



Success Stories from the Western Region

Upper Deschutes River Coalition

The Upper Deschutes River Coalition (UDRC) vision is a community and partners aware of issues, engaged, collaborating and acting together to create and maintain a healthy, scenic and sustainable environment where everyone is able to live their core values. The Coalition's mission is "to protect Upper Deschutes River Communities by restoring and sustaining healthy fire-resistant forests, pure and abundant river flows and wildlife habitat."

The Coalition, established in 2004 as a tax-exempt Non-Profit Organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, has invested over \$600,000 in South Deschutes County with \$574,172 in fuel reduction on 600 one-half acre private lots in 26 member communities plus conducted educational outreach. From 2005 to 2011, seventy five percent of 6,286 lots or 8,480 acres meet the defensible space standards as defined by the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (Senate Bill 360). There are six Firewise certified communities in the Coalition's CWPP. About 4,627 lots are green low risk, 610 yellow or medium risk and 1,049 are red high risk fire rated lots. The Coalition's total value of sweat equity and funded fuel reduction work is estimated at \$515,579.

The Coalition's web site www.udrc.org contains fuel hazard risk rating maps for the 26 communities, annual reports and the 2012 operations plan.

The Coalition's Board is composed of one representative from each of the 26 communities and partners including the USFS, BLM, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Deschutes County Forestry, Project Wildfire, La Pine Rural Fire Protection District, Trout Unlimited, Sunriver Anglers, Deschutes County Commissioners and Planning staff. The Board and Partners meet ten times a year and produce an E News quarterly.



Our Mission:

- Ensure healthy, fire-resistant forests – UDRC neighborhoods are thick with lodgepole and ponderosa pine and heavy undergrowth of Bitterbrush and Manzanita. These overgrown conditions allow for high intensity, catastrophic fires that can destroy neighborhoods, wildlife habitat, river banks and the forests itself. The UDRC's goal is to reduce that risk and preserve the health of our forest by reducing hazardous vegetation to promote a more fire-resistant forest and protect neighborhoods and wildlife.
- Promote clean & abundant river flows – four rivers – the Big and Little Deschutes, Fall and Spring Rivers flow majestically through Coalition neighborhoods and provide important habitat for a variety of wildlife such as Brown and Rainbow trout, otters and osprey. They offer abundant recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The UDRC's goal is to keep our rivers clean and healthy to sustain this resource for fish and wildlife, and recreation.
- Enhance beneficial wildlife habitat – healthy, fire-resistant forests and clean river flows come together to provide beneficial habitat for our community friends including elk, white tail deer, bald eagles, otters and osprey. The UDRC's goal is to bring together the diverse efforts of our neighborhood members to provide a balanced approach to sustaining these habitats.



Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

National Goals; Collective Solutions

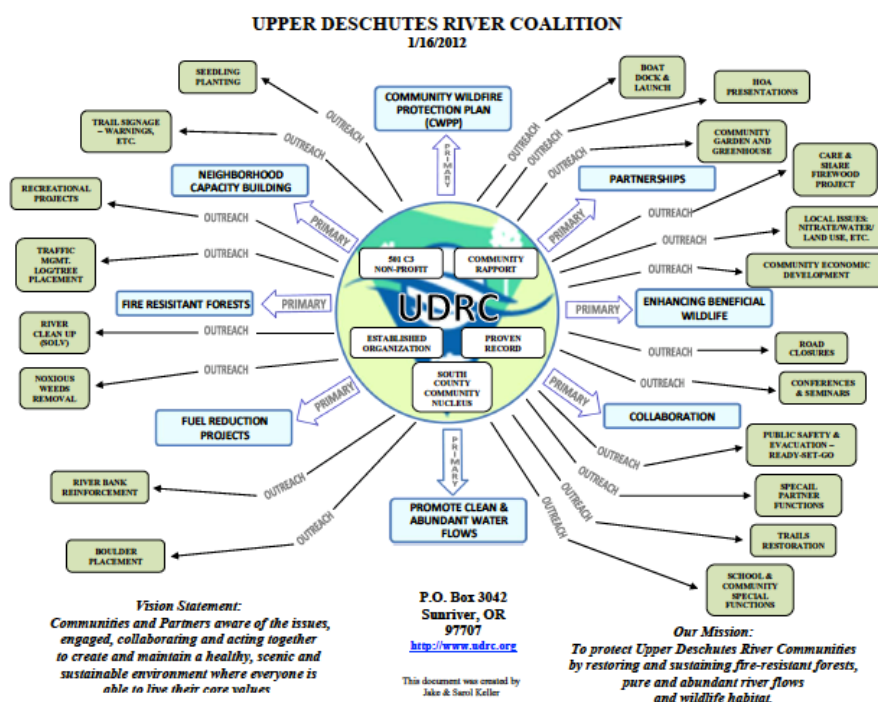
Response to Wildfire
Fire Adapted Communities
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2011 Accomplishments

- Updated the Strategic Vision and Plan
- Bylaws updated to reflect current operations and organization
- Issued the 2011 Annual Report
- Created the 2012 Operations Plan
- Created the River Stewardship Guide
- Managed the two year \$100,000 Deschutes County fuel reduction sweat equity program
- Completed the neighborhood/community physical property evaluation inventory and mapping of all 26 UDRC neighborhoods for compliance to Oregon Senate Bill 360/Defensible Space guidelines
- UDRC's Executive Director coordinating recreational projects for submittal to U.S. Senator Wyden's Central Oregon Recreational Asset Committee, South Deschutes County Committee
- UDRC's Executive Director appointed to the USFS's Provincial Advisory Committee, Deschutes National Forest
- Friends and Board members volunteered 9,354 hours valued at \$173,507
- Coordinated 5th annual river sweep with Stop Oregon Litter & Vandalism on four rivers
- Coordinated recreational projects and submitted to U.S. Senator Wyden's Central Oregon Recreational Asset Committee, South Deschutes County Committee

For more information on the Upper Deschutes River Coalition visit: www.udrc.org

To learn about collaboration on the Cohesive Strategy see our national Partner Perspectives and Success Stories at: <http://forestsandrangelands.gov>





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National Goals; Collective Solutions

Response to Wildfire
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Upper Deschutes River Coalition
P.O. Box 3042
Sunriver, OR 97707

Date:

Dear Property Owner,

Without cost to you, you have the opportunity to have your lot in the Deschutes River Recreational Homesites # 1 – 5 area treated to reduce hazardous fuels in accordance with the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (Senate Bill 360) standards.

The Upper Deschutes River Coalition is an organization of 20 neighborhoods acting collectively on natural resource issues within the region. The Coalition has received limited federal grant funding to perform hazardous fuels treatments to reduce wildfire risk for a limited number of private landowners in the area covered by the Coalition Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).



The photo on the left shows a lot in the DRRH 1-5 area that has not been thinned to reduce hazardous fuels. The photo on the right shows a lot that was treated by the Upper Deschutes River Coalition fuels reduction program. A wildfire entering a lot that has been thinned will usually drop to the ground reducing the risk of a crown fire. A properly thinned lot provides an area that can be used by firefighters to attack the spread of a wildfire and defensible space to protect homes.

The Coalition fuels reduction process includes thinning out the trees to a 10 - 12 ft. distance between crowns favoring ponderosa pine; removing dying, dead, or diseased trees; thinning out smaller trees that rob nutrients from larger healthier trees; mulching slash and brush; cutting tall grass to 4 - 6"; and generally making the property owners' landscape healthier, aesthetically improved, and increasing the property value. Because the Coalition fuels reduction contract specifies a standard process, we cannot accommodate specific requests by the landowner.



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If your property located at ___ were to be treated for fuel reduction by a commercial contractor, the cost would be an estimated \$2,000.00. Our service is at 'no charge' to you. However, based on our Coalition being a 501c3 non-profit organization and relying on donations for continued operation, a voluntary contribution would be very much appreciated and is tax deductible to you. **Attached is a donation form or visit www.UDRC.org and use PayPal and a credit card.**

This free fuels reduction program is available for a limited time and applications will be accepted while funds are available. To apply for the **free fuels reduction program**, please read and sign the enclosed Access Permit and Release of Liability form and mail or fax back to us by _____. Again, we would appreciate any voluntary tax deductible contribution.

If you own more than one property, please fill out only one Access Permit and Release of Liability for each property owned, and please be sure to write in the lot and block number for each individual property.

Please mail or fax to:

Upper Deschutes River Coalition (UDRC)
Attn: FUELS REDUCTION MANAGER
P.O. Box 3042
Sunriver, OR 97707

Sincerely,

a /s/ Smokey Bear
Upper Deschutes River Coalition
Private Lands Committee
Fuels Reduction Grant Manager
Phone: (541)
Email:

Upper Deschutes River Coalition website:
<http://www.udrc.org>

Upper Deschutes Resource Coalition Revised Community Wildfire Protection Plan:
<http://www.udrc.org/cwpp/cwpp2007.pdf>

Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act Property Evaluation & Self-Certification Guide:
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/SB360/sb360.shtml>