

2007 Upper Deschutes River Coalition Annual Report

www.udrc.org

Our Mission: "To protect the Upper Deschutes River communities by restoring and sustaining fire resistant forests, pure and abundant river flows and wildlife habitat."

Our Coalition has been producing positive results to support our mission related to all 18 communities within our coalition boundary in 2007 and will remain active in 2008. This report has been approved by the Coalition's Board of Directors on December 4, 2007.

2007 Operations Results

I. Administrative & Financial Results

- In February 2007, the Coalition adopted a revised Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Our CWPP focuses on identifying and sorting the neighborhoods into 6 wildfire risk groups together with support for neighboring wildfire risk reductions on public lands (U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Deschutes County Lands) in southern Deschutes County. Officials from all public groups together with the Coalition's board signed off to support an implement wildfire risk reductions based on the priorities in this document over the long term.
- Added several new communities to the Coalition's board. These include: Thousand Trails and Caldera Springs. Our neighborhood membership is now at 18, representing 5,000 plus lot owners from Haner Park to Spring River.
- Held strategic planning conference facilitated by Don Harker at the Sunriver Library on November 10, 2007. Over 25 representatives attended. The event resulted in a revised mission statement and detailed objectives to be accomplished over the next 5 years. The event also resulted in mapping out a detailed operations plan for 2008.
- Generated over \$3,100 in private donations from lot owners within the Coalition's boundary.
- Continued to increase neighborhood volunteer involvement on all committees and special events. Total Coalition volunteer hours for 2007 amounted to 1,280 in comparison to 1,050 for 2006 for an increase of 19.5%. At \$30/hr, volunteers contributed over \$38,000 in donated volunteer time to support Coalition projects.
- Our Coalition received the first-ever group award approved by the Deschutes County "Project Wildfire" Board of Directors in July 2007. The efforts with our partners and neighborhood leads toward wildfire fuel reduction will pay dividends for years to come.
- Continued to participate in the Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce activities for local business partnering and Coalition objectives exposure.
- On December 4, 2007, the BOD agreed to modify the organization's name to "Upper Deschutes River Coalition". Note: The new website address is: **www.udrc.org**.

II. Public Lands Results

- U.S. Forest Service continued to reduce wildfire fuel levels on the Coalition's west side. These activities include controlled prescribed burns, commercial logging and firewood supply for surrounding neighborhoods. Over 42% of public lands in our Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area have been treated to date.
- Developed via email a quick notification system to inform neighbors about impending daily prescribed burns and logging activities managed by the USFS.
- Procured from USFS and placed over 100+ boulders on USFS lands near Spring River and Oregon Water Wonderland II to reduce or stop vehicle traffic and support the new USFS Travel Management Plan.

III. Private Lands Results

- With the current 18 neighborhoods as Coalition members, over 5,000 private lot owners are faced with wildfire threats. With grant dollars coming from Western States Fuels Grant and National Forest Protection Fuels Reduction Grant, two fuel reduction contractors were hired to reduce wildfire fuel loads on 118 lots (97 acres).
- Communities treated included Deschutes River Recreation Homesites (DRRH) #1-5 and # 6, and Oregon Water Wonderland # I and # II. This includes public access roads & borders with high density fire threats. Projection for 2008 is 204 acres on private lands to be treated with Federal and State grant dollars.
- Deschutes County has also reduced fuel levels on 41 County owned 1-acre lots in 2007 within our Coalition WUI with a projection of 100 1-acre lots planned for 2008. As an active member of Project Wildfire, a county-based fuel reduction organization, Coalition representatives have been pro-active and assisted in CWPP implementation for other geographic areas in Deschutes County including the East-West CWPP which include Brothers and Alfalfa.
- Posted signs on treated lots which identified the Coalition as responsible for managing fuel reduction efforts through public grant support.

IV. Watershed Results

- Our Coalition has broadened its contact base with a number of river-focused organizations. These include Deschutes River Conservancy, Oregon Adopt-A-Rivers Program, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. We are supporting Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's stream bank restoration project and adding river rock to spawning beds in Fall and Spring Rivers.
- In September our Coalition members swept the Deschutes and Spring Rivers from LaPine State Park to Cardinal Bridge. Over 70+ volunteers and neighbors collected 1,200 + pounds of trash which was disposed at no cost through the South County's transfer station.

- Our Coalition started working actively to preserve and restore the historic General Patch Bridge which is located on South Century Drive crossing the Deschutes River. Our goal is to restore this bridge to provide a safe crossing for pedestrians and fishermen.
- Selected board members have been active in working with federal, state and local agencies to resolve the South County water nitrate issue equitably for all parties involved in this critical decision related to private lot septic systems.

V. Educational & Outreach Results

- Held first annual meeting with all neighborhoods and local neighbors in the area to highlight private and public lands and watershed activities. Over 80 people attended the event held on Deschutes River hosted by the Coalition on land owned by the Sunriver Owner's Association. Poster boards with pictures described all the Coalition's current support activities.
- Our website, www.udnrc.org has been continuously updated with new information and pictures regarding the Coalition's 2007 activities. Over 1,700 visitors have reviewed the site since January 1, 2007.
- Board members have continually promoted the Coalition's services and core values to their neighborhoods in 2007.

2008 Operations Plan

I. Administrative & Financial Plan

- Expand Coalition membership to include smaller neighborhoods within our Wildfire Urban Interface Boundary.
- Seek new grant funds for administrative and private lands fuel reduction projects on other high-risk wildfire neighborhoods through Marcia Williams, Project Wildfire (Deschutes County) and other partners.
- Expand private donation fund support throughout member neighborhoods including support from local realtors and lot owners benefiting from the Coalition's efforts to improve property values by reducing wildfire fuel levels on private lots.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive list of resident and non-resident lot owners in 18 coalition neighborhoods. Source lists from neighborhoods who already have a list. Continually update. Encourage neighborhoods who do not have a list to develop one.
- Increase the level of neighborhood volunteers in standing committees and special events.
- Establish a functional yet comprehensive budget for short range (2008) as well as long range (5 + years) to support professional planning for all 18 member neighborhoods.
- Pursue full time administrative (management) support through sustaining grants or private donations

II. Public Lands Plan

- Continue to partner with Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District related to Myst Logging Project, prescribed burns near neighborhoods, travel management rules and trail closures, use of USFS boulders to restrict created roads by ATV users, and improve implementation of the 1996 Upper Deschutes Wild and Scenic River and State Scenic Waterway Comprehensive Management Plan.
- Continue to hold quarterly meetings with USFS District Ranger and key supervisors and related BLM managers in our area.
- Continue to work closely with all local, state and federal agencies including Deschutes County Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to optimize the effectiveness of our common goals including fuel reduction, water quality/quantity issues, wildlife preservation, etc.

III. Private Lands Plan

- Develop accurate survey information identifying which lot owners have wildfire proofed their lots per SB 360 assessments.
- Wildfire proof 1/5 of the properties in Coalition neighborhoods by completing current grant funded work and securing funding for additional work.
- Continue program of certifying wildfire inspectors through ODF support and training.
- Expand fuel reduction into high priority neighborhoods including Sundance and Beaver Special Road District, plus others.
- Aggressively continue fuel reduction efforts in Oregon Water Wonderland Unit # 1 and Deschutes River Recreation Homesites #1-5 and #9 to treat 104 additional acres.
- Utilize all funds allocated by two fuel reduction grants by December 2008 to reduce wildfire fuel levels on private lots.

IV Watershed Plan

- Expand September 2008 Adopt-A-River Program to include Upper Deschutes from Wickiup to Benham Falls, Fall River, Spring River and Little Deschutes from Thousand Trails to the Deschutes. Involve all stakeholders in Coalition neighborhoods, Sunriver lot owners, visitors and volunteers from LaPine to Bend.
- Secure commitment to address the upgrade of General Patch Bridge from USFS. Secure donations from visitors groups, Sunriver Anglers and other related stakeholders.

- Help convene a group to review DEQ and USGS nitrate studies in Southern Deschutes County, confer with experts and produce a simplified report for Coalition members and homeowners in the area.
- Develop a process to ensure informed Coalition members attend all water quality meetings affecting our WUI, including Deschutes River Conservancy and the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council.

V. Education & Outreach Plan

- Hold our second Coalition annual luncheon meeting for our partners and all neighbors within Coalition boundary during the summer of 2008 near Deschutes River.
- Continue to update and improve the Coalition's website with useful information for all members, area visitors and prospective new residents, including active links to other agencies and organizations with common goals to ours (refer to www.udrc.org)
- Distribute updated brochure to all lot owners within Coalition boundaries with the objective to increase Coalition volunteers and private donations.
- Members of the education committee work with teaching staff, students and students' parents at Three Rivers School and Lapine Schools with a focus on increasing their knowledge of reducing wildfire fuel on their properties.
- Work with staff at the Sunriver Nature Center, High Desert Museum and Sunriver Owner's Association about the merits of wildfire fuel reduction issues.
- Formalize and communicate the Coalition's activities in publications including: Sunriver Scene, Bend Bulletin, Newberry Eagle and others.
- Partner with other CWPP's not only in Deschutes County but in Oregon and nationally to strengthen our position on fuel reduction and protecting our natural resources through collaborative efforts.
- Invest in and support seminars, conferences, and meetings where partnering can benefit the Coalition's mission.
- Maintain the level of professionalism in our management, members, and partners worthy of established Coalition goals, objectives, and standards.