Community Firewood Program & Woodshed Construction in Oakridge, OR

Presented by
Good Company
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Overview

- Challenge with winter woodsmoke
- Concerted long-term effort for improvements
- History and evolution of Community Firewood Program
- Benefits of the firewood program
- Firewood sheds
Challenge with winter woodsmoke

- Product of location - topography, use of wood resources and weather conditions

Source: Oakridge PM2.5 Emission Inventory for Worst Winter Days
Concerted long-term effort & next chapter

- **Warm Homes, Clean Air**: 2004-2006 Lane Region Air Protection Agency
- **Mayor and multi-stakeholder effort**: 2015 to 2017
- **Oregon Solutions and Oregon DEQ support/funding**: Oakridge Woodsmoke Coordinator 2017-2019
- **EPA Targeted Airshed Grant funding**: Five year funding directed at multiple strategies
Origin of community firewood program

- **Resource available:** Community surrounded by wood resource in the National Forest and experience electricity outages in winter months.
- **Lack of local firewood sellers selling seasoned wood,** particularly to disabled, low-income and elderly residents.
- **Job creation in winter months** for wildland firefighting crew in low-income community.
- **Local partners seeing benefits:** City of Oakridge, Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative and Inbound LLC.
Evolution of firewood program

• Pure volunteer / bootstrap effort
• Did not operate in 2017–2018 winter season due to project management
• Brought the program back with Oregon DEQ support in 2018-2019 season.
• Program sold 70 cords of wood to 90 households (most to date) and built a reserve for this winter season.
Collaborative effort

- Firewood sourcing partners: Private companies (Seneca, Roseburg, Juniper Investments, Union Pacific), local contractors
- City support for facility and transportation
- Local contractor volunteer for aggregation/hauling
Feasibility study

- Need consistent diverse supply
- Forest collaborative key to success via SWFC and USFS
- High handling and hauling costs – every time touch firewood, lose money
- Equipment investment similar despite production thresholds
CFP opportunities and challenges

• Firewood is a low-cost product that can have significant capital and operational costs – reference to ODF feasibility study.

• Reduce fuel loading on National Forest: Removing top wood and cull wood will reduce “jackpot” fuels near roads and improve visuals.

• Higher utilization of wood resource material that might just be burned in the forest.
Safety and resiliency of firewood program

- Severe winter storm cut electricity and isolated community for over a week.
- Emergency assistance from firewood program provided 12 cords of seasoned firewood to 40 households and two warming centers within the community.
Communications

Community Firewood Program

Home
About
Posts
Reviews
Photos
Community

Posts

Community Firewood Program shared a post.
May 8 at 10:33 AM

Hot, dry and windy conditions have temporarily suspended outdoor burning in Lane County starting TOMORROW, Thurs May 9th for one week.
Decision by Lane Fire Defense Board and Oregon Department of Forestry due to high fire danger.

Communication

SEASONED FIREWOOD SALE
DEC 7TH & 8TH - INBOUND, LLC, 48224 E. 1ST ST. - OAKRIDGE, OR

SALE DATES
Friday, Dec. 7th
4:00 - 6:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 8th
9:00 - 2:00 PM
Sales will take place at Inbound, LLC

FIREWOOD PRICE
Senior Citizen (60+), Disabled, or Oakridge Home Heating Exemption Participants*
$125 per Cord

General Price
$175 per Cord

Optional Delivery
$25

*Oakridge residents can sign up for a home heating exemption at Oakridge City Hall. Preference and priority will be given to the subsidized program.

The sale will take place at Inbound, LLC 48224 E. 1ST ST, Oakridge, OR. Delivery or pickup will be scheduled at time of purchase.

The Community firewood program has approximately 50 cords of firewood.

Oakridge/ Westfir community members only.

This program is a result of the partnership between the City of Oakridge, Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative (SWFC), Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA), and Inbound LLC working together to reduce smoke pollution in the surrounding Oakridge aridified. Additionally, this project would not be possible without the support of local companies and sponsors including Seneca, Jerry Stewarting, Roseburg, Union Pacific Railroad that have donated wood or materials to the program.

For more information, call 541-521-5786 or staff@swfcollaborative.org
Woodshed pilot project

- Woodsheds function better than tarps (mold, moisture)
- Developed pilot woodshed effort with limited funding
- Collaboration with high school woodshop teacher and prospective Eagle Scout
- Construction of 24 sheds
12 sheds completed by three students.

Career and technical education (CTE) opportunity, helping the community.
Eagle Scout participation

• 12 sheds completed by Eagle Scout and fellow Boy Scouts.
Local volunteer effort for delivery