



NEWS

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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT
5286 Table Rock RD
Central Point, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JOSEPHINE COUNTY FORESTLAND-URBAN INTERFACE CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETS APRIL 4

The Josephine County Forestland-Urban Interface Classification Committee holds its first meeting April 4, 9:00 a.m., at the Oregon Department of Forestry's Grants Pass Unit office, 5375 Monument Drive. The committee's purpose is to identify lands in Josephine County on which fuel reduction, as a fire prevention measure, will be required as described in the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997.

This first meeting is primarily an organizational meeting. Oregon Department of Forestry staff will brief committee members about the act, and the responsibilities of the committee. Work on land identification, and the task of assigning fire-risk classifications to these lands, is not expected to begin until committee officers are elected and a work schedule has been developed.

The five-person committee includes three members appointed by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners, one by the state fire marshal and one by the state forester. The county-appointed members are Thomas Link, Thomas Atzet and William Gaso. The state fire marshal appointee is William Pike, and the state forester appointee is Vince Pyle.

The county also named Charles Phenix and Bruce Bartow as committee alternates.

The Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997, often referred to as Senate Bill 360, requires owners of identified lands to execute fuel-reduction measures to reduce wildfire intensity around structures and along access roads.

For more information about the committee and the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act, contact Dan Thorpe, district forester, at (541) 664-3328.

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