

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

June 25, 2003 1:00 p.m.
Oregon Department Of Forestry
Southwest Oregon District
Central Point

Attendees: Reeve Hennion, Bill Rose, Michael Mattson, Lou Gugliotta, Dan Thorpe, Jim Wolf, Brian Ballou, Keith Massie

Chairman Hennion called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Public comment: Mr. Hennion outlined the general rules for public comment. It was noted by a visitor that the Forestland-Urban Interface Web site and Mr. Wolf's responses to requests for information have both helped to answer the public's questions and concerns. He expressed concern that the public hasn't been very involved, but applauded efforts being made by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the committee to make the identification and classification process open and available.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the June 11 meeting, and were approved without changes or additions.

Mr. Wolf described for guests the tools (maps, aerial photos, land use and property ownership data) the committee used in executing its forestland-urban interface lands' identification and classification task.

The first area the committee reviewed at this meeting was in the northern portion of the Applegate drainage, the Daisy, Cady, and Sterling Creek roads area. After ensuring that lands within the draft forestland-urban interface boundary met the criteria, the committee concurred with the draft boundary without change.

The committee next looked farther west, out Hwy 238. A satellite area was mapped in the Forest Creek area. Along the highway, the committee concurred with the draft boundary. It also added two parcels of land on the south end. Another satellite area in the Bishop Creek area was reviewed when Mr. Hennion questioned whether the area met the criterion for structure density. The committee decided to not include the Bishop Creek area.

Moving into the Ruch/China Gulch region, a property was added on the northeast corner of the proposed forestland-urban interface boundary. A large parcel on the north edge of the zone was reviewed and left in, primarily because of visibly different fuel densities between the public lands to the north, where the fuel density was light, and the private land in question, which had heavy fuel. The China Gulch Road area was reviewed, and a member of the public, who lived in the area, recommended that the committee expand its forestland-urban interface boundary to include more lands, noting the area's high fire

danger. One landowner at the meeting asked that her large parcel be included; as the property met the criteria for forestland-urban interface land, the committee included the property. No other changes were made in the area, and the draft boundary was approved.

Farther west, in the Humbug area, some boundaries were reviewed but not changed. Perhaps a dozen properties were removed in the draft Humbug area because the forested area wasn't heavy enough to warrant forestland-urban interface inclusion; the areas had large tracts of grassland.

In the north end of the draft forestland-urban interface area along Humbug Creek, approximately a half-dozen properties were added, due to structural density and fuel loading concerns. A few other large parcels with structures were added in the central-west/south-west portion of the Humbug Creek forestland-urban interface area. The parcels were added due to fire hazard concerns, caused by heavy fuel loading and steep terrain. Farther southwest, several parcels were removed; one included the Applegate school property, and another included a nursery; all of the excluded properties had large tracts of grassland. A large lot was added on the southeast side of the boundary, due to the property's steep terrain, poor access and heavy fuel.

Farther west, two small, satellite areas were removed because they contained mostly grass/agricultural land.

In the Thompson Creek drainage, south of Hwy 238, all the ten-acre parcels with dwellings were included in a forestland-urban interface boundary, along with a few larger parcels on the north end of the area that had homes, limited access, steep terrain, and heavy fuels. Several parcels were added on the east side of the area; the areas added were on the edge of forested areas that also became very steep.

In the middle Thompson Creek/Hoot Owl Road area, a forestland-urban interface boundary was drawn to include properties that met the ten-acre lots with dwellings rule, and which had dwellings on the edge of steep, forested areas. Lands were added north of this area, following the same criteria.

The committee, on Mr. Massie's suggestion, deferred further boundary making in the Thompson Creek area. The area included properties with similar criteria of density of structures and property size, but zoning differences among the properties. Also, the area had a mixture of topographic and fuel types, ranging from relatively flat, grassy land to steep, forested land. Mr. Massie and Mr. Wolf were asked to study the area prior to the committee's next meeting and propose boundaries.

The committee returned to the Ruch area, where Mr. Massie and Mr. Wolf had drawn draft boundaries. Grassland/agricultural lands in the Hamilton Road area were removed. Properties in which dwellings were within or on the edge of dense forests were included.

In the Little Applegate area, the committee reviewed and approved most of the draft boundaries. It added some properties up the Sterling Creek drainage. Properties along

Griffin Lane were also added; some of the vacant lands along this road either had been subdivided for housing, or subdividing was slated to occur. Two forestland-urban interface zones in the Sterling Creek drainage were joined; the area was identified in the Applegate Fire Plan as being a high-risk area.

The committee reviewed and discussed the Dog Fork area, and decided to exclude it. The Carberry Creek area was also deleted. Neither area met the four-structures-per-40-acres standard.

The committee approved a draft forestland-urban interface boundary in the McKee Bridge area.

Mr. Hennion asked for further comments from the public. Visitors noted that they were impressed with the process.

Mr. Wolf asked committee members whether they had objections to posting draft forestland-urban interface maps on the Web site. The committee approved the publishing of draft maps on the Web site. Mr. Wolf said he would continue researching whether this was technologically possible and administratively feasible.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Bill Rose, Secretary

Date