



# NEWS

November 1, 2007

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JOSEPHINE COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

**Contact:** Brian Ballou, fire prevention specialist, (541) 621-4156

## **SIX PUBLIC MEETINGS ON SB 360 SCHEDULED IN NOVEMBER**

The Oregon Department of Forestry is hosting six public meetings in November to explain and answer questions about the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (SB 360), which is being implemented in Josephine County. The Act requires wildfire fuel reduction around homes located in urban-fringe and dispersed residential areas.

Here is the schedule of meeting dates and locations:

- Tuesday, Nov. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wolf Creek Elementary School
- Thursday, Nov. 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Hidden Valley High School
- Friday, Nov. 9, 3:30-5:30 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m., Lorna Byrne Middle School, Cave Junction
- Tuesday, Nov. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Jerome Prairie Elementary School
- Thursday, Nov. 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m., North Valley High School
- Tuesday, Nov. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Josephine County Fairgrounds, Floral Bldg.

Invitations have been mailed to landowners to advise them of the meeting nearest to where their property is located.

At these meetings, people may attend a presentation about the Act, the identification of lands which will be affected by the Act, and the fuel-reduction measures that will be required of landowners. There will also be information tables at each meeting, at which attendees may get their questions answered about how to make a fuel break around a home, how to certify that fuel break work has been completed, and how to get on-site fuel-reduction advice.

There will also be a table for people who wish to apply for a fuel-reduction assistance grant. ODF has received more than \$1 million from federal grants to help people meet the fuel-reduction requirements of the Act. In most cases, a grant reimburses a landowner \$400 for completing a fuel break around a home and along a driveway. These grants are available in most parts of Josephine County.

Currently, the implementation of the Act in the county is in the identification and classification of lands stage, a task being accomplished by a five-member committee. The committee has identified more

than 19,000 lots that will be affected by the Act. Maps of affected lots will be available for review at the meetings. Committee members will attend each meeting to listen to comments and answer questions.

Once the committee and ODF are satisfied that the public's questions about the Act have been answered, the committee will schedule a public hearing to gather formal comment about the identification and classification of lands.

For more information, there is a web page at <http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/SB360/sb360.shtml> that outlines the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act and provides a link to the Josephine County Forestland-Urban Interface Classification Committee. Information may also be obtained by calling Kyle Holcombe at the Oregon Department of Forestry's Grants Pass Unit, (541) 474-3152.

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