

Hannah Elliott



From: Hannah Elliott
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 4:35 PM
To: Hannah Elliott
Subject: FW: Wildfire Prevention & Risk Mitigation - Proposed Dollar General Safety Risks

CROOK COUNTY
MAY 08 2024
PLANNING DEPT

From: Denis Sieben <denismsieben@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 12:51 PM
To: Plan <plan@crookcountyor.gov>
Cc: rdeboodt@ccf-r.com; Lisa Binning <lisa.binning@gmail.com>; Roxy AndraDe <roxy@clubhousefoster.com>; 76groundhog@gmail.com
Subject: Wildfire Prevention & Risk Mitigation - Proposed Dollar General Safety Risks

Good Afternoon,

I just wanted to bring a few concerns and facts to the attention of the planning commissioners and Russell Deboodt, Crook County Fire & Rescue Division Chief. I have seen email correspondence in the response to the proposed development in this directly related to the safety of those residing in Juniper Canyon.

The priorities of Juniper Canyon are very clear, according to the Juniper Canyon Access Survey completed in 2021. There were 829 responses of those surveyed in ALL of Juniper Canyon. You have received over 90 oppositions and exhibits opposing this DG development, several of those concerns mimic those of the JC access survey. The notice of the proposed development was sent to 12 residents in total and the outcry for prioritizing safety is very clear.

According to the survey, the priorities are:

Top issues:

- No other road into/out of Juniper Canyon (86%)
An increase in traffic (70%)
- Accidents on Juniper Canyon Rd (59%)

- Top options/solutions:
 - Put a bond on the ballot to raise funds (68%)
 - Seek low interest loans to be paid back (44%)
 - Form a local group to raise funds (37%)

Crook County will continue to pursue grant opportunities to fund this improvement.

I'd hardly call this an "improvement" when this is the number one priority for residents of Juniper Canyon. I understand that there will be requirements for a business of this size to operate up Juniper Canyon to mitigate fire risks. Even with a plan in place, the risk of fire and a second exit from JC will not be addressed. A business like this cannot mitigate safety risks that take place in its parking lot or off the property in neighborhoods like Ironwood Estates, those additional risks will come with a development

like this. This will further exacerbate our current problems and safety risks up Juniper Canyon relating to wildfires.

The safety risks for Juniper Canyon have been backed by MANY studies, the Wildfire Prevention & Risk Mitigation program conducted by the Wagon Trail Solar Project, Crook County Wildfire Protection Program & the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The Cowboy Fire burned over 200 acres in 2022. Our property and the property with the proposed development were on a LEVEL 3 evacuation. The amount of people (locals and recreational users of Prineville Reservoir) trying to leave all at once was on the only road in and out of Juniper Canyon was astonishing, not to mention all of the livestock that had to be evacuated from Ochoco Land & Livestock, Waibel Ranch and the majority of residents who have livestock up JC. This proposed development is in an extreme hazard zone. Juniper Canyon ranks amongst the highest safety risk in all of Crook County in regards to fire.

I have attached a few documents for reference below.

Sincerely,
A concerned resident of Juniper Canyon

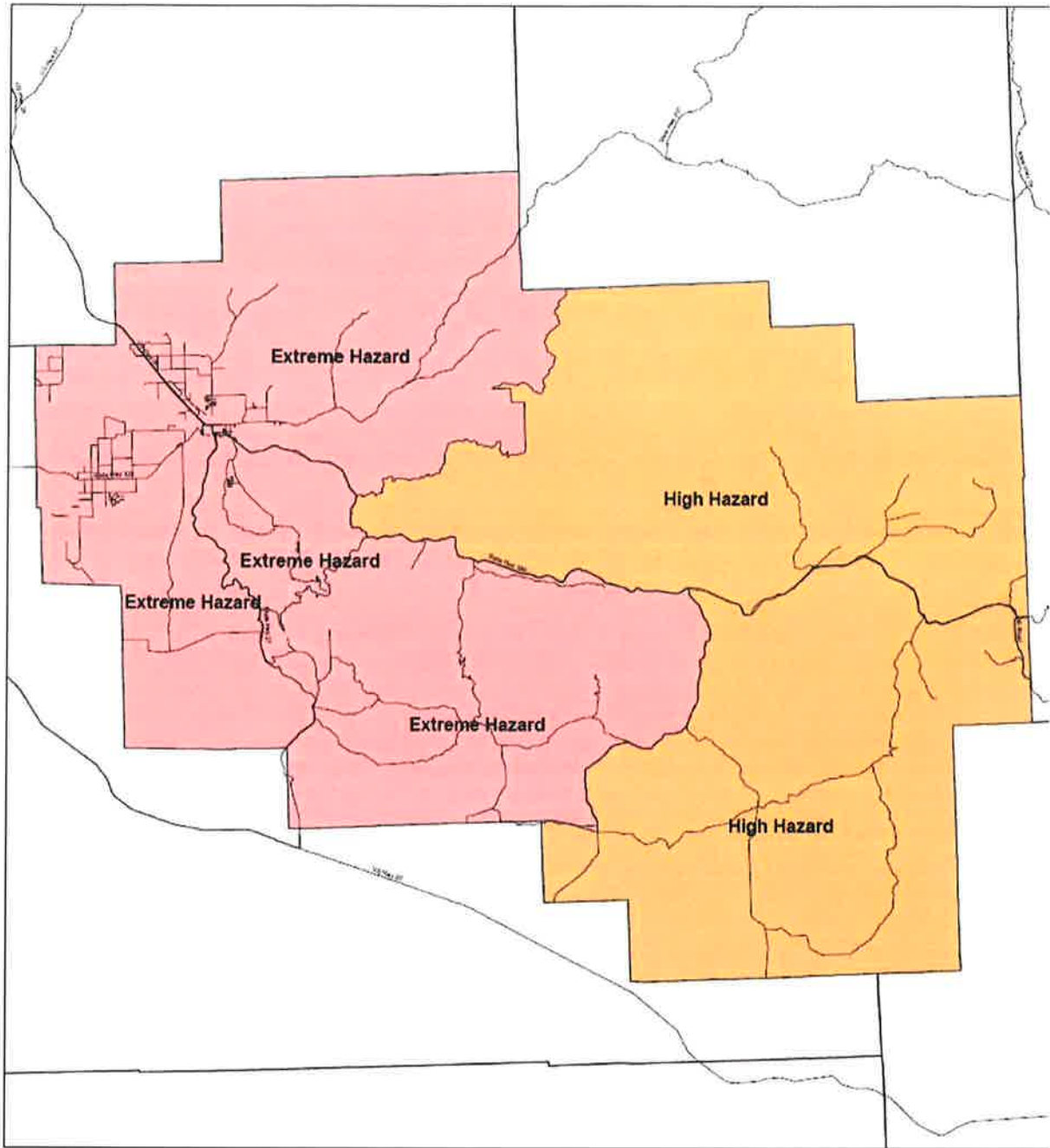
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Crook County Fire Protection Plan Hazard Areas - Hazard Rating Summary



Legend

— highway arc	NAME
— ccrd_roads	Juniper Canyon - Extreme
haz_areasCopy	Meurys - Extreme
<all other values>	McKey - Extreme
	Paulina - High
	Powell Butte - Extreme
	Twelve Mile - High

Crook County Fire Protection Plan Hazard Areas - Risk Rating Summary



Legend

— highway arc

— ecrd_roads

haz_areasCopy

<all other values>

NAME

Juniper Canyon - High

Maurys - Moderate

McKay - High

Paulina - High

Powell Butte - High

Twelve Mile - Moderate

4.4 Juniper Canyon Risk Assessment Area

Juniper Canyon assessment area is located west of the Crooked River from Prineville to Bowman Dam; north of Prineville Reservoir from Bowman Dam and the Crooked River to the Paulina Highway; and west of the Paulina Highway back to Prineville. The unit includes fairly dense residential development in the Juniper Canyon area, but is essentially wildland in nature to the east and south of currently developed areas. Significant additional development is being planned to the north of the reservoir. Areas of extensive rimrock are present along the Crooked River and the reservoir.

Figure 4-6 Juniper Canyon Rating Summary

CATEGORY	SCORE	ADJECTIVE RATING
Risk (fires/1000 ac./10 years)	40	High
Hazard (fuels, topography, weather)	72	Extreme
Protection Capabilities (high score=high risk/low protection capability)	2	Low
Values Protected (structural density and critical infrastructure)	35	High
Structural Vulnerability* (*rating assigned until otherwise verified)		High

Communities within the Juniper Canyon Assessment Area

Communities within the area include, but are not limited to the following:

- Highlands Subdivision
- High Desert Estates
- Conifer Heights
- Ironwood Estates
- Ochoco Land and Livestock
- Dry Creek Air Park
- Lost Lake Estates
- Hood's Subdivision
- Chuckwagon Acres
- Idleway Acres
- Prineville Lake Acres
- Lakeview Cove
- Juniper Hills
- Prineville Reservoir State Park
- Jasper Knolls
- Botero Park Subdivision

Critical Infrastructure within the Juniper Canyon Assessment Area

1. **Transportation/Road System:** The transportation infrastructure was judged to be the most at-risk item within the analysis unit. Juniper Canyon Road provides the only major access option. In addition to lack of other travel choices, this route would be further compromised by the presence of significant fuel loading and constricted canyon walls/chimney effect on fire behavior. Establishment of a county standard requiring development of multiple alternate access routes, for both existing and newly-planned communities should be of the highest priority. As identified during the analysis process, a large scale fire-related evacuation would generate heavy traffic that would affect the safety of the public and responding fire fighting resources.

In addition to Juniper Canyon Road, Davis Loop and all other primary access routes linking to development areas should be high priority for access corridor fuels treatment.

2. **Utilities-Electrical:** The fuel type in the area potentially provides an adequate heat source to compromise electrical power lines throughout the unit. The electrical substation at the intersection of Juniper Canyon Road and Upper Davis Loop is of significant importance. Hazardous fuels reduction adjacent to all of these assets is appropriate.
3. **Recreational Facilities:** Prineville Reservoir. These facilities (state and county parks and private campground/resort) are utilized by significant numbers of Crook County residents and visitors, particularly during the summer. Ongoing assessment of hazardous fuels treatment opportunities and development of shelter-in-place contingency plans will be important to wildfire preparedness and increased public safety resiliency for people using these facilities.
4. **Emergency Facilities:** Crook County Fire and Rescue Substation. Plans are currently underway to install an emergency power generator at that facility. In addition to its fire station function, during a large scale fire event, it may also be needed as an Incident Command Post, medical aid station or medical evacuation staging site.
5. **Dry Creek Air Park:** Airport. In the event of a large scale wildland fire, fire fighting helicopters may need to use this facility as a heli-base. The need for additional planning for this type of use should be assessed.

<p>Juniper Canyon</p>	<p>The transportation system/emergency access egress/ingress function is the single most at-risk infrastructure component in this assessment area.</p> <p>Evacuation Planning</p> <p>Complete Structural Vulnerability Assessment.</p> <p>Coordination with BLM to facilitate</p>	<p>Juniper Canyon Road current presents the only significant volume access route into or out of this area. Assess and develop multiple alternate access routes for the area. Consider alternatives including limited-use authorized emergency only routes across BLM and private lands if necessary. Insure that route condition is adequate to allow travel by passenger cars.</p> <p>Develop Juniper Canyon evacuation plan. Keep updated as additional development occurs and alternative access routes are identified and become operational.</p> <p>Lack of adequate information on current and needed levels of hazardous fuels treatment and driveway access to structures are needed to develop comprehensive fuels strategy for this assessment area.</p> <p>A substantial amount of private/BLM interface is</p>
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	<p>and expedite WUI fuels treatment actions.</p> <p>Assess options to initiate near-term fuels treatment on private land and around residences to coincide with BLM fuels treatment actions.</p>	<p>present with the identified WUI area.</p> <p>Option to utilize BLM expertise in development of treatment regimes appropriate to juniper/sage ecotype on private land to minimize disturbance, cheatgrass encroachment into the area.</p>
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Figure 8-1 lists hazard reduction priorities by Assessment Area. Figure 8-2 lists those same priorities county-wide by assessment score and lists priority action items. Figure 8-3 lists some general priorities for funding opportunities.

Figure 8-1 Hazard Reduction Priorities by Assessment Area

Crook County Ratings

Hazard Area	Subdivision/Area	Risk Score	Hazard Score	Protection Score	Values Score	Total Score
Powell Butte	Pinaville Ranch Subdivision	40	65	4	12	121
Powell Butte	Washwood	40	65	4	12	121
Powell Butte	Washage Estates	40	65	4	12	121
Powell Butte	Twin Lakes Ranch	40	65	4	12	121
Powell Butte	Baldwin Road Industrial Park	40	65	4	12	121
Powell Butte	West Powell Butte Estates	40	65	2	35	142
Powell Butte	Red Cloud Subdivision	40	69	4	35	148
Powell Butte	Mountain View Estates	40	65	4	12	121
Powell Butte	Beehammer Ranch	40	65	4	12	121
Powell Butte	Sinclair Davis Tract 2	40	69	4	35	148
Powell Butte	Powell Butte Vine Estates	40	69	4	35	148
Powell Butte	Old West Road Subdivision	40	65	4	12	121
Powell Butte	Carreno Cowan	40	65	4	12	121
Powell Butte	River Lake Ranches	40	65	40	12	157
Powell Butte	Willard Estates	40	65	40	12	157
Powell Butte	Juniper Acres	40	65	40	12	157
Powell Butte	Structures along O'Neil Highway	40	65	40	12	157
Juniper Canyon	High Desert Estates	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Highlands Subdivision	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Conifer Heights	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Ochoa Land and Livestock	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Ironwood Estates	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Dry Creek Airport	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Lost Lake Estates	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Pinaville Lane Acres	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Hood's Subdivision	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Chapman's Acres	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Jobway Acres	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Juniper Hills	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Lakeside Cove	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Pinaville Reservoir Blue Park	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Juniper Knolls	40	72	2	35	149
Juniper Canyon	Botero Park Subdivision	40	72	2	35	149
McKay	Ochoa West	40	67	2	35	144
McKay	Miss Pucky Ranches	40	67	2	35	144
McKay	Meadow Ridge	40	67	2	35	144
McKay	Sunset Hills Subdivision	40	67	2	35	144
McKay	Pleasant View Heights	40	67	2	35	144

Juniper Canyon	Transportation System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expand primary and alternative/emergency access route options.
	Recreational Facilities-Prineville Reservoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop shelter-in-place plan. ✓ Assess evacuation route potential route to east on Crooked River BOR road to Paulina Highway.
Powell Butte	Community Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ School, church, store complex
	Fire Station	
	Industrial Park complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Airport, Les Schwab warehouse facility, Baldwin Road industrial park.
McKay	Prineville-urban and suburban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Explore opportunities to share Fire-wise landscaping concepts with public.
	Transportation System-Alternative/emergency access routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assess need for and develop multiple access options for each area of development
Paulina	Electrical and Telephone Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assess and improve resilience of these systems to effects of wildland fire.
	Transportation System-Alternative/emergency access routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assess need for and develop multiple access options for each area of development. ✓ Evaluate options to add fire resiliency to major travel routes.
Maury	Electrical and Telephone Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assess and improve resilience of these systems to effects of wildland fire.

Juniper Canyon Assessment Area

Size: 67,707 acres

Risk

Fire Occurrence: 53 fires (FS, BLM, ODF) within the last 10 years. Historic fires from Prineville Fire District (PFD) are not available. An assumption was made that if PFD fires were available then fire occurrence would include 50 additional fires. This would result in a fire occurrence rate of >1.1 per 1000 acres per 10 years. Rating: high or 40 points.

Total Risk Points: 40

Hazard

Weather Factor Value: We used the Oregon state factor value which classifies the entire eastern portion of the state as high, for 40 points.

Topographic Factor Value: GIS topographic data was available to the group to help assign point ratings for slope, aspect, and elevation.

Slope: All areas assigned to 26-40% slope class, 2 points.

Aspect: All areas assigned to moderate to high rating, 4 points.

Elevation: All areas assigned to 3500- 5000 feet class, 1 point.

Vegetation/Fuels: GIS vegetation and fuel classification, developed through a contract with the county is available and used to help the group address this factor. The Juniper Canyon area was assigned to fuel hazard factor 3 (abundance of ladder fuels and cheat grass, fuels are often a combination of shrubs with moderate to heavy juniper component), 20 points.

There is potential for active crown fire, a moderate rating, 5 points.

Total hazard points:

Hazard Factor	Juniper Canyon
Weather	40
Topography	
Slope	2
Aspect	4
Elevation	1
Vegetation/Fuels	
Fuel Model	20
Crown Fire Potential	5
Total Hazard Score	72
Adjective Rating	Extreme

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Crook County, Oregon

Prepared by

**Crook County
Community Wildfire Protection
Plan Committee**

June, 2005

Crook County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

August 2014

