



Memorandum Date: October 2, 2024

Meeting Date: October 15, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: County Administration, Policy Division

PRESENTED BY: Matt McRae, Disaster Recovery Manager

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: DISCUSSION: Quarterly Holiday Farm Fire Recovery Update

I. MOTION

Information and discussion only.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Staff will provide an update on multiple recovery topics:

- Updated permit figures
- McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group Rapid Rehousing progress
- ReOregon programs (Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery)
- Homes for Good Lazy Days status update
- McKenzie Schools FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) project

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

Since 2021, the Board has received regular updates from staff on Holiday Farm Fire recovery, including number of permits issued, updates on grants, planning, projects, and partnerships.

As of January 2022, Recovery updates have been scheduled quarterly. The last quarterly update to the Board of County Commissioners was July 16, 2024.

B. Policy Issues

There are no policy issues to be decided during this agenda item, however staff will highlight potential future policy issues related to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) allocating a significant portion of ReOregon (Community Development Block Grant – Disaster

Recovery) funds directly to Lane County to administer.

C. Board Goals

Strategic Priority #1: Safe, Healthy County

Strategic Priority #2: Vibrant Communities

Strategic Priority #3: Robust Infrastructure. Objective C- Build a culture of preparedness and operational readiness within the organization in coordination with community partners.

Objective D- Develop disaster recovery plans, policies, and procedures.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

OHCS is preparing to distribute \$422,286,000 statewide for disaster recovery. These are Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

OHCS has indicated their intent to grant Lane County ~\$12.5M in CDBG-DR funds for Affordable Housing Development (formerly referred to as “HOP” funds). These funds will be used to serve renters who were displaced by the fire. They can be used to build affordable rental housing and home ownership opportunities, among other uses.

OHCS had indicated an interest in contracting with Lane County to administer four or five Planning Infrastructure and Economic Revitalization (PIER) - funded projects, totaling approximately \$3M.

E. Health Implications

Health Determinant	Directly affected by Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) allocations and state Recovery funding
Employment and livelihood	Directly affected by CDBG-DR allocations and state Recovery funding
Family and Community Structure	Directly affected by CDBG-DR allocations and state Recovery funding
Goods and Services	Directly affected by CDBG-DR allocations and state Recovery funding
Housing	Directly affected by CDBG-DR allocations and state Recovery funding
Land Use	Directly affected by, and will affect, CDBG-DR allocations, state grant funds, and to what degree local recovery can occur.

Parks and Natural Space	Directly affected by CDBG-DR allocations and state Recovery funding
Transportation	Directly affected by CDBG-DR allocations and state Recovery funding

F. Analysis

See attached, “Holiday Farm Fire Recovery Report October 2024”

G. Alternatives/Options

This item is for discussion only.

III. RECOMMENDATION

This item is for discussion only.

IV. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Lane County staff have been supporting recovery from the Holiday Farm Fire since it began in September 2020. Staff are actively administering wildfire recovery funds and coordinating with Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) staff as CDBG-DR programs are rolling out.

V. FOLLOW-UP

Staff will follow-up via quarterly updates as requested by the Board.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

Holiday Farm Fire Recovery Report October 2024



Lane County Holiday Farm Fire Recovery Update: October 2024

INTRODUCTION

In September 2020, the Holiday Farm Fire burned over 170,000 acres in the McKenzie River Valley, taking one human life and destroying 517 homes and dozens of other structures. Recovery from a disaster of this scale requires a decade or more, and involves continued coordination with state and federal agencies, and community-based organizations.

RECOVERY AT A GLANCE

Total Number of Dwellings Destroyed:	517
Permits as of 10/1/24	
Dwellings Completed:	197
Permits in Process:	62
Permits in Review:	1
Total Dwelling Permits Issued:	260
Building and Planning Permit Fees Waived	\$1,708,348

PROJECT UPDATES: INFRASTRUCTURE

Blue River Wastewater

Prior to constructing a community wastewater system in Blue River, extensive groundwater modeling is necessary. Lane County has overseen hydrologic sampling at two potential wastewater infiltration sites in Blue River and a full year of sampling was completed in September 2024. This hydrologic modeling can be used to determine whether either of the sites can accommodate more wastewater than the 2,500 gallon per day flows currently being considered. Within Q4 of 2024, after hydrologic modeling is completed, Lane County, contracted engineering firms, and Oregon DEQ will review the results and determine the maximum allowable flows at each location. Rob Woodard serves as the Project Manager and the system will ultimately be owned and operated by the Blue River Water District.

Rob Woodard, Special Districts Project Manager, is the primary Lane County contact for this project.

Blue River Drinking Water

Construction of repairs and replacements to the Blue River Drinking Water system will begin the first quarter of 2025 and is expected to take approximately nine to 12 months to complete.

Rob Woodard, Special Districts Project Manager, is the primary Lane County contact for this project.

PROJECT UPDATES: HOUSING

Rapid Rehousing: McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group

In January 2024 the Board of County Commissioners delegated authority to the County Administrator to execute an agreement with McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group for Rapid Rehousing in the Amount of \$1,300,000.

These funds are being used to purchase, deliver, and install homes for precariously housed seniors and survivors with disabilities. As of October 1, 2024, eleven homes have been purchased with these funds, four of them have been delivered, and three of them are now occupied.

This program is funded with Oregon state wildfire recovery funds through an intergovernmental agreement between Oregon Housing and Community Services and Lane County.

ReOregon HOP program – (Renamed the Affordable Housing Development (AHD) program)

The Affordable Housing Development program is intended to provide affordable housing options for families who were renting at the time of the fire. This can include both affordable rental housing and affordable home ownership opportunities.

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) has indicated their intent to grant the ~\$12.5M in AHD funds for the Holliday Farm Fire to Lane County. Lane County will then oversee the use of these funds, working with partners to create affordable homeownership and/or affordable rental opportunities in the McKenzie Valley.

The Affordable Housing Development program is funded with Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds.

ReOregon Action Plan Amendment

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) manages the statewide allocation of \$422M in Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. As of October 1, 2024, OHCS is finalizing an amendment to the ReOregon Action Plan that will reflect updated priorities for the use of these CDBG-DR funds. In the coming weeks, OHCS will publish the Action Plan amendment and then collect feedback on the amendment. After addressing feedback, a final Action Plan amendment will be submitted to HUD for approval. Once approved by HUD, these new priorities can be acted upon.

Downpayment Assistance Program

In addition to the AHD program funding that will be managed by Lane County, OHCS will oversee a statewide Downpayment Assistance Program that will help survivors purchase homes. Lane County Recovery staff will share the details of this program as soon as they become available.

The Downpayment Assistance Program is funded with Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds.

UPDATES: PLANNING

Transportation Growth Management (TGM)

The purpose of the Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) planning process is to create a Blue River Community Plan and amend (1) the Lane County Rural Comprehensive Plan, and (2) the Lane County Zoning Ordinance to implement the Blue River Complete Community Plan.

More information and the draft project documents are available on the project website:

www.lanecountyor.gov/BlueRiverCommunityPlan

The project team has produced a draft Blue River Complete Community Plan and proposed zoning amendments that were presented to the Planning Commission during a work session on July 16 and a public hearing on August 6, 2024.

The Blue River Complete Community Plan will go before the Lane County Board of Commissioners in October. The first reading (with no public comment) will be presented October 15, 2024. A second reading for the Board of Commissioners, including a Public Hearing, will take place October 29, 2024.

Lindsey Eichner, Assistant Planning Director, is the Lane County Contact