

Ponderosa Pines Property Owners Association

Firewise Community Action Plan 2025

Objective: To implement key risk-reduction projects from the Community Wildfire Risk Assessment and significantly increase resident participation and formalize our annual efforts.

Three Year General Plan

October 2025 to October 2026

Create a home assessment document to evaluate and document each properties criterion. It will also include a required and suggested action plan for that home. This document will be shared with each homeowner.

- Continue our Firewise committee that maintains the Firewise Community program and status.
- Seek Assessment training for at least two people in order to better guide our effort.
- Submit an annual report to Firewise Communities/USA. This report documents continuing participation in the program. Include work that is done on grants in our reporting.
- Build a list of properties.
- Create a score sheet to track status of each property in terms of Fire Fuel Risk.
- Conduct risk analysis for each property.
- Focus on the higher risk properties.

October 2026 to October 2027

- Continue our Firewise committee that maintains the Firewise Community program and status.
- Seek Assessment training for at least two people in order to better guide our effort.
- Submit an annual report to Firewise Communities/USA. This report documents continuing participation in the program. Include work that is done on grants in our reporting.
- Continue risk analysis for each property.
- Focus on the higher risk properties.

October 2027 to October 2028

- Continue our Firewise committee that maintains the Firewise Community program and status.
- Seek Assessment training for at least two people in order to better guide our effort.
- Submit an annual report to Firewise Communities/USA. This report documents continuing participation in the program. Include work that is done on grants in our reporting.
- Continue risk analysis for each property.
- Focus on the higher risk properties.

Actions

- Continuing outreach and education programs for property owners. It is important to continue to inform new landowners. In person training will be held each year at the Annual Meeting, on the PPPOA website and through information provided to all new lot or residence owners. Postings on fire danger will be provided along Ponderosa Way near the entrance to PPPOA and at the PPPOA Mailboxes. These postings will run through the fire season. Communications will include presentations at the Annual Members Meeting, letters, emails, and articles on the PPPOA website. Chipping program will continue.
- Evaluate and guide removal of firewood stacked near homes. These piles should be placed away from the home and preferably not in the fuel break created on the property perimeter. Storage of firewood and combustible material stored in the defensible space shall be located not less than 20 feet from structures and separated from the crown of trees by a horizontal distance of not less than 15 feet.
- Maintenance of the defensible space will include modifying or removing non-fire-resistive vegetation and keeping leaves, needles and other dead vegetative material regularly removed from roofs of buildings and structures.
- Tree crowns extending to within 10 feet of any structure shall be pruned to maintain a minimum horizontal clearance of 10 feet. Tree crowns within the defensible space shall be pruned to remove limbs located less than 6 feet above the ground surface adjacent to the trees.

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- Deadwood and litter shall be regularly removed from trees and from the area under the trees. Where ornamental vegetative fuels or cultivated ground cover, such as green grass, ivy, succulents or similar plants are used as ground cover, they are allowed to be within the designated defensible space, if they do not form a means of transmitting fire from the native growth to any structure or to the crowns of trees.

Immediate Zone (0 to 5 feet)

- Removal of all flammable shrubs, decorative, grass, trees, etc. within 5 feet of house.
- Removal of all decorative bark within 5 feet of house.
- Removal / limbing of all tree branches that extend to within 5 feet of house or are touching house / roof.
- Cleaning gutters and eaves of pine needles and leaves.

Intermediate Zone (5 to 30 feet)

- All flammable ladder fuel shrubs & vegetation: specifically bitter brush & arbovitae.
- 90% of small trees less than 6" diameter, and 100% of small trees less than 6" diameter that are within 18 feet of a large established tree.
- Densely spaced trees (<4 feet between branches); 18 foot spacing between ponderosa/pine tree crowns (including trunk and branches) in this zone.
- Limb up branches of all trees so branches do not hang below 10 feet.

Extended Zone (30 to 100+ Feet)

- All flammable ladder fuel shrubs & vegetation: specifically bitter brush & arbovitae
- 90% of small trees less than 6" diameter, and 100% of small trees less than 6" diameter that are within 12' of a large established tree crown.
- 30 to 60 feet from house: minimum 12' between tree crowns (including trunk and branches);
- 60 to 100 feet from house: minimum 6' between tree crowns (including trunk and branches);
- Emphasis on keeping large diameter trees over 12" diameter.
- Limb up branches of all trees so branches do not hang below 10 feet.

Entities Involved

Community, La Pine Fire Department, Shanda Asset Management, Oregon State Fire Marshall, US Forest Service

Zones

Defensible Space: The Three-Zone Model

This is the practical application of fuel reduction for homeowners, directly supported by OSFM's defensible space code.

- **Zone 1: Immediate (0-5 feet) - "The Non-Combustible Zone"**
 - **Goal:** Prevent ignition from embers.
 - **Actions:** Use hardscape (gravel, stone), remove dead plants, clean roofs/gutters, and ensure no flammable materials are against the house.
- **Zone 2: Intermediate (5-30 feet) - "The Buffer Zone"**
 - **Goal:** Reduce fire energy and break up fuel continuity.
 - **Actions:** Space trees and shrubs apart, prune tree limbs (6-10 feet high), keep grass mowed short, and remove woodpiles from this area.
- **Zone 3: Extended (30-100+ feet) - "The Managed Wildland"**
 - **Goal:** Slow a fire's approach and keep it on the ground.
 - **Actions:** Thin dense trees, remove ladder fuels, and focus on overall forest health. This zone connects your property to the broader landscape-scale fuel reduction work.