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AGENDA COVER MEMO

AGENDA DATE: July 12, 2005
TO: Board of County Commissioners
DEPARTMENT: Lane County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Division
PRESENTED BY: Linda L. Cook
AGENDA TITLE: In the Matter of Adopting a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Lane County.

I. MOTION

Not applicable as this is a discussion item.

II. DISCUSSION

A. Background

On May 19, 2004 the Lane County Board of Commissioners adopted Board Order 04-5-19-3 approving new and ongoing Title III projects for FY 04-05. One of the projects approved under that Board Order was the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to meet funding eligibility requirements of the National Fire Plan, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Programs of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Since that time, Lane County Emergency Management convened a steering committee to oversee and guide the development of the Lane County CWPP and contracted with the U of O's Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup to develop the plan document.

Development of the Plan included writing the plan document, conducting a comprehensive risk assessment, creating a digitized Community Base Map, and testing plan concepts by implementing a pilot project at Triangle Lake School.

The risk assessment process was based on a methodology developed by the Oregon Department of Forestry to evaluate wildfire risk. The methodology included gathering input from the local fire agencies operating in Lane County. Lane County Emergency Management conducted site visits and interviewed personnel from all rural fire protection agencies. Lane County Land Management attended Fire Defense Board meetings and offered district-specific maps to all local fire chiefs and asked them to identify the areas of greatest concern in their communities. The information received from the local fire chiefs was incorporated into the final analysis of the risk assessment process.

The Community Base Map, which is comprised of several different maps or “layers” of Lane County, was developed by Lane County’s Department of Public Works using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. The maps were based on existing information from the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Bureau of Land Management. Local information was added to identify inhabited areas containing critical human infrastructure that are at risk from wildfire and to preliminarily designate Lane County’s wildland-urban interface zone.

The risk assessment process and the development of the Community Base Map resulted in the identification of the following Lane County communities as most at-risk of wildland fire: Cloverdale, Coburg, Dexter, Dorena, Dunes City, Florence, Lorane, Mapleton, Marcola, Springfield, Swisshome, Triangle Lake and Walton.

The plan development process, which involved extensive community outreach, resulted in an Action Plan (Section 4 of the Plan) which is based on an analysis of the issues identified in the risk assessment, a landowner survey, stakeholder interviews, a local Firewise Workshop, as well as research on the wildland-urban interface zone and review of other community wildfire protection plans. The Steering Committee reviewed and approved goals, objectives and action items and assigned priority rankings and identified potential funding opportunities. Committee members were assigned responsibility for the implementation of individual action items.

All aspects of the plan development process involved a collaborative process with representatives from:

Lane County Emergency Management
Lane County Fire Defense Board
Lane County Land Management
Lane County Public Works
Lane County Fire Prevention Cooperative
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon State Fire Marshal
U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management

III ATTACHMENT

Draft of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (June 2005)