

## **10.2. Community at Risk: Boring Rural Fire Protection District # 59**

The Boring 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.

### **Boring Fire District Description**

The Boring Fire District is a special service district that provides fire, rescue, and prevention services to the City of Damascus, as well as the unincorporated areas of Boring, Kelso, Hillsvew, Barton and Eagle Creek. Over 20,000 people live within the 64 square miles that the District serves. Currently, the Fire District has 83 members, consisting of 18 career, 55 volunteer, 8 support, and 2 administrative personnel.

Boring Fire District encompasses over 64 square miles in northern Clackamas County. There are three stations located in the District: the Boring Station, Damascus Station and the Eagle Creek Station. These stations are equipped with combinations of engines, water tenders, brush trucks, squad, and several staff vehicles that enable Boring Fire to respond to calls, which averages approximately 1600, annually.

### **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)**

Some areas in the Boring Fire District are excellent examples of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). These areas are characterized by residential homes surrounded by heavy fuels and steep slopes. In addition, many of the neighborhoods here have only one way in and one way out with narrow, steep driveways and poor address signage. Heavy and continuous fuels dominate this area, so fires that begin on public land or on smaller private residential lots can quickly threaten the communities and natural resources that thrive in the Boring Fire District.

Metro and Clackamas County have a few heavily forested landholdings adjacent to homes in the WUI. The County has managed the forestland adjacent to Madrone Wall for many years. However, the community has expressed concern over timber management in this natural area and it is now slated to be converted to a County Park. The County Parks Wildfire Management Plan identified Madrone Wall as a priority for fuels reduction work which was completed in Spring of 2012.

Metro owns forested land adjacent to the Damascus Lava Domes and Bartell Road communities. As Boring Fire targets these areas for creating defensible space, there is an opportunity to engage Metro in reducing fuels on this adjacent public land. This has been identified as an action item.

Tourism and recreation are also major influences here, as thousands of Portland area residents travel along Highway 26 to access the Mount Hood National Forest. Campers, hikers, hunters and other visitors to this area can potentially start wildfires that could carry from public land to the residential communities.

### **Boring Fire District Wildfire Hazards**

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

### **Structural Ignitability**

Boring Fire promotes the creation of defensible space, use of fire-resistant roofing and building materials, and community preparedness in the WUI. Boring Fire works well with the City of Damascus and Clackamas County to integrate these concepts at the regulatory level. For example,

the City of Damascus has an Urban Tree Ordinance which includes exemptions for removing trees that threaten or are within 30 feet of structures. Boring Fire participates in land use reviews for new development to provide input on access and water supply.

### **Emergency Response**

A major wildland urban interface fire in Boring would quickly exceed the resources and capabilities of the District. For this reason, Boring 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.

In the event of a large wildland fire, evacuations may be necessary. Although Boring Fire has been working with Damascus to plan for potential evacuations, this rural area presents some difficulties due to the large number of one way in and one way out roads.

Burning of yard waste and debris is challenging in the Boring Fire District because the agencies that have regulatory authority over burning (DEQ and ODF) dissect the District, so different rules apply to residents throughout the District. Backyard burning is allowed in all areas. Boring Fire adheres to the Open Burn Policy adopted by the Fire Defense Board and tries to be consistent with neighboring jurisdictions in regulating the Backyard Burning program.

Boring Fire employs 18 career and 55 volunteer firefighters who receive regular wildland fire training to remain current on qualifications. Although the District is able to support the S-130 and S-190 training, lack of hands-on fire experience makes it difficult to retain wildland qualifications. Boring Fire would like to work more directly with the USFS and ODF to have opportunities to participate in live fires, and this is noted in the action plan.

### **Community Outreach & Education**

Boring Fire is dedicated to fire prevention, and uses a variety of forums to promote residential fire safety, defensible space, and safe burning practices. The community is very supportive of the Fire District and participates in activities throughout the year, some of which include smoke detector, fire prevention, car seat, and Christmas Basket programs. Boring Fire is also an active member of the Clackamas County Fire Prevention Cooperative which is a consortium of structural and wildland fire protection professionals that work together to deliver programs such as team teaching in the grade school fire safety programs, safety fairs with car seat inspections, community and school programs, and fire safety house displays.

Boring Fire worked with Clackamas County Parks and Oregon Department of Forestry to hold a public meeting regarding the CWPP and wildfire issues in the Madrone Wall Area Community at Risk. The purpose of this meeting was to educate local area residents about the upcoming fuels reduction project planned for the County-owned forest land north of Madrone Wall and to educate them about how to protect their homes from potential wildfires. Sixteen people attended, including many who live outside of the Boring Fire District. People were generally supportive of the fuels reduction project and suggested that the surrounding homeowners be contacted to create defensible space around their homes.

### **Local Communities at Risk (Strategic Planning Areas)**

Boring Fire also recognizes that there are smaller-scale Communities at Risk that have unique wildfire hazards to be addressed at the more local scale. These areas were referred to as Strategic Planning Areas in the 2005 iteration of the CWPP, but will now be referenced as local Communities at Risk to be consistent with state and federal language. Communities that have been identified as

being particularly vulnerable to wildfires are illustrated in Map #16 and listed in Table A-2.1. Boring Fire professionals considered the following factors to determine the local CARs including:

- Need for defensible space
- Access limitations (narrow driveways, lack of address signage, one way in/one way out)
- Steep slopes that can hinder access and accelerate the spread of wildfire
- Lack of water available for wildland fire fighting
- Heavy fuels on adjacent public lands
- Potential ignition sources from recreationists and transients
- Agricultural and backyard burning
- Lack of community outreach programs to promote wildfire awareness
- Communications difficulties

### **Fuels Reduction**

Effective fuels reduction projects include the creation of defensible space around homes as well as vegetation treatments (shaded fuels creaks, thinning, limbing) onto adjacent forested land and natural areas. Boring Fire will facilitate cooperation between public and private organizations to ensure that fuels reduction work occurs strategically and benefits homeowners as well as adjacent public and private lands.

To ensure that landscape-level treatments are paired with projects to create defensible space around vulnerable communities, priority fuels reduction projects have been overlaid with the Communities at Risk Identified by Boring Fire (Map #16).

Fuels Reduction Priorities include:

Hwy 224 Corridor/Madrone Wall Area	Tickle Creek Road
Amisgger Road	Bartell Road
Gold, Bronze, Nickel Creek	Eagle Fern Park

### **Boring Fire District Action Plan**

Boring Fire has developed a list of actions to build capacity at the District scale and has identified actions that can help to make the local CARS more resilient to potential wildfires. The action plan for Boring Fire and the local CARs therein is provided in Table 10.2-2.

**Table 10.2-1. Boring Fire District Local Communities at Risk**

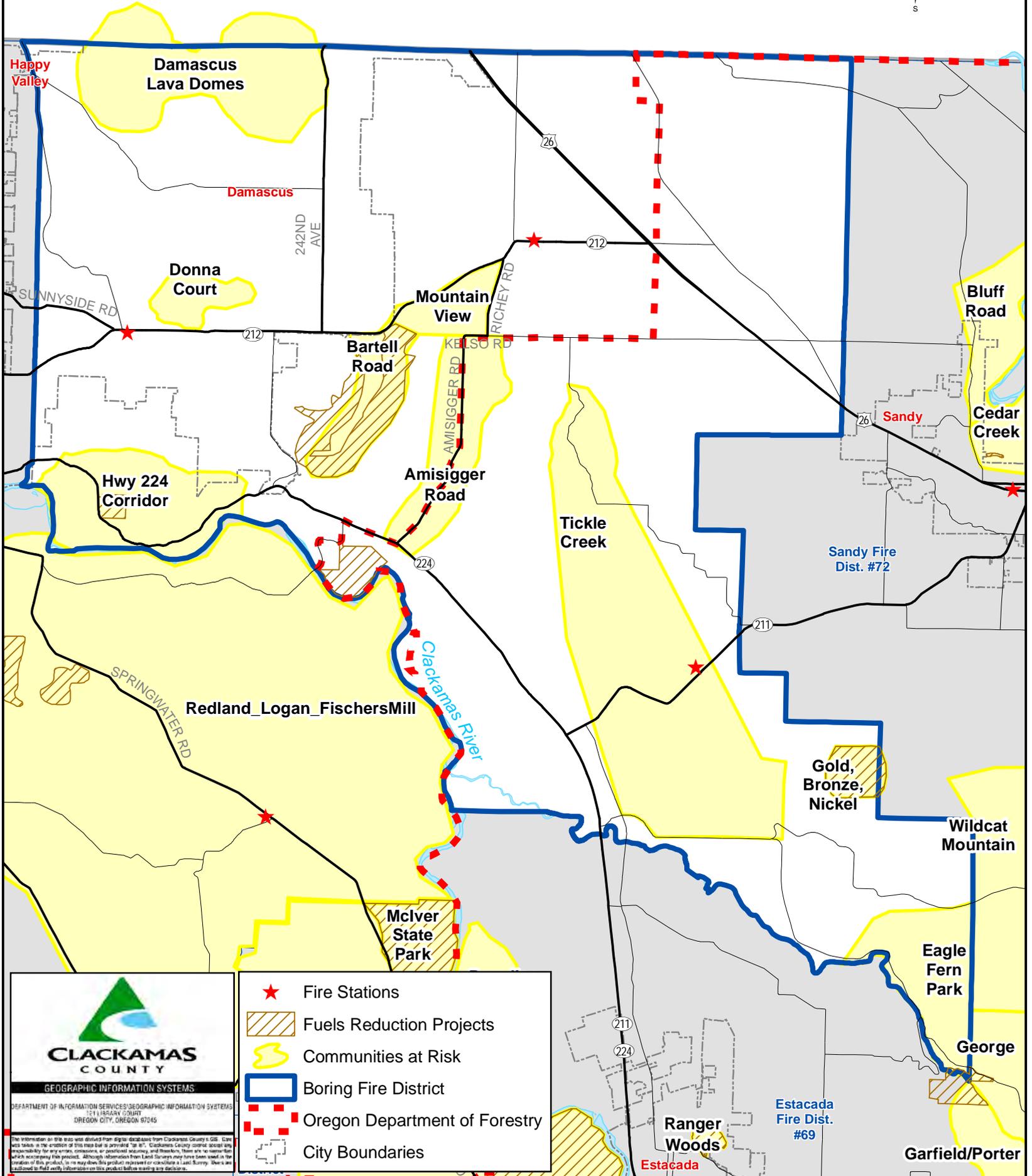
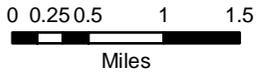
Community At Risk	CAR Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Forest Lands	Private Forest Lands	Recreators/ Transients	Protection Capabilities	Burning	Preparedness	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description
<b>Boring Fire Communities at Risk</b>													
Eagle Creek	High	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	The Eagle Creek area is a steep forested ravine which make access, communication and potential firefighting operations difficult. Boring Fire has a volunteer station closely and Sandy Fire is also close, but there will likely be a delay in response time.
Damascus Lava Domes	High	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	There are two lava domes on the north end of Damascus, which present a variety of wildfire issues. The western dome is home to the Wooded Hills Court residential community, and the eastern dome is the Kingswood Heights community. Both are characterized by large homes adjacent to dense vegetation along steep slopes. There is only one way in/out here, the driveways are long and narrow, and hydrants are on a private system that will provide water only for the short term. Metro owns part of the natural area that extends to the north into neighboring Multnomah County. This area has also been identified as a CAR in the Multnomah County CWPP.
Gold, Bronze, Nickel Area	High	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	This CAR has about 20-30 homes with steep, narrow, gravel driveways. The area is bordered by BLM forested land. There is no garbage service in this area, so many people burn garbage as well as woody debris. Wagner Lake is a potential water source here and ODF is currently working on a draft site here.
Eagle Fern Park	Low		X		X		X	X			X	X	This County park is a mature fir forest exhibiting desirable conditions. There are no homes nearby, it is north-facing and remains wet throughout the year.
Amisigger Road	Medium	X	X						X	X	X	X	The Amisigger Road area is home to a number of nurseries and other agricultural operations. Many of the ag operators burn their agricultural waste as well as dead and dying trees on their land. Tree Rot seems to be a big problem here. This road connects Hwy 212 and Hwy 224, so it could serve as a critical transportation route and fire break in the event of a wildfire.
Tickle Creek Road	Medium	X		X	X			X	X	X		X	Tickle Creek Road has quite a few homes. Many homes are surrounded by dense vegetation, and there are some actively managed forest lands here, which can provide an ignition source. The area is surrounded by agriculture and burning is an issue here.
Hwy 224 Corridor (232nd to Madrone Wall)	High	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	There have been many fires along Hwy 224 from power line ignitions, escaped debris burns and lightning. Madrone Wall and the surrounding forestland is owned by the County as in the process of transitioning from managed forestland to a park. Dense young and mature Doug Fir dominates the landscape. There are a couple of homes at the top of the slope above the forest. the County has developed a wildfire management plan for this area and plans to complete some fuels reduction work here by Sept. 2012.
Mountain View	High	X	X	X				X	X	X		X	This community is on the slope of Noyer Creek. Access and water are limited here. A primary issue in this community is that there are many decadent trees that fall, but the residents must adhere to the residential burning restrictions.
Bartell Road	High	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	Bartell Road had a significant wildfire in 1952. It is along the ridge of two steep, heavily vegetated ravines. There is only one way in and out and there are no available water sources. Metro has a trail in this area.
Donna Court	High	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	This community is on a lava dome with access limited to one way in and out. Burning is an issue here, with a history of escaped debris burns.

**Table 10.2-2. Boring Fire District Action Plan**

Action Item	Timeframe	Partners	CAR
<b>Boring Fire Action Plan</b>			
Develop a working relationship with Metro, USFS and the BLM to address wildfire hazards and potential response capabilities for public lands adjacent to Communities at Risk.	Short-Term	Metro, USFS, BLM	Boring Fire District
Work with the City of Damascus, and Clackamas County Emergency Management and Sherriff's Office to discuss evacuation planning especially in communities with only one way in and out.	Long Term	City of Damascus, and Clackamas County Emergency Management Sherriff's Office	Boring Fire District
Work with Clackamas County Building Dept. to include line items for access and fire flow in occupancy permit checklist.	Short-Term	Clackamas FDB, DTD	Boring Fire District
<b>Boring Fire Local Communities at Risk Action Plan</b>			
Conduct a Community Meeting to educate community on defensible space, and measures that can be taken to reduce structural ignitability. Solicit feedback on wildfire prevention projects the community would support.	Spring 2012/ Ongoing	ODF, Clackamas County Parks	Madrone Wall/ Hwy 224 Corridor
Partner with the Fire Co-op to create and distribute outreach materials that promote responsible burning, defensible space and reduction of structural ignitability within the Home Ignition Zone.	Ongoing	Fire Co-op	All CAR's
Promote legal, safe and responsible debris burning through public outreach and education.	Short-Term	ODF, DEQ, Fire Co-op	All CAR's
Reduce hazardous fuels in the ROW of potential evacuation routes. Engage residents adjacent to primary evacuations routes to extend treatments onto private land.	Ongoing	ODOT, Damascus Roads Dept., Clackamas County Roads	Tickle Creek Rd., Amisigger Road, Hwy 224, Bartell Road
Obtain structural ignitability data by conducting structural triage assessment data collection (including GPS points) for homes in Communities at Risk.	Ongoing	ODF	All CAR's
Develop a community-driven pre-disaster plan including evacuation routes, telephone call down trees, and other strategies for strengthening community response.	Ongoing	Clackamas County Emergency Management	All CAR's
Implement road addressing (including length of driveways) and other signage for emergency response.	Ongoing	ODF	All CAR's
Seek grant funding to support fuels reduction and creation of defensible space around homes.	Ongoing	ODF	All CAR's
Work with Metro to reduce fuels adjacent to CAR's.	Ongoing	Metro	Damascus Lava Domes, Bartell Road
Work with BLM to reduce hazardous fuels adjacent to CAR's.	Ongoing	BLM	Gold, Bronze Area
Work with Clackamas County to reduce hazardous fuels in parks and forested areas adjacent to CAR's.	Ongoing	Clackamas County Parks & Forestry	Madrone Wall, Eagle Fern
Conduct Community Clean Up Days to reduce hazardous fuels. Identify opportunities to recycle or compost vegetative material instead of burning.	Ongoing	ODF, Metro	All CAR's
Partner with ODF and the SWCD to provide education to agricultural landowners regarding sick and/or dying tress and potential methods of disposal such as chipping and composting.	Ongoing	ODF, SWCD	Amisigger Road, Mountain View

# Boring Fire District

## Map #16



**CLACKAMAS COUNTY**  
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SERVICES/GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
1211 LIBRARY COURTYARD  
DREXEL CITY, OREGON 97045

The information on this map was derived from digital databases from Clackamas County's GIS. Clackamas County is not responsible for any errors, omissions, or positional accuracy, and therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this product. Although information from Land Surveys may have been used in the production of this product, it is not intended to be used for any purpose other than a Land Survey. Users are advised to field verify information on this product before making any decisions.

- ★ Fire Stations
- Fuels Reduction Projects
- Communities at Risk
- Boring Fire District
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- City Boundaries