

Minutes of the Jackson County Forestland-Urban Interface Classification Committee Meeting

September 10, 2003 1:00 p.m.
Southwest Oregon District Office, Central Point

Committee and staff attendees: Reeve Hennion, Michael Mattson, Dan Thorpe, Bill Rose, Brian Ballou and Jim Wolf

Committee and staff members absent: Lou Gugliotta and Keith Massie

No members of the public attended the meeting.

The minutes of the August 27 meeting were approved.

Agenda:

- Boundary-making loose ends in Thompson Creek area and south Medford
- Classification of forestland-urban interface areas
- Public notification
 - Legal requirements
 - Strategy

Mr. Wolf pulled up the forestland-urban interface area map for Thompson Creek. Mr. Hennion noted that he had visited the area and recommended that all properties with structures, and which met the density requirement, along Hogan and Decker roads be included within a forestland-urban interface boundary. The map of forestland-urban interface areas was modified to capture additional properties down to Jackson and Josephine counties' boundary.

Mr. Wolf informed the committee that he had created a new data layer called "SB 360 concerns" – areas that, upon his review, didn't seem to meet the criteria of forestland-urban interface areas. He questioned an area one-half mile east of Thompson Creek that was. The committee reviewed it and deleted it.

A second area, near Griffin Creek, included a good deal of agriculture land – normally excluded. Additionally, Mr. Wolf noted that adjacent properties seemed to meet the criteria, yet were not within a forestland-urban interface boundary. Upon further review, it appeared that there were mapping errors. The committee revised the boundaries of the areas in question. Other areas in which boundary errors were corrected included:

- The Pioneer Road area
- The area where Pioneer and Dark Hollow roads intersect
- An area southwest of Phoenix and Talent
- The Coleman Creek area
- The Holten and Yank Gulch roads area

- The Old Siskiyou Highway

In general, the lands excluded were open or agriculture lands; the included lands were wooded, and met the lot size and structure density requirements to qualify as forestland-urban interface lands.

The committee moved into determining classifications for identified forestland-urban interface areas in Jackson County. Mr. Wolf explained that in this county, there were only two final classifications possible: high or extreme. This was primarily due to the county's wildfire weather hazard value being extreme. He outlined the vegetation types in the county, and how they should be valued, using the three-value system in the administrative rules. Few of the forestland-urban interface areas in the county were predominantly grasses. Most of the identified areas were dominated by brush and oak/madrone cover, or mixed conifer cover.

Mr. Hennion recommended that Mr. Wolf, Mr. Thorpe and Mr. Rose act as a subcommittee to assign classifications to the forestland-urban interface areas. Mr. Hennion said it was his opinion that these three members had the knowledge and experience to do the task efficiently and accurately. Their product would be brought to the full committee for approval. Mr. Mattson concurred, adding that notes be taken to enforce classification decisions.

The committee then discussed its public hearing responsibilities. Mr. Wolf distributed copies of the statute to the committee, and suggested that the committee review the language related to public hearings. The committee's responsibilities are outlined in ORS 477.031 and 477.052. Mr. Thorpe proposed that for the first public meeting, a small group be used as a "focus group." The Applegate region was discussed as an area in which such a meeting could take place. Residents there had recently completed an extensive fire plan project, and wildland/urban interface fires had occurred in the Applegate region in recent years.

Mr. Hennion noted that, in his opinion, most people would be well served with open houses or public meetings prior to the formal hearing.

A list of products and aids to have at the informal meetings included:

- Maps and aerial photos
- Notes from minutes to recapture committee's logic during identification and classification processes
- Lists of property addresses included in forestland-urban interface boundaries
- Examples of mapping tools used in forestland-urban interface area identification and classifications

Invariably, the committee recognized, adjustments would need to be made to forestland-urban interface maps as a result of local input during the meetings.

Mr. Hennion asked the committee to approve forestland-urban interface boundaries drawn during the August 27 work session. The committee approved the work.

The September 24 meeting was canceled because Mr. Wolf will be out of town. The next meeting will be October 8.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Bill Rose, Secretary

Date