



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 29, 2024

SUBJECT: Oregon State Fire Marshall Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

1. Move approval of a grant application to the Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal for funds to be used for Community Wildfire Risk Reduction;
2. Move approval to accept, if awarded, grant funding from the Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal for Community Wildfire Risk Reduction efforts.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Juniper Ridge area encompasses approximately 1350 acres of City of Bend and Deschutes County property immediately adjacent to the north end of the City of Bend. This area is primarily undeveloped, however borders rural residential on the east side, industrial and residential on the south side, and US Hwy 97 on the west side. The property also has power, fiber, cellular communication, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, and irrigation canal infrastructure that runs through the middle of it. The area is also in close proximity to three mobile home parks which provide housing to persons of lower incomes.

The Juniper Ridge area has experienced a significant number of human-caused ignitions, several of which have impacted all of the aforementioned infrastructure and caused significant impact to the surrounding community as well as both direct and indirect life safety threats. In 2024, there have been 14 wildfire responses of a total 48 wildfire responses since 2020.

Staff proposes to utilize the grant funds to implement ladder fuel reduction on seven miles of unimproved roads within the Juniper Ridge area and treat approximately 55 encampment concentrations (see map). The total project area within Juniper Ridge is approximately 305 Acres. The route treatment is approximately 40 acres and the encampment treatment is approximately nine acres. The project area has the highest concentration of encampments and close proximity to portable toilets and wash stations. The project will reduce fire risk to the project area and to the area surrounding it. It will also reduce the hazard risk to first responders.

The City of Bend and COID have provided letters of support for the project.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

If approved, the application could result in a grant award of \$75,000. If awarded, \$67,500 would be used for contracted services including security services. The remaining \$7,500 would be used for administrative costs for administering the contracts.

Although no match is required, Deschutes County will be matching \$30,000 to improve the County-owned parcel and the City of Bend has pledged to match \$50,000 to expand treatments on the City-owned parcels.

ATTENDANCE:

Kevin Moriarty, County Forester

Estimated time needed for item (presentation/questions/discussion/action): 15 min