

Lincoln County Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Mitigation Plan Committee

2008 Accomplishments and 2009 Priority Needs and Activities

2008 Accomplishments:

1. Dietrich Fire Protection District:

Facility (station) upgrade: insulation, new roof;
New PPE purchases and equipment upgrades;
Completed second annual monitoring of HFT areas.

Remarks: Dietrich made grant application for a new fire station and received full funding, but had to refuse it because the required match was twice as much as their annual operating budget. Two (2) private landowners concerned and not satisfied with results of HFT on their lands.

2. Richfield Fire Protection District:

Purchased new (92) Type One structural engine;
New PPE purchases and equipment upgrades;
Completed second annual monitoring of HFT areas.

3. Shoshone Fire Protection District:

Purchased new (06) 3000 gal. Water Tender;
Purchased new (86) WUI Type Two Engine;
Purchased 250 gal. *slip-on unit;
New PPE purchases and equipment upgrades.

Remarks: Coordinating three department wildland fire exercises annually. Completed third year monitoring on South Shoshone Phase I HFT areas. Completed first year monitoring on North Shoshone Phase II HFT area. Two (2) private landowners concerned and not satisfied with results of HFT on their lands.

*Slip-on unit placed in one-ton support truck makes an additional Type 6 wildland engine available

4. Mid-Snake RC&D (Lorraine Simonson):

Sponsored Public Service Announcements (PSAs) throughout the Magic Valley during 2008. FireWise education was available at the Home & Garden Show, Agra-Action and Earth Day. A Twin Falls County FireWise website was developed to aid residents in FireWise principals, County Wildfire Protection Plans and current local fire preparedness. Workshops were offered in four counties to educate individuals interested

in contracting equipment for fire protection. A conference was held that provided eight counties with education and collaborative opportunities within the local, rural, city, state and national firefighting communities.

The Shoshone Schools' FireWise Landscape nursery is underway. The students of Shoshone Schools Ag Department are growing FireWise plants for homeowners throughout the Magic Valley. They are also learning about FireWise landscape principals.

The Fire Education Coordinator is working on creating a FireWise Community USA for River Ranch subdivision in Shoshone.

2009 Priority Needs and Activities: Equal Priority Given

1. Lincoln County Phase III IDL Grant: The project area includes twelve subdivisions comprised of 126 homes with numerous out buildings. Each subdivision is located on former agriculture ground, of which surface water rights were sold off long before development, thus creating a hazardous situation as many acres have reverted back to annual weeds and grasses and noxious weeds. The urban interface consists of surrounding State and Public lands, with continuous, heavy fuel loading in a sagebrush/bunchgrass ecological type, with "no" opportunity for a Public Land hazardous fuels reduction project on the east side because of a designated BLM Wilderness Study Area. The project area will include five hundred acres. Exact acres will be firmed up with a Civil Survey. Objectives: reduce the fire hazard and increase homeowner awareness through the removal of annual vegetation and brush species, establish a less flammable stand of perennial bunchgrass, carryout homeowner inspections and hold FireWise workshops to increase homeowners FireWise safety and awareness. Private landowners have committed to matching funds, labor and equipment to accomplish the work as soon as possible. To demonstrate NEED and INTEREST, Lincoln County has WAIVED their ten percent administration charges so those dollars will support "the on-the-ground effort." Local Volunteer Firefighters living in the area will carry out post project monitoring and work with homeowner associations to ensure annual maintenance is satisfactory.
2. Fire pre-planning areas of proposed annexation prior to annexation.
3. Updating and coordinating annexation area with Lincoln Fire Protection District.
4. Evaluate annexation areas and their impact on the cities ISO rating, water supply, additional need for fire stations, apparatus and FTEs.
5. Conduct countywide fire prevention workshops featuring Redzone and FireWise methodology.
6. Conduct countywide fire prevention PSAs (English and Spanish).

7. Continue to improve and upgrade Redzone countywide.
8. Conduct noxious weed control countywide (Northside Tri-county CWMA, Terry Ruby).
9. Continue WUI update and mitigation map in cooperation with Twin Falls District BLM.
10. Materials Needed: Obtain grants or secure other funding to maintain and or purchase needed equipment such as: bush hose, brush nozzles, PPE, fire shelters, pumps and tanks, and upgrade existing brush trucks.
11. Rangeland Fire Education Needs: Continued need for public fire education and prevention within the County.
12. Grants: Various grants will be applied for wildland firefighting.
13. Additional Areas: Continued use of mutual aid agreements with County rural fire districts and other organizations.
14. New Growth, Subdivisions, Structures, and Homes: There is new growth within Lincoln County. Need to account for properties being sold and bought. Need to monitor growth of homes in subdivisions. Need to continue to work with all homeowners to identify risks and provide recommendations for reducing fire risks. Addressing of home sites is a top priority. Access to existing properties and new properties needs to be addressed within the county (access roads, turnarounds, etc).
15. High Risk Areas: Grass and brush fires are a high risk. Need to address suppression, structure protection, protection of out buildings, protection of vegetation, monitoring fire behavior and mutual aid.

Shoshone City/Rural Fire District Needs:

Additional Goals:

Maintain the goals set in the 2006 mitigation plan;
Work with the public in education of wildland fires;
Work towards the funding of additional fire equipment;
Work toward a countywide burn permit policy;
Establish better road signage and rural addressing;
Acquire more burn barrels;
Eliminate interagency fire suppression barriers;
Locate and document safe areas in subdivisions;
Continued tire recovery;
Homeowner fire education;
Continue to work with all homeowners to identify risks and provide recommendations for reducing fire risks.

High Risk Areas:

Northeast of Shoshone town site
Northwest of Shoshone town site
Southwest of Shoshone town site
Sunset Park
Fruit Track

Dietrich Rural Fire District Updates/Needs:

Additional Goals:

Construct a new fire station;
Eliminate the areas between districts;
Work with the public in education of wildland fires;
Improve the address overlapping of Lincoln and Minidoka County coordinates in the southeastern corner of Lincoln County (Kimama area);
Funding for additional fire equipment;
Continue restoration at Notch Butte, Star Lake, Owinza, Stagebarn, and Wilson Ridge.

High Risk Areas:

Westside of Dietrich 9 Waucanza Street)
Star Gate Ranches
Southwest corner BLM ground bordering farm ground
North side of Dietrich (BLM ground bordering city limits)