



COMMUNITY WILDFIRE
PROTECTION PLAN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Wallowa County begins revision of Community Wildfire Protection Plan,
seeks public input at community meetings across county**

[ENTERPRISE, OREGON, October 22, 2024] In a proactive step to protect residents, homes, and the region's natural resources, Wallowa County is announcing the launch of the their Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) revision, and are seeking the input of county residents through participation in public meetings and an informational survey.

Initially written in 2006 and revised in 2017 under the umbrella of the National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy (CWS), the CWPP aims to reduce wildfire risk through collaboration with local communities, state and federal partners, area tribes, and private landowners.

Developed with input from community stakeholders, the Plan outlines key strategies to minimize fire hazards and enhance wildfire preparedness across vulnerable areas of the county. By focusing on prevention, community engagement, and improved emergency response, the plan will help strengthen the county's resilience to wildfires and how to live in a fire adapted landscape.

Accomplishments since 2017 CWPP. Since the 2017 revision, over \$9 million has been invested in forest restoration and fire mitigation projects in Wallowa County. Projects include the creation of a county Firewise Community program, the purchase of a wood chipper and several fire engines, and increased cross-boundary participation on federal and private lands to address fire risk across property lines resulting in over 40,000 acres of fuels reduction, thinning and defensible space projects.

Jenny Reinhardt, the Wallowa County Firewise Coordinator and writer of the 2017 CWPP revision, is proud to see what has been accomplished: "Having written the 2017 CWPP, it has

been very rewarding to be involved in the planning process, seeing the plan implemented on the ground, and the benefits of the implementation. It's made great progress since 2017, including seeing the Firewise program come to fruition and being a part of that now. I'm excited to be helping with the 2024 revision of the CWPP as well."

Collaboration. Throughout the development and revision stages, the county has relied on the input and expertise of many local, state, tribal and federal groups to provide feedback on the plan. Those partners include the Oregon Department of Forestry, Wallowa County Fire Departments, Wallowa County Soil and Water Conservation District, Wallowa County Government, Wallowa County Firewise Communities, the Forest Service, Wallowa Resources, local property owners and many others.

"Collaboration with other agencies is key to successfully meeting the three goals of the CWPP," stated Paul Karvoski, Wallowa County Emergency Manager. "Landowners being proactive in wildfire education and mitigation increases the likelihood of their properties withstanding a wildfire, particularly when it is in conjunction with treatments across ownership lines."

Community engagement & upcoming events: Wallowa County residents and landowners are encouraged to share their concerns and provide their input through a series of public meetings and a community survey.

[Link to Community Survey.](#) Please fill out the survey at tinyurl.com/7vudwtx7

[Community Meetings.](#) The county-wide community meeting will be Monday, November 4th from 5:30-7:30pm at the Hurricane Creek Grange (82930 Airport Ln, Joseph, OR 97846) and will focus on concerns, opportunities, and project ideas throughout Wallowa County. We want your input - please invite your neighbors! Food and drinks will be provided. There will be additional public meetings in various communities around the county; details will be posted as they become available on the website below.

[For more information:](#) visit the Wallowa County CWPP Website at <https://www.co.wallowa.or.us/land-use-and-development/page/community-wildfire-protection-plan> or contact Katy Nesbitt at knesbitt@co.wallowa.or.us