

HARNEY COUNTY, OREGON

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Harney County Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2013

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HARNEY COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BIFZ	Burns Interagency Fire Zone
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plans
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEPP	Federal Excess Personal Property
FRCC	Fire Regime Condition Class
GIS	Geographic Information System
HFRA	Healthy Forests Restoration Act
IMT	Incident Management Team
IRP	Ignition Risk Potential
NAPA	National Academy of Public Administration
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Act
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NWCG	National Wildfire Coordinating Group
ODF	Oregon Department of Forestry
OFPA	Oregon Forest Protection Act
OWEB	Watershed Improvement Grants
RFA	Rural Fire Assistance
RFPA	Rangeland Fire Protection Associations
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
USFS	US Forest Service
VFA	Volunteer Fire Assistance
WFU	Wildland Fire Use
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 provides the impetus for wildfire risk assessment and planning at the county and community level. HFRA refers to this level of planning as Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). The CWPP allows a community to evaluate its current situation with regards to wildfire risk and devise ways to reduce risk for protection of human welfare and other important economic or ecological values. The CWPP may address issues such as community wildfire risk, structure flammability, hazardous fuels mitigation, and non-fuels mitigation, community preparedness, and emergency procedures. The Core Team provides oversight to the development of the CWPP and its implementation in Harney County.

The primary focus of the Harney County CWPP is county-wide. The plan emphasizes the communities of Burns, Hines, Drewsey, Crane, Diamond, Frenchglen, Fields, Andrews, Riley, and rural residences throughout the county. The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is designated as the boundaries of Harney County. Human life and welfare are values at risk to wildfire because of the buildup of hazardous fuels around communities and structures, poor emergency vehicle ingress and egress, a large area to cover with the fire authorities, and inadequately trained and/or equipped fire suppression authorities. Throughout the County, there are scattered small communities and ranches with houses and out-buildings without structural fire protection because they are outside the Burns or Hines Fire Departments districts. Other economic values at risk include businesses, farmland, ranchland, grazing land, hunting and other recreational land, historic and cultural sites, and critical infrastructure.

Wildland fire is a common occurrence in Harney County. During the 12 year period of 1993 to 2004, there were 1,174 wildfires for an average of 98 per year. Lightning caused 78 percent of wildfires, while 22 percent were human-caused. Approximately, 60 percent of all wildfires burn less than 0.25 acres regardless of ignition source, while less than 1 percent burn over 5,000 acres. The 1990 Pine Springs Basin Conflagration that burned 73,700 acres and threatened Burns, Hines, and Riley was lightning-caused.

Natural resource management policy and changing ecological conditions have interacted in ways that have resulted in hazardous fuel situations throughout Harney County. These forces include historic fire suppression policy, juniper invasion into sagebrush and grasslands, invasive weeds, and changing climatic patterns. The accumulation of hazardous fuels may set the stage for catastrophic wildfire occurrence, resulting in the loss of important economic and ecological values.

There are varieties of fuels around communities, ranches, and structures that create problems for fire protection. Fuels include ponderosa pine and juniper forests, sagebrush habitat, grasslands, and weed fields. Many of these fuels, such as dried grass and weeds, are highly flammable, burn rapidly, and resist control. A coordinated effort among all



fire authorities and private landowners in the County is needed to manage hazardous fuels and reduce the risk of wildfire.

Currently, fire suppression authorities in the County include the Central Oregon Forest Protection District, Burns and Hines Fire Departments, four Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs), Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and the Burns Paiute Indian Reservation. Mutual Aid Agreements exist among the fire authorities for mutual aid and support in the event of a wildfire incident. However, each fire authority operates under regulations that dictate their area of responsibility and specify limitations.

Field surveys, Core Team meetings, interviews, questionnaires, and a public meeting were used to obtain various types of information to assess the risk of wildfire in Harney County. All information was gathered, analyzed, and prepared in the CWPP format by Walsh Environmental Scientists and Engineers, LLC. A project website was maintained by the Harney County Planning Department and provided project updates and information to promote public awareness and outreach.

A direct mailing occurred on October 6, 2005 to 1,059 rural Harney County addresses. The direct mailing consisted of a cover letter from the Planning Director, a questionnaire, and a Firewise pamphlet. The cover letter explained the risk assessment project, announced an upcoming public meeting, and requested that homeowners complete and return the questionnaire. The purpose of the questionnaire was to judge public opinion on the level of wildfire risk in the county, evaluate values at risk, and assess mitigation practices needed to reduce risk (Appendix C). The Firewise brochure explained proper home construction and landscaping practices to reduce the risk of wildfire loss.

A public meeting was convened on December 1, 2005 at 7:00 pm in the Burns Senior Center. Newspaper and radio releases announced the meeting in addition to the direct mailing. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the purpose of the wildfire risk assessment, present the findings of the risk assessment, and provide an opportunity for the public to participate in the process, review of findings, and comment on proposed mitigation possibilities such as hazardous fuels management and non-fuel projects. A draft report of the wildfire risk assessment and mitigation plan was posted on the Harney County website to encourage public review and comment.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Form 1144, *Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire 2002 Edition*, was used to assess the level of risk and hazard to communities and individual houses. The evaluation consisted of rating attributes such as means of access, surrounding vegetation (fuels), presence of defensible space, topography, roofing and other construction materials, available fire protection, and placement of utilities. Scores were assigned to each element and then totaled to determine the level of risk. Low, moderate, and high hazard were determined based on the total score. Field surveys were conducted during September 2005 to assess the level of risk and hazard to the 9 communities and 210 rural houses located throughout the County.



Seven of the nine communities received a high-hazard rating because of issues with hazardous fuels proximity, the use of combustible construction material, inadequate emergency ingress and egress, and the lack of structure fire protection.

Community Hazard Rating and Contributing Factors

Community	Hazard Rating	Contributing Factors
Burns/Hines East	Moderate Hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuels of dried grass and weeds in proximity to structures Lack of defensible space around some homes Combustible roof or siding on some homes
Burns/Hines West	High Hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuels of sagebrush, juniper, dried grass and weeds in proximity to structures Surrounding terrain Lack of defensible space around some homes Combustible roof or siding on some homes
Riley	Moderate Hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuels of sagebrush, dried grass and weeds in proximity to structures Lack of structure defensible space Lack of structure fire protection
Drewsey Crane Diamond Frenchglen	High Hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuels of dried grass and weeds, sagebrush, juniper in proximity to structures Surrounding terrain Lack of structure defensible space Limited emergency ingress and egress Combustible roof or siding on some homes Lack of structure fire protection
Andrews Fields	High Hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuels of dried grass, weeds, sagebrush in proximity to structures Lack of structure defensible space Downslope winds and surrounding terrain Combustible roof or siding on some homes Limited emergency ingress and egress Lack of structure fire protection

There were 210 structures evaluated throughout rural Harney County. These structures did not include those in the Central Oregon Protection District, which were separately evaluated by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). There was no apparent pattern to hazard classification within the County. High-hazard structures were just as likely to be associated with low-hazard structures as with moderate-hazard structures.

Rural Harney County Structure Classification as to Hazard Rating and Contributing Factors

Hazard Class	Percent of Structures	Contributing Factors
Low	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two or more roads in/out Main access road is wide, all season, less than 300 ft. long with turnaround Fuel type is predominately grass or other crop Defensible space of 71-100 ft. Terrain is generally flat Non-combustible roof and/or siding Heating and electrical utilities placed underground
Moderate	58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One road in/out



Hazard Class	Percent of Structures	Contributing Factors
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access road is moderately wide, non-surfaced with grade < 5%, < 300 ft. with turnaround • Fuel type is predominately grass or other crop • Defensible space of 30–70 ft. • Terrain is such to adversely affect wildfire behavior • Non-combustible roof with combustible siding • Electrical utilities usually below ground but heating fuel is above ground
High/Extreme	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One road in/out • Access road is narrow, non-surfaced with grade > 5%, < than 300 ft. long and without turnaround • Fuel type is predominately sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and/or juniper; weeds are abundant • Defensible space < 30 ft. • Terrain is such to adversely affect wildfire behavior • Combustible roof and siding • Heating and electrical utilities above ground

Structure hazard for 41 homes in the Central Oregon Protection District was evaluated by ODF using the presence of a defensible space, water availability, and surrounding fuel type as criteria. ODF found that 61, 15, and 24 percent of the homes could be classified as low, moderate, and high hazard, respectively.

Based on the interviews with fire authority officials, field observations, and questionnaire responses, the following mitigation actions are proposed to reduce their risk of wildfire:

- Continue to strengthen the cooperation among the BIFZ, Burns and Hines Fire Departments, RFPAs, Burns Paiute Tribe, USFWS, and private landowners.
- Strengthen the firefighting ability of the RFPAs through motivation, training, and improved equipment. Work with the RFPAs to maintain adequate funding for insurance, fuel, and equipment repair. Handheld, federal compatible radios are needed to improve communication within and among the RFPAs, and with federal agencies.
- Encourage weed abatement and the development of defensible spaces around homes and other important structures throughout the County.
- Re-construct the fuelbreak northwest of Burns and Hines that was installed for the 1990 Pine Springs Basin Conflagration.
- Develop strategically located fuelbreaks around Drewsey, Crane, Diamond, Frenchglen, Andrews, and Fields.
- Reduce fuels classified as Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) 3 to a FRCC 1 category using appropriate management practices.



- Create additional water storage points for fire suppression within the bounds of the Hines and Burns Fire Districts and throughout the RFPAs.
- Distribute educational materials to residents in order to promote knowledge and understanding in implementing proper Firewise activities such as landscaping, use of fire resistant building materials, proper access roads, and emergency evacuation procedures.

Implementing and sustaining the CWPP is key to success. This is the responsibility of the Core Team. Building partnerships among community-based organizations, fire protection authorities, local governments, public land management agencies, and private landowners is necessary in identifying and prioritizing measures to reduce wildfire risk. Maintaining this cooperation is a long-term effort that requires the commitment of all partners involved. The CWPP encourages citizens to take an active role in identifying needs, developing strategies, and implementing solutions to address wildfire risk by assisting with the development of local community wildfire plans and participating in countywide fire prevention activities.

The Core Team will oversee the implementation of and monitoring of the CWPP by working with fire authorities, community organizations, private landowners, and public agencies to coordinate hazardous fuels management and other mitigation projects.



HARNEY COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CWPP Purpose and Process

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 provides the impetus for wildfire risk assessment and planning at the county and community level. HFRA refers to this level of planning as Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). The purpose of the CWPP is for communities to take full responsibility and advantage of wildland fire and hazardous fuel management opportunities offered under HFRA legislation. The CWPP provides for the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to give consideration to the priorities of local communities for forest and rangeland management as well as hazardous fuel reduction projects.

As stated throughout this plan, the process of developing a CWPP will help Harney County clarify and refine its priorities for the protection of life; property; critical infrastructure; significant recreation and scenic areas; and landscapes of historical, economic, or cultural value in the county-wide WUI.

The CWPP allows a community to evaluate its current situation with regards to wildfire risk and plan ways to reduce risk for protection of human welfare and other important economic or ecological values. The CWPP may address issues such as community wildfire risk, structure flammability, hazardous fuels and non-fuels mitigation, community preparedness, and emergency procedures. The CWPP should be tailored to meet the needs of the community. The CWPP process consists of the following steps:

- Organize the CWPP Committee – The committee should consist of city and county government, local fire authority, and state agencies responsible for forest management.
- Federal Agency Involvement – Representatives from the USFS and/or BLM should be engaged in the CWPP process as consultants.
- Community Interested Parties – The CWPP committee must involve interested community members, private landowners, business, stakeholders, and interest groups in the planning process.
- Community Base Map – A community base map should be developed that may illustrate important features such as landownership, structures, roads, surface water, fire districts, or major utility corridors. The map's importance is that it illustrates community values from which recommendations concerning wildfire planning can occur.
- Develop a Community Wildfire Risk Assessment – The risk assessment will provide critical information to the CWPP committee to make informed decisions. Members



should be actively involved in this step. Items that may be addressed include such things as risk of wildfire occurrence, structure hazard and risk, economic and ecological values at risk, local fire authority, preparedness and capability, and hazardous fuels.

- Hazard Reduction Priorities and Recommendations to Reduce Structure Flammability – Mitigation projects are identified and designed to reduce the risk of wildfire loss to the community and other values. Mitigation projects should be prioritized and may include such things as hazardous fuels management, improving the wildfire suppression capability of the local fire authority, developing a permanent water supply, reducing structure flammability, improving emergency procedures, and increasing public education.
- Develop an Action Plan and Assessment Strategy – The action plan should identify who will do what by when. Identify areas of concern and integrate common values. Community funds for hazard reduction projects through grants need to be obtained. The finished CWPP is essential for seeking grant money. Also, an assessment strategy needs to be in place to insure that the CWPP remains current and relevant for future years.
- Finalize the CWPP – The committee needs to agree and approve the CWPP and make sure that the recommend actions are implemented in timely manner.

1.2 Harney County need for CWPP

The focus of the Harney County CWPP is county-wide with emphasis on the communities of Burns, Hines, Drewsey, Crane, Diamond, Frenchglen, Fields, Andrews, Riley, and rural residences. The Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ) is in the process of developing a five-year fuels management plan for public lands under its fire protection authority. The Harney County CWPP will provide critical information for the BIFZ fuel plan.

Wildland fire is a common occurrence in Harney County. Historic fire occurrence was a major ecological influence in shaping the natural vegetation. The threat of wildfire continues today. However, wildfire risk to human welfare and economic and ecological values is more serious today than in the past because of the buildup of hazardous fuels, construction of houses in proximity to forests and rangelands, increased outdoor recreation, and a lack of public appreciation of wildfire. Lightning-caused fires have been the dominant ignition source for hundreds of years and continue to be the main cause of fire. However, human-caused fires have occurred and their frequency will likely become more numerous as the County's population grows and outdoor recreation increases.

Natural resource management policy and changing ecological conditions have interacted in ways that resulted in hazardous fuel situations throughout the County. These forces include historic fire suppression policy, juniper invasion into sagebrush and grasslands, invasive weeds, and changing climatic patterns. The accumulation of hazardous fuels may set the stage for catastrophic wildfire occurrence in the County, resulting in the loss of important economic and ecological values.



There are varieties of fuels around communities, ranches, and structures that create problems for fire protection. Fuels include ponderosa pine and juniper forests, sagebrush habitat, grasslands, and weed fields. Many of these fuels such as dried grass and weeds are highly flammable, burn rapidly, and resist control. A coordinated effort among all fire authorities and private landowners in the County is needed to manage hazardous fuels and reduce the risk of wildfire.

Currently, fire suppression authorities include the Central Oregon Forest Protection District, Burns and Hines Fire Departments, four Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPA), BIFZ (USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management), U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Burns Paiute Indian Reservation. Mutual Aid Agreements exist among the fire authorities for mutual aid and support in the event of a wildfire incident. However, each fire authority operates under regulations that dictate their area of responsibility and specify limitations. The CWPP provides the means to identify wildfire risk, prioritize mitigation projects, improve public awareness, and improve fire authority coordination to better manage wildfire.

1.3 Wildland Fire Management Primer

Wildland fire, defined as any non-structure fire occurring in the wildland, includes prescribed fire, wildland fire use, and wildfire. Prescribed fires are planned fires ignited by land managers to accomplish resource objectives. Fires that occur from natural causes, such as lightning, that are then used to achieve management purposes under carefully controlled conditions with minimal suppression costs is known as wildland fire use (WFU). Wildfires are unwanted and unplanned fires that result from natural ignition, unauthorized human-caused fire, escaped WFU, or escaped prescribed fire.

Prescribed fire in Harney County could be used to accomplish a number of resource management purposes, such as reducing the amount of hazardous fuels, improving plant species diversity, increasing livestock forage production, abating noxious and invasive weeds, and improving wildlife habitat. Multiple resource management objectives are often achieved concurrently.

Prescribed fire could occur either in a defined area or in localized burn piles. Area prescribed fires are used to burn vegetation in place and can vary in the number of acres burned. Burn piles are heaps of woody fuel that are accumulated after a mechanical treatment. Consistency with Oregon State fire and air pollution laws and BLM would occur. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and County policy would be maintained during prescribed fires. Acceptable burn days would be determined in consultation with ODF and local agencies.

Fire risk is the probability that wildfire will start from natural or human-caused ignitions. Fire hazard is the presence of ignitable fuel coupled with the influences of terrain and weather. The nature of fuels, terrain, and weather conditions combine to dictate fire behavior, rate of spread, and intensity. Wildland fuel attributes refer to both dead and live vegetation and include such factors as density, bed depth, continuity, loading, vertical arrangement, and moisture content. Structures are also a fuel source. Fire tends to burn more rapidly and intensely upslope than on level terrain. However, evening "sundowner" winds may rapidly drive wildfire downslope.



Weather conditions such as high ambient temperatures, low relative humidity, and windy conditions favor fire ignition and erratic fire behavior.

Natural and human-caused fire has long been an integral part of vegetation communities in the County. Lightning-ignited fire is a natural component of Harney County ecosystems, and its occurrence is important to maintaining the health of forest and rangeland ecosystems. Native Americans used fire for such things as hunting, improving wildlife habitat, land clearing, and warfaring. As such, many of the plant species and communities are adapted to recurring fire through phenological, physiological, or anatomical attributes. Some plants such as lodge pole pine and western wheatgrass require reoccurring fire to persist.

European settlers, land use policy, and changing ecosystems have altered fire behavior and fuels accumulation from their historic setting. European settlers into Harney County changed the natural fire regime in several interrelated ways. The nature of vegetation (fuel) changed due to land use practices such as homesteading, livestock grazing, agriculture, water development, and road construction. Livestock grazing reduced the amount of fine fuels such as grasses and forbs, which carried low-intensity fire across the landscape. In addition, continuous stretches of forest and rangeland fuels were broken-up by land-clearing activities. The removal of the natural vegetation allowed introduced weedy plants to colonize and occupy—in many instances—large expanses of land. The establishment of cheatgrass and other annual weeds are examples. Many of these weedy plants become flashy fuels as they age, causing fires to burn faster and hotter than with normal wildland fuels. The invasion of western juniper into big sagebrush stands and grasslands has also increased fuel loads and changed the nature of fire in these ecosystems. In addition, more than a century of fire-suppression policy has resulted in an unusually large accumulation of hazardous fuels such as big sagebrush and western juniper in many forest and rangeland ecosystems. The presence of flashy fuels coupled with the large accumulation of naturally occurring fuels has created hazardous situations for public safety and fire management.

Modern-day land managers continue the use of fire by using prescribed fire as a tool to improve livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, control noxious weeds, or to reduce hazardous fuels. Their primary efforts in managing fuels and fire are to protect human life, economic values, and ecological values. Proactive and vigilant fire and fuels management is necessary to protect human welfare, as well as economic and ecological values from fire loss.

Wildfire behavior and severity are dictated by fuel type, weather conditions, and terrain. Fuel is the only variable that can easily be managed by reducing such attributes as load, continuity, or size class distribution. Such things as fuelbreaks, tree and shrub thinnings, defensible space, grass mowing or grazing, and green strips are ways to manipulate fuels to reduce the chances of fire occurrence or limit its severity. The CWPP focuses on fuel management on both private and public lands as a means to reduce its risk throughout Harney County.

1.4 Regulator Framework

There are several Federal and State legislation acts and local committees that set policy and provide guidance to the development of the CWPP for Harney County:



- Healthy Forest Restoration Act (2003) – Federal legislation to promote healthy forest and rangeland management, hazardous fuels reduction on federal land, community wildfire protection planning, and biomass energy production.
- National Fire Plan and 10-year Comprehensive Strategy (2001) – Interagency plan that focuses on firefighting coordination, firefighter safety, post-fire rehabilitation, hazardous fuels reduction, community assistance, and accountability.
- Oregon Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 7 – Directs local government to adopt plans for minimizing risk from natural hazards.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Mitigation Act (2000) – Provides Criteria for state and local multiple-hazard and mitigation planning.
- Grant-Harney Fire Prevention Co-op – Formed in 1980 to coordinate fire prevention efforts in the counties. The cooperative facilitates interagency coordinating in mass-media, information and education programs, and participation in county fairs. All general fire prevention is coordinated through the Co-op.

1.5 Harney County Wildfire Management Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives for the CWPP process are several and include (Table 1):

Table 1 Harney County Goals and Objectives for Wildfire Management Planning

Goals	Objectives
Facilitate a CWPP in Harney County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide oversight to all activities related to the CWPP. • Ensure representation and coordination among agencies and interest groups. • Develop a long-term framework for sustaining CWPP efforts.
Conduct a wildfire risk assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a county-wide wildfire risk assessment. • Identify communities at risk and contributing factors. • Determine the level of risk that structures in the rural county are to wildfire and contributing factors.
Develop a mitigation plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and prioritize hazardous fuel treatment projects. • Identify and prioritize non-fuels mitigation needs.
Manage hazardous fuels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain a long-term, landscape approach to fuels management that focuses on high wildfire risk areas. • Identify priority fuel treatments based on risk assessment and apply for National Fire Plan grants and other funding sources. • Focus strategic hazardous reduction projects on communities at high risk.
Facilitate emergency planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies to strengthen emergency management, response and evacuation capabilities for wildfire. • Build relationships among county government, fire authorities, and communities.
Facilitate public outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies to increase citizen awareness and action for Firewise practices. • Promote public outreach and cooperation for all fuels reduction projects to solicit community involvement and private landowner cooperation.



2 HARNEY COUNTY PROFILE

2.1 County Setting

Harney County was established in 1889 with a land base of 10,228 square miles (Map 1). The County population is estimated at 7,000 people. There are approximately 3,200 and 2,000 people living in the incorporated cities of Burns and Hines, respectively. Harney County is located in southeast Oregon and is famous for its century-old ranches and a variety of natural resource attractions such as the Malheur National Forests, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Alvord Desert, and Steens Mountain. Elevation ranges from 4,148 feet at Burns to the 9,733-foot peaks of Steens Mountain. Vegetation throughout the county is diverse and varies from ponderosa pine forest in the north to sagebrush shrub lands and grasslands in the south intermixed throughout with wetlands.

The economy of Harney County is primarily supported by ranching, manufacturing, and lumber. The ecological resources such as Steens Mountain and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge draw hikers, geologists, bird watchers, and rock climbers from around the Country. Large, expansive ranches are leading producers of cattle and hay. Harney County cattle production ranks ninth in the Country. The two incorporated cities, Burns and Hines, are a transportation hub for the region and business centers for Oregon's largest county.

2.2 Communities

Burns and Hines are the two incorporated cities, and Andrews, Crane, Diamond, Drewsey, Fields, Frenchglen, and Riley are the rural, unincorporated communities that are considered in the Harney County CWPP (Table 2). Burns and Hines are protected by their respective fire departments, which consist of fulltime fire chiefs and volunteer staff. The unincorporated communities are located in areas protected by Rangeland Fire Protection Associations. Burns and Hines are the business center of the County and US Highway 20, which services southeastern Oregon. The seven rural communities are ranching and farming communities located throughout the County. Recreation is also important to these communities. These communities service their respective surrounding areas and usually consist of a hotel, service station, post office, school and/or church, and a few residences. Private landowners in the outlying areas come in for commodities and services.

Table 2 Community Summary Information

Community	Location	Fire Authority	Surrounding Fuels
Burns	US Highway 20	Burns Fire Department	Sagebrush/grass on west and south, and agricultural land on east and north, weeds in town
Hines	Immediately west of Burns on US Highway 20	Hines Fire Department	Sagebrush/grass on west and south, and agricultural land on east and north, weeds in town
Andrews	East Steens Road, 16 miles north of Fields	Andrews RFPA	Sagebrush, grass, agricultural land, weeds in town
Crane	State Highway 78, 32 miles southeast of Burns	Crane-Drewsey RFPA	Sagebrush, grass, agricultural land, weeds in town