

Benton County, Oregon

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Update, 2016



Timberhill Fire
Sept. 5, 2014

Adopted by the Benton County Board of Commissioners
October 4, 2016

Cover Photo – The Timberhill Fire

The Timberhill Fire was reported on Friday, September 5, 2014, at 8:34 pm, in conditions typical of Fire Season in Benton County: the weather was hot and dry, the temperature was 81°F, relative humidity was 19% and winds were 12-19 mph NNW.

The fire started as the result of human activity in dry grass in the Timberhill Natural Area in North Corvallis, about 250 yards east-northeast of the intersection of 29th Street and Bunting Drive. The Timberhill Natural Area is comprised of open meadows with tall grasses, scattered stands of oak, hawthorn, and fir trees, and associated woody brush such as blackberry. The natural area is surrounded on all sides by residential neighborhoods, with homes numbering in the hundreds.

Due to the hot weather, strong winds, and low humidity, the fire rapidly grew to 87 acres, and prompted evacuations of 221 residences. The fire burned in Corvallis City Limits, across 6 different properties, and fortunately only one structure was damaged.

Fire crews swiftly responded with 35 engines, 1 dozer, a five-person hand crew and numerous overhead and fire supervisors. Responding were engines from 15 fire departments: Corvallis, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Philomath, Monroe, Kings Valley, Alsea, Adair, Polk County #1, Junction City, Albany, Lebanon, Tangent, Halsey, Shedd, Brownsville, and Scio, as well as the Corvallis Police Department, the Benton County Sheriff, and the REACH helicopter.

The Timberhill Fire cost more than \$72,000.00 to suppress and was not declared out until September 13, 2014.

This fire should serve as a reminder that it is not a matter of "if" a wildfire will start, but a matter of "when". Wildfires can, and do, happen here.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 - Background	4
CWPP History	4
Purpose	5
Goals.....	5
Integration with Other Plans	6
Chapter 2 - Process	7
Planning Process.....	7
Planning Team.....	7
Public Involvement.....	8
Chapter 3 - Benton County Characteristics, updated	10
Population.....	10
Weather.....	12
Fire Districts and Partner Agencies	13
Chapter 4 - Fire Protection Issues and Action Items	30
Recent Wildland Fires.....	30
Authority for Wildfire Emergency Evacuation	31
Fire Protection Issues	31
Tasks Completed	32
Tasks Partially Completed and Continuing.....	34
Tasks Ongoing	35
Tasks Requiring Re-assessment.....	36
Emergent issues.....	38
Updated Action Items	38
Proposed Project Areas.....	41

Chapter 1 - Background

Significant Changes Since Previous Plan

The purpose and goal statements have not changed, and under "Integration with Other Plans" the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy has been added

CWPP History

In 2009 Benton County's first Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed after a year-long process, and adopted by the County Board of Commissioners. Involved in the Plan's development were representatives of fire protection and land management agencies county-wide as well as community members and groups.

This plan has helped guide community education, risk assessment, and fuel reduction projects, as well as planning and implementing infrastructure improvements to reduce wildfire risk. We have had some great successes over the past seven years, and now it is time to update the plan and determine what has been completed, what changes have occurred in our communities, and what is yet to do.

Mission: To make Benton County residents, businesses, and resources less vulnerable to the negative effects of wildland fires; and

Vision: To promote awareness of the countywide wildland fire hazard, and propose workable solutions to reduce the wildfire potential.

Purpose

The purpose of the CWPP, as articulated in the mission and vision statements jointly developed at the Plan's inception, remain relevant and will guide this update. They are:

Goals

1. Identify and map Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) boundaries.
2. Identify and evaluate hazardous fuel conditions with an emphasis on communities adjacent to forest lands, prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments, and recommend the types and methods of treatment necessary on private, state, and federal lands to protect the communities.
3. Prioritize the protection of people, structures, infrastructure, natural resources, and unique ecosystems that contribute to our way of life and the sustainability of the local and regional economy.
4. Where fires would threaten communities, reduce the area of land burned and losses experienced from wildfires in the wildland-urban interface.
5. Develop regulatory measures such as building codes and road standards specifically targeted to reduce the wildland fire potential and reduce the potential for loss of life and property.
6. Educate communities about the unique challenges of wildfire in the wildland-urban interface.
7. Provide a plan that balances private property rights of landowners in Benton County with personal safety and responsibility.
8. Improve fire agency awareness of wildland fire threats, vulnerabilities, and mitigation opportunities or options.
9. Research structural ignitability risk factors and recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures.
10. Improve county and local fire agency eligibility for funding assistance (National Fire Plan, Healthy Forest Restoration Act, FEMA, and other sources) to reduce wildfire hazards, prepare residents for wildfire situations, and enhance fire agency response capabilities.
11. Provide opportunities for meaningful discussions among community members and local, state, and federal government representatives regarding their priorities for local fire protection and forest management.
12. Develop an inventory and regular maintenance schedule for both public and private infrastructural components.
13. Meet or exceed the requirements of the National Fire Plan and FEMA for a county level Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

14. Identify areas of inadequate fire protection, such as gaps in district coverage, and develop solutions.
15. Develop a strategy for maintenance and regular updates of the CWPP.
16. Continue collaborative efforts among Fire Defense Board, local jurisdictions, and other players to solve problems beyond the CWPP planning process.

Integration with Other Plans

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan builds on and supplements the wildfire chapter of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) approved Benton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (2016). This update, after adoption, shall be incorporated as an element the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The goals of the update process will continue to include integration with the National Fire Plan, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, and the Disaster Mitigation Act. The plan utilizes the best and most appropriate science from all partners as well as local and regional knowledge about wildfire risks and fire behavior, while meeting the needs of local citizens and recognizing the significance wildfire can have to the regional economy.

An additional effort has evolved since the CWPP's 2009 adoption – the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, a federally-led strategic push to work collaboratively among all stakeholders (national, regional, and local) and across all landscapes, using best science, to make meaningful progress towards three goals:

1. Resilient Landscapes
2. Fire Adapted Communities
3. Safe and Effective Wildfire Response

Following its formal approval by the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Interior in 2010, the Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy is to be revised at least once during each five year period to address any changes with respect to landscape, vegetation, climate, and weather conditions.

The National Strategy's stated vision: "To safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a nation, to live with wildland fire."

Chapter 2 - Process

Significant Changes Since Previous Plan

The planning process for this Update incorporates elements from the original CWPP and adds elements that have been identified since 2009

Planning Process

The Benton County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update 2016 was developed through a collaborative process, as was the original 2009 CWPP. The update process included six phases:

1. **Update Data** about the extent and periodicity of the wildfire hazard in and around Benton County, noting recent wildfire events.
2. **Verify and Update Field Observations and Assessments** about risks, locations of structures and infrastructure relative to risk areas, access, and potential treatments.
3. **Update Mapping** of data relevant to pre-wildfire mitigation and treatments, structures, resource values, infrastructure, risk assessments, and related data.
4. **Public Involvement** to engage the public through news releases, public meetings, public mail surveys, public review of draft documents, and acknowledgement of the updated plan by the signatory representatives.
5. **Update and Prioritize Action Items** to remove tasks accomplished, add and prioritize existing and emergent issues requiring action.
6. **Analysis and Drafting of the Report** to integrate the results of the planning process, provide ample review and integration of committee and public input, and signing of the final document.

Planning Team

Facilitating the CWPP Update from Benton County were Patrick MacMeekin of Oregon Department of Forestry and Chris Bentley representing the Benton County Community Development Department. Active participants include the Benton County Fire Defense Board (FDB), chaired by Monroe Fire Department Chief, Rick Smith. The FDB is composed of all local fire service organizations as well as interested federal and state agencies, County departments, and emergency management and response organizations.

The multiple jurisdictions, organizations, and agencies represented on the Fire Defense Board and Update Team included:

- Adair Rural Fire Protection District
- Albany Fire Department
- Alsea Fire and Rescue District
- Benton County
- Blodgett-Summit Rural Fire Protection District
- Bureau of Land Management
- City of Adair Village
- City of Albany
- City of Corvallis
- City of Monroe
- City of Philomath
- Corvallis Fire and Rescue
- Corvallis Rural Fire Department
- Hoskins-Kings Valley Rural Fire Protection District
- Monroe Rural Fire Protection District
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon State University
- Philomath Fire and Rescue District
- Starker Forests, Inc.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- West Oregon Forest Protection Association

Public Involvement

The public was encouraged via press releases, newspaper advertisements, and direct email announcements to attend an open forum on June 22 at the Corvallis Benton County Public Library. This forum described the CWPP update process, provided information about specific risk elements, and solicited public comments regarding concerns and suggestions.

The meeting was sparsely attended, which may reflect the wet spring conditions existing at the time, and the fact that so far this early in the year wildfires in our region have not been newsworthy. However, the citizens that attended were interested in learning more

about wildfire risk in their neighborhoods, and expressed concerns that wildfire safety is an issue that public agencies should continue to address through education, planning and regulation.

Chapter 3 - Benton County Characteristics, updated

Significant Changes Since Previous Plan

Population figures and forecasts for Benton County have been updated; a section on vulnerable populations has been added; the length of fire season shows a considerable increase; each fire district's page has been updated to reflect current demographics and issues of concern; and a section describing Benton County's Firewise Communities has been added.

Population

Benton County's population according to the 2010 Census was 85,579, and increased to 90,005 in 2015, according to Portland State University's Population Research Center. Distribution of population is presented in the table below.

Table 3.1 - Population: 2010 Census, 2015 Estimate, and 2040 Forecast for Benton County and Cities

Area	2010 Census	2015 Estimate	2040 Forecast
Benton County	85,579	90,005	105,050
Adair Village	840	845	
Corvallis	54,462	57,390	
Monroe	617	620	
North Albany	6,463	8,276	
Philomath	4,584	4,650	
Unincorporated Areas	18,613	18,224	

Source: Portland State University, Population Research Center, "Annual Population Estimates", 2014.

The County Coordinated Population Forecast projects that by 2040 Benton County's population will increase to 105,050.¹

Population Vulnerabilities *(From the Benton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan 2016)*

The socio-demographic qualities of the community population such as language, race and ethnicity, age, income, and educational attainment are significant factors that can influence the community's ability to cope, adapt to and recover from natural disasters. Historically, 80 percent of the disaster burden falls on the public. Of this number, a disproportionate burden is placed upon special needs groups, particularly children, older people, the disabled, minorities, and low-income persons. Population vulnerabilities can be reduced or eliminated with proper outreach and community mitigation planning.

- As of 2014, approximately 13% of Benton County's population is over the age of 64; that number is projected to rise to about 18% (approximately 7,000) by 2035.
- The Benton County age dependency ratio² is 37.2, which is lower than that of the State of Oregon (48.6); the age dependency figure for the county is expected to increase to 45.4 by the year 2035.
- Approximately 9.4% of Benton County population over age 64 lives alone; this percentage is greatest in Corvallis.
- Approximately 18% of Adair Village households are single-parent.
- Benton County's real median income is decreasing, with the largest decreases in Adair Village and Philomath (although both of these communities are above the county median income).
- Approximately 22.7% of the total Benton County population lived at or below the poverty line in 2014, with 14.4% of children. Corvallis has the highest percentage of total population in poverty (29.5%, 14,720).
- While over 94% of the population over 25 has graduated high school or higher and more than 50% have a bachelor's degree or higher, the City of Monroe has a lower percentage of high school graduates or those with bachelor's degrees.
- Approximately 10% of the Benton County population is estimated to have a disability. Of that, 3,611 individuals over 64 (32.0%) are disabled.

¹ Office of Economic Analysis, Department of Administrative Services, State of Oregon, Long Term County Forecast.

² Dependency Ratio: the ratio of population typically not in the work force (less than 15, greater than 64)

- Nearly 50% of Benton County renters spend more than 35% of their income on housing. For the cities, those percentages are: 38% in Adair Village, 52% in Corvallis, 17% in Monroe, and 43% in Philomath.

The noted population vulnerabilities are of importance when considering wildfire outreach and education efforts, and for specific neighborhoods as they plan inclusively for communication and assistance.

Weather

Weather conditions contribute significantly to determining fire behavior. Wind, moisture, temperature, and relative humidity ultimately determine the rates at which fuels dry and vegetation cures, and whether fuel conditions become dry enough to sustain ignition. Once conditions are capable of sustaining a fire, atmospheric stability and wind speed and direction can have significant effects on fire behavior. Winds fan fires with oxygen, increasing the rate at which fire spreads across the landscape. Additionally, the effects of climate change have begun to become apparent in the local fire season³. Trends have shown rising temperatures throughout the year are causing fire season to begin earlier, and last longer, with more extreme high temperatures and extreme low humidity measurements. This shift allows fuels to cure⁴ for longer periods of time throughout the summer months and as a result, increases periods of “High” fire danger and “Extreme” fire danger during the fire season.

³ Fire season is defined under **ORS 477.505**

(1) “When conditions of fire hazard exist in a forest protection district or any part thereof, the state forester may designate for that district or any part thereof the date of the beginning of a fire season for that year. The fire season shall continue for that district or part thereof until ended by order of the state forester when conditions of fire hazard no longer exist in that district or part thereof.”

(2) “The state forester may, during the same year and for the same district under circumstances similar to those described in subsection (1) of this section, designate one or more subsequent fire seasons.”

The State Forester designates a representative for each district to decide when to go into fire season. The district foresters jointly decide with their neighboring districts when to declare fire season based on several factors, most importantly fuel moistures. When fuel moistures become low enough they constitute “conditions of fire hazard”. Also considered is expected weather pattern.

⁴ Drying and browning of herbaceous vegetation due to mortality or senescence, and also loss of live fuel moisture content of woody fuel following mechanically-caused mortality (e.g., woody debris slash. From the Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, 2008

Table 3.2 - Increase in length of fire season 2011-2015			
Year	Fire Season start date	Fire Season end date	Length (days)
2011	7/11	10/3	84
2012	7/11	10/16	97
2013	7/2	9/25	85
2014	7/1	10/14	105
2015	6/16	10/26	132
2016	7/5	10/4	91

Weather is the most unpredictable component governing fire behavior, constantly changing in time and across the landscape. Weather includes temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, atmospheric stability, cloud cover, and precipitation.

During the 2016 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update, the Steering Committee for this effort determined that based on the available data and research, the **probability of experiencing a wildfire is “high”**, meaning at least one incident is likely within the next 35-year period.

Fire Districts and Partner Agencies

Fire protection in Benton County is the responsibility of many districts and agencies, working in coordinated partnership. Structural fire protection in the county falls to ten districts, with the benefit of mutual aid agreements among the districts. In addition, forestlands are protected by partnerships between Oregon Department of Forestry, Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon State University Research Forests, and the Western Oregon Forest Protective Association. On the pages that follow, each partner’s capability and current issues of concern are described.

A new partnership, the cooperation with communities that have attained Firewise Communities USA status, is described following the fire-fighting agency section, and Benton County’s Firewise Communities are listed and mapped.

Fire Districts

Adair Rural Fire Protection District



District Summary: Adair Rural Fire Protection District encompasses Adair Village and the surrounding approximately 18 square miles. The district boundary extends from one mile south of Adair Village to the northern County line. On the east, it is bounded by the Willamette Pacific rail line, and on the west, it takes in the Tampico Road and Soap Creek Road areas. The main fire station is located in Adair Village and the second station is on Soap Creek Road. Both stations have installed emergency backup generators within the past few years, and the substation has added 20K gallons of water storage. The District responds to all types of emergencies including fire, medical, and rescue and is staffed by 13-17 volunteer firefighters. All firefighters are required to be trained to NFPA Firefighter 1 and EMS First Responder levels. The rescue squad vehicle serves as an emergency medical quick response unit and the Corvallis Fire Department ambulance provides full emergency ambulance service.

Issues of Concern: The majority of residential growth in this district is occurring within the City Limits of Adair Village; and the 2010 annexation of 127 acres will result in the addition of approximately 400 new homes, thus an increase in calls. Homes on acreage exist in the rural areas, with a low potential for new dwellings due to restrictive zoning. The District's primary areas of concern for wildland fire are Trillium Lane, Coffin Butte, Soap Creek, and Arboretum Roads.

Inadequate access into new and existing structures in the rural area continues to be problematic for the District, particularly the lack of standards and a maintenance program for private bridges. This issue has been mitigated to some extent by requiring 9-10K gallons of water storage for each new rural development; but the relative high cost of load-rating the bridges (~\$4K/each) has proved to be a barrier.

Due to the District's reliance on volunteer help, maintaining a viable work force is a continuing challenge. New recruits are rare and the availability of daytime responders is limited. Despite obstacles, this District has progressed from ISO 4 to ISO 3 in recent years.





FIRE DEPARTMENT

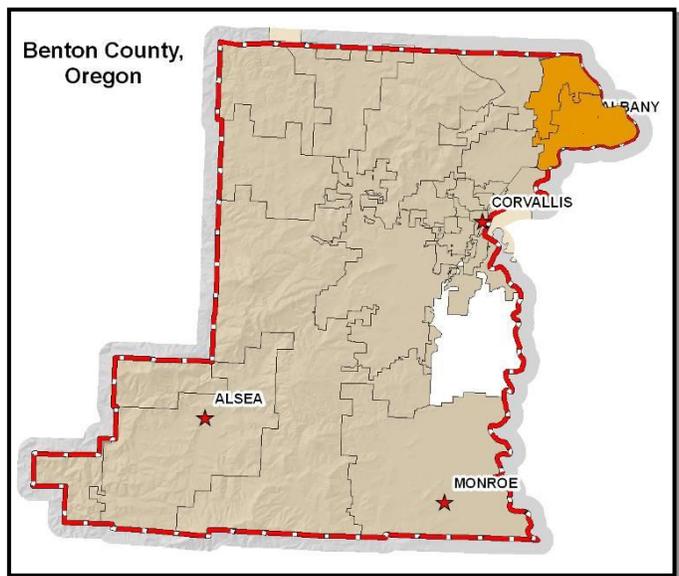
Albany Fire Department

District Summary: The City of Albany Fire Department includes portions of the City located in Benton County. Protection of the rural areas of northeast Benton County is provided by the North Albany Rural Fire District and Palestine Rural Fire District under contract, a total of 26 square miles. Albany's 2015 population in Benton County was 6,463 with approximately 1,684 residents in North Albany Rural and 989 residents in Palestine Rural fire protection districts.

The Albany Fire Department operates out of four stations with the Benton County station located on Gibson Hill Rd. The Department is a career organization with 64 firefighting personnel, and 4 administrative staff that respond to emergencies in command roles. All personnel are trained for wildland response and suppression vehicles are equipped to address wildland risks.

Issues of Concern: North Albany has experienced tremendous growth in the last ten years and continues to be one of the fastest-growing areas in Benton County. Some of the new development has taken place in areas that were previously allowed to develop with inadequate considerations for access and/or with inadequate consideration given to water availability, fire resistant construction, and other techniques that would minimize the wildland fire risks.

There is also a lack of defensible space surrounding existing structures, and numerous privately owned bridges with unknown load ratings and steep road grades that make it difficult or impossible to gain access to structures. Long narrow driveways with no turnarounds or safety zones and no alternate escape routes are also common, as well as prolonged response times due to lengthy travel distances from the closest fire station.



Alsea Rural Fire Protection District

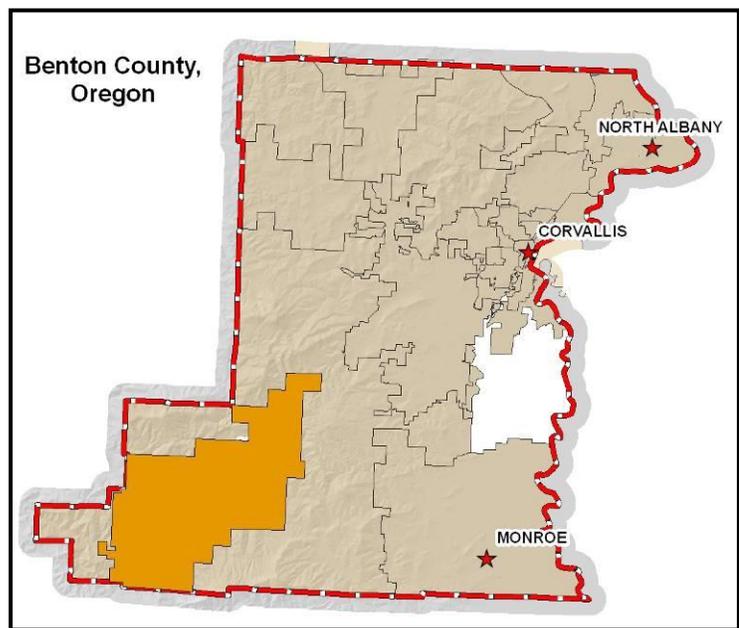
District Summary: The Alsea Rural Fire Protection District commences in the east at Marys Peak Road and Highway 34. It extends twenty three miles to the west and terminates at Fall Creek Road. To the southwest, the District includes portions of the Alsea-Deadwood Highway into Lobster Valley. The total District coverage is approximately 88 square miles. The primary station is located in Alsea with an additional sub-station located in Lobster Valley. The District currently has 22 volunteers. The responders are on an on-call basis with the station unmanned most of the time. Building and equipment maintenance is largely provided by the volunteers.



Issues of Concern: The last two decades have seen little or no growth in the community. A number of forest-related industries, including the U.S. Forest Service Office, have closed due to economic conditions.

The original CWPP noted a need for water hydrants in a forest interface portion of the unincorporated community of Alsea, and this project was completed with Title III grant funding in 2010.

In the past five years Alsea area residents have organized around issues of emergency preparedness and response. They have made progress in providing infrastructure and planning for natural disasters that could impact this isolated community. Recent efforts have resulted in an emergency generator for the Alsea water system, and community planning for wildfire evacuation.



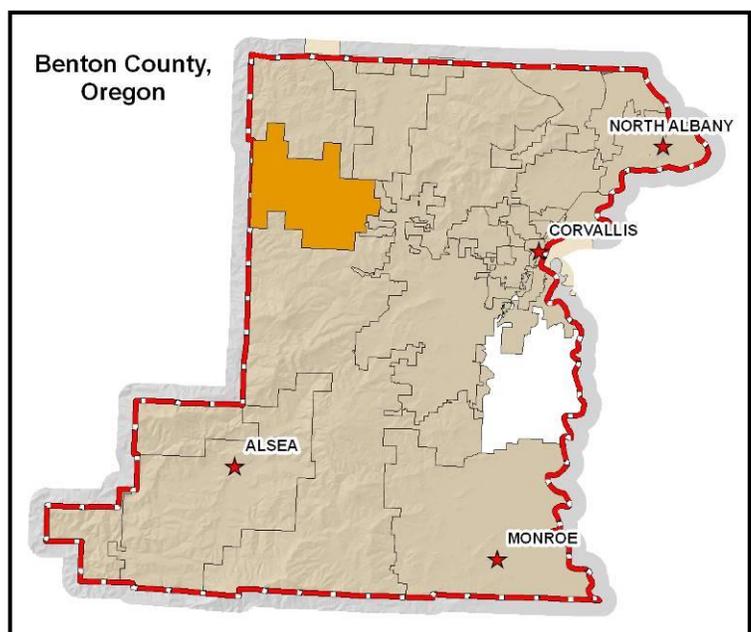
Blodgett-Summit Rural Fire Protection District



District Summary:

The Blodgett-Summit RFPD provides emergency medical and fire protection to the communities of Blodgett and Summit on the western edge of Benton County. The district covers 32 square miles and contains approximately 226 dwellings and 450 residents. Most of the area is in timber or grazing land. There are 18 miles of paved roads and 12 miles of gravel roads. The department also responds to medical emergencies in an additional 30 square miles outside of our district but within Benton County. The district includes approximately 7 miles of US Highway 20, a major transportation route between the Willamette Valley and the Central Coast and Coast Range for tourists, commerce, and commuters. The district is crossed by BPA high-voltage lines and the Willamette Pacific Railroad.

Issues of Concern: Major concerns for the District include: wildland fires, high-speed motor vehicle collisions on Highway 20, logging and farming accidents, local flooding of the Marys River, Tum Tum Creek, and Norton Creek, black ice, ice storms, and wind storms, railroad-associated fires and hazardous materials spills, suicide by young people, isolation in the event of a major earthquake, residential access issues due to narrow and long driveways and inadequate bridges, and seasonal problems with water sources. The District has two stations; a main station in Blodgett off Highway 20 and a second station located on Happy Hollow Road in Summit. There are currently 8 volunteers, and the District depends on the support of Philomath Fire and Rescue, Corvallis Fire Department, and the Oregon Department of Forestry.



City of Corvallis Fire Department & Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District



District Summary: The Corvallis Fire Department provides fire protection and prevention services to the City of Corvallis and the surrounding Rural Fire Protection District. The City is approximately 14 square miles and the rural district approximately 44 square miles in Linn and Benton Counties. Corvallis Fire Department protects the property of Oregon State University within the city and in the rural district. Corvallis Fire Department serves as the transporting Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance for a 765 square mile Ambulance Service Area (ASA). The rural district stretches from the valley floor to the ridgeline of the Coast Range foothills. It is a mix of residential, cultivated agriculture, and forest lands.

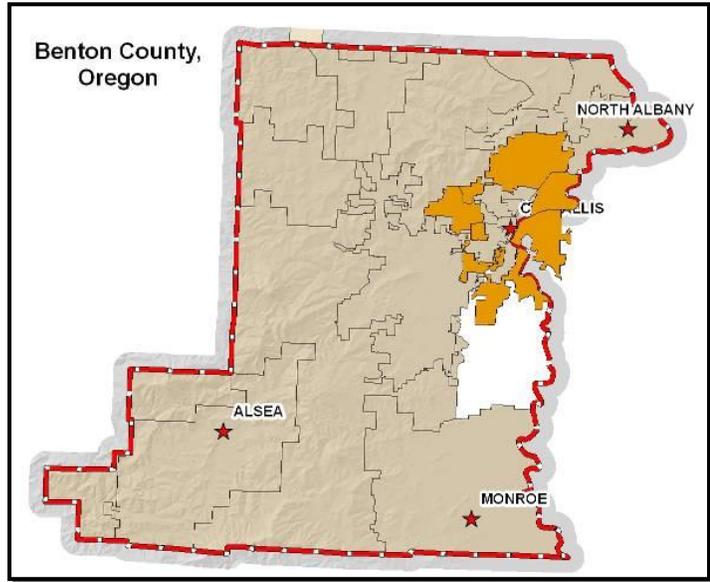
Residential growth within the city has been fairly consistent for the past several years, with primary areas of growth south, west, and north of the City. Rural district growth has been greatest in the Rural Residential zoning north of Corvallis.

Issues of Concern: Access and water supply have been topics of concern in the Corvallis district. The Skyline West area, annexed in the late 1980s, has long posed concerns for the Department: one-way-in-one-way-out access of inadequate width, and the absence of fire hydrants to serve a forested subdivision of 220 homes. In 2016 the community, with the assistance of CFD, addressed wildfire safety issues throughout the subdivision, becoming a recognized Firewise Community. A second egress route is currently in planning stages, providing emergency access to Oak Creek Drive.

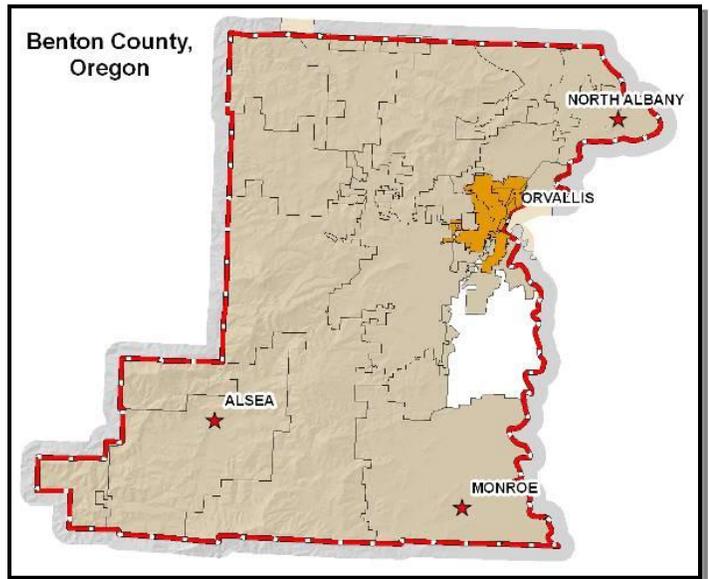
Since the 2009 adoption of the original CWPP, outreach and education efforts of Oregon Department of Forestry and local fire districts have resulted in the recognition of three additional subdivisions in the Corvallis Rural Fire District as Firewise Communities: Vineyard Mountain, Ridgewood Estates, Chinook District, and Oakwood Heights.

Access and egress, which encompasses bridge and road standards, and rural water supply remain significant concerns for new and existing developments. The adoption of a WUI Code and consistent Code adoption and application statewide needs to be addressed. When providing mutual aid to surrounding jurisdictions Corvallis Fire needs to be able to continue to address normal calls for service and maintain transport ambulance availability for the Ambulance Service Area. Corvallis Fire would also like to

see a renewed public education effort to inform property owners of the steps they can take to mitigate hazardous conditions on their properties.



Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District



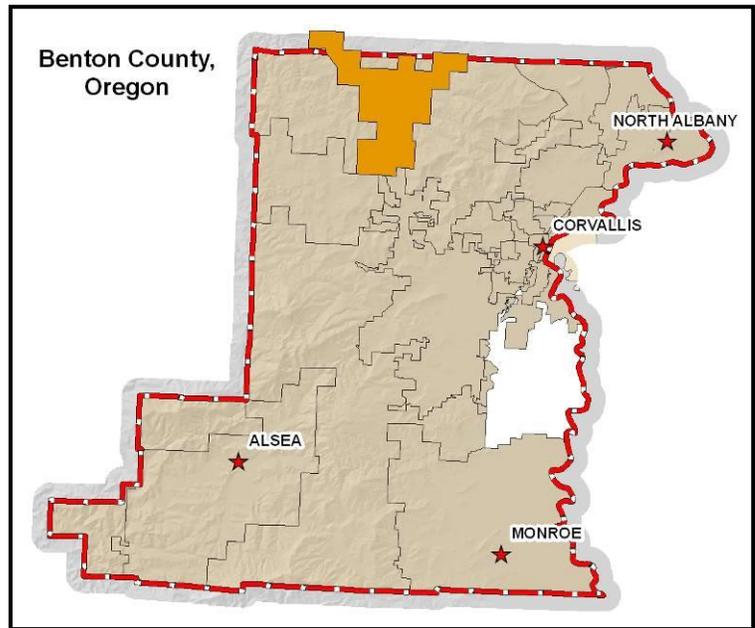
City of Corvallis Fire District

Hoskins-Kings Valley Rural Fire Protection District

District Summary: The Hoskins-Kings Valley Rural Fire Protection District (H-KV RFPD) covers about 30 square miles of northwestern Benton County. The District contains approximately 175 households and a population of about 500 scattered throughout a mix of timberland and farmland. The District currently has 12 volunteers that provide a combination of fire suppression and EMS services.



Issues of Concern: The Kings Valley area is in danger of a large wildland/interface fire. There are many homes in a wildland setting and very few access points. The District is working on establishing water sites every 5 miles to provide adequate water resources throughout the entire area.



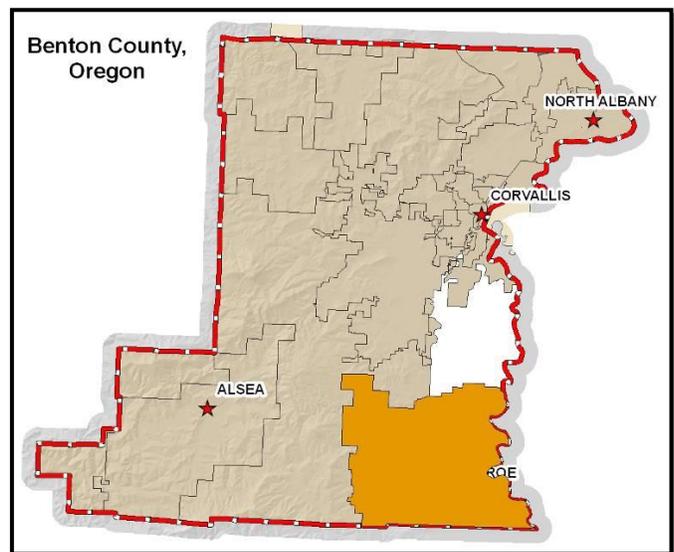


Monroe Rural Fire Protection District

District Summary: The Monroe Rural Fire Protection District is a combination fire department with a maximum force of 30 volunteers and one paid position. The current population of the fire district is approximately 3,500, with the city of Monroe being approximately 850 of that total population. The District provides emergency medical services, fire protection and hazardous materials response for the communities of Monroe, Alpine, Bellfountain and a surrounding rural area of approximately 84 square miles. The fire district maintains three stations with the primary station located in Monroe, and sub-stations in the communities of Alpine and Bellfountain. The fire district maintains a continuous program of fire prevention & suppression along with medical intervention including CPR training and public education within the community.

Issues of Concern: Residential growth has been primarily outside the Monroe city limits in the rural area and is generally on 1 to 5 acre parcels. There is currently a developer in negotiations with the city to place a 250 home development within the city limits of Monroe, which would add approximately another 750 people to the total fire district population.

Within the State of Oregon, fire districts are forced to operate under tax limitation measures 5 and 47/50. These measures either limit our ability to increase the taxable income or limit our ability to increase taxable income through new tax levies. This combined with the increasing costs of fuel, vehicle replacement, maintenance, equipment, and training have made the financial aspects of running a fire district extremely challenging today and impossible in the near future.



Staffing of the fire district is another challenge, with decreasing volunteer involvement, the rise in calls for help, and financial constraints making it difficult to maintain the District's current level of service and operations standards.

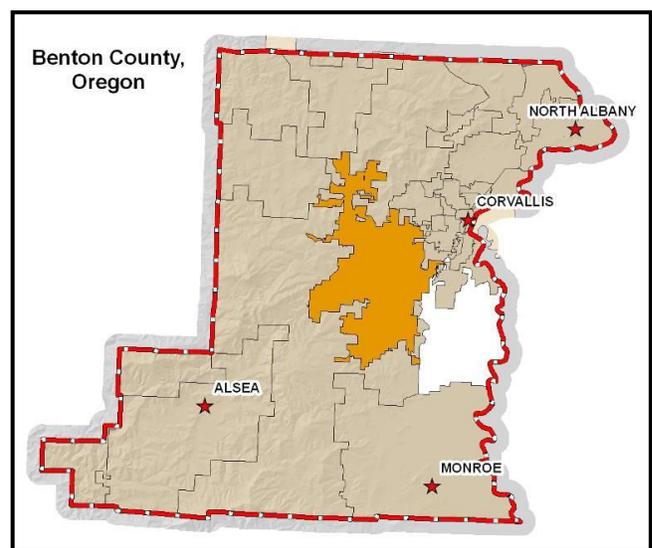
Philomath Fire & Rescue



District Summary: Philomath Fire and Rescue is a combination city and rural department consisting of 6 paid staff and 30 volunteers. The District is 68 square miles and has a population of approximately 8,500, with a 2015 population of 4,650 within the City Limits. The district runs from the western edge of the valley floor to the foothills of the Coast Range; and the district's main station is in downtown Philomath. Two additional outstations are located in Wren, 5 miles west on US Highway 20, and on Llewellyn Road 5 miles south of Philomath. Philomath Fire and Rescue responds to fire and EMS calls and provides public education and prevention.

Issues of Concern: Increased residential building in the rural parts of this district has led to areas and properties with poor access in the event of an emergency, due to single-access subdivisions and unrated bridges of questionable construction. The residential subdivision of Pioneer Village has recently completed an emergency access road, in collaboration with the District, Benton County Public Works, and Starker Forests. This community was the County's first recognized Firewise Community, and continues to maintain high awareness of wildfire issues. Several limited access neighborhoods exist in the Philomath district, and planning for secondary access will continue. The community of Wren has also taken citizen-initiated steps to increase emergency preparedness and to address wildfire hazards.

In 2016 Philomath's main station implemented seismic upgrades, and is also the location of the County's first Firewise Demonstration Garden, scheduled for completion in 2017. Like many local districts, volunteer recruitment, training, and retention are an ongoing challenge.



Oregon Department of Forestry – West Oregon District



District Summary: The West Oregon District, which contains 3 unit offices (Philomath, Dallas, Toledo), is one of five districts within the Northwest Oregon Area.

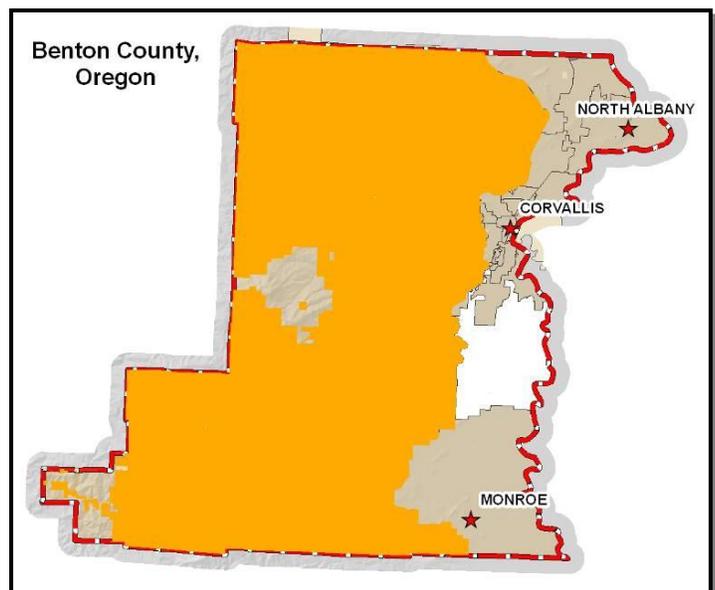
The District provides forest fire prevention, detection, and suppression on approximately 1.1 million acres of forest land in portions of five counties (Benton, Lincoln, Polk, Tillamook, and Yamhill), 285,000 acres of which is in Benton County; contributes to a complete and coordinated forest protection system on a local and statewide basis; provides for cooperative work to public and private landowners to supplement the fire protection system; provides for environmental protection on commercial forest land through the administration of the Forest Practices Act; administers assistance programs to private forest landowners through the Private Forests Program; and intensively manages 37,672 acres of State Forest land. The Oregon Department of Forestry does not provide any structural protection.

The District accomplishes this work with a biennial budget of approximately \$8 million and employment of 29 permanent and 26 seasonal and temporary employees.

The District is able to cover the majority of the service area with a four repeater radio system: Marys Peak, Euchre Mountain, Hebo Mountain, and Prairie Peak.

The West Oregon District has mutual aid agreements with all seven rural fire protection districts in Benton County as well as a closest forces agreement with the Siuslaw National Forest.

Issues of Concern: Changing weather patterns have increased the length and severity of fire season across the state. It is becoming more common for wildfires to occur before seasonal fire crews begin work in the spring, and after fire crews end in the fall. Fire suppression is more difficult due to a lack of capacity in the shoulder season months.



Oregon State University Research Forests



Forest Summary: The OSU Research Forests on the outskirts of the Corvallis community total about 11,500 acres comprised of the McDonald, Dunn and Cameron Forests. The Research Forests are used for teaching and research and also provide important wildlife habitat and are the water sources of several creeks and streams.

Timber is harvested on a sustainable basis and provides income to the College of Forestry to support teaching and research initiatives. The OSU Research Forests are a prime example of a sustainable "working forest." Because of their close proximity to the City of Corvallis, the Forests receive approximately 145,000 recreational user-visits each year, mostly on the McDonald Forest. The Forests are surrounded by several WUI communities and subdivisions, especially around the McDonald Forest. In 2015, Vineyard Mountain Estates residents, Oregon Department of Forestry, Benton County Public Works, and the OSU Research Forest partnered to re-construct an egress route for residents through the Forest from the end of Cardinal Drive.

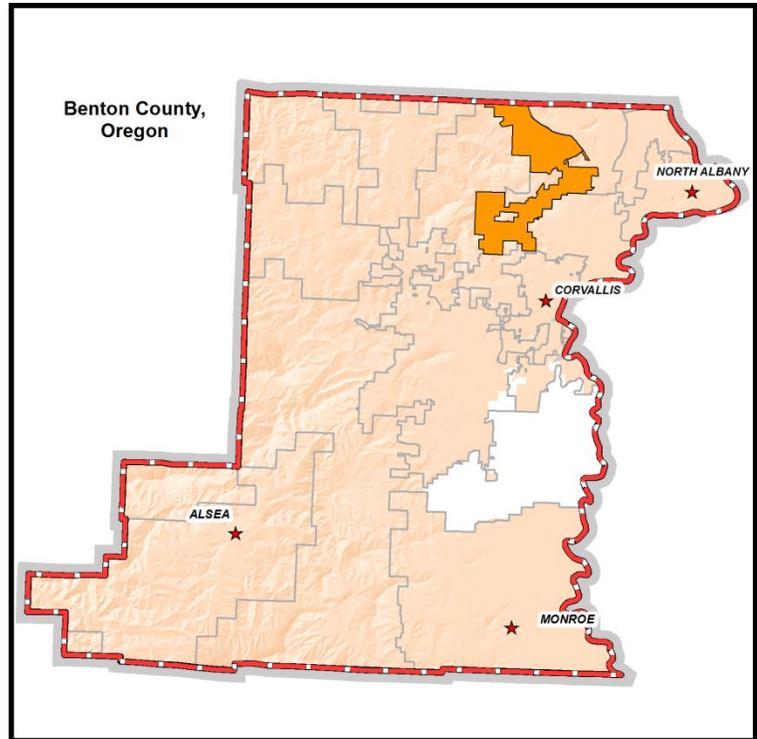
Issues of Concern: Wildfire is a huge concern for the Research Forests because of the many long-term research projects, recreational values, and potential loss of forest cover. Currently, the Research Forests depend on the Oregon Department of Forestry for initial attack on any fires. Research Forest staff members have hand fire tools in all vehicles and are trained on how to use them, but the Forests possess no pumpers or other fire-fighting apparatus. Thus, Research Forest staff members provide a support role when a wildfire breaks out.

There are two major areas of concern. The first is the high population of WUI residents that surround the Research Forests. Carelessness and resultant fire starts in the WUI could readily spread onto the Forests since much forested land is directly uphill from these residential areas. The Timber Hill Fire of 2014 is a good example of this potential threat.

In recent years the Oregon Department of Forestry has been working with homeowners to conduct fuel reduction projects in the WUI adjacent to the Forests. The Research Forests are in the process of evaluating fire risk on their perimeters with the goal of conducting fuel reduction on the Forests' side to complement the fuel reduction work

going on by adjacent homeowners. However, not all adjacent landowners may be supportive of fuel reduction on the Forests side because it may affect the aesthetics in their back yards.

The second area of concern is the number of recreational users. The OSU Research Forests welcome recreational uses on the Forests. We want people to experience the Forests and get out and enjoy nature. Fires and smoking are not allowed on the Forests and a majority of recreationists abide by these rules. However, we regularly find remnants of party fires, fireworks, and cigarette butts on hiking trails and other places. In July 2016 the Peavy Fire erupted on the McDonald Forest, burning 3.5 acres. It was a human-caused wildfire with the potential to put the rest of the Forest at risk as well as threaten homes and property in the adjacent WUI. Although this was a human-caused fire, the quick action by nearby hikers who called it in kept the fire small.



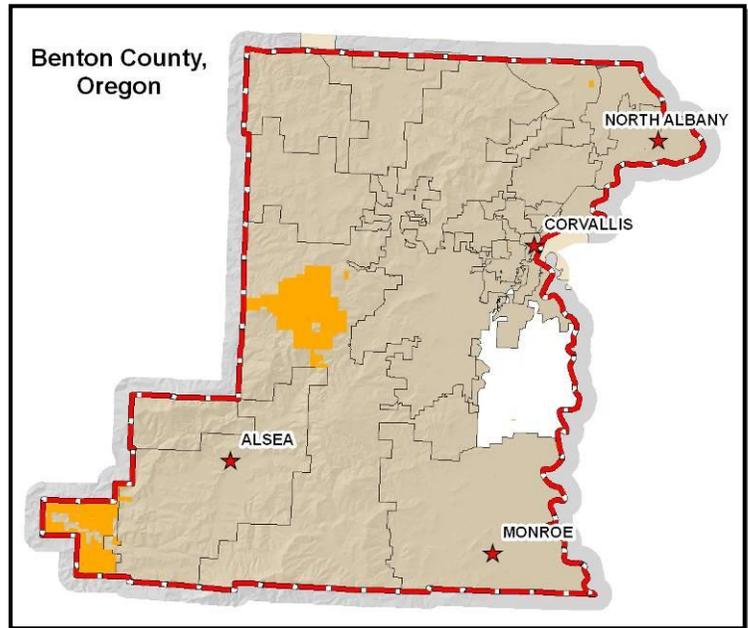
Siuslaw National Forest

Forest Summary: The Siuslaw National Forest is approximately 630,000 acres. It is located along the Oregon Coast from Tillamook to Coos Bay and extends into the coast range. The Forest spans 8 different counties. In Benton County, there is approximately 18,000 acres of Forest Service land.



The Forest has two districts, the Central Coast Ranger District and The Hebo Ranger District. The Forest has fire personnel and equipment located at three Stations: Hebo, Alsea (Benton County), and Mapleton. Resources are shared as needed across the Forest and the Forest has a cooperative agreement with ODF for initial attack.

Issues of Concern: These issues echo concerns of the Oregon Department of Forestry. Changing weather patterns have increased the length and severity of fire season across the state. It is becoming more common for wildfires to occur before seasonal fire crews begin work in the spring, and after fire crews end in the fall. Fire suppression is more difficult due to a lack of capacity in these shoulder season months.



West Oregon Forest Protective Association

Association Summary: The West Oregon Forest Protective Association (WOFPA) was formed when the former Benton County Fire Patrol, Lincoln County Fire Patrol, and Polk County Fire Patrol merged together in 1962. The earlier landowner fire patrol association began forming in the district as early as 1910.

WOFPA's primary objectives are the protection of forest resources within its area from possible damages caused by the destructive forces of fire and/or other causes as determined by vote of the Board of Directors and the achievement of effective communications with other organizations and agencies to ensure wise policy decision affecting forest protection.

To accomplish this, the WOFPA works with the West Oregon District (ODF) to ensure an adequate budget is prepared to provide for the protection of their members' lands. The Association maintains a close liaison of public and private landowners and provides feedback to ODF on the protection services they provide.

Currently, the association is comprised of 30 landowner members and 6 affiliate members.

Firewise Communities USA/Recognition Program

Since the 2009 adoption of the CWPP, six communities have received Firewise Community recognition, with one in the application process in 2016. The Firewise Community USA Recognition Program was created in 2002 to engage neighborhoods in preparing and protecting their homes against the threat of wildfire. This NFPA-sponsored program encourages ongoing self-directed efforts by involving residents in fuels reduction events and annual re-certification.



"Using a five-step process, communities develop an action plan that guides their residential risk reduction activities, while engaging and encouraging their neighbors to become active participants in building a safer place to live."

NFPA Firewise Communities

In a news release August, 2016 from Oregon Department of Forestry celebrating Oregon's 100th Firewise Community:

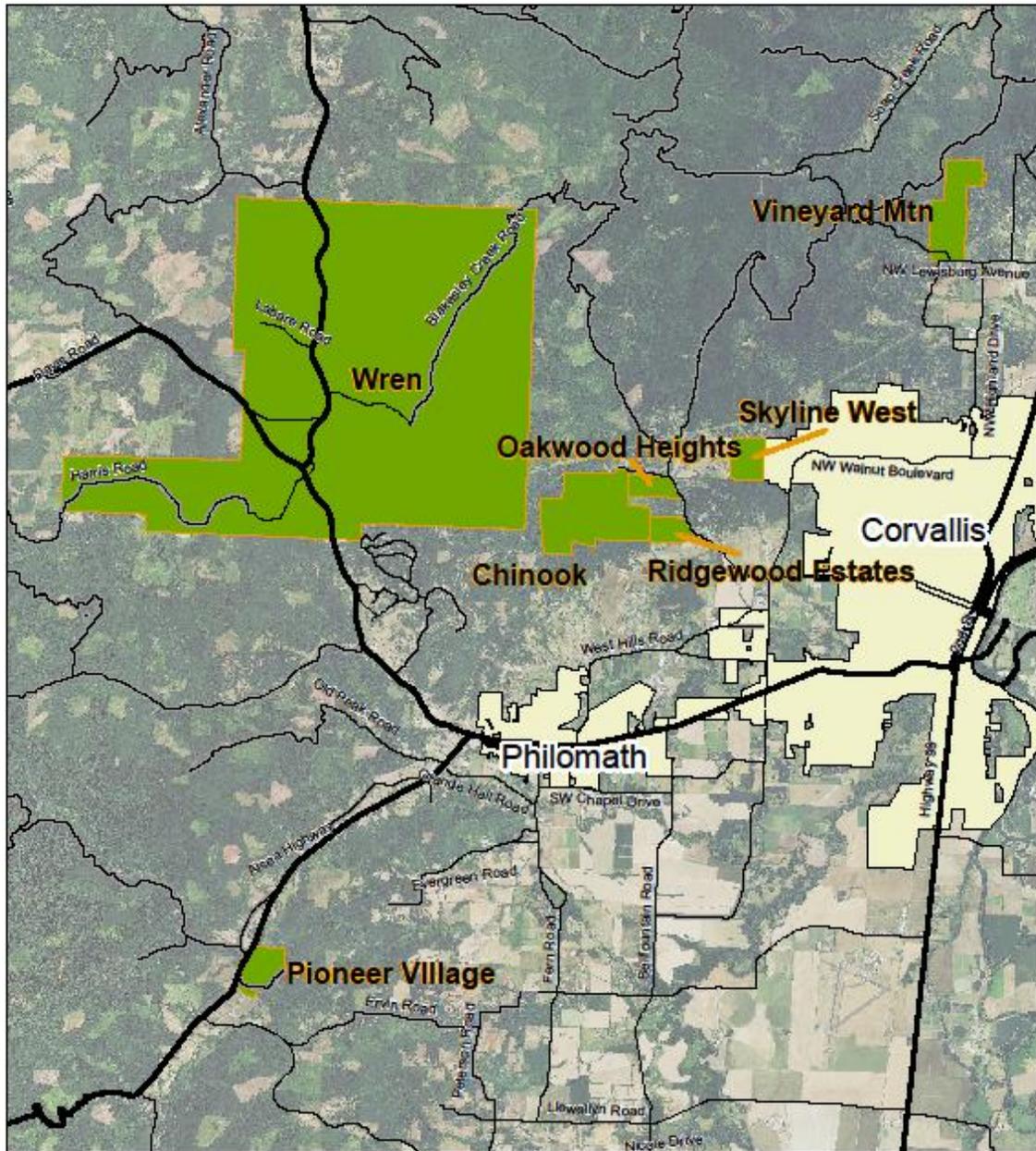
"The Firewise program is a unique, community-led initiative supported by state, local and federal fire professionals designed to engage homeowners in reducing losses from fire at the neighborhood scale. Firewise community members and fire professionals have invested over \$3.85 million to reduce wildfire risk and build safer communities throughout Oregon.

Sixty homes have been lost to wildfires in just the last three years. A staggering 751,672 Oregonians (occupying about 342,000 homes) live in forested areas, making them vulnerable to wildfire. Simple actions such as reducing flammable vegetation around homes and using fire resistant siding and roofing materials can significantly reduce the threat of fire."

Benton County's recognized Firewise Communities

1. Pioneer Village, 2011
2. Vineyard Mountain, 2011
3. Ridgewood Estates, 2012
4. Chinook, 2014
5. Oakwood Heights, 2015
6. Skyline West, 2016
7. Wren (in progress, 2016)

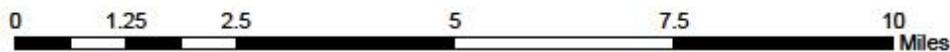
This successful program has been utilized through the management of Oregon Department of Forestry with fuels reduction grant programs, and with financial assistance in annual chipping events provided by Benton County.



Legend

- Firewise Communities
- City Limits

**Firewise Communities
Benton County,
Oregon**



Chapter 4 - Fire Protection Issues and Action Items

Significant Changes Since Previous Plan

Wildland fire statistics and authority for wildfire evacuations have been updated; and “tasks completed, re-assessed, ongoing, and added” have been revised to reflect accomplishments and future direction. Remaining and new action items and project areas have been described and prioritized.

Recent Wildland Fires

The statistic below on wildland ignitions in Benton County indicate that over 90% of wildfires are human-caused, and that debris burning and equipment use account for the majority of ignitions.

Table 4.1. Summary of Wildland Ignitions in Benton County (ODF database 2005-2015)⁵

Cause	Acres Burned	Square Miles Burned	Percent of Total Burned	Number of Ignitions	Percent of Ignitions
Arson	0	0	0%	0	0%
Debris Burning	4.91	0.007671875	3%	14	16%
Equipment Use	90.11	0.140796875	46%	39	43%
Juveniles*	86.03	0.134421875	44%	2	2%
Lightning	7.94	0.01240625	4%	16	18%
Miscellaneous	1.78	0.00278125	1%	6	7%
Railroad	1.1	0.00171875	1%	1	1%
Recreationist	2.51	0.003921875	1%	8	9%
Smoking	0.51	0.000796875	0%	4	4%
Total	194.89	0.304515625	100.00%	90	100.00%

*One large fire- 2014 Chip Ross/Timberhill Fire- 86 acres

This data strongly indicates that continuing education efforts for debris burning, equipment use, and recreational wildland users have high potential for reducing the number of ignitions.

⁵ it is important to keep in mind that this data is for ODF responsibility areas only, and do not include all fires in areas covered only by local fire departments or areas where federal agencies (specifically the U.S. Forest Service) have fire suppression responsibility. However, for Benton County, ODF responsibility lands include about 69% of the entire county, the majority of wildlands.

Authority for Wildfire Emergency Evacuation

The state of Oregon has an existing authority that would authorize a city or county to designate an official or agency to order mandatory evacuations of residents and other individuals after a state of emergency is declared. An evacuation will only be ordered when necessary for public safety or for the efficient conduct of activities that minimize or mitigate the effects of the emergency. Under "home rule" provisions of the Oregon Constitution, local governments also may adopt specific ordinances ordering mandatory evacuation of an area in a fire emergency.⁶

If the Governor declares an emergency under ORS 401.165, the Governor may specifically order evacuation of persons from the area covered by the order. Sheriffs or State or local law enforcement may carry out the Governor's orders or those authorized by local ordinances. Fire officials and firefighters would have authority to enforce the Governor's order or an emergency evacuation order as detailed in Oregon Statutes⁷ under the Mobilization Plan when the Conflagration Act has been invoked by the Governor.

Protecting public health and safety is a fundamental government interest which justifies summary action in emergencies. A Governor's order or local ordinance ordering evacuation is constitutional so long as the order or evacuation ordinance has a real and substantial relationship to public safety and contains an opportunity for prompt post-evacuation review of the action.

Fire Protection Issues

Tasks identified in 2009 CWPP

The 2009 CWPP identified Action Items in four categories:

- Safety and Policy
- Fire Protection, Education, and Mitigation
- Infrastructure Enhancements
- Resource and Capability Enhancements

⁶ Oregon Revised Statutes 401.165, Declaration of state of emergency by city or county

⁷ ORS 476.510-476.610, Protection of life and property from fire in case of emergency

Many of these Action Items (such as education and seasonal maintenance of defensible space) are never “done”, but are ongoing once begun. Others, such as resource and capability enhancements, will occur through the initiative of specific fire districts; and this document will provide a comprehensive planning basis that districts will find advantageous when applying for grant funding.

Tasks Completed

Comprehensive Plan Incorporation - Action Items 6.1.a and b: (Safety and Policy) *“Incorporate the BC Community Wildfire Protection Plan as a supplement to the BC Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and incorporate by reference to the Benton County Comprehensive Plan.”* These high priority items were completed in 2010.

Central Coordination - Action Item 6.1.m: (Safety and Policy) *“Establish a central location and designated staff for coordination of all tasks associated with this CWPP.”* The Benton County Community Development, in partnership with the Community Wildfire Forester of Oregon Department of Forestry are the entities designated to conduct this task.

Alsea Water System - Action Item 6.3.i: (Infrastructure Enhancements) *“Support the development and implementation of an improved water system in Alsea that will meet industry standards as well as sustain wildland fire protection of the community and residences.”* This project was completed in 2010, providing pressurized hydrants to the Alsea residential properties highest in elevation and bordering forested lands. Benton County Public Works took the lead on this project, in coordination with Alsea Rural Fire Protection District.

Emergency Access Route Completions - Action Item 6.3.b: (Infrastructure Enhancements) The 2009 CWPP noted proposed project areas with potential for much-needed emergency evacuation routes. *“Inventory, map, and sign all potential evacuation routes and procedures countywide and educate the public on use.”* Several of these were completed:

- **Vineyard Mountain to Soap Creek Road** – The upper portions of Vineyard Mountain were hampered from efficient emergency access through McDonald

Overall, the CWPP’s greatest progress has been made in the areas of WUI fuels mitigation, home site evaluation, bridge inventory, water source inventory, community water supply enhancement, connecting route completion, and education and outreach.

Research Forest (OSU) by inadequate access gates and difficult road alignments. This situation was remedied through joint efforts of OSU Forestry, Vineyard Mountain Road District, Benton County, and Oregon Department of Forestry.

- **Pioneer Village Emergency Access Route** – With the only access for a community of 53 dwellings via a single route crossing a bridge traversing a floodplain, Pioneer Village was in need of an evacuation route. Benton County Public Works relocated and improved a right-of-way through Starker Forest lands to provide a through route to Evergreen Road.
- **Commercial Road in Monroe** – An existing unimproved right-of-way connecting two residential areas in the WUI was improved to allow emergency access and significantly reduce the turn-around time for firefighting water supplies. Benton County Public Works partnering with Monroe Rural Fire completed this project.
- **Skyline West Connecting Route** – Skyline West subdivision became a recognized Firewise Community in 2016, and as part of the neighborhood’s wildfire protection plan the need for a second access has been noted. Currently (2016) negotiations are under way to provide access through the OSU Sheep Farm property to the west.
- **Cardwell Hill Drive Connection** – Cardwell Hill drive from Oak Creek Drive westward to Wren has recently been improved to facilitate vehicle travel. Although the road is passable, it is primarily single-lane, and use in an evacuation would depend heavily on route management by official personnel. Each end is gated. This connection is discussed in the Access section of Emergent Issues, below.
- **Dawnwood Drive Connection** – Past transportation plans of the county Public Works Department identified a potential emergency connection from Dawnwood Drive to the Chinook subdivision to the north. Since the 2009 CWPP adoption, the property planned for the connecting route has come under ownership of Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT). GLT has indicated that the planned Dawnwood connector could have impacts on the conservation values of the property, and suggested first exploring other locations for a route connecting Chinook with north Philomath.
- **Starr Creek Road Connection** – Benton County Public Works, in partnership with Bureau of Land Management has corrected a right-of-way from Starr Creek Road south to Hells Canyon Road, and this one-mile road section is scheduled for construction in 2018.

Corvallis Watershed - Action Item 6.3.g: (Infrastructure Enhancements) *“Develop wildfire protection-specific management plan, including a fuels reduction program, for the City of Corvallis Watershed and adjacent properties.”* This issue has been a concern of fire protection agencies in the past, and has been addressed in the 2013 update of the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan by the City of Corvallis.

Tasks Partially Completed and Continuing

Greenberry Gap - Action Item 6.1.e: (Safety and Policy) *“Assess areas currently outside of existing fire districts for annexation or formation of new district due to increasing population or high fire risk. (Greenberry Gap)”* Initial studies and public contact with residents of the Greenberry Gap indicated an unfavorable climate for annexations by adjoining fire districts, due to response times, budgetary constraints, and overtaxing volunteer departments that are already stretched thin. Recent discussions with residents, firefighting professionals, and county personnel have turned towards the idea of the formation of a new district in the Gap, and efforts are underway to explore implementation of this strategy.

Wren to Cardwell Hill Evacuation Route - Action Item 6.1.k: (Safety and Policy) *“Develop an Emergency Evacuation Plan for the Wren to Cardwell Hill area.”* This plan, dependent upon the recent improvement of the physical connection, can now proceed in cooperation with Public Works, Parks, Sheriff’s Office, Philomath and Corvallis Fire Departments. Next steps are development of an inter-agency coordinated strategy, and a public information campaign.

Neighborhood Chipping Program - Action Item 6.2.i: (Fire Prevention, Education, and Mitigation) *“Work with a local recycling center to develop an onsite neighborhood chipping program or drop boxes for large limbs generated by fuels mitigation projects.”* A chipping program in multiple locations throughout the county has been established, and is managed by ODF, with chipping performed on contract with local providers. The local recycling center partnership with drop boxes was determined unfeasible. Instead, drop locations are established in many locations, private landowners haul the fuels they collect, and chipping dates are scheduled. This item will be retained and revised.

Bridge Inventory - Action Item 6.3.a: (Infrastructure Enhancements) *“Develop inventory, map, rate, and sign all private bridges countywide.”* An inventory of all private bridges in the county was completed, performed by ODF staff, and each bridge’s photographs and characteristics recorded and mapped by county GIS. Load rating was found to be

unfeasible due to cost, and signage has been posted by individual fire districts in selected location. The inventory of bridges was accomplished and will be removed from the action items list; and the rating and signage will be revised and added as Action Item 3.

Evacuation Routes - Action Item 6.3.b: (Infrastructure Enhancements) *“Inventory, map, and sign all potential evacuation routes and procedures countywide and educate the public on use.”* This has been partially completed, with signage on the evacuation routes that have been constructed. Evacuation routes in limited access neighborhoods have emerged as an issue of primary importance during the next CWPP cycle. (See the Access section of Emergent Issues, above, and Action Item 10.)

Access Gates - Action Item 6.3.e: (Infrastructure Enhancements) *“Coordinate with private landowners regarding the use of key boxes on gates to improve emergency response times.”* This item has been partially achieved, particularly with recently completed evacuation routes. Not only private landowners but also fire districts and land management agencies will play roles in this item in the future, as new routes are identified, improved, signed, and gated.

Water Source Inventory - Action Item 6.3.f: (Infrastructure Enhancements) *“Map, develop GIS database, and provide signage for onsite water sources such as hydrants, underground storage tanks, and drafting or dipping sites on all ownerships across the county.”* Staff of ODF mapped onsite natural water sources county-wide. Remaining developed water sources need to be mapped and signed.

Tasks Ongoing

Action items associated with education, outreach, fuels reduction, and creation of defensible space are never completed, but are seasonally recurrent and therefore ongoing in nature. These items will continue to appear in the Action Items list.

Wildfire Education Programs - Action item 6.2.a: (Fire Prevention, Education, and Mitigation) *“Implementation of youth and adult wildfire educational programs.”* This successful educational effort, conducted primarily by ODF and county staff, has reached dozens of community groups and hundreds of individuals. This work will require ongoing attention, and expansion to youth programs would be beneficial. A new education task will be the construction of the Firewise Demonstration Garden at Philomath Fire Station #1, showing landscape and planting principles associated with

wise landscaping in the WUI. Interpretive signage and printed materials will be available at this location. Construction is planned for spring of 2017.

Public Education - Action Item 6.2.h: (Fire Prevention, Education, and Mitigation) *“Work with OSU Extension and Master Gardeners to offer Firewise landscaping clinics to assist property owners in maintaining fire-resistant defensible space around structures.”*

Education in the form of outreach sessions to dozens of community organizations has reached hundreds of individuals. Most education has been conducted by county and ODF personnel, due to administrative changes at OSU Extension. Projects such as the Firewise Demonstration Garden, in partnership with OSU Extension Master Gardeners will continue to fulfill this action item. Due to overlap and similar purposes, the two items above and several wildfire education items from the 2009 CWPP have been combined into one, Action Item 4.

Homesite Risk Evaluations - Action Item 6.2.b: (Fire Prevention, Education, and Mitigation) *“Prepare for wildfire events in high risk areas by conducting homesite risk assessments and developing area-specific “Response Plans” to include participation by all affected jurisdictions and landowners.”* Since the 2009 adoption of the CWPP many homeowners county-wide have requested homesite evaluations, which have been conducted primarily by ODF and county staff. This effort should continue, and homeowners’ groups should be contacted for whole-neighborhood evaluations.

Tasks Requiring Re-assessment

WUI Code - Action Item 6.1.c: (Safety and Policy) *“Provide support for a committee to address building and development issues within areas considered high wildfire risk. One of the committee’s first tasks shall be to evaluate and develop a recommendation regarding adoption of the Urban Wildland Interface Building Code to lessen wildfire risk by specifying construction materials, access standards, defensible space, water supply, etc.”* When the CWPP was adopted in 2009, sentiment statewide leaned towards this move; however, other Building Code issues have risen in prominence and WUI Code is no longer a statewide topic under consideration. This item should be removed as an action item until such time that statewide conversations around WUI Code adoption are again initiated.

Private Bridges - Action Item 6.1.h: (Safety and Policy) *“Develop a program to assist landowners with the certification, signage, and maintenance of private bridges, and improvements to existing substandard driveways.”* To date, no program has been found

that would provide financial assistance for bridges on private property. Developing such a program would require considerable financial support, and at this point is unlikely as a use of public funds. This item will be revised to emphasize assistance in education, an ongoing task. New language: *“Assist fire districts in educating private landowners about the wildfire risks associated with structurally inadequate bridges and substandard driveways that hamper emergency response.”*

Road, Driveway, Bridge Standards - Action Item 6.1.j: (Safety and Policy) *“Develop a common road and bridge access standard that is consistent with the BC Development Code and the Oregon Fire Code as implemented by the Fire Defense Board.”* In 2008 the Fire Defense Boards of Linn and Benton Counties jointly adopted Guidelines for the Application of Oregon’s Fire and Life Safety Regulations Within Linn & Benton Counties. These guidelines were updated in 2012 and remain in effect. Benton County does not plan to adopt similar standards, preferring to defer to individual fire district personnel in interpretation of the standards. This item should be removed as an action item.

Uniform Standards - Action Item 6.1.l: (Safety and Policy) *“Coordinate with all BC fire protection agencies to develop uniform standards for fire district review of all building permits and development proposals.”* Varying levels of staffing and capacity at the rural fire departments in the county, as well as differing interpretations of Fire Code have resulted in an uneven method for review of building permits by fire protection agencies. Current (2016) systems have been improved and are generally effective. This item should be removed as an action item.

BPA Corridor - Action Item 6.3.c: (Infrastructure Enhancements) *“Implement a fuels management and reduction program along Bonneville Power Administration power line corridor.”* This item has been re-evaluated by the CWPP Update team, who have determined that BPA is maintaining their easement fuels adequately. This item should be removed as an action item.

Action Item 6.3.j: (Infrastructure Enhancements) *“Install a pumped hydrant on Wildwood Road, Maxfield Creek Road, and on the downtown Kings Valley mill site.”* This item remains a desired infrastructure improvement in the H-KV District, and like other localized concerns is best removed and added to the department’s list of future projects for which to seek funding and staff time.

Action Items 6.4, a. through j: (Resource and Capability Enhancements) Action items under this heading in the 2009 CWPP address individual fire district issues such as

developing stable funding, retention and recruitment of volunteers, purchasing supplies and firefighting vehicles. All items remain in effect; however, they fall more within the province of individual district funding and operations decisions, and therefore do not appear in this CWPP Update.

Emergent Issues

The Update Team focused on issues that have arisen since 2009 or increased in importance since the 2009 CWPP adoption. These will be added to the list of action items going forward. Specific concerns noted were:

- **Access** - Limited Access Neighborhoods (LANs) countywide should be listed, mapped and added to the table of Proposed Project Areas. Seeking potential secondary accesses to these LANs should become a coordinated task of Benton County Public Works and Community Development, Sheriff's Office, fire protection agencies, going forward. (See map, page 45, and Action Item 10.)
- **Coordination of Evacuation Awareness** – Awareness of evacuation routes and procedures in Benton County is low, and efforts to coordinate education and outreach around these issues should be a focus of future efforts of the Sheriff's Office, fire districts, county public works, and CWPP staff.
- **Coordination of fuels reduction projects** completed and planned by ODF, USFWS, BLM, OSU Forests, USFS, and Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department such as thinning and prescribed burns, should be listed and mapped. Inter-agency communication and coordination would prove beneficial in these efforts, and this issue will be added Action Item 8.
- **New Project Areas:** Many new project areas were identified by the CWPP Update Team as having multiple factors contributing to the potential wildfire risk to residents, homes, infrastructure, and the ecosystem. This item has been added to the Proposed Project Areas list, below, and as Action Item 9.

Action Items

Updated Action Items – Tasks listed below are a result of working through the 2009 CWPP Action Items list, carrying over, revising, combining, simplifying, and eliminating items based upon experience gained through implementation of the CWPP, changing conditions, and group decision-making of the CWPP Update Team.

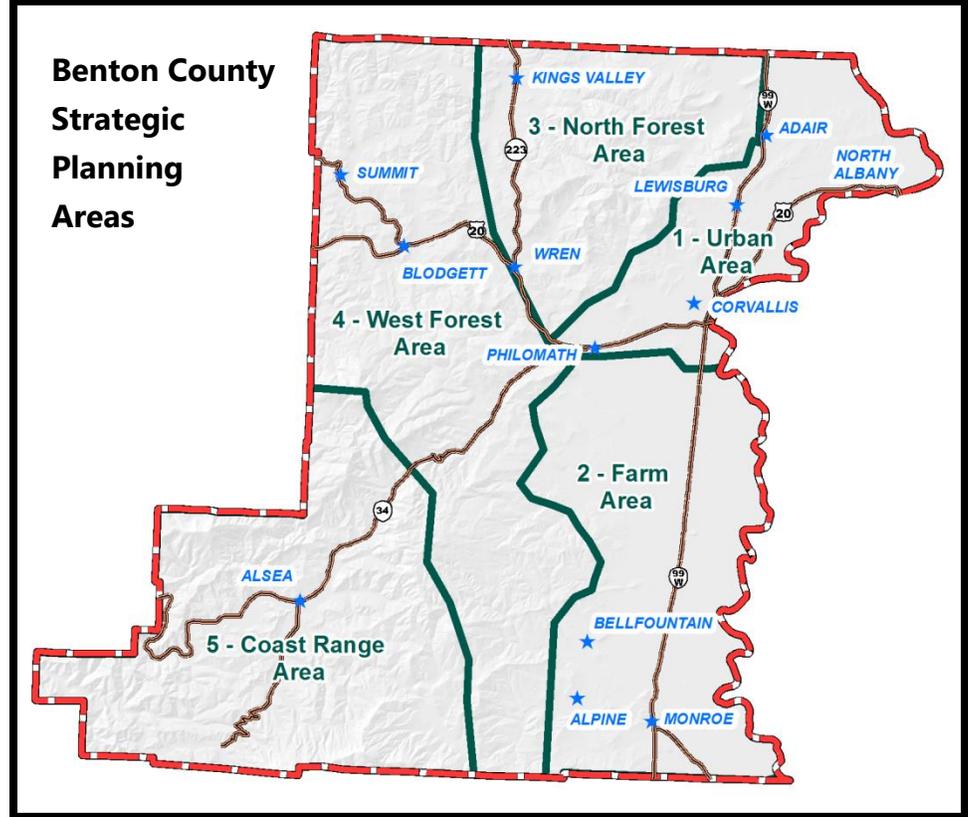
Table 4.2 - Action Items – CWPP Update 2016

Action Items for Safety and Policy			
Action Item	Responsible Organization	Timeline	Priority
1. Greenberry Gap - Assess areas currently outside of existing fire districts for annexation or formation of new district due to increasing population or high fire risk.	Lead: County Board of Commissioners Support: Fire Defense Board	2 years	High
2. Wren to Cardwell Hill Evacuation Route - Develop an Emergency Evacuation Plan for the Wren to Cardwell Hill area. Tasks include maintenance of driveable route and development of an inter-agency coordinated strategy, and a public information campaign.	Lead: Sheriff's Office Support: Community Development	1 year	High
3. Private Bridges - Assist fire districts in educating private landowners about the wildfire risks associated with structurally inadequate bridges and substandard driveways that hamper emergency response.	Lead: Fire Districts, FDB Support: Community Development	2 years	Medium
Action Items for Fire Prevention, Education and Mitigation			
4. Wildfire Education Programs - Work with ODF, OSU Extension, and others to offer Firewise education programs to assist landowners on creating and maintaining fire-resistant defensible space and Firewise landscaping around structures.	Lead: Community Development, ODF Support: OSU Extension	Ongoing	High
5. Coordination of Evacuation Awareness – Educate the public on emergency evacuation planning and procedures for wildfire; and coordinate with all agencies in mapping and developing awareness of evacuation routes.	Lead: Community Development, Public Works Support: Sheriff's Office, FDB, Fire Districts, ODF	Ongoing	High
6. Neighborhood Chipping Program – In cooperation with homeowners' groups, operate a multi-site neighborhood chipping program for materials generated by fuels mitigation projects.	Lead: ODF Support: Community Development	Ongoing	Medium

<p>7. Homesite Risk Evaluations - Prepare for wildfire events in high risk areas by conducting homesite risk assessments and developing area-specific “Response Plans” to include participation by all affected jurisdictions and landowners.</p>	<p>Lead: ODF Support: Community Development</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>8. Inter-Agency Coordination - Fuels reduction projects completed and planned by ODF, USFWS, BLM, OSU Forests, USFS, and Benton County Natural Areas & Parks Department (NAPD) such as thinning and prescribed burns, should be listed and mapped. Inter-agency communication and coordination will prove beneficial in these efforts and improve efficiency.</p>	<p>Lead: ODF Support: OSU Forests, NAPD, USFS, BLM, USFWS</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>9. New Project Areas - Many new project areas were identified by the CWPP Update Team as having multiple factors contributing to the potential wildfire risk to residents, homes, infrastructure, and the ecosystem. Project areas are individually described in Table 4.3, below, and mapped on page 44.</p>	<p>Lead: ODF Support: FDB, Community Development</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Action Items for Infrastructure Enhancements</p>			
<p>10. Emergency Access Improvements – Seek secondary access routes for Limited Access Neighborhoods (LANs, map page 45). Map, improve, and sign routes in coordination with private landowners; coordinate with landowners regarding the use of gates during emergencies; educate the public in emergency routes and procedures.</p>	<p>Lead: Community Development, Public Works Support: Sheriff’s Office, FDB, Fire Districts, ODF</p>	<p>5 Years</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>11. Water Source Inventory - Map, develop GIS database, and provide signage for onsite water sources such as hydrants, underground storage tanks, and drafting or dipping sites on all ownerships across the county.</p>	<p>Lead: FDB, Fire Districts, ODF Support: Community Development, GIS</p>	<p>2 years</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Strategic Planning Areas

In order to facilitate the understanding of wildfire risks specific to areas in Benton County, the CWPP identified subregions called “Strategic Planning Areas (SPAs)”. SPAs are distinguished by similar fuel conditions and would require similar initial attack techniques. Typically, SPA boundaries lie along local zoning



boundaries, fuel or vegetative cover type changes, or logical topographic features. Complete descriptions can be found in the 2009 CWPP.

Proposed Project Areas

The following project areas were identified by the CWPP Update planning committee as having multiple factors contributing to the potential wildfire risk to residents, homes, infrastructure, and the ecosystem. Treatments within the project areas will be site specific, but will likely include homeowner education, creation of a wildfire defensible space around structures, fuels reduction, and access corridor improvements. All work on private property will be performed with consent of, and in cooperation with the property owners. Specific site conditions may call for other types of fuels reduction and fire mitigation techniques as well. Defensible space projects may include, but are not limited to commercial or pre-commercial thinning, pruning, brush removal, chipping, prescribed burning, installation of greenbelts or shaded fuel breaks, and general forest health improvements.

Table 4.3 - Proposed Project Areas by Strategic Planning Area (SPA)

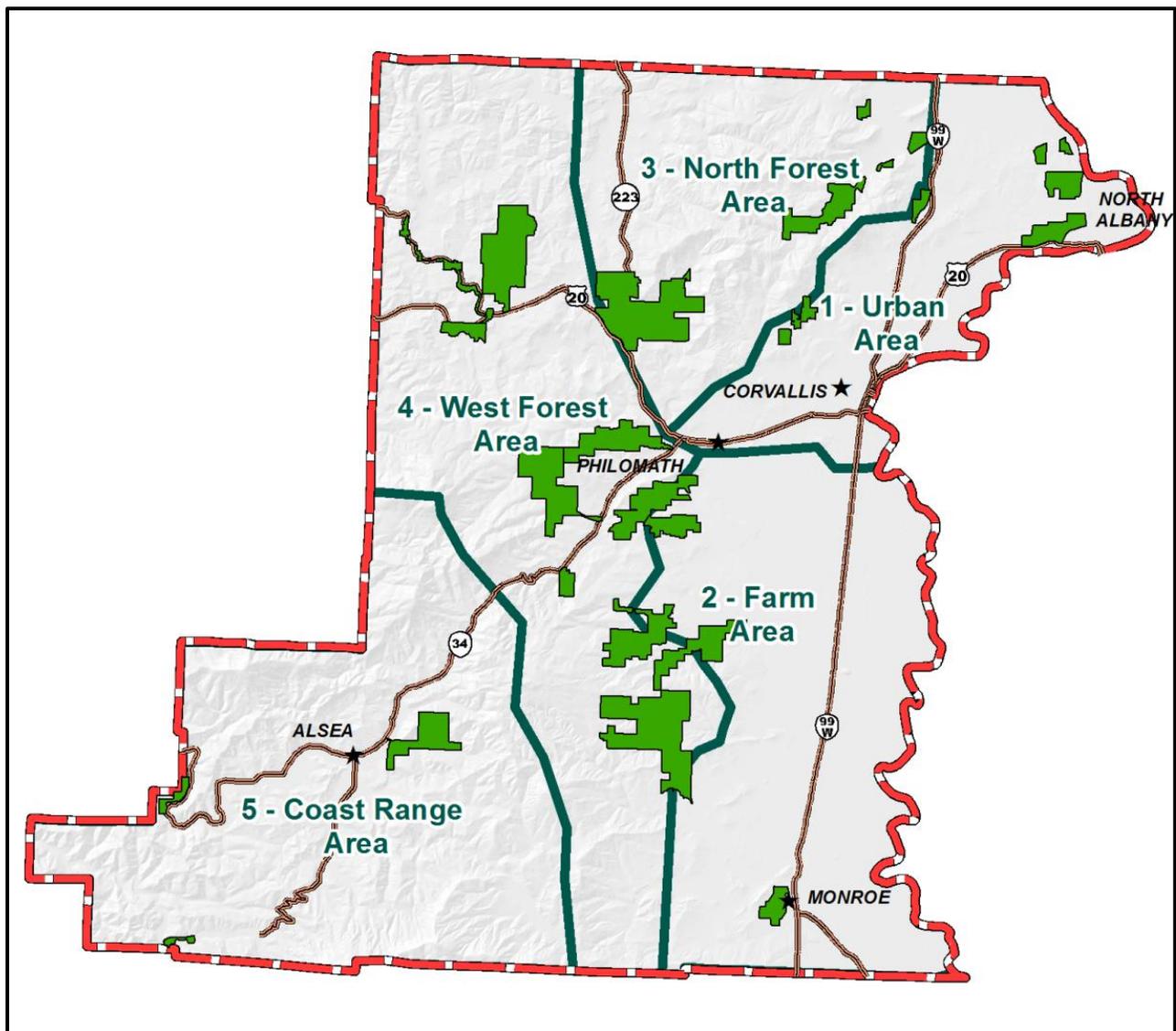
SPA	Project Name	Project Type	Acres	Number of Structures	Miles of Road	Priority ⁸
Strategic Planning Area 1 – Urban Area						
1	Deer Run, Live Oak Roads	Improve access road connectivity	153	50	1.3	1
1	Skyline West Subdivision	Widen access roads, improve access road connectivity, extend municipal water system	283	220	2.9	2
1	Arboretum Road	Improve structural defensible space, install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve access road connectivity	160	93	1.9	3
1	North Albany #1 Springhill, Winn, Picadilly Roads	Improve structural defensible space, install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve access road connectivity	152	98	2.5	4
1	North Albany #2 Palestine Road	Improve structural defensible space, install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve access road connectivity	143	77	2.8	5
1	North Albany #3 Valley View area	Improve structural defensible space, install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve access road connectivity	290	225	1.2	6
1	North Albany #4 Rondo Street to N. Albany Road	Improve structural defensible space, install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve access road connectivity	653	357	5.6	7
Strategic Planning Area 2 – Farm Area						
2	Monroe	Improve structural defensible space, install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve access road connectivity	791	371	6.6	1
2	Starr Creek Road	Improve structural defensible space, improve access road connectivity	1,390	25	--	2
2	Airport Avenue	Improve structural defensible space, improve access road connectivity	674	26	--	3
Strategic Planning Area 3 – North Forest Area						

⁸ Priorities have been developed by weighing various elements including number of residents served, local fire district capability, resident engagement, and relative risk based on a combination of factors.

3	Soap Creek Road	Improve structural defensible space, install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve access road connectivity, improve substandard bridges	2,457	250	11.6	1
3	Wren Community	Install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve access road connectivity, improve substandard bridges	2,100	284	10.4	2
3	Trillium Lane	Improve structural defensible space, install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve access road connectivity	393	60	3.1	3
3	Coffin Butte Road	Improve structural defensible space, install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve access road connectivity	320	34	1.1	4
Strategic Planning Area 4 – West Forest Area						
4	Blodgett to Summit	Improve structural defensible space, including Blodgett school, install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve substandard bridges	1,688	137	7.6	1
4	Corvallis Watershed	Hazardous fuels reduction and forest health improvement	2,354	10	1.2	2
4	West Blodgett	Improve structural defensible space, install additional turnouts and/or widen access roads, improve substandard bridges	1,023	72	7.5	3
4	Upper Ridenour Creek	Improve access road connectivity	1,013	37	4.6	4
4	Norton Creek Road	Improve structural defensible space, improve access road connectivity	2,661	31	--	5
4	Old Peak Road	Improve structural defensible space, improve access road connectivity	1,495	70	--	6
4	Evergreen Road	Improve structural defensible space, improve access road connectivity	1,506	58	--	7
4	Hells Canyon Road	Improve structural defensible space, improve access road connectivity	3,779	28	--	8
4	Beaver Creek Road	Improve structural defensible space, improve access road connectivity	1,622	44	--	9
4	Botkin Road	Improve structural defensible space, improve access road connectivity	279	23	--	10
Strategic Planning Area 5 – Coast Range Area						
5	Cecil Lane	Widen access road, roadside fuels treatments, install additional turnouts and/or	179	22	1.6	1

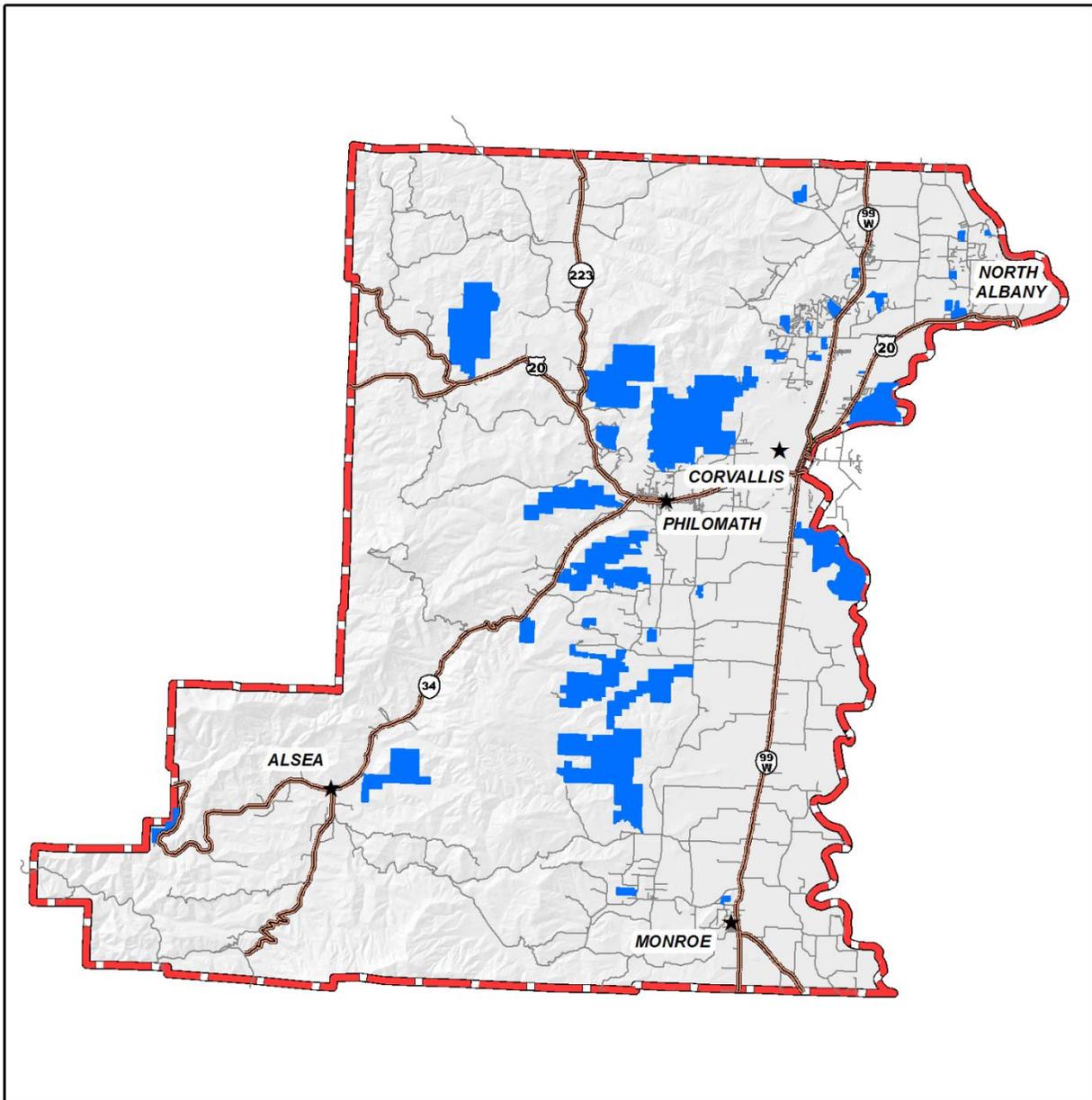
		turnarounds				
5	Lobster Creek	Bridge replacement	283	3	7.6	2
5	Honey Grove Road	Improve structural defensible space, improve access road connectivity	1,246	19	--	3

Map of Proposed Project Areas



This is a general map showing the locations of project areas. A detailed working map is maintained by Oregon Department of Forestry, Community Wildfire Forester.

Map of Limited Access Neighborhoods



This is a general map showing the locations of Limited Access Neighborhoods, which are defined as neighborhoods of 20 or more dwellings with a single access road in and out. A detailed working map, with parcel boundaries, dwelling locations, and roads, is maintained by Benton County Public Works and Community Development.