



Detroit, Oregon Community Wildfire Protection Plan



An Action Plan for Wildfire Mitigation
May, 2017

This document is intended to educate the public on the ramifications of living in the wildland urban interface, including their responsibilities as landowners to reduce fire risk on their property and to provide safe access for emergency personnel and equipment. Homeowners building in high fire risk areas must understand how to make their properties more fire resistant by using proven fire safe construction and landscaping techniques, and they must have a realistic understanding of the capability of local fire service organizations to defend their property.

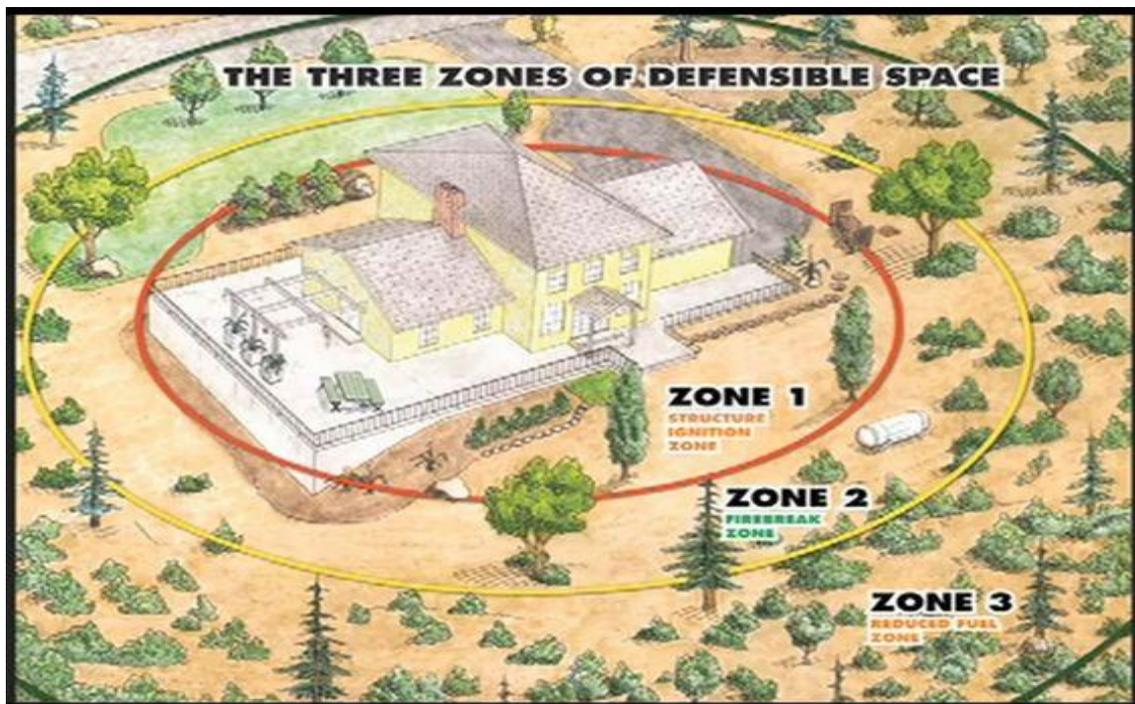
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Important Concepts:

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): Is defined as the area where homes and communities meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland vegetation. Wildfires that occur in the WUI can be extremely dangerous or destructive to lives and property.

Home Ignition Zone: Includes the home and an area surrounding the home within 100 to 200 feet. The potential for ignition depends on the home's exterior materials and design and the amount of heat to the home from the flames within the home ignition zone. Firebrand ignitions also depend on the home ignition zone either by igniting the home directly or igniting adjacent materials that heat the home to ignition.



Community Representatives

The following report is a collaborative effort among structural and wildland fire agencies and local community members. The representatives listed below comprise the core decision-making team responsible for this report and mutually agree on the plan's contents.

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1.) COMMUNITY INFORMATION & WILDFIRE EVALUATION

Community Description:

County: Marion

Latitude/Longitude: N 44° 44' 03" W 122° 09' 19"

Frontage Road: Hwy 22

Nearest Intersection: Breitenbush Rd. 46

Nearest Fire District: Idanha-Detroit RFPD

Community Size:

Population (2014) : 210

Number of Structures: 391

Estimated Acres: 287

Development Status (%): 10%-50

Community Organization: Community Planning Organization (CPO)

Contacts:

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Resident Permanent Population:

100-75% 75-50% 50-25% less than 25%

Wildfire Hazard Rating: **162** out of 254

Low Moderate High Extreme

(0-75) **(76-130)** **(130-149)** **(>150)**

Date Evaluated: March 6th, 2017.

Evaluation Process: The Community Evaluation to determine the Wildfire Hazard Rating and action items for the city of Detroit was completed in collaboration with Levi Hopkins (ODF Stewardship Forester), Blake Ellis (ODF Protection Supervisor), Jeff Yohe (Mayor of Idanha), Linda Stone (City of Idanha & IDRFPD), Andrea Martinez (IDRFPR), David Johnson (USFS Fire Operations Specialist) & John Manthe (City of Detroit). Participants were given a Community Evaluation form and asked to evaluate access, water, vegetation and structural ignitability.

Community Evaluation Highlights (Important Considerations):

1. Access – Narrow roads, dead ends, limited turnouts, vegetation overhanging roads.



There are many dead-end roads with little or no turnaround options, creating a scenario where backing out is the only option. Turnouts are limited throughout the community. It is recommended to enhance and create new turnouts where possible and post dead end signs where needed.



Roads throughout the community are narrow making it difficult for a large structural fire engine or tender to maneuver. Turnaround options should be enhanced at dead end streets, and surface roads should be widened by brushing and removing trees in the right-of-way. Most of the roads are crowded with low hanging limbs that can interfere with access of emergency vehicles, it should be made a priority to remove and maintain these low hanging limbs.

2. Heavy fuels adjacent of homes and infrastructure

A dense overstory throughout the community creates a continuous fuel scenario that would allow fire to continue to spread and climb to the crowns of trees. Above-ground propane tanks are prevalent in this community. Overstory thinning is recommended to reduce the horizontal continuous fuels. Fuel breaks in the form of trails or cleared roads will also break up the fuel.



3. Public Awareness/ Structural Ignitability – A large percentage of structures in this community are vacation homes, making it difficult to engage homeowners in wildfire education and risk reduction activities. There is also a very high recreation population during the summer which increases the wildfire ignitions.

The structures in this community are primarily made of wood with less than 50% having non-fire resistant siding. Most homes do have metal roofs. It is recommended that homeowners replace wood siding and roof materials with less flammable synthetic options such as HardiPlank or stucco.

4. Ingress/Egress

There is only one way in and out of the community, and there is little opportunity to create secondary access here. This could present an issue during a wildfire event, as people are trying to evacuate while response vehicles attempt to access the community. It is critical that the community is aware that evacuation is imminent and which routes to take. An evacuation route with signage is highly recommended.

Successful Firewise Modifications:

The city of Detroit participated in a fuels reduction/defensible space clean-up day. Community members had a debris disposal site available for 12 hours. This site was in a central location where ODF, USFS, and Idanha-Detroit fire personnel were available to assist the landowners with unloading the debris. The pile will be disposed of in the near future by ODF and fire department personnel. A total of 40 community members visited the dump site with a combined total of 464.25 hours towards fuels reduction and defensible space around their homes.



Educational/Outreach Event: ODF, USFS, and Idanha-Detroit RFPD employees were on site all 12 hours of the dump site to educate the community members about firewise and the importance of defensible space around their homes. This was also an opportunity to handout prevention and firewise information to the landowners. The CPO is planning on making this an annual event for the community.



2.) WILDFIRE HISTORY & FOREST CONDITIONS

Relative Frequency: Moderate amount of annual initial attack situations, occasional extended attack situations.

Common Causes: Lightning, Human caused (debris burning & escaped campfires)

Areas of Future Concern: Breitenbush, Kinney Creek, French Creek, Blowout Road

The most recent wildfires to threaten the Detroit and Idanha Communities would be the Kinney Creek Fire, Niagara Fire, Church Fire, and the B&B fire. Kinney Creek Fire, which is under investigation started on August 20, 2015 on Willamette National Forest Land. This fire was quickly extinguished and under control in four operation periods however, the 11.3 acre fire had potential to spread to adjacent lands and have a major impact on recreation at Detroit Lake. The Niagara Fire started on July 4th, 2015 and quickly grew to the final fire size of 79 acres in fuel a model of mixed conifer and second growth. This fire had a very high potential of spreading to Willamette National Forest Land, public and private forest lands, campgrounds, and wildland urban interface (WUI) communities including Detroit and Idanha. The Church Fire started September 14, 2014 on private land one mile south of Idanha. The fire had significant potential for quick fire spread and required the use of a helicopter and heavy equipment to get under control and keep the fire at 1.25 acres. Lastly the B&B fire started August 19, 2003 and was not contained till September 26, 2003. This fire can be seen traveling across the Santiam Pass and the fire consumed 90,769 acres of the Cascade Mountains down to mineral soil. This fire shows the true devastation of what a heavy fuel load can do to a landscape.

The communities are dominated by a rather severe fire regime, with mature Douglas fir and cedar being the predominant species. Although fires in this type of stands occur less frequently with a return interval of 200+ years, there is a much higher mortality rate and a high probability of stand-replacing crown fires that leave little to no residual vegetation. The second fire regime is rather moderate in characteristic, as it is dominated by ground fuels that have a lower severity rating and a shorter return interval.

Because wildland fires are being effectively suppressed, the patterns and characteristics of fires are changing. Vegetation that historically would have been minimized by frequent fires has become more dominant. Over time, some species have also become more susceptible to disease and insect damage, which leads to an increase in mortality. The resulting accumulation of dead wood and debris creates the types of fuels that promote intense and rapid spreading of wildfires.

Areas subject to wildland urban interface fires have a very different fire hazard characteristics. The defining characteristic of the wildland urban interface (WUI) area is that structures are built in areas with continuous vegetative fuel loads. In other words, structures are built in areas subject to wildfires. When wildland fires occur in such areas, they tend to spread quickly and structures become more of a fuel load for the wildfire to consume. The siting of homes has also changed overtime. Historically pioneering families built their homes in low lands, close to water and the fields they intended to work. In the last 30 years, rural homes have increasingly been built in locations chosen because of the view or other amenities. This is especially true in the Detroit and Idanha communities due to the lake and all the vacation homes that are only occupied in the summer months. This makes homes more difficult to defend against wildland fires.

Fire risk to structures and occupants in the Detroit and Idanha communities is high due to significant vegetative fuel loads and limited fire suppression resources, as compared to urban or suburban areas. Narrow and winding roads and driveways, dead ends, and lack of turnaround space impede access by firefighting apparatus. The reduced availability of firefighting personnel and apparatus and longer response times increase the probability that a small wildland fire or single structure fire will continue to spread. Heavy fuel loads on Forest Service land is also an issue in the Detroit and Idanha communities.

4.) GOALS/OBJECTIVES

Goal: Increase community wildfire awareness by educating the local residents and visitors about wildfire prevention, the wildfire hazard of the area, and the restrictions that occur during fire season to help prevent wildfires.

Objective: Set clear priorities for the implementation of wildfire mitigation in Detroit. This includes prioritized recommendations that the community, individual landowners and governmental agencies can take to protect lives, property, infrastructure and forestland from wildfires.

5.) PRIORTIZED MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were developed by the Detroit CPO, ODF, USFS and Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Protection. A priority order was determined based on the effectiveness of mitigation activities for significantly reducing wildfire hazards and resources available for implementing projects.

Proposed Community Fuels Reduction Priorities:

Partners for Implementation: Detroit CPO, Homeowners, Idanha-Detroit RFPD, USFS, ODF

1. Conduct an annual Firewise Community Clean-up Day.
2. Create Firewise Defensible Space around structures and infrastructure: cut, prune, and thin vegetation at least 30 feet around homes and around above ground propane tanks.
3. Trim all trees overhanging access roads 14' high or high enough for emergency vehicles to pass.
4. Create fuel break along the Northeast border of the city on adjacent USFS land.
5. Remove and maintain ladder fuels around structures and within the 100 foot zone around structures.

Proposed Structural Ignitability Reduction Priorities:

Actions to be taken by homeowners.

1. Keep roofs and gutters clean and free of debris.
2. Replace wood siding and roof materials with less flammable synthetic options such as HardiPlank or stucco siding and metal roofing when possible.

Proposed Education and Outreach Priorities:

Partners for Implementation: Detroit CPO, Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Department, USFS, ODF

1. Hold an annual Firewise education day. This will include concepts, techniques, and training to complete fuel reduction and structure improvements on individual properties.
2. ODF and USFS will attend community events (when staffing allows) to educate the public about fire prevention.
3. Create newsletters or mailings to handout throughout the community in the spring and early summer about wildfire prevention and mitigation.
4. Encourage homeowners to register their telephone numbers on the County's Emergency Notification System.

Proposed Emergency Operations Priorities:

Partners: Detroit CPO, Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Protection District, Marion County, USFS, ODF, Sheriff's Department.

1. Create a wildfire evacuation route and post signs throughout the community.
2. Post "dead end" signs as appropriate.

6.) DETROIT FIREWISE ACTION PLAN

Action	Partners	Timeline	Funding Needs	Potential Resources
Conduct a Firewise Community Clean-up Day.	CPO, ODF, IDRFDP, USFS	May 6 th , 2017	None	Title III, USFS, or ODF
Create Firewise Defensible Space around structures and infrastructure.	Homeowners	Ongoing	Grant funding as it becomes available.	Title III, ODF, USFS
Install a fire prevention sign in the city of Detroit.	ODF	End of 2017	NA	NA
Hold an annual Firewise education/work day.	CPO, ODF, IDRFDP, USFS	Once/year	NA	NA
Educate community about wildfire prevention at public events.	ODF, USFS, IDRFDP	Ongoing	NA	NA
If funding/resources become available, provide a fuel break on NE part of town on adjacent USFS ground.	ODF, USFS	Dependent on funding	Grant funding as it becomes available.	Title III, ODF, USFS
Create an evacuation route with signage.	Marion County, ODF, IDRFDP	Dependent on funding	Funding for signage of evacuation route.	Title III, ODF
Annually review the Detroit CWPP.	CPO, ODF, IDRFDP, USFS	Once/year	NA	NA

The following agencies/ organizations are committed to implementing this plan:

James Trett, Mayor of Detroit

Date

Andrea Martinez, IDRFDP firefighter/Paramedic

Date

David Johnson, USFS Fire Operation Specialist

Date

Levi Hopkins, ODF Stewardship Forester

Date

7.) WILDFIRE PRE-SUPPRESSION PLAN

A. Wildfire Protection Responsibility

Structural Protection: Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Protection District

Wildland Protection: Oregon Department of Forestry – Private, County, State and BLM Lands
Willamette National Forest – USFS Lands

B. Incident Command Post Location: Oregon Department of Forestry- North Cascade District
22965 N. Fork Rd. SE
Lyons, OR 97358

C. Incident Staging Area Location: Old Detroit Elementary School

D. Medical Unit Staging Area Location: Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Department
160 Detroit Ave
Detroit, OR 97342

E. Alarm Response –

First Alarm

Fire Department/Rescue Squad	Travel Distance	Response Time
Idanha Detroit Rural Fire Protection District E59, E58, Brush 59, Rescue 58	.1 mile	3-5 minutes (if staffed)

Second Alarm (report to designated staging area)

Fire Department/Rescue Squad	Travel Distance	Response Time
Gates Rural Fire Department	17.3 miles	22 minutes

F. Air Support

Fixed Wing

North Cascade District orders retardant through the ODF Salem Coordination Center (SCC). Refer to the Aviation Procedures Manual. Call Molalla Oregon Department of Forestry for more details: (503) 829-2216.

Helicopter

North Cascade District orders helicopters. Refer to the Aviation Procedures Manual. Call the Molalla Unit of the Oregon Department of Forestry for more details: (503) 829-2216.

G. Water Availability (accessible to fire engines)

Location: Hydrants

Description: Full pressure hydrant system, pump backup with emergency power.

Alternative Water Sources: Various draft sites are available along the North Santiam River and the Detroit Lake.

H. Communications

Name	Phone Number	Radio Frequencies
Dispatch/Emergency Services		
METCOM	503-859-2151	VHF- South 1 (Command/operations)
Marion County Sheriff	503-588-5032	
North Cascade Dispatch	503-829-4051	
Local Department of Forestry Office		
Santiam Unit	503-859-2151	High Heaven (Command) RX151.20500 Tone: 179.9 TX159.43500 Tone: 179.9
Molalla Unit (Dispatch)	503-829-4051	Halls Ridge (Command) RX151.20500 Tone:179.9 TX159.43500 Tone:162.2 Red Net (Operations) RX151.34000 Tone:156.7 TX151.34000 Tone: 156.7
Other		
US Forest Service	503-622-3191	USFS Coffin (Command) RX 164.91250 Tone 103.5 TX 164.10000 Tone 131.8
Eugene Interagency Communication Center	Coming Soon	FS PROJ4 (Operations) RX166.56250 Tone 000.0 TX 166.56250 Tone 103.5
Bureau of Land Management	541-225-6400	BLM HOREB (Command) RX 171.67500 Tone: None TX 164.75000 Tone: 167.9 BLM Fire (Operations) RX 173.6750 Tone: None TX 173. 6750 Tone: None
ODOT	503- 283-5859	

I. Evacuation

This is a one way in/out community and evacuation would be onto Hwy 22.

J. Resource List:

The North Cascade District of the Oregon Department of Forestry has prepared a Mobilization Plan, including contact information for resources (lodging, food, equipment operators, and local, state and federal contact agencies) that may be used during an emergency. These resources have been gathered and listed for Wildland Fire use and would need to be contacted to see if they are available for other use. The Mobilization Plan is updated annually.