

A-4. Community at Risk: Sauvie Island Fire District (Rural Fire Protection District # 30J)

The Sauvie Island Fire District has been identified as a Community -At-Risk by Oregon Department of Forestry. The District has participated in Multnomah County's CWPP planning processes to evaluate capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to potential wildfire events. In doing so, Scappoose Fire has developed a list of actions to build capacity, enhance public awareness, and reduce the likelihood of wildfires on Sauvie Island.

Sauvie Island Fire District Description

Sauvie Island is located 10 miles from Downtown Portland, Oregon. Upon crossing the bridge onto Sauvie Island (24,000 acres), the landscape is a mixed rural setting comprised of predominately farmland with clustered groups of homes. The resident population is approximately 1,200.

Sauvie Island Fire District has one Office Administrator (the Fire Chief) and approximately 35 volunteer fire fighters which comprise the Fire Department Team. The Department handles just over 100 calls annually and roughly 80% of these calls are medical related. The Fire Department also provides fire services to houseboats along the Multnomah Channel and the 12,000 acre Sauvie Island Wildlife Area.

Sauvie Island Fire District Wildfire Hazards

Fuel Loading

The Northern areas of the island (primarily ODFW property) have the heaviest fuel load. There are many areas thick with blackberries, brush, and reed canary grass. The southern portion of the island consists of large areas of farmed ground and a few residential areas. Areas of heavy fuel in this area are seasonally dependent.

The Multnomah County CWPP wildfire hazard assessment can further assist Sauvie Island Fire District in identifying areas that may be at higher risk to potential wildfires. Map #14 illustrates the overall wildfire hazard risk in the Multnomah County portion of the Sauvie Island Fire District and will be used to help target areas for wildfire prevention activities.

Access

There are two major access issues on Sauvie Island. First, there is one only bridge from Hwy 30 that provides access on and off the island. Many smaller bridges throughout the island are used for access but not considered primary or secondary road systems. Second, there are a fair amount of one way in and out roads into residential, ODFW, or farming lands. Addressing and signage are constantly being improved upon, but at this time the majority of residences etc, are adequately identified. The island has a consistent, gentle grade, so steep driveways are not an issue here.

Water Supply

The entire island is serviced by tender water supply operations or sustained farming irrigation systems. There are many natural waterways throughout the island that could be access if necessary. Sauvie Island Fire District needs float pumps to access these water resources.

Emergency Operations

The Sauvie Island Fire District is a participant in mutual and automatic aid agreements with neighboring Portland and Scappoose Fire Departments. There are some areas of spotty cell service on the island, but most of the island is 800 MHz accessible with only a few problem areas.

Community Preparedness

Sauvie Island Fire District is working with the local community association to develop Wildfire Prevention Programs. General Public Education handouts or resources are needed to build capacity for these programs. There are a few active citizen groups that can be used to promote wildfire awareness: the Sauvie Island Community Association, Sauvie Island Grange, and the Safety Action Team (which is semi active.) Although there was no community meeting held on Sauvie Island during the MCWPP planning process, this Community at Risk is a top priority for future outreach events.

Sauvie Island Fire District Action Plan

The Sauvie Island Fire District has developed a list of actions to build capacity at the District scale. The following issues are addressed in Table A-6.2 Sauvie Island Fire District Action Plan:

- Need for defensible space
- Access limitations (narrow driveways, lack of address signage, one way in/one way out)
- Steep slopes that can hinder access and accelerate the spread of wildfire
- Lack of water available for wildland fire fighting
- Heavy fuels on adjacent public lands
- Potential ignition sources from recreationists and transients
- Agricultural and backyard burning
- Lack of community outreach programs to promote wildfire awareness
- Communications difficulties



MULTNOMAH CO. RFPD #30 (SAUVIE ISLAND) OVERALL WILDFIRE RISK

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN - 2011 MAP #14

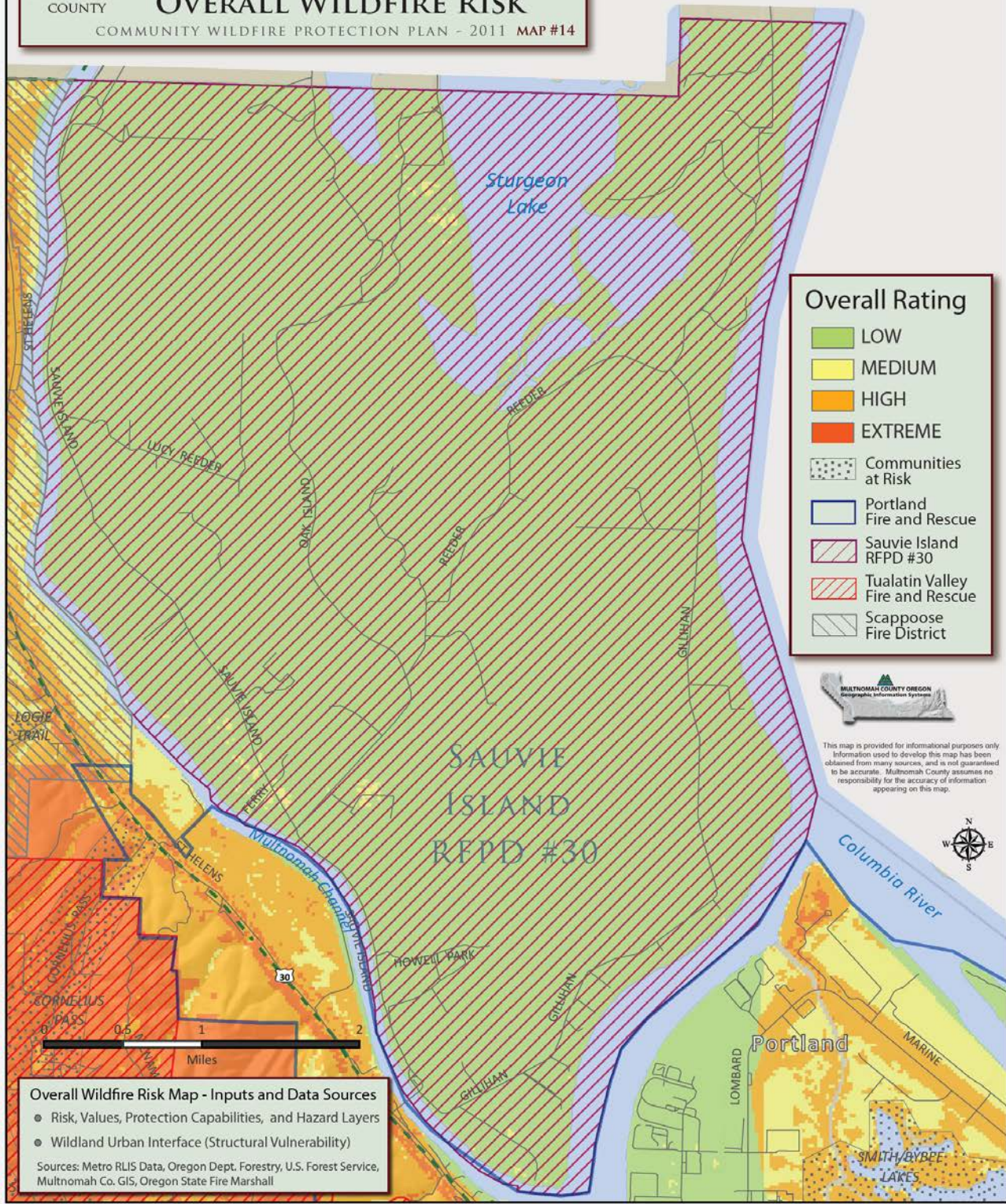


Table A-4.1 Sauvie Island Fire District Action Plan

| Action Item | Timeframe | Partners | CAR |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Sauvie Island Local Communities at Risk Action Plan | | | |
| Conduct a Community Meeting to educate community on defensible space, and measures that can be taken to reduce structural ignitability. Solicit feedback on wildfire prevention projects the community would support. | Spring , 2012 | ODF, CWPP Outreach Subcommittee | Sauvie Island |
| Develop a local wildfire prevention campaign to promote defensible space and reduce structural ignitability within the Home Ignition Zone. | Short Term | ODF, CWPP Outreach Subcommittee | Sauvie Island |
| Initiate structural triage assessment data collection for structural ignitability and defensible space. | Long-Term | ODF, Wildfire Technical Committee | Sauvie Island |
| Develop a community-driven pre-disaster plan including evacuation routes, telephone call down trees, and other strategies for strengthening community response. | Short Term | POEM | Sauvie Island |
| Map all roads, bridges and driveways and prioritize homes that have dead-ends, and cannot support emergency service vehicles (grade, length, vegetation, turn-arounds) for defensible space and fuels reduction projects. | Long-Term | City of Portland | Sauvie Island |
| Implement road addressing and signage for emergency response. | Short Term | ODF | Sauvie Island |
| Obtain funding to purchase new float pumps. | Short Term | POEM | Sauvie Island |
| Seek grant funding to support fuels reduction and creation of defensible space around homes. Consider developing a cost-share program to support these activities. | Ongoing | ODF, Wildfire Technical Committee | Sauvie Island |
| Identify opportunities for community debris disposal collection sites that recycle or compost vegetative material vs. burning. | Ongoing | ODF, Wildfire Technical Committee | Sauvie Island |