartow suggested that the committee deliver its files to Mr. Zook in three weeks for his review and processing.

The committee set a deadline of Oct. 9 for delivering GIS data sets to Mr. Zook.

#### **Discuss a vegetation hazard value classification process**

The administrative rules have guidelines for determining vegetation hazard values. Mr. Ballou highlighted the criteria in the administrative rules, and described the vegetation analysis tools used by other classification committees. These include aerial photos, site visits, and vegetation map layers. Input from local fire officials has also been used by other committees.

Although the committee discussed the detailed modeling approach to fire risk, it decided to note different methods but would go with the simplest possible rating since the differences are put into such large categories.[ paragraph added at Oct. 16 meeting ]

Mr. Bartow suggested asking members of the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan's fuels committee to give a presentation to the Josephine County Forestland-Urban Interface Classification Committee about their findings. This may save the classification committee some time, in that this committee would not be duplicating work. Mr. Ballou was asked to contact Jim Wolf and Charlie Martin about presenting the fire plan fuels/risk findings to the classification committee.

Mr. Atzet outlined vegetation layer information he has worked to develop with the Forest Service, and described how this tool may be used by this committee. Mr. Phenix underscored the value of comparing the fire plan findings with the draft forestland-urban interface boundaries.

The committee asked Mr. Ballou to explain how other classification committees approached the vegetation hazard value assignments. Committee members discussed whether to consider other criteria, such as fire history and fire suppression response time.

#### **Set a timeline for displaying draft classifications at public meetings**

The committee discussed the timeline. Mr. Ballou said it takes 5-6 weeks to set up notification letters, mailing lists and venues for public meetings, and a hearing. Mr. Link proposed targeting May 2007 for a hearing, and hold public meetings (workshops) in February and March of 2007.

**Old business:** None

**New business:** None

**Public comment:** None

**Good of the order:** None

**Next meeting:** Oct. 16, location TBA.

**Adjournment:** 2:50 p.m.