

PINE FOREST BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trails

Committee members: Andersen, Heide; Bryce, Jeff; Carrihill, Colin; Guse, Allen; Macdonald, Tara; Noland, Steve; and Schuetz, Christina

Below are the notes from our 30-minute kick-off call on 7/24.

Attendees were Christina, Steve and Colin.

Assumptions and Discussion Points – all open for discussion/comment from larger group

- First priority for this committee should be enhancing or revitalizing existing trails (vs. making new)
- Our charter is to make things better for the PF community, so we don't believe we should make public any enhancements; but we agreed, and are ok with, others finding and using trails, especially as they connect to National Forest biking/hiking trails. We are, after all, a part of a larger community.
Example: Woodpecker. While not a PF trail, users can easily end up in PF if they take a wrong turn. Another is the annual relay race that runs through the bottom of PF and out to Elbow Coulee.
- Enhancing existing trails may need permission from FS or DNR – *Christina to confirm this assumption with PF board*
Example: Woody needs some changes for water run-off and some switchbacks added; as does the Rader creek access trail
- We had questions around what might be coming either via Bike or Trail Alliance so that we might coordinate any work if it pertains – *Heide, do you have any insight here?*

Ask of each committee member – to me by end of day Aug 19th

We need to collect current and historic information about existing trails, shortcuts and spurs within PF – includes any that 'hook into' national forest roads and bike trails. I've attached a spreadsheet with 8 to help us get started. Names (and descriptions) are a bit clunky since most don't have official names...which leads me to believe we should also add naming to our to-do list.

Christina

Firewise

Jim & I have not had a chance to finalize a report of Firewise Committee activities, but here is at least a partial list, not including the fuel-breaks project:

- With the help of owners who were here during the period that evacuation notices started to be issued for the Crescent Mountain fire, Rose & Heather developed a **phone tree** to ensure those owners received notification if PF went to a Level 3 evacuation. Owners were really good about letting us know when they were here & when they were leaving, enabling us to update the phone tree accordingly. The effort provided a template for creating a comprehensive phone tree

for all of PF. The Communications Committee is going to help figure out whether we can create a password-protected check-in/check-out board on our website to make that process more efficient & whether we can link that to the phone tree so that we can skip notification of owners who aren't in residence at the time.

□ The Okanogan Conservation District has selected PF to receive another grant for **chipping of ladder fuels** this autumn. It's affiliated with the Methow Clean Air Project, through which we received leftover grant monies for the same thing last year. In the interest of full disclosure, Heather advised them of our previous funding, as well as the fact that we will be burning slash this autumn, too, but neither fact deterred them. The District estimates the funding will provide for chipping of the equivalent of approximately 40 pick-up truckloads of slash. As with last year, owners doing the limbing, other ladder fuel removal, & slash stacking satisfies the "Firewise Day" requirement for our designation. Heather will put out the word when we know the timing. The current budget included \$3000 for the same type of work, so we may be able to get a lot more ladder fuel removal done this year.

□ Rose is reviewing the Firewise & Forest Health tabs on the **website** & will recommend updates to them, which will likely include consolidating them.

□ In following up on an article that described Sun River, Oregon's **community standards** that require owners to make their properties Firewise, Chris H. discovered that Oregon recently enacted a law that will ultimately extend those requirements to all owners in what they call the forestland-urban interface (https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors477.html). The Board will need to decide whether we want to pursue making some sort of Firewise standards a requirement in PF. If so, the Firewise Committee will need to work with the Governance Committee as they draft revisions to the PF covenants to resolve the question of whether any &, if so what, revisions are necessary to existing Covenant IV.C., which requires owners to maintain property in a "safe condition." PF will also need to address how to enforce any such requirement.

□ Heather talked with the chief of the structure assessment crew that was in PF at the beginning of the Crescent Mountain fire & learned of an approach that will likely resolve the dilemma we have had about how to notify firefighters about which **driveways** are accessible by their equipment & which are not. That solution is to place a box they can unlock with their "universal" (not the right term) keys near the entrance to PF & keep in it a map showing the driveway characterizations, as well as other info of use to them. We will seek a committee volunteer(s) to coordinate with OCFD6 on the driveway designations, the box, the lock, & other information that would make sense to keep there (e.g., emergency evacuation routes).

□ Chris S. & Lynn have started looking into several questions related to homeowner **insurance**, including the possibility of getting our NFPA fire rating reduced as a result of the timber thinning & other work we have done. Insurance companies reportedly use the rating in setting premiums.

Submitted by Heather Dean

Architecture, Communication, Governance, Roads and Water Committee Reports

Refer to information presented in 9/2 Board meeting minutes.