

Appendix D: Steering Committee and Meeting Summaries

Steering Committee Members list

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CWPP Steering Committee Meeting Summaries

Steering Committee Meeting #1 Summary

Date: September 21, 2005

Time: 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Location: Skamania Economic Development Council offices in Stevenson Washington.

Attendees:

Wayne Wooster, Klickitat County Economic Development
Peggy Bryan, Skamania County Economic Development
Theresa Lusty, Skamania County Economic Development
Wade Alonzo, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Frank Backus, SDS Lumber Company
Steve Brown, Klickitat County Emergency Management
Rod Thysell, WSU Extension
Gary Anderson, Glenwood Fire Department
Tom Linde, Resident Skamania County
Bill Alexander, BAF
Lisa McCrummen, creativeTHINK

Discussion:

1. Lisa McCrummen began meeting with introductions and a discussion of how BAF and creativeTHINK see the project developing. The project should meet the needs of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the two-county area. The issue of how detailed this report needs to be and at what level within the counties we should recognize communities as a matter of resolution. Concern was expressed related to how we could move around the counties and interact with all the parties involved, i.e. fire districts.

Lisa went on to explain how the CWPP handbook outlines this process and needed input for each of the steps.

2. Several attendees expressed the concern that this project address the broad scope issues of fire response and prevention within the two counties. Concern was expressed that the time and budget of the project does not allow for the detailed analysis of every fire district or community within the two counties.

3. Tom Linde gave an overview of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest (GPNF) organization and what their involvement could be. He said that the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area was administered by the GPNF and did not know how they would want be involved in this process. The role of the GPNF was defined as a technical advisor. He suggested contacting Mike Mattaressi and Earl Ford as a contacts for data.

4. Wade Alonzo introduced the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and made note of the resources available on the internet at their fire mapping site.

5. Bill Alexander introduced the role of GIS in this process and identified himself as the contact delivery point for technical input to the process. Lisa McCrummen will be the project coordinator on the consultant side and should be the primary point of contact. Bill went on to present data needs and solicited sources for existing GIS data to help in the development of a community base map(s).

Bill discussed the possibility of digitizing a fuels vegetation layer for the entire two counties. This assumes that the GPNF has an existing vegetation layer for their property and whether there were some beginnings to this process over the private lands. This portion of the project was dependent on what kind of photographic reference base was available.

Rod Thysell was not sure of all the individual data layers available from the Washington State Extension efforts, but that there were several data sets that might help. Bill Alexander explained that Ole Helgerson had made this data available already, but that review of this information with Rod would be important.

Wade Alonzo discussed the resources of DNR and their willingness to provide what data they have. Frank Backus was not sure what data could be made available from large private landowners.

6. Frank Backus brought up the issue of the project purpose and objectives relative to discussions with the County Commissioners and the original intent of the project. He expressed the concern that the discussion of a fine level CWPP addressing issues of individual communities was not what the commissioners had in mind. Addressing the issues of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) is primary to the effort. He made the point that at a primary level this document should make statements of the need for fuels treatment on the GPNF and these areas need to be broadly identified.

A goal for the project should be to gather as much information and data that is available for the planning area and use it to develop a CWPP. Developing data should be kept to a minimum to stay within time and budget of the project.

This brought up the discussion that this project, given the time and budget, should be broad scoped covering issues over the entire two-county planning area. Steve Brown discussed the example of the need for a good communications system between responders. Steve said there was to a meeting of the fire district chiefs in two days and this may be an opportunity to solicit needs and concerns of this group. The suggestion was made that Steve could introduce the project to the district chiefs at this meeting and that a written survey that could be delivered to the fire districts to gather information on their needs. Fire district input could be:

- Identification of core issues and concerns, and
- Identification of “stand out” areas of concern on community map.

7. Wade Alonzo made a suggestion of how the risk assessment portion of the CWPP could be addressed. He suggested that the **Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies (RAMS)** used by the DNR could be used in this effort. Though some of the inputs were broad scope in nature, the model could be made to fit the aspects of this project.

8. Current efforts already underway or completed were suggested for inclusion within this project. Trout Lake is very close to completing a CWPP. White Salmon and Bingen have completed a CWPP for the two cities. Gary Anderson, Glenwood Fire district, said that Glenwood would shortly begin the CWPP process.

Action Items:

1. Members of the steering committee will provide additional contacts and any other recommendations for inclusion on this committee.

2. Bill Alexander should get together with Wade Alonzo and review the components of RAMS to assess its application to this project.

3. Bill Alexander should review the available data sets available from DNR and GPNF to assess data needs further.

4. Lisa McCrummen should develop a short questionnaire for delivery to the local fire districts to sample needs and concerns.

Next meeting was scheduled for October 20th, 2005 at the SDS Lumber Company headquarters in Bingen, Washington.

Steering Committee Meeting #2 Summary

Date: October 20, 2005

Time: 9:30 A.M. to Noon.

Location: White Salmon Pioneer Center (rescheduled from SDS headquarters)

Attendees:

Wayne Wooster, Klickitat County Economic Development
Peggy Bryan, Skamania County Economic Development
Len Riggins, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Wade Alonzo, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Mark Gray, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Frank Backus, SDS Lumber Company
Steve Brown, Klickitat County Emergency Management
Rod Thysell, WSU Extension
Rico George, US Fish and Wildlife Services
Marlon Morat, Skamania County Fire Marshall
Bill Hunsaker, White Salmon Fire Chief
Greg Page, Fire Prevention, Gifford Pinchot National Forest
John Carlson, Skamania County Emergency Management
Carter Davis, Trout Lake CWPP Coordinator
Bill Alexander, BAF
Lisa McCrummen, creativeTHINK

Discussion:

1. Bill Alexander presented his analysis of using RAMS for the risk assessment for the CWPP. This has brought up issues of resolution for the two-county planning area. RAMS provides for three basic levels of assessment; Planning Areas, Fire Management Zones (FMZ) and Compartments. Bill proposed that the Planning Area be the two county planning area of this project. The FMZ of the model can be the FMZs as established by DNR. The Compartment level should be some subdivision of the two county planning area.
2. This subdivision of the planning area can be recognized communities based on a protocol that reflects established community interests.
3. This discussion of sub-division raised the issue of resolution for this product. There was concern expressed that a subdivision could create an emphasis at a level lower than the two-county planning area. It was pointed out that there needs to be a ranking of some subdivision within the Counties based on fuels and fire characteristics. This could be done by dividing the counties into communities.

Len Rigger suggested using the established community boundaries being used to build community level CWPPs. These have been developed for Klickitat County and are being developed for Skamania County.

4. Concern was then expressed that we need to resolve this county level CWPP with the need for local signatories based on the fire districts. A suggestion was made that some representative of the fire districts could fulfill the role of signatory, as long as it met the demands of DNR for their signature. Peggy Bryan and Wayne Wooster will research this issue and confirm with DNR what the signatory process can be. One suggestion was that the Skamania Fire Marshall could sign for Skamania County. Steve Brown said he needed to think about the process for Klickitat County.

5. Bill Alexander discussed the need for a definition of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). This is one product that is needed for the CWPP, a defined WUI boundary. It was suggested that Bill find other examples of how the WUI is defined and applied to other county level documents.

Action Items:

1. Bill Alexander will consult with Len Rikken in defining community boundaries for the CWPP.
2. Bill Alexander will construct a protocol for using RAMS to do the risk assessment for the two-county planning area.
3. Peggy Bryan, Wayne Wooster and Lisa McCrummen will research and explore the signatory issue and find a county level resolution.

Next meeting was scheduled for mid-December 2005 at the White Salmon Pioneer Center.

Steering Committee Meeting #3 Summary

Date: December 13, 2005

Time: 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Location: White Salmon Pioneer Center

Attendees:

Wayne Wooster, Klickitat County Economic Development
Peggy Bryan, Skamania County Economic Development
Len Riggins, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Jeannie Abbott, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Frank Backus, SDS Lumber Company
Steve Brown, Klickitat County Emergency Management
Ole Helgerson, WSU Extension
Rod Thysell, WSU Extension
Rico George, US Fish and Wildlife Services
Tom Linde, Resident Skamania County
Greg Page, Fire Prevention, Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Mike Mattarisie, Fire Prevention, Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Mike Ferris, Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area
John Carlson, Skamania County Emergency Management
Carter Davis, Coordinator Trout Lake CWPP
Bill Alexander, BAF
Lisa McCrummen, creativeTHINK

Discussion:

1. Meeting was opened with a discussion of concern from Ole Helgerson. Ole felt the administration of the steering committee needed better support. Concern that meeting minutes and oversight of the committee process was not complete. Wayne Wooster agreed to head the process and track progress and products. Lisa McCrummen agreed to provide meeting summaries via email.
2. Bill Alexander presented the development of community boundaries using definitions worked out from input made by the steering committee. He presented maps showing the first cut on community boundaries that reflected pre-existing DNR communities with adjustments and Bill's first delineation based on available data. These boundaries were presented as draft lines, subject to changes by the steering committee and any other expertise members think important to include.
3. Ole Helgerson expressed concern that the CWPP did not address site specific conditions involving fire districts. He was concerned that the broad-scale approach adopted by the committee would not take into account local concerns and fire district needs. Len Rigger explained that these were issues that would be addressed in community level CWPPs. It was the feeling of the committee that this two-county planning area CWPP would be a

background document to be used by the local community level CWPP in support of funding requests and background data.

4. Bill Alexander presented a protocol for WUI definition of the land within any recognized community area. The landscape within each community would be described as Interface WUI, Intermix WUI, Rural WUI, and Wildland WUI. It was agreed that this was a good approach that allows for statements to be made for all the lands within a community boundary.

5. Bill Alexander presented a protocol for calculating fire spread rates at given distances from Interface WUIs. This involves the delineation of all the land within the two-county planning area being delineated based on fuel models. From the models spread rates and flame lengths can be estimated along potential fire advance lines based on prevailing winds. All of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest has been delineated according to existing vegetation. This layer can be used along with fuel model estimates for the National Forest lands. The DNR Ortho-rectified photos provided by DNR can be used for the delineation of private and DNR ground.

Ole Helgerson made comment that perhaps this was too ambitious and time could be better spent on other issues of the project. Bill Alexander thought this could be done within the project and would provide good support data for the CWPP, but understood the concern.

6. Bill Alexander presented the first run of RAMS for prioritizing the two-county planning area based on the CWPP communities. Small scale maps were provided for study showing the ranking.

7. The committee meeting broke into a work session where members and advisors studied the maps provided by Bill Alexander to make suggestions to community boundaries and RAMS results.

8. The meeting re-convened and discussed comments to the maps provided. It was felt that the maps should stay in the two counties for further review by other individuals of local expertise and to give members time to study further. Skamania county folks will take maps to fire district individuals and make appropriate changes. Steve Brown will retain and work on the Klickitat County maps.

The RAMS run was criticized based on combining the two counties together in the run. It was felt this diluted the ranking based on the distinct differences between the two counties. It was suggested that separate runs be made on the two counties. There was also concern that the ranking resulted in a High, Medium and Low designation. It was pointed out that both counties ranked high in the DNR state-wide assessment. Therefore, it was suggested that the ranking be re-labeled as Extreme, Very High, and High. This, it was felt, was more reflective of the true condition of the communities.

Action Items:

1. Bill Alexander will re-run RAMS for each of the two Counties separately and rank the communities according to Extreme, Very High, and High.
2. Skamania County and Klickitat County representatives will study the community maps and make recommendations for changes to delineated lines.
3. We will exchange community boundary changes at the next meeting.

Next meeting was scheduled for mid-January 2006 at the White Salmon Pioneer Center.

Steering Committee Meeting #4 Summary

Date: January 24, 2006

Time: 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Location: White Salmon Pioneer Center

Attendees:

Wayne Wooster, Klickitat County Economic Development
Peggy Bryan, Skamania County Economic Development
Len Riggins, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Steve Brown, Klickitat County Emergency Management
Ole Helgerson, WSU Extension
Rod Thysell, WSU Extension
Tom Linde, Resident Skamania County
Greg Page, Fire Prevention, Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Mike Mattarisie, Fire Prevention, Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Mike Ferris, Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area
John Carlson, Skamania County Emergency Management
Bill Alexander, BAF
Lisa McCrummen, creativeTHINK

Discussion:

1. Lisa McCrummen established the need to complete the CWPP by the end of February. As a result, it is imperative that we have our two public meetings before this time. It was suggested that the two meetings occur on February 15th in Skamania County and February 16th for Klickitat County. Lisa would work out the details of location and prepare a public meeting press release.
2. Bill Alexander presented the results of the split county runs using RAMS. Steve Brown made the comment that there seemed to be a bias against the eastern communities of Klickitat County. Based on experience of fire suppression costs in the county east of the Klickitat River they should rank higher. Bill was tasked with re-evaluating inputs after consultation with Steve.
3. Community boundary adjustments based on inputs were made and justification of changes were made. Most changes were in Skamania County related to work Tom Linde and Ole Helgerson had done. Their boundaries involved greater consideration of the economic influence landscapes had on the community nucleus. All changes were adopted.
4. Bill Alexander presented work he has done on a fire regime map of the two-county planning area. Agreement was reached that this could be used in the CWPP.
5. Bill Alexander discussed the need to establish evacuation routes over the two-county planning area. With the help of people in the meeting routes were highlighted and translated to a small scale map provided by Bill.

6. Bill Alexander indicated that the fuel model maps were coming along slowly and were taking longer than expected.

Action Items:

1. Bill Alexander will consult Steve Brown in defining inputs for the eastern communities of the RAMS assessment.
2. Bill Alexander will re-digitize the community boundaries relative to inputs made by the committee.
3. Lisa McCrummen will set up the two community meetings for February.
4. Bill Alexander will create the Community Maps needed for presentation at the community meetings.

Steering Committee Meeting #5 Summary

Date: April 26, 2006

Time: 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Location: White Salmon Pioneer Center

Attendees:

Discussion:

Action Items:

CWPP Questionnaire sent to Fire Protection Districts

SKAMANIA & KLICKITAT COUNTIES CWPP QUESTIONNAIRE SEND RESPONSES BY OCTOBER 15

Our COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN needs your input!

BAF (data collection/interpretation) and creativeTHINK (facilitation and coordination) have been hired to conduct a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Klickitat and Skamania Counties. One important part of our efforts is to gather information from Fire Districts in Klickitat and Skamania Counties. You are invited to provide us with information so that we can ensure your voices are heard!

- 1) If there's any kind of wild fire risk assessment plan that has already been done for your fire district, we'd love to get it.
- 2) If you don't have this (which you likely won't) we'd like a brief risk assessment summary from you - you absolutely know best what are the major factors of risk in your district.

If you can 'show us' via a map where areas of higher wild fire risks are (as part of your risk assessment) this helps a lot.

- 3) Please provide a summary of issues and items that make add to the risk of a wildfire occurring in your district. These may be issues such as lack of adequate communication with other responders, unclear response protocol, transportation issues, etc.

Some specific ideas might include:

- Communication equipment
- Computers
- Hoses
- Pumps
- Protective gear
- Engines
- Station concerns
- Training

We are not suggesting you conduct a formal risk analysis. We simply want you to bring issues related to this topic to our attention. This CWPP covers two counties and is meant to be broad in scope. We need information from the fire districts to provide data to help refine broader scale risk models.

Please send questionnaire by OCTOBER 15TH DEADLINE TO:

Via email to:
lisa@creativethink.net

Via mail to:
CreativeTHINK
537 N 83rd Street
Seattle WA 98103

Questions? Need more information in order to respond? Call or email either of us!

Lisa McCrummen
creativeTHINK
206 321 9461
lisa@creativethink.net

Bill Alexander
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541 966 8560
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CWPP Press Release for Public Meetings

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information, Contact:

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Two- County Wild Fire Protection Plan Public ‘Open Houses’ Slated for February.

Goldendale, Washington ---- February 3, 2006. Skamania and Klickitat Counties joined forces to develop a two-county macroview wildfire protection plan. The objective? To provide a framework by which both counties can understand their risk to wildfire, and allow rural fire districts, city fire departments, community councils, and other local planning entities to seek grant funding to obtain equipment, training, and/or fuel reduction programs to prevent and/or minimize the damage from wildfire.

Both counties invite all interested parties to learn more about the Skamania and Klickitat County Community Wild Fire Protection Plan at two different “Open Houses”.

The first is planned in Skamania County, February 15th, in the city of Stevenson, from 4:00 -6:30 PM at the Rock Creek Center.

The second is planned for February 16th, in the City of Goldendale, from 4:00-6:30 PM at the City of Goldendale's Council Chamber Room.

Any questions about the CWPP, or the public meetings, may be directed to the project coordinator, Lisa McCrummen, at 206 321 9461 or by emailing her at lisa@creativethink.net.

The two-county CWPP is being developed through high tech map and computer modeling directed by a steering committee of key community fire and emergency leaders who are directing information gathering, along with developing a community hazard risk assessment and community prioritization.

