

2019 Morrow County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

AUGUST 1, 2019

Morrow County Planning Department



Area 9
Fire Defense Board



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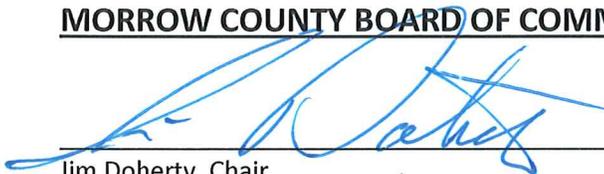
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SIGNATURE PAGE

The contents of this document have been agreed upon and endorsed by the Morrow County Board of Commissioners, the District Forester of the Central Oregon District for Oregon Department of Forestry, Boardman Rural Fire Protection District, Heppner Rural Fire Department, and Umatilla National Forest, Heppner District. This plan is not legally binding as it does not create or place mandates or requirements on individual jurisdictions. It is intended to serve as a planning tool for the fire and land managers of Morrow County, and to provide a framework for those local agencies associated with wildfire suppression and protection services to assess the risks and hazards associated within Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas and to identify mitigation strategies for reducing those risks. This is a working document to be reviewed by members of the CWPP Stakeholders Group and updated as necessary.

MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Jim Doherty, Chair August 7, 2019
Date



Melissa Lindsay, Commissioner August 7, 2019
Date



Don Russell, Commissioner August 7, 2019
Date

MORROW COUNTY FIRE DEFENSE BOARD CHIEF



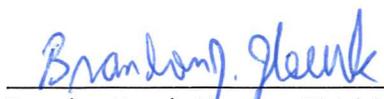
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UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE



Brandon Houck, Heppner District Ranger 8/21/19
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan represents the efforts and cooperation of a number of organizations and agencies working together to improve preparedness for wildfire events while reducing risk factors. Morrow County would like to thank our partners listed below for their work and commitment on the 2019 Morrow County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

2018-2019 MCCWPP STAKEHOLDER GROUP:

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This plan is available online at: <https://www.co.morrow.or.us/planning/page/community-wildfire-protection-plan-201819-update>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recent fires in Oregon and across the western United States have increased public awareness over the potential losses to life, property, and natural and cultural resources that fire can pose. The 2019 update to the Morrow County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (MCCWPP) is the result of a countywide effort initiated to reduce wildland fire risk to communities and their citizens, the environment, and quality of life within Morrow County. Citizens, fire districts, county staff or elected officials, and agency representatives have worked together to create a plan that would be successful in implementing fuels reduction projects, fire prevention education campaigns, and other fire-related programs. The planning process was designed to meet the guidance in the National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HR-1904). A Stakeholder Group with representatives from the various agencies and local jurisdictions responsible for wildfire suppression and protection worked together to guide the planning process. Numerous meetings were held throughout the development of the Plan to gain input from representative interest groups. Goals for the update process were:

- Identify and evaluate wildfire hazards utilizing risk data collected from the Oregon Advanced Wildfire Risk Explorer with an emphasis as identified by MCCWPP Stakeholder Group members on Communities at Risk.
- Improve wildfire response capability of fire districts and better prepare Morrow County residents to survive and save their property during a wildfire situation.
- Ensure that the county and their respective fire districts and communities are eligible for funding assistance to reduce wildfire hazards and to prepare residents for wildfire situations (National Fire Plan, Healthy Forest Restoration Act, FEMA and other sources).
- Develop recommended strategies for private, state, and federal lands to reduce hazardous fuel situations and reduce the risk for damage to lives and property from wildfires.

This Plan describes the various agencies and local jurisdictions responsible for wildfire protection in Morrow County and explains the pertinent programs and laws associated with wildfire issues. This plan provides an overall assessment of the wildfire risk in Morrow County, and considers and rates: ignition risk, wildfire hazards, values protected, protection capability, and structural vulnerability. A Wildland Urban Interface boundary is established and includes portions of National Forest and private lands. This Plan offers Action Items designed to reduce the wildfire risk for Morrow County as a whole, as well as specific zones and communities.

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MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

MISSION

Developed by the MCCWPP Stakeholder Group comprised of rural fire protection districts, local government, state and federal agencies, and community-based organizations, the Plan's mission is to **reduce the risk from wildland fire to life, property and natural resources in the County.**

GOALS

To Achieve this mission the following Goals have been identified:

- County-wide fuels reduction initiative.
- Education and community outreach focused on wildfire reduction.
- Improved development standards targeted at reducing community wildfire risk.
- Increase federal and state agency involvement in local wildfire mitigation efforts.

The following provides an introduction and explanation of these Goals.

FUELS REDUCTION

In a forest setting thinning for fuels reduction can have the added benefit, if stocking levels are lowered enough, of increasing tree diameter growth and enhancing tree vigor. From the stand perspective, this will reduce the time to the next thinning and maintain healthier trees by increasing resistance to pests, such as bark beetles. To meet both fire risk and forest health objectives, stands need to be thinned wide enough to take advantage of the site's resources: water, nutrients, and sunlight. Spacing depends on factors such as site quality, species, and tree size (diameter). On poorer sites, trees will be spaced a bit wider, and species such as Ponderosa and Lodgepole pine should be spaced wider than other species. Larger trees need more space than smaller trees. Forests are dynamic and continually growing in diameter, height, and crown width. Fuels reduction activities that include thinning are beneficial, but thinning without consideration for forest health doesn't provide the benefits of pest resistance or good individual tree growth. Also, without future maintenance, the fire risk reduction benefits decline over time. For more information about proper tree spacing for your stand, contact the Extension Forester for North East Oregon at (541) 602-4689.

Although reducing risk of high intensity wildfire is the primary motivation behind this plan, managing the forests and wildlands for hazardous fuels reduction and fire resilience is only a part of the larger picture. Residents and visitors desire healthy, fire-resilient forests and wildlands that provide habitat for wildlife, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty. By establishing a more fire adapted community through work on private property and a more fire resilient landscape, fire response will be better integrated and successful.

Fuels reduction should also be considered around homes, in the forest, throughout the rolling plains, and in the communities of Morrow County. Wildfire can spread quickly with fire breaks providing an opportunity to slow the fire and protect dwellings and other structures on the landscape. Defensible space takes many forms and can assist firefighters in their efforts to protect landowner investments.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Education and community outreach are areas of primary focus when putting together and implementing a community plan. The community can be the best source of information and every attempt is made to encourage their involvement. It is important that the community view the plan as valuable to public safety and as a resource to mitigating hazards from the risk of wildfire. In Appendix D of this MCCWPP, Morrow County citizens can find information about the Firewise Initiative that can inform them on how to protect themselves and their property from the risk of wildfire. This program guides citizens through creating defensible space around homes by eliminating ladder fuels, planting fire-resistant vegetation, and removing other hazardous material around the home site. By practicing the techniques offered by Firewise, citizens can increase the survivability of their home in the event of a wildfire. The best protection is prevention, especially when the trend is to build homes farther from urban services.

A number of potential Education and Community Outreach ideas and strategies were brainstormed throughout the development of this MCCWPP, many of which have had Action Items developed. Others will continue to be developed at the annual meetings of the Stakeholder Group for future implementation. As work continues to build the necessary coalitions to ensure success, more opportunity for Education and Community Outreach will present themselves.

IMPROVED DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Oregon has a statewide land use system that advocates for protection of farm and forest lands while also requiring that local governments plan for natural hazards and implement reasonable regulation to protect the health, safety and welfare of Oregon's citizens. As Morrow County has prepared the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) and this MCCWPP, discussion of development standards for dwellings and other structures, mostly in the Forest Use Zone, have been taking place. As an Action Item in the NHMP and a Goal in this MCCWPP there is more focus on improving current development standards. While no determinations have been made there is a recognition that access standards for driveways need to be implemented to assure that response vehicles can get into and through communities and to residential structures; that a clear water source for firefighting needs to be identified and maintained; that clear defensible space needs to be created and kept in place for the life of the structure; and that other fire protection measures need to be considered. Changes to the Morrow County Zoning Ordinance that would implement these types of regulations would be subject to public hearings and notice to affected property owners.

AGENCY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Development of the Morrow County Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been no small task. Building a partnership and cooperative environment between "community based" organizations, fire districts, local government and the public land management agencies has been the first step in identifying and prioritizing measures to reduce wildfire risk. Maintaining this cooperation is a long-term effort that requires commitment of all partners involved.

Morrow County is committed to supporting the rural fire districts and communities in their fire protection efforts, both short and long-term. The County will continue to provide support in maintaining countywide risk assessment information and emergency management coordination. The MCCWPP Stakeholder Group will work on implementing the wildfire plan by working with fire districts, community organizations and public agencies to coordinate fuels reduction projects with existing dollars through the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The MCCWPP

will focus on public meetings and an education campaign to strengthen emergency management and evacuation procedures. MCCWPP Stakeholders and partners will also focus on refining long-term strategies to maintain fire protection activities in the County.

This current MCCWPP would not have happened without the involvement of many different local, state and federal agencies. But continuing efforts are needed to bring more agencies and community groups to the table as the Action Items identified are implemented throughout Morrow County. Partnerships need to be maintained and new ones forged with a focus on wildfire prevention and reduction. Current work with the United States Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry needs to grow to include involvement from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Annual meetings of the MCCWPP Stakeholder Group will take place each Spring with continued work to increase agency involvement.

OBJECTIVES

To address the complex range of issues within the **MCCWPP**, it became clear early in the planning process that broader and diverse participation was needed for success. Through MCCWPP Stakeholder Group meetings with invitations to organizations and stakeholders in the county, objectives were formed to identify and implement Action Items to support the Plan’s Mission and Goals. Supporting Objectives are listed below.

Goal	Objective
Fuels Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pursue NRCS fuels reduction programs and grants. <input type="checkbox"/> Fuels reductions around Penland Lake. <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation maintenance around ingress and egress corridors around Blakes Ranch, Cutsforth Park and Penland Lake. <input type="checkbox"/> Plowed/Mowed firebreaks around communities at risk, i.e., Heppner High School, and Hardman. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop CRP conversion strategies. <input type="checkbox"/> Develop controlled burn schedules around germination periods.
Education and Community Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Land owner education surrounding available programs and grants. <input type="checkbox"/> Reactivation of the Small Woodlands Association in Eastern Oregon. <input type="checkbox"/> Development of Firewise Communities. <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage Landowner cooperation. <input type="checkbox"/> Free yard waste disposal day, and rent chipper for forest communities for the day.
Improved Development Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Improved Siting Standards in Morrow County Development Code for cabins in Forest Use Zone i.e., ingress and egress accessibility, defensible space around structures, fire resistant building materials, fire resistant landscaping, code enforcement for non-compliance. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide special need citizens with an opportunity to participate in programs
Agency Involvement and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Work with federal agencies to identify shortcomings in fuels reduction programs. <input type="checkbox"/> Engage north-end federal and state landowners and managers in wildfire mitigation strategies. <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and engage community and landowner-based organizations working towards wildfire mitigation strategies.

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WHY A CWPP?

On a normal summer day in Morrow County you can find many residents checking the skies for a building thunderhead or a plume of smoke. Wildland fire has impacted the county since long before the first settler moved into the area. This MCCWPP is designed to help inform agencies responsible for fire suppression in Morrow County of who to contact for assistance, and what capability they have to respond. The MCCWPP is also a guidance document that provides communities and local agencies with an opportunity to influence where and how federal agencies implement fuel reduction projects on federal lands, and how additional federal funds may be distributed for projects on non-federal lands. The MCCWPP helps inform community leaders of what can be done to lower the risk and impact of wildfire to homes, businesses, essential infrastructure, and other community values at risk in Morrow County.

While the MCCWPP provides a foundation and resources for understanding wildland fire risk and opportunities to reduce potential losses from wildland fire, individual communities, fire districts and neighborhoods can take local action by developing community-specific fire plans or by participating in countywide activities for prevention and protection.

Originally completed in March 2006 and updated in 2014, this 2019 update to Morrow County's CWPP outlines updated Goals, Objectives, and Action Items for fuels reduction treatments in the unincorporated and/or unprotected wildland interface areas. This 2019 update will also take the plan from being a hard copy only plan to a digital plan that will incorporate interactive maps allowing for improved readability.

OREGON FORESTLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE PROTECTION ACT

The Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act of 1997, often referred to as SB360, was intended to facilitate development of an effective Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) protection system in Oregon by 1) establishing policies regarding WUI protection, 2) defining the WUI in Oregon and establishing a process and system for classifying the interface, 3) establishing standards for WUI property owners so they can manage or minimize fire hazards and risks, and 4) providing the means for establishing adequate, integrated fire protection systems in WUI areas, including information and prevention efforts.

HEALTHY FOREST INITIATIVE (HFI)/HEALTHY FOREST RESTORATION ACT (HFRA)

In 2002 then President Bush announced the Healthy Forest Initiative (HFI) designed to identify and remove barriers to the implementation of projects that were developed to restore the health of the national forests. The HFI was focused on renewed efforts to be more effective and efficient in carrying out restoration projects. Under HFI, new categorical exclusions were developed to allow federal agencies to move more quickly through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes under appropriate circumstances, streamlined administrative review processes for NEPA, and created new regulations under the Endangered Species Act for National Fire Plan projects to streamline consultation with federal regulatory agencies. It also set the stage for extensive discussion between the administration and Congress that resulted in new legislation addressing forest health.

Congress enacted the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) in November 2003. It provided new tools and additional authorities to treat more federally-managed acres more quickly to expedite restoration goals. It strengthened public participation and provided incentives for local communities to develop community protection plans. It limited the complexity of environmental analyses for

hazard reduction projects, provided a more effective appeals process, and instructed the Courts that are being asked to halt projects to balance the short-term effects of implementing the projects against the harm from undue delay and long-term benefits of a restored forest.

NATIONAL COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Forests and Rangelands is an active, cooperative effort between the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and their land management agencies. Forests and Rangelands provides fire, fuels, and land management information for government officials, land and wildland fire management professionals, businesses, communities, and interested organizations and individuals.

In the past 20 years, American wildfires have grown bigger and more extreme. The Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act of 2009 directed the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy (Cohesive Strategy). The Cohesive Strategy takes a holistic view of fire on the landscape. Federal and State land and fire managers, Tribes, NGOs, and other stakeholders worked as partners to develop the strategy. The strategy is a framework to coordinate multiple agency and homeowner efforts toward three goals: Restore and maintain landscapes; create fire-adapted communities; and improve fire response.

The National Strategy identifies opportunities to address four major challenges:

- Vegetation and Fuels Management - Prioritize fuel treatments for maximum beneficial effects, manage wildfire for resource objectives, and maintain fire-adapted ecosystems.
- Homes, Communities, and Values at Risk – Increase firefighter and public safety. Reduce damage to property and values at-risk through community and homeowner involvement in proactive wildfire risk reduction actions, e.g. Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs).
- Human-caused Ignitions - Emphasize programs targeting human behaviors that lead to wildfires, and tailor programs to meet local needs.
- Effective and Efficient Wildfire Response - Enhance wildfire response effectiveness and preparedness for public and firefighter safety.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to reducing wildfire risk. Solutions must be tailored to landscapes and communities. The strategy offers a broad-based, collaborative response to local wildfire issues, based on a wealth of scientific information. Implementation will take place locally, through programs and projects to reduce wildfire risk across boundaries, building cooperation and coordination between agencies and stakeholders.

GOAL 7 NATURAL HAZARDS

The intent of Oregon Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 7 Natural Hazards is to protect people and property by directing local governments to adopt comprehensive plan policies and implementing measures to reduce risk. Goal 7 also indicates that new hazard inventory information provided by federal and state agencies shall be reviewed by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) in consultation with affected state and local government representatives. Morrow County updated its Goal 7 Natural Hazards in early 2016 using the 2016 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan as the basis for the adopted Goals and Policies now in place. The Natural Hazards Element of the Comprehensive Plan can be found on the Morrow County Planning Department webpage here: <https://www.co.morrow.or.us/planning/page/comprehensive-plan>.

PLANNING PROCESS

As the five-year life-cycle of the MCCWPP was nearing its end, and after the conclusion of the successful table top exercise in May 2018, discussion turned to the need to initiate an update to ensure that there was an operative CWPP in place to limit the risk of wildfire in Morrow County. The Morrow County Planning Department began the CWPP update process in June 2018 with the objective of that first meeting to identify any gaps in Stakeholder representation with Rural Fire Protection Districts, the United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) being invited to the table. The process resulted in robust participation from invited agencies with most agencies appointing at least one representative to the MCCWPP Stakeholder Group. Members of the MCCWPP Stakeholder Group are identified on the Acknowledgements page of this document.

The MCCWPP Stakeholder Group was responsible for providing guidance to all elements of planning and implementation of the MCCWPP update. The Stakeholder Group attempted to complete the update process within six meetings over an approximately six-month period with a seventh meeting planned for final adoption by the Morrow County Board of Commissioners. Planning staff created a Scope of Work, summarized here, outlining the necessary steps for the update process.

CONVENE DECISIONMAKERS

The Stakeholders Group had representation from local governments, local fire authorities, as well as State and Federal Agencies responsible for forest management in Morrow County. Specific activities included:

- Identify community and agency representatives:** This was identified as a time to review and update the existing MCCWPP Stakeholder Group contact list for accuracy and to confirm each agency and individual’s willingness to continue participation in the MCCWPP update process.
- Identify communities and neighborhoods:** Stakeholders identified communities, neighborhoods, and industries within Fire District boundaries to inform Stakeholder participants and future work around communities at risk.
- Establish rolls and responsibilities:** Stakeholders were responsible for the development of the MCCWPP and mutually agreed on the plan’s final contents. As the update process evolved, individual agency responsibilities were identified and captured.
- Develop a timeline for Stakeholder Meetings/Public Outreach:** The timeline for the MCCWPP development process focused work between October 2018 and April 2019, with a total of 6 meetings scheduled. As the process came to an end winter weather caused the cancellation of a meeting, adding a final meeting to consider the Final Draft MCCWPP in May. This resulted in the final MCCWPP being adopted in July 2019.
- Review/modify community fire plan outline:** Stakeholders continuously reviewed and modified the proposed MCCWPP development outline as the update process continued.
- Engage Interested Parties:** The Stakeholders Group remained involved in the MCCWPP development process and identified other parties that could be engaged, at this point or with future projects.
- Web Presence:** Planning Staff developed and maintained web assets for the MCCWPP process on the County Website.

ESTABLISH COMMUNITY BASE MAP

This work task required the Stakeholders to establish a baseline map of the community that defines the community's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and displays populated areas at risk, forested areas that obtain critical human infrastructure, and forest areas that are at risk for large-scale fires. Specific activities included:

- Review Previous Base Map:** The current base map was reviewed to identify and update boundaries.
- Create New Base Map:** Planning Staff working with Stakeholders created a base map that identifies critical infrastructure that also aggregates information into a GIS derived MCCWPP Community Base Map.
- Base Map Review:** The final Base Maps included:
 - Identified inhabited areas at potential risk to wildland fire.
 - Areas containing critical human infrastructure, e.g., escape routes, municipal water supply structures, and major power lines or communication facilities.
 - Community WUI zones.
 - Forested Areas.
 - Critical watersheds.
- Base Map Approval:** The final Base Map was approved by the Stakeholder Group.

DEVELOP COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT

The Stakeholder Group developed a community risk assessment that considers fuel hazards; risk of wildfire occurrence; home, businesses, and essential infrastructure at risk; other community values at risk; and local preparedness capability. These factors were incorporated into Base Map as needed and appropriate. It was determined that this task would be best accomplished by utilizing the Advanced Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer map tool, which serves professional planners to inform updates to Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans (NHMP). It has extensive data resources, detailed summaries, and full wildfire risk inventory report and was developed through a partnership between the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University Institute for Natural Resources. This Risk Assessment was used to develop a rating system for the county ranging from low to extreme as to educate local residents of their individual risk. It should be noted that this is a risk assessment and not a probability indicator and that homes in areas of "low risk" are still at risk of wildfire. Specific activities included:

- Identify Fuel Hazards:** To the extent practicable, the Stakeholders Group evaluated and identified vegetative fuels on federal and nonfederal land within or near communities at risk.
- Identify Risk of Wildfire Occurrence:** Using historical data and local knowledge the Stakeholders Group determined common causes and relative frequency of wildfires in the vicinity of the identified communities at risk.
- Identify Homes, Businesses, and Essential Infrastructure at Risk:** The Stakeholders Group assessed the vulnerability of communities within the County to ignition from firebrands, radiation, and convection. This assessment is used to identify specific improvements within or adjacent to the communities at risk that would be used to protect homes, businesses, and essential infrastructure. The types of essential infrastructure considered includes:
 - Escape Routes

- Municipal Water Supply Structures
- Major Power Lines and Communication Facilities
- Fire Facilities
- Medical Facilities

- Identify Other Community Values at Risk:** These areas of concern may be, but are not limited to, critical wildlife habitat, significant recreation and scenic areas, and landscapes of historical, economic, or cultural value. This task resulted in an update to a mapping project from the 2006 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan.
- Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability:** The Stakeholder Group also assessed the level of local emergency preparedness including evacuation planning, safety zones, mutual aid agreements, as well as the response capability of community and cooperator fire protection forces.

ESTABLISH COMMUNITY HAZARD REDUCTION PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY

The Stakeholders Group used the Base Map and community risk assessment to facilitate a discussion that lead to the identification of local priorities for fuel treatment, reducing structural ignitability, and other issues of interest, such as improving fire response capability.

- Identify Reduction Priorities:** The Stakeholders Group used the analysis from above to identify hazard reduction priorities throughout the community.
- Mitigation Strategies:** The Stakeholders Group discussed and identified mitigation strategies for those communities and community values at risk previously identified.

DEVELOP ACTION ITEMS AND AN ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

The Stakeholders Group developed a detailed implementation strategy and a monitoring plan as part of the MCCWPP to ensure long-term success.

- Develop Action Items:** The Stakeholders Group developed action items for mitigation strategies identified previously.
- Develop Assessment Strategy:** The Stakeholders Group identified a system to track progress and identify areas of the MCCWPP that work or don't work. This system will help to determine future needs heading into the next MCCWPP update.

FINALIZE THE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

The Stakeholders Group finalized the MCCWPP and communicated the results to the community through the Planning Department, the Morrow County Planning Commission, the Stakeholders and ultimately through the Morrow County Board of Commissioners when adopted.

- Draft Distribution:** Planning Staff distributed draft versions to the Stakeholders Group, cooperating agencies and the Planning Commission.
- Draft Review:** Planning Staff created opportunities for public review and a deadline for comment on the draft by Stakeholders, cooperating agencies and the public.
- Public Meetings:** Planning Staff provided multiple drafts of the MCCWPP to the Stakeholders Group and twice to the Morrow County Planning Commission. Prior to the Morrow County Board of Commissioners public meeting the draft was made available for the public to review the Plan.

The purpose of this opportunity is to inform the public of updates and changes from the previous MCCWPP. The public should be made aware that:

- Distribution of mitigation efforts are not dependent upon property value.
- Adjacent mitigation efforts increase the effectiveness of fuels mitigation project.
- Neighborhood participation and willingness to engage in mitigation efforts are key to success.
- Permission is needed to work on impacted properties.

Final MCCWPP Adoption: Review by the Morrow County Planning Commission was accomplished in both April and May 2019. Adoption by Resolution by the Morrow County Board of Commissioners was accomplished in July 2019. The Stakeholders Group also encouraged Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan participating cities to also adopt the MCCWPP by Resolution.

COUNTY PROFILE

Based on the 2018 Oregon Bluebook, there are 11,745 people residing in Morrow County accounting for approximately 4,606 households. This rich agricultural land can be roughly divided into three occupational zones-increasing amounts of irrigation farming in the north, vast fields of wheat yielding to cattle ranches in the center, and timber products in the south. The total area of Morrow County is approximately 2,049 square miles, a little more than 1.3 million acres of gently rolling plains and broad plateaus, of which about 130,454 acres is privately owned forestland and about 225,333 acres is managed by federal, state, and county agencies for the public good.

Management	Acres (Approximately)
Private Lands (Residential, Ranches, Timber Companies, etc.)	1,085,129
US Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management	3,893
US Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service	4,332
Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman	41,277
US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Umatilla NF	144,679
Morrow County	6,410
State of Oregon, Division of State Lands & Dept of Fish & Wildlife	2,182
US Army Corps of Engineers	22,560
Total	1,310,462

For a more in-depth County Profile, please see Section 2 of the Morrow County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) found here: <https://www.co.morrow.or.us/planning/page/natural-hazards-mitigation-plan>

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WILDLAND FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The Morrow County Community Wildfire Protection Plan wildland fire risk assessment analyzes the potential losses to life, property and natural resources. Objectives of the risk assessment are to identify Communities At-Risk and the Wildland-Urban Interface, develop and conduct a wildland fire risk assessment, and identify and prioritize Action Items. The Risk Assessment utilizes data derived from the Advanced Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer as well as local knowledge. The analysis takes into consideration a combination of factors defined below:

Risk: Potential and frequency for wildland fire ignitions (based on past occurrences)

Hazard: Conditions that may contribute to wildland fire (fuels, slope, aspect, elevation, and weather)

Values: People, property, community infrastructure, natural and other resources that could suffer losses in a wildfire event.

Protection Capability: Ability to mitigate losses, prepare for, respond to, and suppress wildland and structural fires.

Structural Vulnerability: Characteristics influencing the vulnerability of structures during a wildland fire event (roof type and building materials, access to the structure, and whether or not there is defensible space or fuels reduction around the structure.)

COMMUNITIES AT RISK

In recent years the population of Morrow County has moved further and further into traditional resource land including forested lands. This has produced a significant increase in threats to life and property and has pushed existing fire protection systems beyond their original or current design capabilities. The MCCWPP Stakeholder Group used data from the Advanced Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer and local authoritative knowledge to generate a list of communities at risk from urban interface fires. This list includes 17 locations in Morrow County: Blakes Ranch, City of Boardman, City of Heppner, City of Lone, City of Irrigon, Cutsforth Park, Hardman, Irrigon Fish Hatchery, Morrow-Grant County OHV Park, Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman, Penland Lake, Reeds Mill, Ruggs, Threemile Canyon Farms, Town of Lexington, Tupper Guard Station, and the Umatilla Army Depot (*see mapped Communities at Risk in Appendix A*).

These areas are very high risk for several reasons including but not limited to:

1. Initial response time to structures and wildland.
2. Lack of trained people and appropriate equipment to take action on structure fires.
3. Fuel loading in and around living sites.
4. Fuel loading adjacent to living areas.
5. Very poor access.
6. Location of structures (i.e., in draw bottoms, south slopes, etc.).
7. Construction of structures (combustible roofing etc.).
8. Lack of safety zones for residents and firefighters.
9. Communications and evacuation systems, plans and back-up.
10. Lack of water supply.

Information on risk reduction and mitigation strategies to offset the fire hazards for property owners is essential (*see Appendix D of this plan for resources for home owners*).

HISTORY OF FIRE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Fire is an important disturbance mechanism in many of the ecosystems found in Morrow County. Wildfire helps to maintain a diverse and healthy ecosystem by consuming leaf litter, ground vegetation, and dead wood. This mechanism can trigger a rebirth in the forest and help maintain and encourage regrowth of plant species endemic to Morrow County.

The number of wildfires 50-acres or larger from 2013 to 2018 ranged from approximately three in 2014, to ten in 2015, with a total of 37 fires 50-acres or larger burning more than 56,543 acres during a five-year period. Eighteen fires burned 500 acres or more during that five-year period and of those, 12 were 1000 acres or more. Due to inconsistent tracking of historic fire data, the chart below is incomplete for fire numbers and acreage burnt. (see *Historic Fires Map in Appendix A*).

Many of the significant fire events in Morrow County occur as a result of dry lightning storms. Wide spread dry lightning is fairly frequent, occurring approximately every one to three years. These episodes can cause 50-100 ignitions in one day requiring suppression.

WILDFIRES IN MORROW COUNTY 2013 TO 2018, >50-ACRES IN SIZE

Acreage Size Class	Total Acres Burned	Number of Fires
A 50-100	1430	12
B 101-500	4270	9
C 501-1000	5448	7
D >1000	151995	9
Total	163240	37

(Wildfires <50-acres in size not represented in this chart.)

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

The boundaries of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) are based on the actual distribution of structures and communities adjacent to or intermixed with wildland fuels. Wildland Urban Interface boundaries were redrawn from the 2014 CWPP using data from the Advanced Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer as well as local knowledge from the Stakeholders Group. Fuel reduction treatments are designed to protect human communities from wildland fires as well as minimize the spread of fires that might originate in urban areas. The management objective in the wildland-urban interface zone is to enhance fire suppression capabilities by modifying fire behavior inside the zone and providing a safe and effective area for fire suppression activities (see *mapped Wildland Urban Interface Areas in Appendix A*).

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

FIRE DISTRICTS

Across Morrow County, fire protection is provided at three levels: no protection (without any protection for the wildland or structures); single protection by either rural, city, or wildland agencies (structures are protected, but not the land; or vice versa); and dual-protection (both structural and wildland agencies available). Finding an area with dual protection is limited in the rural areas of Morrow County. Also, the vastness of the county allows for increased response time which limits the capabilities of fire services.

Within Morrow County there are 13 agencies responsible for providing fire protection and are comprised of six Rural Fire Districts, two city fire departments, United States Forest Service (USFS), United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&W), and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). The United States Navy at Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman (NWSTFB), and the Oregon Military Department (OMD) at the Umatilla Army Depot are responsible for suppression efforts on their respective installations. The John Day airport has single engine air tankers (SEATs) available during the summer fire season. There are helicopter rappel bases at La Grande and John Day.

Morrow County is divided into six rural fire protection districts within the county: Boardman, Heppner, Lone, Irrigon, Pilot Rock, South Gilliam. In the Rural Fire Districts, there are only ten paid, fulltime fire fighters, the rest is strictly volunteer. In 2005, Morrow County elected to cover all lands outside the Forest Protection District with rural fire protection for both structures and wildland. The County used Zone II authority and divided the protection responsibility among the established Rural Fire Districts. In 2012 the Heppner Rural Fire Protection District was expanded to include Blake's Addition. As of 2019 only a small portion to the east of Irrigon lies outside a Rural Fire Protection District (*see Morrow County Rural Fire Protection Districts Map in Appendix A*).

Oregon Department of Forestry, Morrow County, and USFS/BLM are in a partnership to suppress wildland fires, and operate under a "closest forces" concept. ODF is responsible for protection of private lands, county and State of Oregon lands within the Forest Protection District. The USFS, Umatilla National Forests, plus BLM work with the ODF to locate the closest fire crew to an ignition and dispatch for initial attack. ODF and the USFS have mutual aid agreements with the rural fire districts within Morrow County that allow for assistance to be provided regardless of jurisdiction.

Morrow County has two incorporated areas with fire departments, the City of Heppner and the Town of Lexington. Both are operated with volunteer fire fighters and are solely responsible for structure protection within city limits. The city fire departments and the six rural departments are the organizations properly trained to do structure fire-fighting. Although ODF, USFS and BLM personnel are not trained, equipped, or organized to fight structure fires, they will assist the fire departments in protecting exposures and surrounding vegetation by cleaning around houses, setting up pumps and locating and constructing fire lines.

Agency contacts in support of this document to include the various agencies and districts that this plan covers can be found in Appendix C. It is the intent of the Stakeholders Group to maintain Appendix C and update it at the annual CWPP Stakeholders Group meeting.

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT CAPABILITIES AND RESOURCES

The county has the following list of current Rural Fire Protection Districts:

Morrow County Rural Fire Protection Districts
Boardman RFPD
Heppner RFPD
Ione RFPD
Irrigon RFPD
Pilot Rock RFPD
South Gilliam RFPD

Boardman RFPD: Boardman RFPD offers 632mi² of structure and wildland fire protection coverage. Boardman RFPD borders the Columbia River to the north and has major transportation routes within the district including Interstate 84 and Union Pacific Railroad lines. Boardman RFPD has four stations:

- Station 1 located within Boardman City Limits. Station 1 is staffed by ten full-time paid firefighters and approximately volunteers.
- Station 2 is located at the PGE Coal-Fire plant. Station 2 houses additional trucks equipment and is not currently staffed.
- Station 3 is located onsite at Threemile Canyon Farms. Station 3 houses additional trucks and equipment and is staffed by volunteers.
- Station 7 is a multi-district station and is located off Highway 207. Station 7 houses additional trucks and equipment and is staffed by volunteers.

Heppner RFPD: Heppner RFPD offers approximately 1288mi² of structural and wildland fire protection coverage. Heppner RFPD covers a large section of central Morrow County along with the City of Heppner and is composed primarily of grass and agricultural lands. Heppner RFPD has two stations:

- Main Station is located within the Heppner Urban Growth Boundary and is staffed by approximately 20 volunteers. Houses all of the Heppner RFPD trucks and equipment.
- Station 7 is a multi-district station and is located off Highway 207. Station 7 does not house any of Heppner RFPD's equipment or manpower.

Ione RFPD: Ione RFPD offers approximately 925mi² of structural and wildland fire protection coverage. Ione RFPD covers a large section of western Morrow County along with the City of Ione and is composed primarily of grass and agricultural lands. Ione RFPD has two stations:

- Main Station is located within Ione City Limits and is staffed by approximately 10 volunteers. Houses all of the Ione RFPD trucks and equipment.
- Station 7 is a multi-district station and is located off Highway 207. Station 7 does not house any of Ione RFPD's equipment or manpower.

Irrigon RFPD: Irrigon RFPD offers approximately 28mi² of structural and wildland fire protection coverage. Irrigon RFPD covers a section of Northeast Morrow County along with the City of Irrigon and is composed primarily of grass and agricultural lands and borders the Columbia River to the North. Irrigon RFPD has one station:

- Main Station is located within Irrigon City Limits and is staffed by approximately 15 volunteers. Houses all of the Irrigon RFPD trucks and equipment.

Pilot Rock RFPD: Pilot Rock RFPD provides fire suppression for approximately 134 mi² of Morrow County. Pilot Rock RFPD does not have any trucks or equipment stationed in Morrow County.

- Station 7 is a multi-district station and is located off Highway 207. Station 7 does not house any of Pilot Rock RFPD’s equipment or manpower.

South Gilliam RFPD: South Gilliam RFPD provides fire suppression for approximately 5 mi² of Morrow County. South Gilliam RFPD does not have any assets in Morrow County.

AGENCY CAPABILITIES AND RESOURCES

The county has the following list of agencies with fire protection responsibilities:

Agencies with Fire Protection Responsibilities
Heppner FD
Lexington FD
Naval Weapons System Training Facility Boardman (DOD)
Oregon Department of Forestry (State)
Umatilla Army Depot (OMD)
United States Forest Service (Federal)
United States Fish & Wildlife (Federal)

Heppner FD: Heppner Fire Department has limited responsibilities for wildland fire protection. Operates under mutual aid agreements with RFPD’s

Lexington FD: Lexington Fire Department has limited responsibilities for wildland fire protection. Operates under mutual aid agreements with RFPD’s

Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman: Naval Weapons System Training Facility Boardman has wildland protection capabilities limited to the training facility boundaries. Operates under mutual aid agreements with Boardman and lone RFPD’s.

Oregon Department of Forestry: The ODF has multiple engines available throughout the area including three in Monument, three in Fossil. Operates under mutual aid agreements with all of the RFPD’s in Morrow County.

Umatilla Army Depot: Oregon Military Department has wildland protection capabilities limited to the training facility boundaries. Operates under mutual aid agreements with Boardman and Irrigon RFPD’s.

United States Fish & Wildlife: USF&W has wildland protection capabilities including engines throughout the area. USF&W operates under mutual aid agreements with Boardman and Irrigon RFPD’s.

WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION PROCEDURES

Currently all wildland fires in Morrow County are aggressively suppressed. This is done through a **Master Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement**. This agreement consists of five organizations:

- John Day Unit, Central Oregon District, ODF, (with Mutual Aid Agreements with all cities and rural Fire Departments)
- Umatilla National Forest, USFS
- Prineville District, BLM
- Vale District, BLM
- USF&W Service

Wildland fire fighting organizations have a multitude of support resources. Movement of federal resources are coordinated through local dispatch centers and the Northwest Coordination Center in Portland, Oregon. State resource movement is coordinated through local dispatch centers, the ODF-Salem Coordination Center and the Washington Department of Natural Resources dispatch office in Olympia, Washington.

There are a variety of suppression resources that may be available throughout Morrow County and the neighboring areas. Those resources include: Interagency Hotshot Crews, Smoke Jumper's, Rappeler's, Type 4 and 6 Engines, Various Helicopters capable of dropping water, and various sizes of aircraft to drop retardant.

CONFLAGRATION ACT

In the event a large amount of structures is threatened by a Wildland fire in an area protected by a city or rural fire department, the Area 9 Fire Defense Board Chief can request of the Oregon State Fire Marshal to request the Governor to declare an emergency and evoke the Conflagration Act mobilization. In areas outside of city and rural fire departments, the Board of Commissioners can request of the Governor to declare an emergency and evoke the Conflagration Act mobilization. This will make available structural resources along with Structural Incident Management Teams (IMT) through the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office immediately to protect those structures.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

The structural fire protection agencies in Morrow County are parties to an inter-governmental agreement between other structural fire protection agencies in Morrow County as well as Umatilla and Gilliam Counties. This agreement spells out how these agencies will mutually assist each other. This agreement is also a tool that is utilized by the Local Fire Chief, Fire Defense Board Chief, and Local Governing Officials for requesting additional resources through the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan and for requesting the invoking of the State Conflagration Act to the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and Governor's Office. There may also be additional agreements between the local agencies and wildland fire agencies such as Oregon Department of Forestry, US Forest Service, US Navy, Oregon Military Department, and US Fish and Wildlife. Mutual Aid Agreements related to Wildfire Response in Morrow County can be requested from the Office of the State Fire Marshal at: <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/Pages/Emergency-Mobilizations.aspx>

ACTION PLAN

Action Items are detailed recommendations for activities that MCCWPP agency partners and others could engage in to reduce wildfire risk. Short and long-term Action Items identified through the planning process are an important part of the MCCWPP addressing a variety of issues and concerns. They have been developed by the Stakeholders Group in support of the Mission, Goals and Objectives identified earlier in this CWPP.

The Action Item inventory, found below, is a summary of the Action Items that have been identified from previous CWPPs or generated during this 2019 update. The completed Action Item forms can be found in Appendix E. The form captures the proposed action, responsible agencies, costs when known, and which Goal or Objective is being addressed. Action Items can and will be updated by the MCCWPP Stakeholder Group annually. Input from community members concerning new or improved Action Items can be submitted to the Morrow County Planning Department.

Implementation of the Action Items will be reviewed annually during planned MCCWPP Stakeholder Group meetings that will occur in the Spring of each year. Reporting of Action Item implementation will allow for tracking of progress against the Mission, Goals and Objectives of the MCCWPP.

Action Items in this MCCWPP have not been prioritized. The Morrow County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan does include a methodology that could be applied to future updates should a need arise.

ASSESSING BENEFITS AND COSTS OF MITIGATION

Many federal grant programs require benefit/cost analysis of proposed actions. This ensures that the investment will yield greater benefits than the investment costs. The benefits of planning, mitigation and preparedness for wildland fire, however, can be difficult to quantify. It can be difficult to put a monetary number to the value of human, environmental, cultural and other social resources. The MCCWPP Stakeholders Group emphasized developing priorities of action for hazardous fuels treatment, education, emergency management and biomass utilization. The process to develop these priorities has included a technical risk assessment and collection of community input on values. The plan also takes into consideration the fact that low-income, elderly, disabled and other citizens with special needs may require extra assistance or resources to take fire protection actions. All of these values should be considered in developing priorities and assessing the costs and benefits of projects.

When applying for grants that require benefit/cost analysis, there are resources available through FEMA and other agencies that can assist in quantifying these costs and benefits.

ACTION ITEM INVENTORY

2019-2024 Action Items						
Actions	Projects	Community	Hazard	Responsible Agency	Status	Published
Goal: Fuel Hazard Reduction						
On Non-Federal Land	BPA Boardman UGB Fuels Reduction	City of Boardman	High	BPA	Identified	2019
On Federal Lands	Mountain Top Defensible Space	Madison Butte Lookout, Back Mountain Communications Site	High	USFS	Identified	2019
	Refuge Fire Perimeter	City of Boardman	High	USACE, USF&G, CTUIR	Identified	2019
	NWSTF Boardman Western Fire Breaks	NWSTF Boardman, City of Boardman	High	NWSTF Boardman	Identified	2019
	Ellis Integrated Vegetation Project	Several Communities	High	USFS	Identified	2019
	Incorporate remaining lands not covered by an RFPD	Boardman and Irrigon	High	Boardman RFPD, Irrigon RFPD	Identified	2019
Goal: Education and Community Outreach						
On Non-Federal Lands	Free Spray Day	Several Communities	High	NRCS, Morrow SWCD	Funded 2019	2019
	Wildfire Education/Community Night Out	Several Communities	High	Varies	Funded/Identified	2019
	Chip-in Day	Several Communities	High	ODF	Identified	2019
	Firewise Fair Booth	Several Communities	High	ODF/County/Heppner RFPD	Identified	2019
Goal: Improved Development Standards						
On Non-Federal Lands	MCZO Updates based on CWPP	Morrow County	High	Morrow County Planning Dept.	Identified	2019
Goal: Agency Involvement and Engagement						
On Non-Federal Lands	Improve State and Federal agency participation in the Stakeholder Group	Morrow County	High	Varies	Identified	2019

2014-2019 Action Items

On Federal Lands	Black Mountain	Cutsforth Park, Blakes Addition	Extreme	USFS	Funded	2014
	Penland WUI	Penland Lake	Extreme	USFS	Funded	2014
	Bombing Range Fuels Breaks	NWSTF Boardman	Moderate	DOD	Pending Funding	2014
	Army Corp property along Columbia River	Fire Management Planning	High	ACOE	Identified	2014
On Non-Federal Lands	Blake's Fuel Reduction	Blake's Addition, Cutsforth Park, Penland Lake	Extreme	ODF	Pending Funding	2014
	Reeds Mill Fuels Reduction	Reed's Mill, Anson Wright Park	High	ODF	Pending Funding	2014
	OHV Park Fuels Reduction	OHV Park	High	ODF & County	Pending Funding	2014
	Water Source Development	Several Communities	High	ODF, Landowners, County	Pending Funding	2014
Defensible Space	Blake's Addition	Blake's Addition, Cutsforth Park	Extreme	ODF & Landowners	Pending Funding	2014
	Penland Lake	Penland Lake	Extreme	ODF & Landowners	Pending Funding	2014
	Reeds Mill/ Anson Wright	Reeds Mill, Anson Wright	High	ODF & Landowners	Pending Funding	2014
	OHV Park	OHV Park	High	Morrow County, Landowners	Pending Funding	2014
Safety Corridors	Sunflower Flat	Several Communities	High	ODF & FS	Pending Funding	2014
	USFS 53 Rd	Several Communities	High	ODF & FS	Pending Funding	2014
	Willow Cr	Several Communities	High	ODF & FS	Pending Funding	2014
	Hwy 207	Several Communities	High	ODF & FS	Pending Funding	2014
	USFS 21 Rd	Several Communities	High	FS	Pending Funding	2014
Strategic Community Fire Breaks	See Safety Corridors above.	Several Communities			Pending Funding	2014
	Bombing Range Road	Several Communities			Pending Funding	2014
	Highway 74	Several Communities			Pending Funding	2014
	Tower Road	Several Communities			Pending Funding	2014

	Highway 206	Several Communities			Pending Funding	2014
	Interstate 84	Boardman, Irrigon			Pending Funding	2014
	Highway 730	Irrigon, Boardman			Pending Funding	2014
FUTURE Concerns	Unprotected Areas (from BRAC process) and Establish the Necessary Mutual Aid Agreements	Irrigon, Morrow County	n/a	Dept. of Defense, US Navy, Fire Chiefs, Army Corps of Engineers, County	Ongoing	2014
Public Information						
Signing	Fire Prevention Signing, seasonally as appropriate	All	n/a	All	Ongoing	2014
Media Contacts		All	n/a	All	Ongoing	2014
Grade School presentation		All	n/a	Fire Prevention Coop	Ongoing	2014
Outdoor School presentations		All	n/a	All	Ongoing	2014
Civic Group presentations		All	n/a	All	Ongoing	2014
Landowner contacts		All	n/a	ODF, Comm., Rural	Ongoing	2014
Fair displays		All	n/a	Fire Prevention Coop	Ongoing	2014
Fire Free training		All	n/a	Fire Prevention Coop	Ongoing	2014
Fire Prevention Newspaper Insert		All	n/a	Fire Prevention Coop	Ongoing	2014
Structure ignitability		All	n/a		Ongoing	2014
Burning Permits		All	n/a	ODF, City, Rural	Ongoing	2014
Notifications of Operation		All	n/a	ODF	Ongoing	2014
Building Permit Review		All	n/a	County Fire Chiefs	Ongoing	2014
Permitting		All	n/a	County Planning	Ongoing	2014
Enforcement		All	n/a	ODF, City, Rural, Sheriff, Fire Chief	Ongoing	2014

MONITORING AND REVISION

A primary objective of the MCCWPP Stakeholder Group is to provide guidance for all elements of planning and implementation of this Plan. The MCCWPP Stakeholder Group will continue to provide oversight through annual meetings and coordination with fire protection agencies and the communities at risk in Morrow County. The purpose of this monitoring strategy is to track implementation of activities and evaluate how well the Goals of the MCCWPP are being met over time. Monitoring measures progress over time to better understand how well the Mission, Goals and Objectives of this Plan are being met. The data gathered will provide the status and trends of the MCCWPP. The following are types of monitoring that can occur:

- Implementation Monitoring: Did you do what you said you would do?
- Effectiveness Monitoring: Did treatments meet objectives?
- Verification Monitoring: Evaluates whether our objectives helped to meet the broad MCCWPP goals. Did our actions lead to the outcomes we expected?

REVISIONS AND UPDATES

The Stakeholder Group will convene annually to review the MCCWPP to assure that implementation of the Action Items is occurring and that the Mission, Goals and Objectives are being met. At any time, the Stakeholder Group can recommend new Action Items or address other necessary changes to the MCCWPP. On a five-year rotation the Stakeholder Group will work to complete an update to the MCCWPP to assure that the Risk Assessment is up-to-date and that the Mission, Goals and Objectives are still relevant. Based on this 2019 update the next update would need to be completed in 2024.

THE CWPP AS PART OF THE NHMP

The CWPP serves as the Wildfire Annex within the Morrow County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP). A Steering Committee oversees the development and maintenance of the NHMP which is supported by the Morrow County Planning Department. With the 2019 update of the CWPP there is a deliberate attempt to separate the required five-year updates of these two documents. When the NHMP is updated in 2020 and adopted in 2021 it will include this 2019 CWPP update.

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SUMMARY

In the past, there has been limited awareness about the investment required to maintain fire protection. From fuels reduction, education and prevention to evacuation, citizens must have the information and resources to be active participants in reducing their risk to wildland fire. For many years, there has been a reliance on insurance, local government, fire service, federal agencies and many other types of organizations to aid us when disaster strikes. This MCCWPP encourages citizens to take an active role in identifying needs, developing strategies and implementing solutions to address wildland fire risk by participating in countywide fire prevention activities. Citizen action may be cleaning up brush around homes, installing new smoke detectors, volunteering to be a part of a local fire department or district, attending community meetings, and passing on fire prevention information to neighbors and friends. With the MCCWPP as a foundation, local action can guide successful implementation of fire hazard reduction and protection efforts in Morrow County.

Morrow County is a typical Eastern Oregon county with small cities scattered throughout with a population of people living in homes scattered outside the city limits. These homes are located in all fuel types. Some are snuggled in the timber adjacent to the forest. Others are in the lower elevations of grass/juniper/sagebrush climate. Distance from any type of fire protection is one of the biggest problems for these homes and access. This County has lived with fire since the county was first established in 1885. Fire has been a major tool in shaping the existing forest and other plant communities since long before the country was settled. Lightning and humans will always contribute to fire starts during all conditions dry or wet. Of the three fire behavior components (fuel, weather, topography), fuels are the one variable that humans can easily influence and modify. With this in mind, this plan is aimed at reducing fire effects by reducing fuel loading and to produce conditions, in case of fire, that are considered manageable during most conditions and to improve initial attack capabilities for all types of fires.

- The number one goal of this plan is to provide for the protection of the public and create a safe work environment for fire suppression forces. With the reduction of wildland fuels, we move closer to achieving the goal of all structures surviving an on-coming fire.
- Everyone involved with this plan must work together to successfully manage hazardous fuels within and near communities. Those included are association groups, Federal agencies, Local Agencies, local fire departments and fire protection districts, private industrial timberland owners, and private land and home owners.
- There are often weather conditions where high temperatures, single digit humidity's, and strong winds occur simultaneously. Under these conditions prevention through communication to reduce fire start potential is the only protection for communities from wildland fire effects. These conditions can lead to plume dominant fires which create their own burning conditions and are literally unmanageable and can become catastrophic.

The key to making this plan work will be increasing public awareness through informational programs.

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APPENDIX A

This appendix consists of a series of county base maps. These base maps were designed to support the Morrow County CWPP and were developed using multiple GIS datasets available to Morrow County at the time of this publication. The Wildfire Risk map was created using data acquired from the Advanced Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer which was developed to serve professional planners to inform CWPP and NHMP with extensive data resources, detailed summaries, and full wildfire risk inventory reports.

ADVANCED OREGON WILDFIRE RISK EXPLORER

https://tools.oregonexplorer.info/OE_HtmlViewer/index.html?viewer=wildfireplanning

OREGON GEOSPATIAL DATA CLEARINGHOUSE

<https://www.oregon.gov/geo/Pages/sdlibrary.aspx>



Communities at Risk

2018-2019 Update
Morrow County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

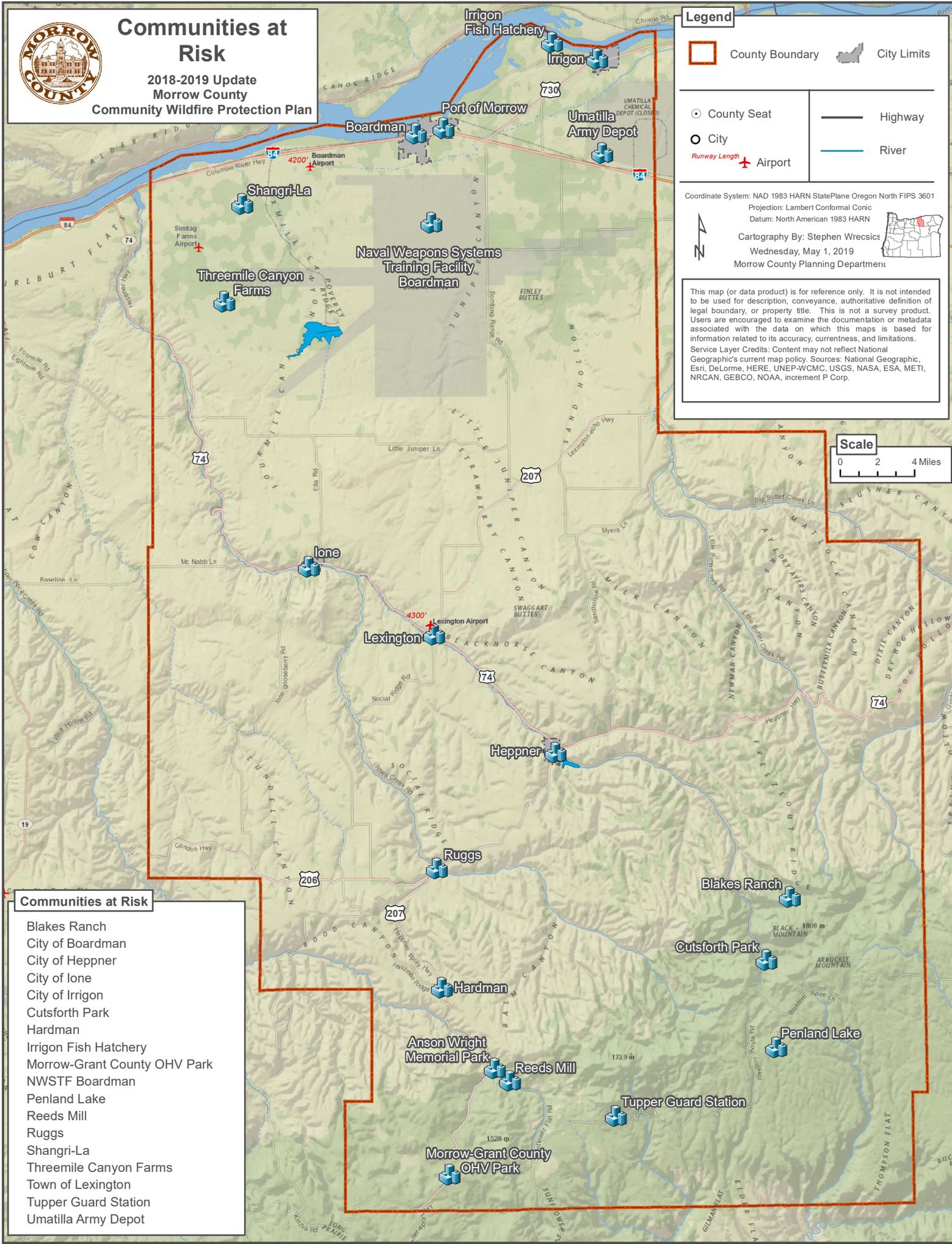
Legend

- County Boundary
- City Limits
- County Seat
- City
- Runway Length
- Airport
- Highway
- River

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 HARN StatePlane Oregon North FIPS 3601
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Datum: North American 1983 HARN

Cartography By: Stephen Wreccics
 Wednesday, May 1, 2019
 Morrow County Planning Department

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Communities at Risk

- Blakes Ranch
- City of Boardman
- City of Heppner
- City of lone
- City of Irrigon
- Cutsforth Park
- Hardman
- Irrigon Fish Hatchery
- Morrow-Grant County OHV Park
- NWSTF Boardman
- Penland Lake
- Reeds Mill
- Ruggs
- Shangri-La
- Threemile Canyon Farms
- Town of Lexington
- Tupper Guard Station
- Umatilla Army Depot



Morrow County Land Management

2018-2019 Update
Morrow County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

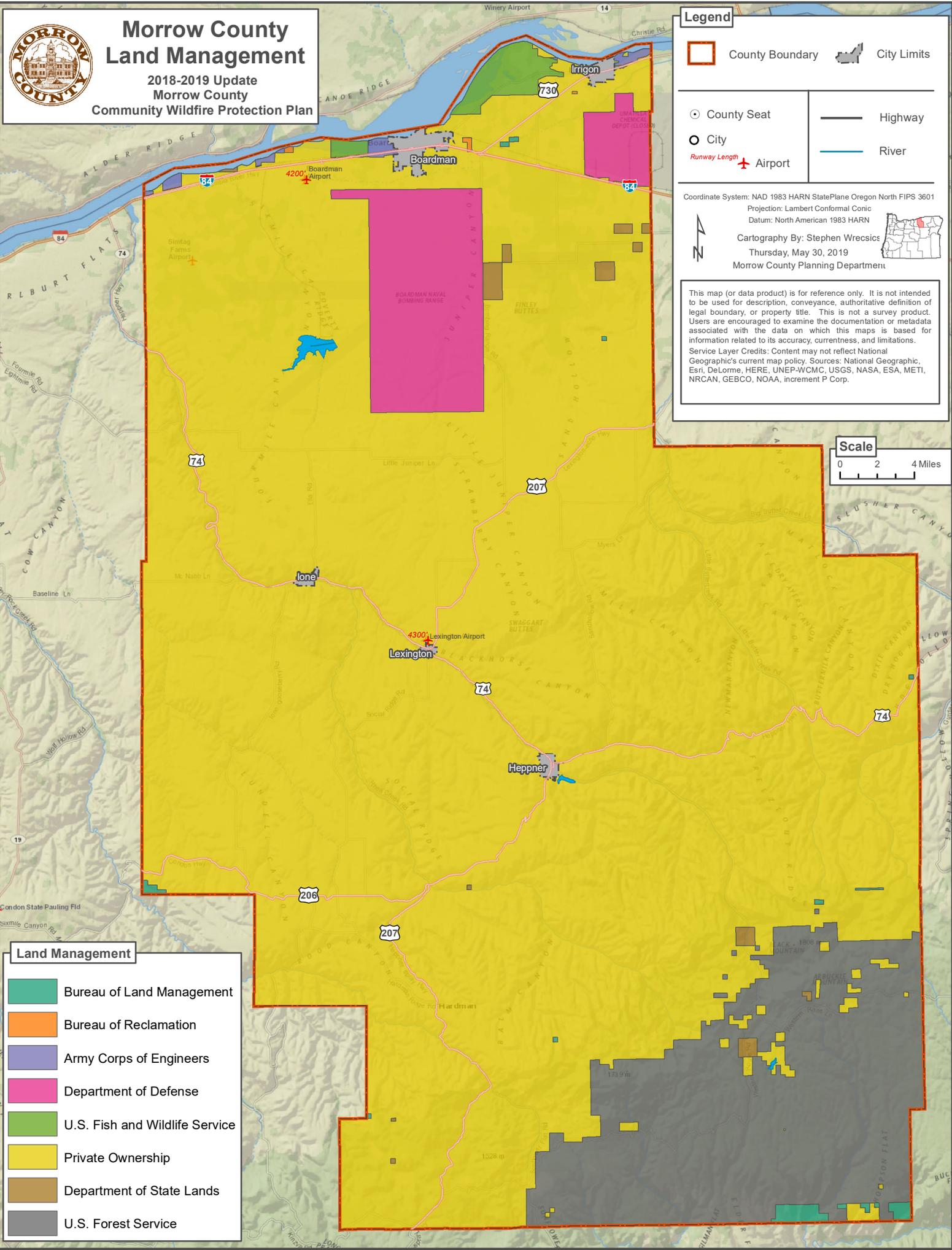
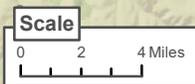
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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 HARN StatePlane Oregon North FIPS 3601
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Datum: North American 1983 HARN

Cartography By: Stephen Wreccics
 Thursday, May 30, 2019
 Morrow County Planning Department

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Land Management

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Department of Defense
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Private Ownership
- Department of State Lands
- U.S. Forest Service



Morrow County Land Cover

2018-2019 Update
Morrow County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Legend

- County Boundary
- City Limits
- County Seat
- City
- Runway Length
- Airport
- Highway
- River

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 HARN StatePlane Oregon North FIPS 3601
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Datum: North American 1983 HARN

Cartography By: Stephen Wreccics
 Wednesday, June 5, 2019
 Morrow County Planning Department

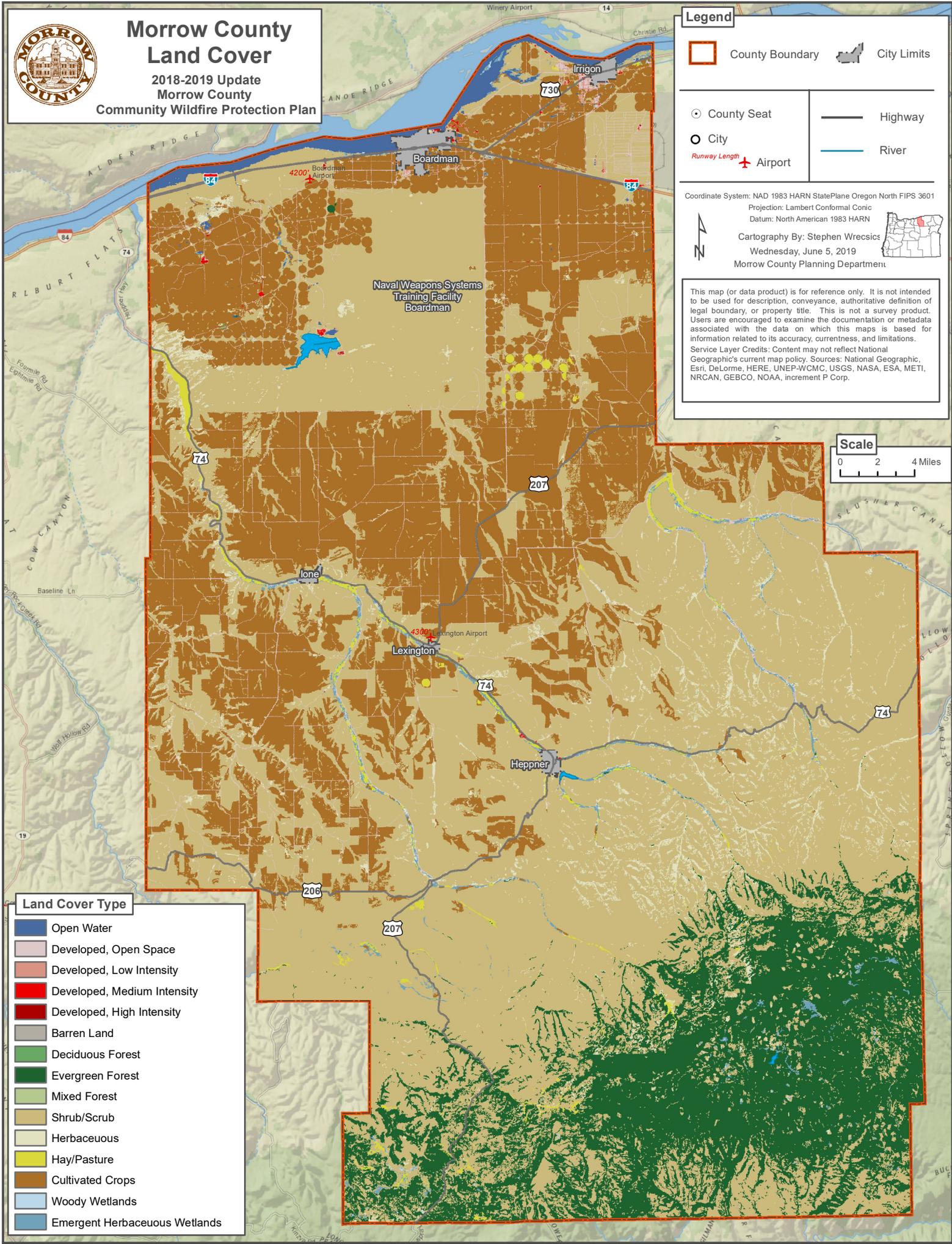
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Land Cover Type

- Open Water
- Developed, Open Space
- Developed, Low Intensity
- Developed, Medium Intensity
- Developed, High Intensity
- Barren Land
- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Mixed Forest
- Shrub/Scrub
- Herbaceous
- Hay/Pasture
- Cultivated Crops
- Woody Wetlands
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands





Morrow County Primary Transportation Routes

2018-2019 Update
Morrow County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Legend

- County Boundary
- City Limits
- County Seat
- City
- Runway Length
- Airport
- Highway
- River

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 HARN StatePlane Oregon North FIPS 3601
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Datum: North American 1983 HARN

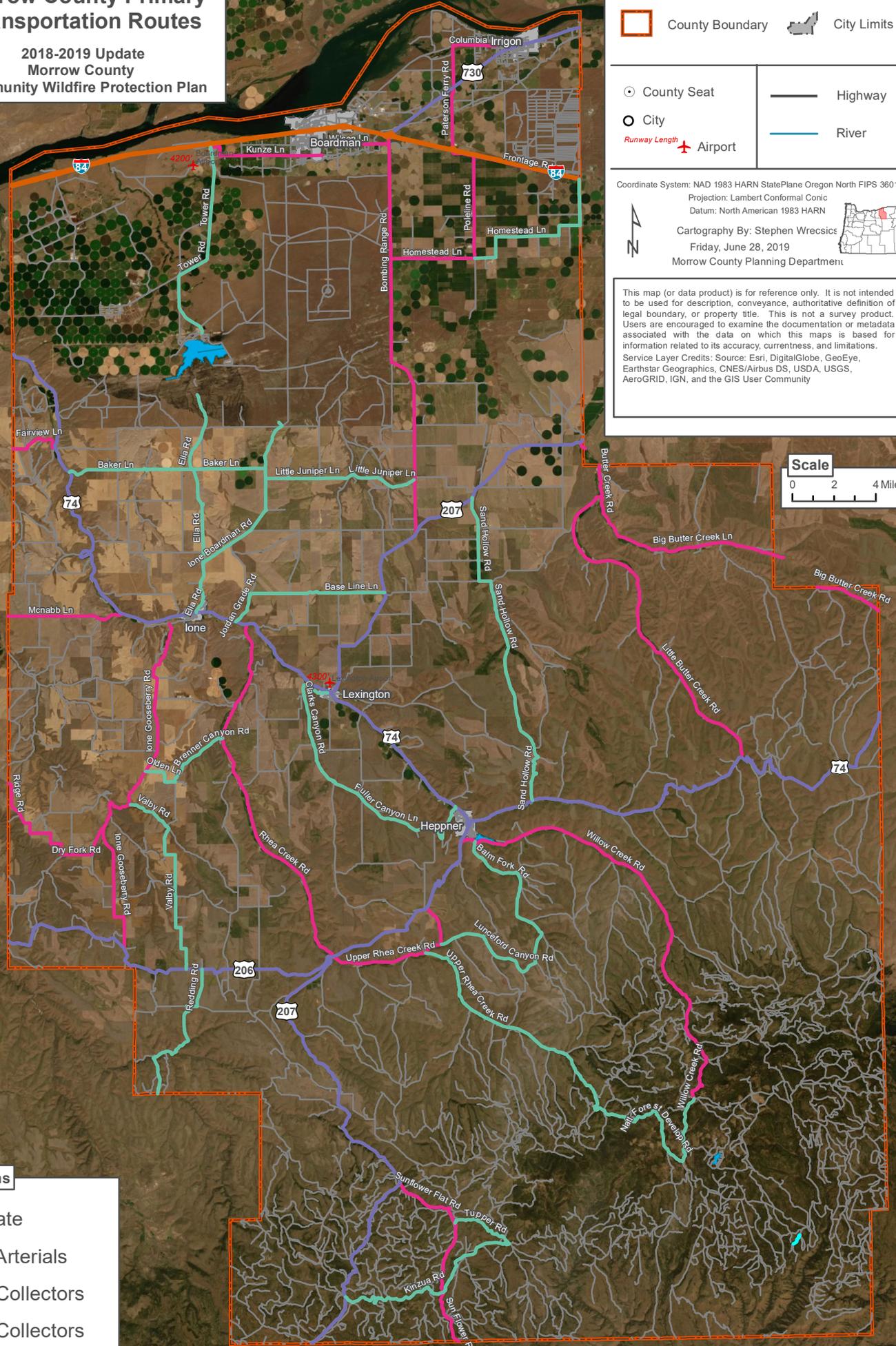
Cartography By: Stephen Wreccics
 Friday, June 28, 2019
 Morrow County Planning Department

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Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



- ### Road Classifications
- Interstate
 - Minor Arterials
 - Major Collectors
 - Minor Collectors





Overall Wildfire Risk Map

2018-2019 Update
Morrow County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Legend

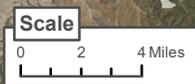
- County Boundary
- City Limits
- County Seat
- City
- Runway Length
- Airport
- Highway
- River

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 HARN StatePlane Oregon North FIPS 3601
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Datum: North American 1983 HARN

Cartography By: Stephen Wreccics
 Tuesday, May 28, 2019
 Morrow County Planning Department

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Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



Wildfire Risk

Benefit: Wildfire risk is beneficial, overall, for mapped resources and assets combined (for example, the cumulative value is positive, typically due to beneficial effects on forest health/vegetation condition and/or wildlife habitat). Benefit represents 0-14.5th percentile of positive values on the landscape.

Low Benefit: Wildfire risk is slightly beneficial for mapped resources and assets combined (for example, forest health/vegetation condition, wildlife habitat), producing a "fuel treatment effect" at very low flame lengths. Benefit represents 14.5 to 29th percentile of positive values on the landscape.

Low: Wildfire risk is low to all mapped resources and assets combined: critical infrastructure, developed recreation, housing unit density, seed orchards, sawmills, historic structures, timber, municipal watersheds, vegetation condition, and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat. Low represents the 29th to 50th percentile of values across the landscape.

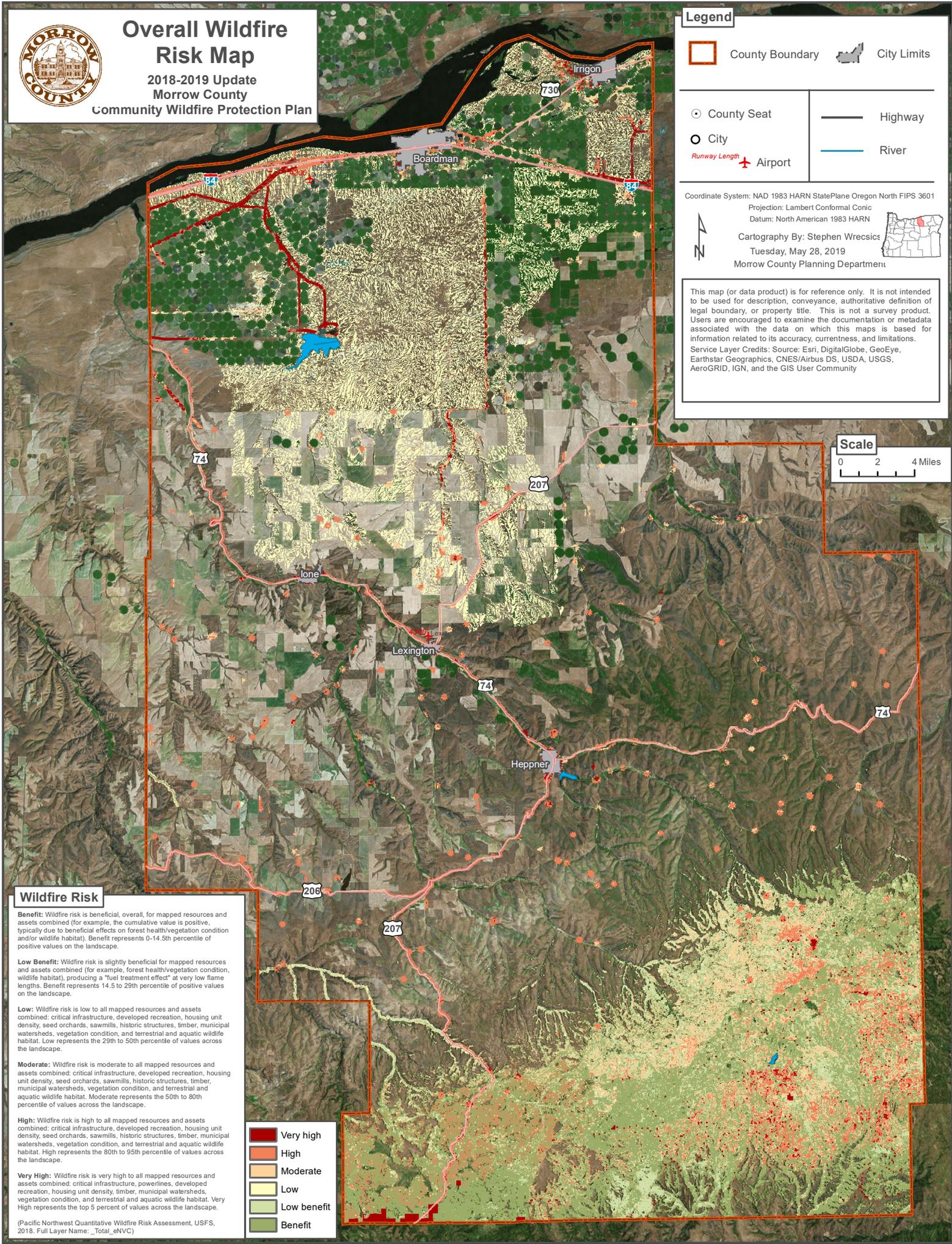
Moderate: Wildfire risk is moderate to all mapped resources and assets combined: critical infrastructure, developed recreation, housing unit density, seed orchards, sawmills, historic structures, timber, municipal watersheds, vegetation condition, and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat. Moderate represents the 50th to 80th percentile of values across the landscape.

High: Wildfire risk is high to all mapped resources and assets combined: critical infrastructure, powerlines, developed recreation, housing unit density, timber, municipal watersheds, vegetation condition, and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat. High represents the 80th to 95th percentile of values across the landscape.

Very High: Wildfire risk is very high to all mapped resources and assets combined: critical infrastructure, powerlines, developed recreation, housing unit density, timber, municipal watersheds, vegetation condition, and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat. Very High represents the top 5 percent of values across the landscape.

- Very high
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Low benefit
- Benefit

(Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment, USFS, 2018. Full Layer Name: _Total_eNVC)





Wildland Urban Interface Areas

2018-2019 Update
Morrow County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan

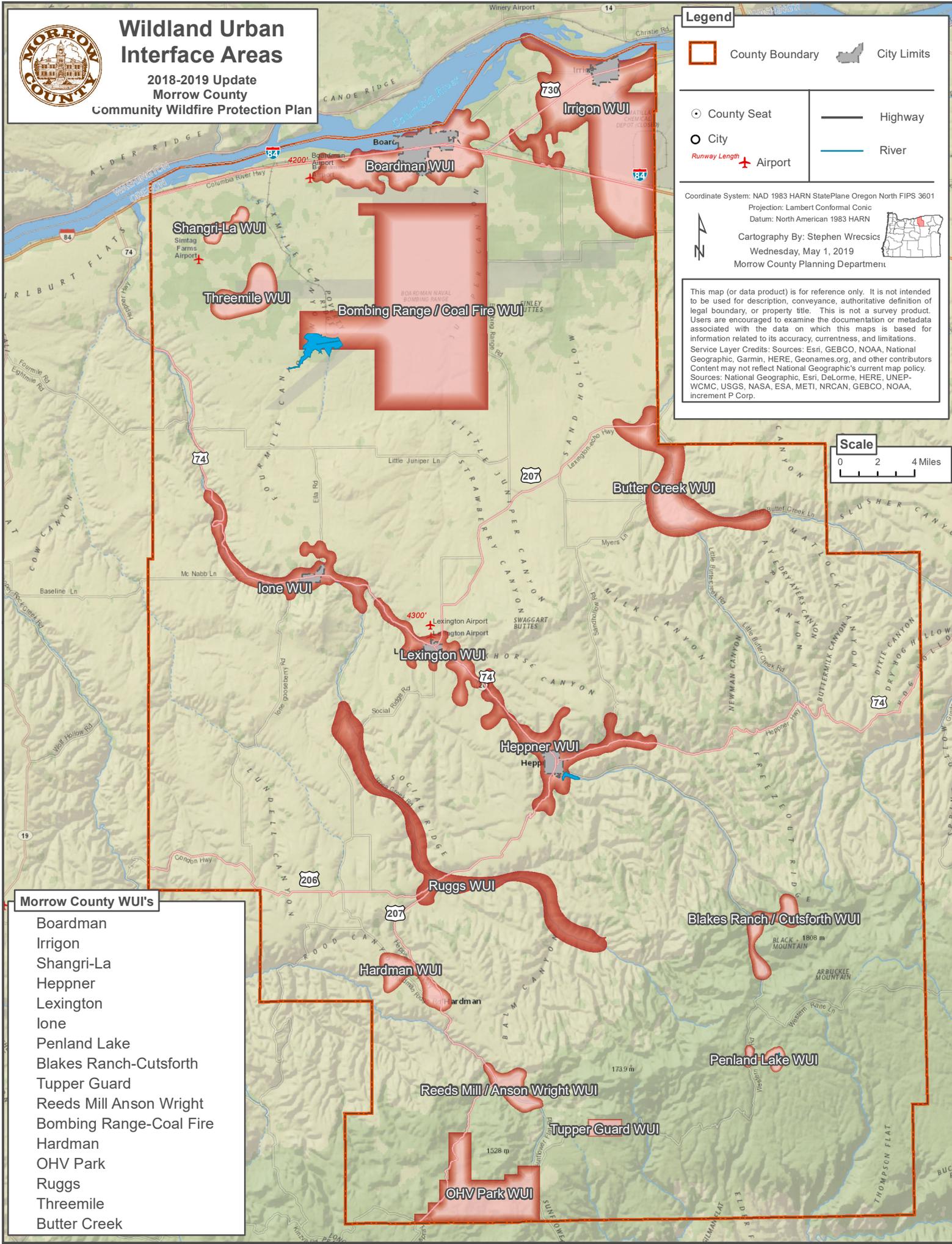
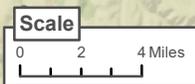
Legend

- County Boundary
- City Limits
- County Seat
- City
- Runway Length
- Airport
- Highway
- River

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 HARN StatePlane Oregon North FIPS 3601
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Datum: North American 1983 HARN

Cartography By: Stephen Wreccics
 Wednesday, May 1, 2019
 Morrow County Planning Department

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Morrow County WUI's

- Boardman
- Irrigon
- Shangri-La
- Heppner
- Lexington
- Lone
- Penland Lake
- Blakes Ranch-Cutsforth
- Tupper Guard
- Reeds Mill Anson Wright
- Bombing Range-Coal Fire
- Hardman
- OHV Park
- Ruggs
- Threemile
- Butter Creek

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APPENDIX B

This appendix provides a summary of definitions and acronyms used throughout this document.

Acronyms	
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
DLCD	Department of Land Conservation and Development
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FD	Fire Department
FLAME	Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act
HFI	Healthy Forest Initiative
HFRA	Healthy Forest Restoration Act
MCCWPP	Morrow County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
NAS	Naval Air Station
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHMP	Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWSTFB	Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OMD	Oregon Military Department
RFPD	Rural Fire Protection District
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USF&W	United States Fish and Wildlife
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

Definitions	
Hotshot Crew	Typically, a crew of approximately 20 wildland firefighters specially trained to fight wildland fires.
Mutual Aid Agreement	Agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries.
Retardant	Substance that is used to slow or stop the spread or intensity of wildfire.
Smoke Jumper	A wildland firefighter who parachutes to locations otherwise difficult to reach.

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APPENDIX C

This appendix provides a list of agency contacts.

Agency	Address	Phone
Morrow County Sherriff's Office	325 Willow View Dr, Heppner, OR 97836	(541) 676-5317
Boardman RFPD	300 SW Wilson Ln, Boardman, OR 97818	(541) 481-3473
Heppner RFPD	P.O. Box 1010, Heppner, OR 97836	(541) 676-2922
lone RFPD	160 W Main St, lone, OR 97843	(541) 422-7303
Irrigon RFPD	705 N Main St, Irrigon, OR 97844	(541) 922-3133
Pilot Rock RFPD	415 NE 4 th St, Pilot Rock, OR 97868	(541) 379-1295
South Gilliam RFPD	128 S Main St, Condon, OR 97823	(541) 384-5555
Heppner FD	911 Riverside Ave, Heppner, OR 97836	(541) 676-2922
Lexington FD	150 W Main St, Lexington, OR 97839	(541) 989-8515
Area 9 Defense Board	320 S First St, Hermistion, OR 97838	(541) 567-8822
Navy Region Northwest Fire and EMS	3730 N Charles Porter Ave, Oak Harbor, WA 98278	(360) 257-9020
Oregon Military Department	1776 Militia Way SE, Salem, OR 97301	(503) 584-3980
U.S. Fish and Wildlife	64 Maple Street, Burbank, Washington 99323	(509) 546-8300
U.S. Forest Service (Heppner District)	P.O. Box 7, Heppner, OR 97836	(541) 676-9187
District Extension Forester	210 Snell Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331	(541) 602-4689
Oregon Department of Forestry	3501 NE 3 rd St, Prineville, OR 97754	(541) 447-5658
Natural Resources Conservation Service	430 Linden Way, Heppner, OR 97836	(541) 676-5021
The Nature Conservancy	620 W 18 th St, The Dalles, OR 97058	(541) 298-1802
Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op	171 W Lindon Way, Heppner, OR 97836	(541) 676-9146
Umatilla Electric Co-Op	750 W Elm Ave, Hermiston, OR 97838	(541) 567-6414

City	Address	Phone
City of Boardman	200 City Center Circle, Boardman, OR 97818	(541) 481-9252
City of Heppner	111 N Main Street, Heppner, OR 97836	(541) 676-9618
City of lone	385 W 2 nd St, lone, OR 97843	(541) 422-7414
City of Irrigon	500 NE Main Ave, Irrigon, OR 97844	(541) 922-3047
Town of Lexington	425 F Street, Lexington, OR 97839	(541) 989-8515

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APPENDIX D

The following information was summarized from the Grants and Incentives page of the Oregon Department of Forestry website at

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/AboutODF/Pages/GrantsIncentives.aspx>.

This appendix contains Grants and Incentive programs that were available at the time of this publication. Grants and Incentive programs listed below may have a limited availability period and applicants should reach out to the John Day Unit Stewardship Forester at 541.575.1139 for a list of currently available Grants and Incentive Programs.

Name	Summary	Contact
Bark Beetle Mitigation	To assist family forestland owners in prevention and help restore areas affected by bark beetles.	Oregon Department of Forestry/U.S. Forest Service
Community Forest Program	The goal of the Community Forest Program is to establish community forests; this is achieved by acquiring land which protects it from conversion to non-forest uses. The Community Forest Program is a federal program that assists landowners in establishing community forests, and sustainably managing them for public benefit including recreation, income, wildlife habitat, stewardship demonstrations sites, and environmental education.	U.S. Forest Service
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	The goal of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is to encourage landowners to protect soil, water, fish and wildlife by establishing plants along streams.	Farm Service Agency/NRCS
Conservation Stewardship Program	The goal of the Conservation Stewardship Program is to help landowners and operators maintain existing stewardship and adopt additional conservation on privately owned, non-industrial working forests and agricultural lands.	NRCS
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	The goal of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program is to encourage landowners to implement management practices that conserve soil, water, and related natural resources on working lands.	NRCS
Firewise	Firewise is a set of principles that involves understanding our wildland environment and taking concrete steps to make our home and surroundings more resilient and survivable.	NFPA https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA
Forest Legacy Program	The Forest Legacy Program is a national program that addresses privately-owned forestlands that face threats of conversion to non-forest use by development pressures. The goal of the Forest Legacy Program is to promote stewardship and sustainable management of private forest lands by maintaining working forests that conserve important forest resource and conservation values.	Oregon Department of Forestry

Name	Summary	Contact
Noxious Weed Control Grants	The Oregon State Weed Board guides state noxious weed control priorities and awards grants to landowners, public agencies, and others to control noxious weeds.	Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program
Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA Grants)	These grants help fire agencies meet their firefighting and emergency response needs. Links provide background on VFA grants along with instructions and forms to apply.	Oregon Department of Forestry/U.S. Forest Service
Wetlands Reserve Program	The goal of the Wetlands Reserve Program is to restore, protect, and enhance wetland function and values on private property.	FSA/NRCS

APPENDIX E

This appendix contains the Action Items created as part of the 2019 CWPP update; historic Action Items are still valid and available for implementation. The list of historic and new Action Items is included in the Action Item Inventory beginning on Page 30 of this document. Historic Action Items are available through the Morrow County Planning Department. Action Items, both the 2019 and historic, will be evaluated by the Stakeholder Group at annual meetings.

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1 – for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)		Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)	
		Improve Agency Involvement	
Proposed Action Title:		Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan	
These should be action statements rather than location statements. E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647 Improve State and Federal Agency participation in the Stakeholder Group		Goal # 4	
Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)			
Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section. There are Federally owned and managed lands, and some state owned and managed lands, that have wildland fire risk. Involving those agencies in the Stakeholder Group will provide opportunities for better risk reduction and response on State and Federal Lands.			
Ideas for Implementation			
Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swell areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here. -Invite agencies to annual Stakeholders Group meetings. -Complete individual outreach.			
Coordinating Organization:		Morrow County	
Internal Partners		External Partners	
		Boardman RFPD	
Timeline:		If available, estimated cost:	
Short Term (0-2 years)	Long Term (2-4 or more years)		
0-2	Could be ongoing.		
Form Submitted By:		Carla McLane	

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1
– for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)

Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)

Fire Hazard

Fuels Reduction

Proposed Action Title:

Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan

These should be action statements rather than location statements.
E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647

Fuels Reduction

BPA Easement Fuels Reduction

Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)

Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section.

Fighting fire under power lines is inherently dangerous. With current fuel loading it poses an undue risk to firefighters and the community.

Ideas for Implementation

Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swell areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here.

-Mow and maintain vegetation on the BPA easement.

Coordinating Organization:

Boardman RFPD

Internal Partners

External Partners

MCCWPP Stakeholders

BPA

Timeline:

If available, estimated cost:

Short Term (0-2 years)

Long Term (2-4 or more years)

1-2

Form Submitted By:

Boardman RFPD

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1
– for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)

Fire Hazard

Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)

Education and Outreach, Fuels Reduction

Proposed Action Title:

These should be action statements rather than location statements.
E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647

Free yard disposal day.

Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan

Education and Outreach, Fuels Reduction

Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)

Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section.

Help increase defensible space around structures within communities.

Ideas for Implementation

Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swall areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here.

- Free yard waste disposal at Morrow County Transfer Station.
- County provided wood chipper for remote areas of the county.

Coordinating Organization:

ODF

Internal Partners

Morrow County Planning

External Partners

ODF, USFS

Timeline:

Short Term (0-2 years)

Long Term (2-4 or more years)

0-2

If available, estimated cost:

Unknown

Form Submitted By:

Braden Britt

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1 – for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)

Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)

Boardman Community Night Out

Education and Outreach

Proposed Action Title:

Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan

These should be action statements rather than location statements.
E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647

Education and Outreach

Wildfire Education

Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)

Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section.

To educate the public to the dangers associated with a wildfire.

Ideas for Implementation

Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swell areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here.

Information packets to hand out at Boardman's Community Night Out.

Coordinating Organization:

Boardman RFPD

Internal Partners

External Partners

Planning Department

ODF

Timeline:

If available, estimated cost:

Short Term (0-2 years)

Long Term (2-4 or more years)

0-2

Form Submitted By:

Boardman RFPD

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1 – for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)

Fire Hazard

Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)

Education and Community Outreach

Proposed Action Title:

These should be action statements rather than location statements. E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647

Morrow County Firewise Booth

Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan

Education and Community Outreach

Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)

Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section.

Interagency coordination to engage the public and inform about the Firewise program. Additionally, this action item would provide an opportunity to communicate additional fire prevention programs.

Ideas for Implementation

Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swell areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here.

Staffed booth during the Morrow County Fair in Heppner.

Coordinating Organization:

Oregon Department of Forestry

Internal Partners

Morrow County Emergency Management
Morrow County Planning Department

External Partners

Oregon Department of Forestry
Heppner RFPD

Timeline:

Short Term (0-2 years)

Long Term (2-4 or more years)

0-2

If available, estimated cost:

Unknown, limited.

Form Submitted By:

Braden Britt, ODF.

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1
– for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)

Fire Hazard

Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)

Education and Outreach, Fuels Reduction

Proposed Action Title:

These should be action statements rather than location statements.
E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647

Free Spray Day

Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan

Education and Outreach, Fuels Reduction

Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)

Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section.

Increased defensible space in the Wildland Urban Interface.

Ideas for Implementation

Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swall areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here.

- Provide pre-mixed chemicles to encourage weed control and reduced vegetation around structures.
- Potential for information booth at Morrow County Fair for public education and outreach.

Coordinating Organization:

NRCS

Internal Partners

Morrow County SWCD
NRCS

External Partners

MCGG

Timeline:

Short Term (0-2 years)

Long Term (2-4 or more years)

0-2

If available, estimated cost:

Unknown

Form Submitted By:

Janet Greenup

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1 – for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)

Fire Hazard

Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)

Fuels Reduction

Proposed Action Title: Mountain Top Defensible Space

These should be action statements rather than location statements.
E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647

Reduce hazardous fuels and increase defensible space for both Madison Butte Lookout and the Black Mountain Communications Site.

Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan

Fuels Reduction

Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)

Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section.

Implement a new administrative boundary around both areas by closely considering topography, height of vegetation, distance to buildings and opportunities to reduce fuel loading.

Ideas for Implementation

Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swell areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here.

Mechanical treatment of 92 acres.

100 acres of thin and pile.

Implementation of prescribed burning of 439 acres to reduce fuel loading along roads improving access to these sites.

Coordinating Organization:

US Forest Service

Internal Partners

External Partners

Timeline:

Short Term (0-2 years)

Long Term (2-4 or more years)

2-4 years

If available, estimated cost:

Form Submitted By:

US Forest Service Fire and Fuels Management

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1
– for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)

Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)

Fire Hazard

Fuels Reduction

Proposed Action Title:

Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan

These should be action statements rather than location statements.
E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647

Fuels Reduction

Bombing Range Fire Breaks

Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)

Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section.

Reduce the threat of wildfires spreading off Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Boardman onto private lands.

Ideas for Implementation

Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swell areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here.

-Increase the width of the existing disc firebreak.

Coordinating Organization:

Boardman RFPD, Lone RFPD

Internal Partners

External Partners

MCCWPP Stakeholders Group

Navy

Timeline:

If available, estimated cost:

Short Term (0-2 years)

Long Term (2-4 or more years)

0-1

Form Submitted By:

Boardman RFPD

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1
– for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)

Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)

Fire Hazard

Fuels Reduction

Proposed Action Title:

Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan

These should be action statements rather than location statements.
E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647

Fuels Reduction

Mow a fire break on perimeter of Federal Wildlife Refuge in the Urban Growth Boundaries of the City of Boardman.

Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)

Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section.

To prevent the spread of wildfire from federal to private lands and reduce the risk to the community.

Ideas for Implementation

Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swall areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here.

-Mow vegetation to less than 6" in height, 50' wide.

Coordinating Organization:

U.S. Fish and Game

Internal Partners

MCCWPP Stakeholders Group

External Partners

USACE
U.S. Fish and Game
Confederated Tribes of Umatilla

Timeline:

Short Term (0-2 years)

Long Term (2-4 or more years)

If available, estimated cost:

0-2

Form Submitted By:

Boardman Rural Fire Protection District

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1 – for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)

Fire Hazard

Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)

Fuels Reduction Initiative

Proposed Action Title:

These should be action statements rather than location statements. E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647

Incorporate areas of Morrow County not currently in a Rural Fire Protection District.

Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan

#1

Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)

Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section.

Areas of Morrow County, while small and uninhabited, are not currently located within Protection Districts. This issue will be compounded with the future Oregon Military Department land transfer. Inclusion in a Protection District will ensure future wildfire suppression minimizing risk to surrounding inhabited areas.

Ideas for Implementation

Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swall areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here.

-Coordination at the next CWPP Stakeholders Meeting between agencies with the authority to make incorporation happen and the responsible Protection Districts.

Coordinating Organization:

Boardman and Irrigon RFPD's

Internal Partners

Morrow County Assessor's Office

External Partners

Boardman RFPD
Irrigon RFPD

Timeline:

Short Term (0-2 years)

Long Term (2-4 or more years)

0-2

If available, estimated cost:

Not available.

Form Submitted By:

Stephen Wrechsics

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1 – for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)

Fire Hazard

Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)

Fuels Reduction

Proposed Action Title:

These should be action statements rather than location statements.
E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647

Ellis Project

Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan

Fuels Reduction

Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)

Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section.

Fuels reduction on Forest Service property adjacent to and in near proximity to Blake's Ranch, Cutsforth Park, Pendland Lake, and other private property within the project area to reduce impacts of wildfire to communities at risk.

Ideas for Implementation

Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swall areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here.

Through the use of timber sales, mechanical fuels treatments, and prescribed fire units will be strategically placed to help mitigate wildfire effects on private property with in the Ellis project area

Coordinating Organization:

USFS

Internal Partners

External Partners

Timeline:

Short Term (0-2 years)

Long Term (2-4 or more years)

If available, estimated cost:

Form Submitted By:

USFS

ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

Proposed Action Item Identification: (Example MH #1 – for Multi-Hazard #1; or FH #3 – Flood Hazard #3)

Fire Hazard

Alignment with Plan Goals: (List Goals the action helps to achieve.)

Improved Development Standards

Proposed Action Title:

These should be action statements rather than location statements. E.g. Complete road improvements: Piper Canyon #647

Morrow County Zoning Ordinance Updates based on CWPP update.

Link this with a specific goal listed with the Plan

Improved Development Standards

Rationale for Proposed Action Item: (What critical issues will the action address?)

Describe WHY this action is important. If this location flooded or was damaged during a specific event, mention it in this section.

Improved development standards could have direct positive impacts on defensible space and risk reduction.

Ideas for Implementation

Statements about specific actions such as culvert work, bio swall areas, ditches/road widening or other actions that should be taken go here.

There are a number of aspects of current and proposed development standards that could be considered, such as: building materials, defensible space, access and use of water supplies, access and driveway standards.

Coordinating Organization:

Morrow County Planning Department

Internal Partners

Public Works

External Partners

Fire Protection Districts, Area 9 Fire Defense Board, ODF, USFS.

Timeline:

Short Term (0-2 years)

Long Term (2-4 or more years)

If available, estimated cost:

\$30,000+

Long-term

Form Submitted By:

Carla McLane