

10.11. Community at Risk: Monitor Rural Fire Protection District #58

The Monitor Fire District has been identified as a Community at Risk (CAR) by Oregon Department of Forestry. The District has participated in the Clackamas County CWPP planning process to evaluate capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to potential wildfire events.

Monitor Fire District Description

The Monitor Fire District is a very rural, primarily agricultural area. The District is completely volunteer, so response times are dependent on the availability of volunteers (many of whom are not available during the work day). The community is very supportive of the Fire District, as demonstrated by the five-year Local Option Levy that recently purchased two new engines. The District also has two retired forest service vehicles that are used as brush trucks. Monitor Fire averages about 200 calls a year and operates from two stations on Kropff Road and Woodburn Monitor Road.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Monitor's Fire District is an agricultural area in southern Clackamas County. It is a relatively flat area, with good access and radio coverage. There is not much of a wildland urban interface in Monitor, because the majority of heavy fuels occurring along the rivers and streams and there are very few homes located in these areas. The homes that are near wooded riparian areas and wetlands have typically have defensible space around them. The primary threat of wildland fire ignition would be from an escaped agricultural burn. The Elliot Prairie area is the highest concentration of homes, but fuels are not heavy enough to warrant a Community at Risk designation.

Clackamas County developed a Wildland Urban Interface Map based on housing density and fuel types. Although there is not a great deal of localized wildfire hazard in Monitor, there are some areas that met the criteria for being including in the Countywide Wildland Urban Interface as illustrated by Map #25 Monitor Fire District Wildland Urban Interface.

Monitor Fire District Wildfire Hazards

The Clackamas County CWPP wildfire hazard assessment assisted Monitor Fire in identifying areas that may be at higher risk to potential wildfires. Map #10 of the Clackamas CWPP illustrates the overall wildfire hazard risk in the Monitor Fire District and can be used to help target areas for wildfire prevention activities.

Structural Ignitability

Monitor Fire promotes the creation of defensible space, use of fire-resistant roofing and building materials, and community preparedness as much as possible. However, with very limited staffing, there is very little communication with the Clackamas Department of Transportation and Development, which provides land use planning and building services in this area. Because protection capabilities are so limited here, Monitor Fire promotes home sprinkler systems, especially in homes that are greater than 3,600 square feet in area. Monitor Fire does not participate in land use reviews, and currently works with individual homeowner or contractors during development to ensure adequate access and fire flow. The District does not receive monthly notifications of new building permits and has not been trained on velocity hall. This has been noted in the Monitor Fire CWPP Action Plan.

Emergency Response

Emergency response is challenging in the Monitor Fire District because staff is entirely volunteer and ranges from 26 to 32 firefighters, depending on turnover. A major wildland urban interface fire in Monitor would quickly exceed the resources and capabilities of the District. For this reason, Monitor Fire has mutual aid agreements in place which allows for the sharing of resources across the county in the event of a large scale disaster including wildfires.

Monitor Fire has an excellent training program for a volunteer Fire District, and the majority of volunteers are DPSST certified as Wildland Urban Interface Firefighters. Turnover is always an issue, so training new volunteers can be challenging. Monitor Fire would like to strengthen its relationship with the ODF by attending training (S-130, S-190) to assist in maintaining wildfire qualifications. The District is also in need of new wildland Personal Protective Equipment including Nomex pants, shirts and new generation live fire shelters.

Address signage is an issue throughout the District. ODF is assisting by addressing the highest priority roads in the Summer of 2012, and will continue to work with Monitor Fire to improve address signage.

Although there is a great deal of agricultural burning in this area, the majority of farmers are well-versed in safe burning practices. Access is good throughout the District, with very few single access roads. Radio and cell phone communication is also good. The District just received six used 800 MHz radios from Canby Fire, which improves interoperability with other mutual aid partners. Each vehicle is now equipped with an 800 MHz and a VHF radio. As the County moves toward narrow banding and higher frequencies, overall the coverage and quality of communication in rural areas such as Monitor capabilities are diminished and in more repeaters may be needed.

Community Outreach & Education

Monitor Fire is dedicated to fire prevention, but has limited staff and capacity for a fire prevention program. The District incorporates fire prevention messaging into all outreach programs including fire station open house, pancake breakfasts and national night out. Currently, the prevention messages target youth, and presentations are given at Butte Creek School and Canby Elementary on Whiskey Hill annually. Monitor Fire would like to increase capacity in its outreach program for fire prevention and for recruiting potential volunteers.

Local Communities at Risk (Strategic Planning Areas)

Monitor Fire has not identified any Communities at Risk to wildfire. Elliot Prairie is the only concentration of homes, but fuels here do not constitute a high wildfire risk.

Fuels Reduction

A core focus of the Clackamas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CCWPP) reducing hazardous fuels around homes, along transportation corridors and in surrounding forested lands can significantly minimize losses to life, property, and natural resources from wildfire. Heavy Fuels in the Monitor Fire District are concentrated along wetland and riparian areas, but there are very few homes or infrastructure at risk. There have been no areas identified as potential fuels reduction project sites.

MonitorFire District Action Plan

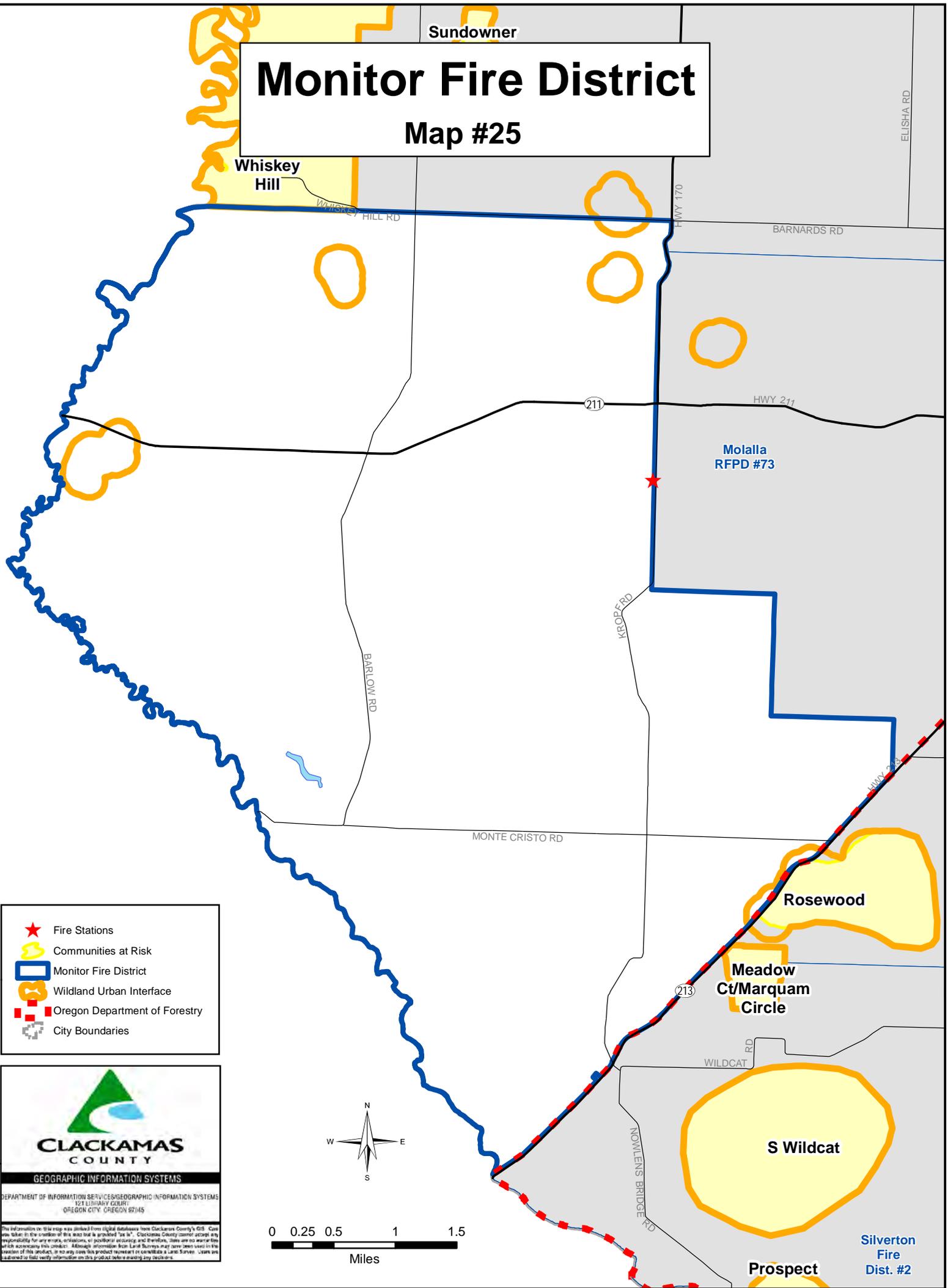
Monitor Fire has developed a list of actions to build capacity for potential wildland fires at the District scale. The action plan for Monitor Fire is provided in Table 10.11-1.

Table 10.11-1. Monitor Fire District Action Plan

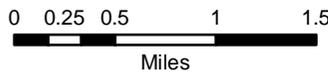
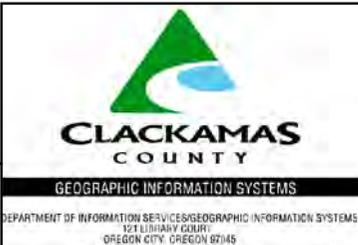
Action Item	Timeframe	Partners	CAR
Monitor Fire Action Plan			
Pursue grant funding to purchase Wildland PPE to replace outdated PPE.	2 Years	FDB, ODF	Monitor Fire District
Work more closely with Clackamas County DTD to ensure input on access and water is requested and received in a timely manner, including access to the velocity hall system.	Ongoing	SFMO, Clackamas DTD	Monitor Fire District
Partner with ODF to receive wildland fire training training (S-130, S-190)for maintaining wildfire qualifications.	2 Years	ODF	Monitor Fire District
Continue to improve address signage throughout the District.	2 Years	ODF, Fire Co-op	Monitor Fire District
Partner with ODF and the Clackamas County Fire Cooperative to increase capacity in the fire prevention and outreach program.	Ongoing	Fire Co-op	Monitor Fire District

Monitor Fire District

Map #25



- Fire Stations
- Communities at Risk
- Monitor Fire District
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- City Boundaries



The information on this map was derived from digital databases from Clackamas County's GIS. Care was taken in the creation of this map but it is provided "as is". Clackamas County cannot accept any responsibility for any errors, omissions, or positional inaccuracies and therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this product. Although information from Land Surveys may have been used in the creation of this product, it in no way conveys this product as a substitute for a Land Survey. Users are cautioned to field verify information on this product before making any decisions.

Silverton
Fire
Dist. #2