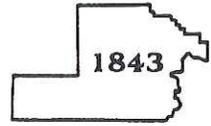


# Yamhill County



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## OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

July 28, 2021

**KENNETH HUFFER**  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

**JUSTIN HOGUE**  
BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTOR

TO: Yamhill County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Kenneth Huffer, County Administrator

RE: Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District Wildfire Prevention Workshop – Request for \$10,000 Title III funds.

Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District submitted a proposal for conducting local Wildfire Prevention Programs (Attached) and a request for \$10,000 of Yamhill County's Title III funds to support this work. Staff has reviewed the proposal and eligibility requirements for the use of Title III funds. Staff has determined this project meets the eligibility requirements.

As required, a 45-day public comment period began on May 25, 2021. A public notice for this comment period was published in the News Register and posted to the Yamhill County website. The 45-days comment period closed on July 9, 2021 and no comments were received.

The Yamhill County 2021-2022 Budget, Fund 30 (Title III Funds) has sufficient funding appropriated to support this request. Staff is requesting Board of Commissioners' approval for the County Administrator to process the request and release the funding to support the proposed programming.

Accepted by Yamhill County  
Board of Commissioners on  
7/29/21 by Board Order  
# 21-320

# Wildfire Prevention Workshop Proposal (*Firewise Community Principles*)

## A proposal to Yamhill County Commissioners Submitted February 26, 2021

**Prepared by:** Larry Ojua, Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District  
Thomas Hoskins, Natural Resources Conservation Service

### **Contact Information:**

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**Budget Implication:** This proposal includes a request for \$10,000 from Yamhill County's USDA SRS Title III Funds. (See Budget Considerations on page 4)

### **What is the problem or need?**

The risk of wildfire in Yamhill County and western Oregon is becoming of greater concern, following the wildfire events and wide-spread destruction of 2020. These events have increased awareness and concern of local landowners regarding the threats and risks of wildfire events in communities throughout the county. The following information provides details of how workshops and an informational portal will provide local landowners with information, increased understanding of wildfire threats, planning and prevention alternatives, and other management tools, with the goal of helping individuals prepare for possible wildfire events.

### **What is proposed and what will be accomplished?**

1. Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (district) will organize and facilitate the delivery of three wildfire prevention workshops. The focus of the workshops will include wildfire prevention, fire-sensitive ecosystems education, emergency management, and wildfire preparation (*Firewise Communities Principles*). The workshops will be held in three locations within Yamhill County. The tentative locations identified include:
  - o Chehalem Creek Area: To be determined. The City of Newberg has a suitable location with adequate access and parking.
  - o North Yamhill River Area: Possible locations are Miller Woods, Flying M Ranch, or other suitable location.
  - o Willamina Creek Area: To be determined. There are possible opportunities for partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde at several locations.
2. The district will develop an informational portal to catalog available literature and resources (financial and technical) relating to the topics described above. The objective is to create a single source of information which will include agency contacts, fact sheets, guidance documents, and links to other resources and assistance.

## Who will be involved?

**Lead role:** The district will take the lead role to submit a proposal to Yamhill County for consideration. If funded, the district will lead, plan, and coordinate the workshops in partnership with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. District involvement will include:

- Jessica LaRue: Jessica will serve as the point person to plan the program and coordinate the workshop. She will work with partners to finalize a program agenda, work with presenters to obtain session descriptions, identify presenter needs, and make arrangements for logistics. Jessica will coordinate outreach activities, develop the informational portal, and work with her supervisor, Wes Paul to provide updates to the board, staff and partners as the planning work progresses.
- Wes Paul will provide supervision, keep board and partners updated, review progress and timelines, and work with Jessica and partners as necessary to plan and coordinate the event.
- Amie Loop-Frison will participate in workshops to present information on forest stand management to reduce wildfire hazards. This will include information on site preparation, thinning, brush control, species selection, and management strategies.

### **Partners** (tentative list)

- NRCS. Thomas Hoskins will present information on USDA Farm Bill programs and funding for fuels reductions and facilitate a group process for local data gathering at all three workshops.
- West Valley Fire District and other local fire districts (tentative). These partners will provide information and recommendations on fire prevention, what to expect in wildfire responses, considerations for access, evacuation preparation, etc. (to be further defined by presenters).
- Northwest Logging Supply (NWLS) : NWLS will provide information and training on chainsaw maintenance, equipment options, proper sharpening, safety, and Personal Protective Equipment.
- Riedman Land Stewardship: James Riedman will provide information on brush control techniques, pesticide use and alternatives, timing, and safety.
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (tentative): Representatives from the Natural Resources Department Fire Program will provide information regarding guidelines and standards for roads and access for fire equipment.
- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF): ODF will provide information on preparation and safe management of burn piles, permit requirements, safety planning in the rural/urban interface, creating defensible space in the landscape, etc.
- OSU Extension and Oregon Small Woodlands Association (tentative): The district will contact these organization to discuss interest and potential partnering on the project (e.g., outreach, presentations, other)

## Methodology

- The workshops will be held outdoors with rotating current sessions.
- The duration of the event needs to be determined.
- Presenters will provide information to several small groups throughout the day.
- The informational portal will be hosted on the district's website.

### **Why are the SWCD and NRCS well suited to plan, coordinate, and deliver workshops?**

- The workshops fit with SWCD and NRCS natural resource mission.
- The SWCD and NRCS have established connections with landowners and project partners.
- The workshops complement other ongoing conservation work and assistance programs.

### **What are the expected outcomes?**

- Minimum attendance of 50 individuals at each workshop.
- Increased knowledge and awareness of participants.
- Follow-up by participants that results in actions and management that reduce wildlife risk.
- Increased engagement between presenters and/or organizations and workshop participants.
- Gathering of local data, landowner needs, and information for future funding or assistance requests to USDA, SWCD, and other partners.

### **What communication strategies do we plan to use?**

- SWCD website
- Direct email lists or other social media avenues (district, county, fire districts, etc. lists).
- Local newspaper advertisement (News Register, Newberg Graphic, Sheridan Bulletin. other).
- Signage (similar to native plant sale and other district outreach).
- Press releases, invitation, flyers, radio, etc.

### **What is the timeframe?**

- Fall 2021 (October)

### **What are important next steps?**

Next steps include:

- Submit proposal to Yamhill County and comply with Title III funding criteria and timelines.
- Work with Yamhill County to complete required agreements.
- Contact suggested participants to confirm interest in participation, availability, and discuss topics and timelines for presentations.
- Confirm available locations and associated costs.
- Identify outreach strategies to be used and associated costs.
- Begin literature search and design of an informational portal.
- Compile information and produce a final workshop program.

If the proposal is approved, the district will:

- Follow-up with all partners to confirm details and commitments for participation
- Develop informational portal.
- Plan and conduct outreach.
- Facilitate registration.
- Plan for logistics (e.g., site prep, signage, porta-potties, COVID-friendly refreshments, arrange for tables, supplies, etc.)
- Coordinate and deliver workshops in the fall 2021.
- Prepare a final project summary at completion.

## **Budget Considerations and Categories**

### **Personnel Services**

**\$4,000**

Funds will be utilized for personnel costs associated with:

- Communication, planning and coordination with partners and presenters
- Preparing information and conducting outreach
- Facilitating registration
- Preparation/Planning (e.g., site prep, signage, porta-potties, COVID-friendly refreshments, arrange for tables, supplies, etc.)
- Delivering and presenting workshops

### **Event Costs (for three workshops)**

**\$ 4,800**

- Cost for speaker fees, travel, and associated with presentations (\$1,000 per workshop) Total \$3,000
- On-site logistics (site rental, preparation, signage, porta-potties, Covid-friendly refreshments, supplies, etc.) \$600 per workshop; Total \$1,800

### **Outreach Costs**

**\$1,200**

- Direct mailings, newspaper advertisement, signage, etc.

### **Total Budget Request** (Yamhill County's USDA SRS Title III Funds.)

**\$10,000**

### **Match (In-kind)**

**\$ 3,000 +**

- Yamhill SWCD: Conduct research and develop informational portal to be hosted on the SWCD website. (\$1,500)
- USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service: Planning, Program Outreach, and Presentation of Farm Bill resources and assistance. (\$ 1,500)
- Local Rural Fire District Participation (Value to be determined)
- Oregon Department of Forestry (Value to be determined)

## **Summary**

The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (district) proposes to plan and facilitate delivery of three wildfire prevention workshops in Yamhill County, and develop an informational portal to catalog available literature and resources (financial and technical) relating to wildfire planning and prevention. The district requests \$10,000 from Yamhill County's USDA Title III Funds and commits to a minimum of \$3,000 of in-kind match from project partners. The district appreciates Yamhill County's consideration of this proposal.