

January 18, 2006
PRESS RELEASE

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Re: JOSEPHINE COUNTY INTEGRATED FIRE PLAN WINS STATE AWARD!

Josephine County (OR) was recently chosen to receive the *2005 Partners for Disaster Resistance and Resilience Outstanding Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan*. Josephine County being recognized for the collaborative planning effort that resulted in the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan. The award will be presented to Sara Nicholson, Josephine County Emergency Manager, at the Oregon Landslide Forum in Salem, Oregon on February 6, 2006.

Partners involved with the Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan (JCIFP) also recently completed the 2nd annual review and report to the Board of County Commissioners. The plan was developed in response to lessons learned from the 2002 Biscuit Fire, which burned over 500,000 acres and resulted in costs exceeding 150 million dollars and adopted in November 2004. The 2005 Annual Report illustrates the accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned from the first year of implementation of the JCIFP. The report also includes next steps and opportunities for updating and strengthening the plan, monitoring activities. Issues addressed in the report include collaboration, emergency management, fuels reduction, education and outreach, special needs, biomass utilization, and stewardship contracting.

The Josephine County Integrated Fire Plan is available on line on the Josephine County web site. Visit <http://www.co.josephine.or.us> and click on “**Integrated Fire Plan.**” Visitors to the website can learn how to protect their homes from wildfire, read the plan and annual report, view maps of wildfire risk in Josephine County, and find out about upcoming fire plan events. Community members can get involved by contacting your local fire district to find out about volunteer opportunities. For more information, visit <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=158> or call your local fire district.

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