

**Fire Preparedness Committee Report**  
**HLOA Annual Meeting**  
**May 21, 2022**

HLOA member Jeremiah Marsh is the chair of the Fire Preparedness Committee. He is currently in Arizona on a fire containment project. The following notes were prepared by Jeremiah and lightly edited by Ron Polk.

“As you know I am down here in Arizona and it is extremely dry down here as the Southwest is in an unprecedented drought, and there looks to be no relief in sight. I am VERY thankful for all the moisture that we have up in our neck of the woods and are starting out with plenty of moisture retention in all of the fuels.

Now is a good opportunity to complete projects for homeowners that were hindered last year with our extreme fire potential. I couldn't be more than pleased with the work that is being done and continues to be done! We still have some more work to do, but I am thrilled for the fact that we are a model community in Wallowa County and the State, and our work is being recognized at that level. My position has never been to reduce the overstory, but to do reasonable fuels reduction around homes and the surrounding community. I am VERY happy with all the progress that we have made and continue to make.”

These are some of the things that we are working toward. We strongly encourage interested homeowners to participate in these activities.

1. **Firewise Potluck:** On Sunday May 29 the Firewise Lostine Canyon potluck and picnic will be held from 1-3PM on the Polk's deck on the Lostine River. All interested HLOA member are invited to attend. Mike Eng and Jeremiah will provide an update of Senate Bill 762 and how it will affect the Lostine Canyon homeowners. (The HLOA is ahead of the curve on this thanks to everyone's hard work).
2. **ODF Fuels Reduction/Defensible Space project:** With the infrastructure bill that was passed by the US Congress there is ample funding, 100% for fuels reduction expenses and hazard tree removal has been available along with chipping and disposal of cut fuel. Please take advantage of these opportunities as it is a great way to achieve overhanging projects. A phone call to Oregon ODF will get this process started and they are more than happy to lend a helping hand.
3. **Firewise and the Fire Preparedness Committee:** I am looking to annex the fire committee to work toward being on the same page as the Firewise Committee and the Upper Lostine as a whole, so that we are operating on the same page. This is not only a more efficient process, but with the upper Lostine Community working together to achieve common objectives for emergency response planning, just makes more sense. (of course we have our HLOA bylaws and companion document) and we as the Fire Committee will ensure that the ideas being created and suggested fit into that document.

I would like to capture emails to willing participants so that it is more efficient for Mike Eng to send out digital copies of Firewise information, that will lessen the load of sending out hard copies through the mail and is less wasteful. We can continue sending out mail to those who prefer a hard copy and I can work through sorting that all out

4. **New state regulations and local construction:** The State will be passing legislation in short order so we will need to review that and articulate State Law and County ordinances to new residents who are building new homes and to insure that they are compliant with Firewise direction. Mike Eng can chip in and explain this in further detail at the Firewise Potluck meeting on the 29th.
5. **Common Lot Thinning Project:** The Common lot project is well on its way for the upper homeowners, and this is relieving to me and it looks good. So a big shout out to Fred Brockman for continuing to monitor and implement that project. We can revisit the water storage tanks and diversion of water for that purpose with Fred when I get back.
6. **The Forest Service project** adjacent to the HLOA is complete. This is a different project from the Lostine River Corridor project. Those piles have been burned and the safety break between the Forest boundary and the HLOA is finished. This has been a coordination with the common lot project and the work of neighbors on Granger Road to provide us with a strong strategic chance to protect our Community in the event of a wildfire emergency.
7. **Brush 1.** Jeremiah has offered to provide training to interested homeowners who wish to become familiar with our brush firefighting truck provided by HLOA member Gary Willis. More to come when Jeremiah returns.