

**Chapter 8.24. PROJECT WILDFIRE
STEERING
COMMITTEE**

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8.24.010. Formation.

A steering committee is hereby formed to coordinate, develop and implement strategies to mitigate the effects of losses due to wildfires that strike Deschutes County. The committee shall be called the Project Wildfire Steering Committee and shall serve as a local coordination group for Deschutes County.

(Ord. 2003-032 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2000-005 § 1, 2000)

8.24.020. Membership and expenses.

The committee shall be composed of 15 to 27 members who reside or represent agencies within Deschutes County. All members shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The terms of the members shall be four years, commencing on January 1, of an even numbered year. Appointments shall be on a calendar basis. Not more than one-half of all appointments shall expire in any odd numbered calendar year.

- A. Committee members shall be representative of the entire County and shall ensure that a single agency or entity only has one representative. As closely as possible, members shall be made up of the following persons, groups or entities:
 - 1. A member from the insurance industry.
 - 2. A member from the business community.
 - 3. A member from the marketing/communications industry.
 - 4. The County Forester.
 - 5. At least two representatives of Homeowners Associations.

- 6. At least four representatives chosen from Fire Departments and/or Rural Fire Protection Districts in Deschutes County.
 - 7. A County Commissioner.
 - 8. A representative from the 9-1-1 County Service District.
 - 9. A representative from the County Community Development Department
 - 10. A representative of the private forestry community.
 - 11. A representative from the Sheriff's Office emergency management program.
 - 12. Up to an additional three at-large members.
- B. In addition to the members allowed under A. above, the Board may appoint additional representatives from:
 - 1. A representative of the Oregon Department of Forestry.
 - 2. A representative of the U.S. Forest Service.
 - 3. A representative of the Bureau of Land Management.
 - 4. A representative of the Oregon State University Extension District.
 - 5. A representative from Central Oregon Community College.
 - 6. A representative from the environmental community.
 - C. Committee members shall receive no compensation, but shall be reimbursed for authorized expenses.
 - D. A member of the committee may be removed by the Board of County Commissioners for misconduct, nonperformance of duty, or three successive unexcused absences from a regularly scheduled meeting.
 - E. Vacancies in the committee shall be filled by an appointment by the Board of County Commissioners for the unexpired term of the predecessor in the office.
 - F. The membership of the committee shall, as much as possible be representative of the various geographical parts of Deschutes County.
- (Ord. 2003-032 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2000-005 § 1, 2000)

8.24.030. Election of chair and vice chair.

At its first meeting in January of each year, the committee shall elect from among its membership a chair and a vice chair. No person shall be chair for more than two years in succession.
(Ord. 2000-005 § 1, 2000)

8.24.040. Quorum.

A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. The committee may establish rules, regulations, and procedures for its operation consistent with the laws of the state and Deschutes County.
(Ord. 2000-005 § 1, 2000)

8.24.050. Meeting schedule.

The committee shall have regularly scheduled meetings at least once every 3 months.
(Ord. 2003-032 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2000-005 § 1, 2000)

8.24.060. Powers and duties.

The committee shall have the following duties:

- A. To reduce potential loss of life and property through natural and man-caused disasters by enhancing public awareness, expanding community partnerships and prioritizing potential hazard mitigation projects, using stakeholder and citizen input. This shall be accomplished by working to coordinate activities with and between other public and private groups, entities and persons to plan for and implement both wildfire and other natural hazard mitigation plans and actions as efficiently as possible.
- B. Advise the Board of County Commissioners, Project Wildfire staff and the Deschutes County Office of Emergency Management and other agencies and programs on adoption and implementation of wildfire mitigation and other natural hazard projects, including but not limited to Hazard Mitigation programs approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
(Ord. 2003-032 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2000-005 § 1, 2000)

8.24.070. Advisory role.

The committee may:

- A. Recommend and make suggestions to persons, groups, and entities concerning disaster response plans, needed changes in state or local laws and regulations, and provide assistance to such persons, groups, and entities to implement such suggestions.
- B. Recommend to public authorities standards for regulating the future growth and development within Deschutes County and its incorporated cities to address disaster-planning issues in each jurisdiction.
- C. Perform such other review and make whatever other recommendations on disaster planning matters as may be appropriate or may be requested by the Board of County Commissioners or any city council, person, group or entity.
(Ord. 2000-005 § 1, 2000)