



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Tuesday 14 January 2019

Dear Residents of Lostine Canyon Community -

We invite you to a presentation of the completed **Lostine Canyon Firewise Community Risk Assessment on Saturday, January 26th @ 10AM**. This is the last step for the Lostine Canyon community to become the first Firewise Community in Northeast Oregon. We will also hear what our neighbors have accomplished, and identify projects we want to undertake in 2019.

- Extreme wildfires are becoming increasingly frequent – NE Oregon’s fire occurrence is anticipated to increase 3-4 fold over the next 50 years; Wallowa County’s 2018 Community Wildfire Protection Plan characterized the Lostine Canyon Community as an area at extreme risk of wildfire;
- However, there are steps we can take as a community and as neighbors to prepare ourselves.

Last year several neighbors in the Lostine Canyon began the process to become a Firewise Community – a community-wide effort to reduce our risk of wildfire and loss of homes, to prepare for emergency evacuation in the event of a wildfire, and to identify steps and resources for recovering from a wildfire event.

On Saturday January 26th – Firewise and forestry consultants Irene Jerome and Ed Baird, & local partners will deliver the findings from our Lostine Canyon Community Risk Assessment, which was completed this winter - to help us identify Lostine Canyon’s particular risks and opportunities for addressing them.

Irene has convened four successful Firewise communities similar to the Lostine. One, the Pine Creek Community near John Day, became a Firewise Community and implemented its recommendations prior to the 2015 Canyon Creek Complex Fire in which 40+ homes were burned down. However, the Pine Creek Firewise Community came out of this event without any lost homes and experienced much less fire severity in their community than the rest of the area. This was attributed to the pre-work they had all done as a community.

Resource 3b - Example letter to residents

Reducing our wildfire risk and preparing for a potential fire is something we can undertake by working together as a community. Fire doesn't stop at our property boundaries. None of us can do this alone. To be effective, this has to be a community effort.

Please RSVP to Gary Willis at gwillis5050@gmail.com or (541) 490-1150 with your mailing addresses, email address, and phone number, so we can add you to our contact list & send you the Community Risk Assessment. **If you can't attend in person – we will have a call-in conference line so you can participate by phone. Let us know! If you can – bring a snack to share.**

Sincerely,

Resource 3b - Example letter to residents

The Lostine Canyon Firewise Community Working Group

WHAT: Lostine Canyon Firewise Community Meeting (bring a snack to share)

WHEN: Saturday, January 26th 10 AM – ~ 12 PM

WHERE: Southfork Grange at 317 Rosewell St., Lostine or via phone for residents who can't attend in person

WHO: Lostine Canyon Community residents and property owners, local fire officials, and wildfire preparedness advisors. If you have renters – please encourage them to attend as well

RSVP: Gary & Sue Willis at gwillis5050@gmail.com or (541) 490-1150



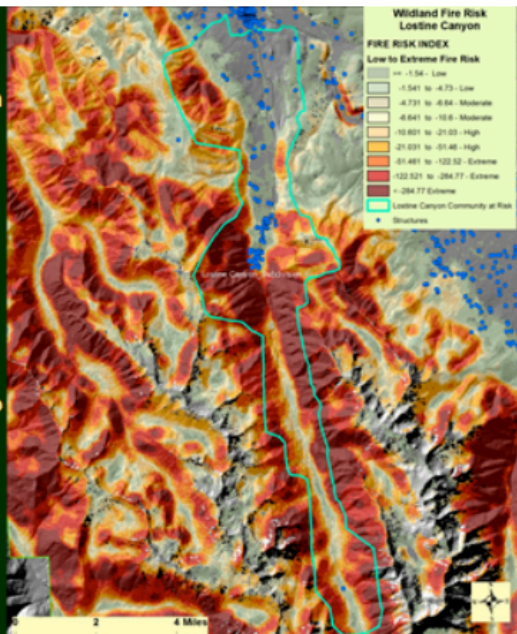
Lostine Canyon Community on Wildfire Preparedness Day

AGENDA:

- **Update on Lostine Canyon Firewise Community Progress**
 - Wallowa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
 - Lostine Canyon's Extreme Wildfire Risk
 - Completed Firewise Structural Assessments
 - Completed Firewise Property Assessments
 - Lostine Canyon Firewise Community Wildfire Preparedness Grant
 - Homeowners Insurance in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)
 - Available grant and cost share funding
 - Community Parcel Update
- **Presentation of Lostine Canyon Firewise Community Risk Assessment**
- **Volunteers for Lostine Canyon Firewise Working Group**
- **Develop list of community projects for 2019**

Wildfire Risk – EXTREME

- Risk –the likelihood of a fire combined with the potential for negative consequences;
- Identifies options to reduce risk;
- Opportunities for all landowners/agencies to partner together;
- Establishes a plan of action before, during and after a wildfire event.



Lostine Canyon is characterized as a community at extreme risk of wildfire by Wallowa County's 2018 Community Wildfire Protection Plan