



# DRY CANYON FIREWISE MAINTENANCE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 26, 2026



# FIRE BREAKS, LADDER FUELS, THINNING OPPORTUNITIES





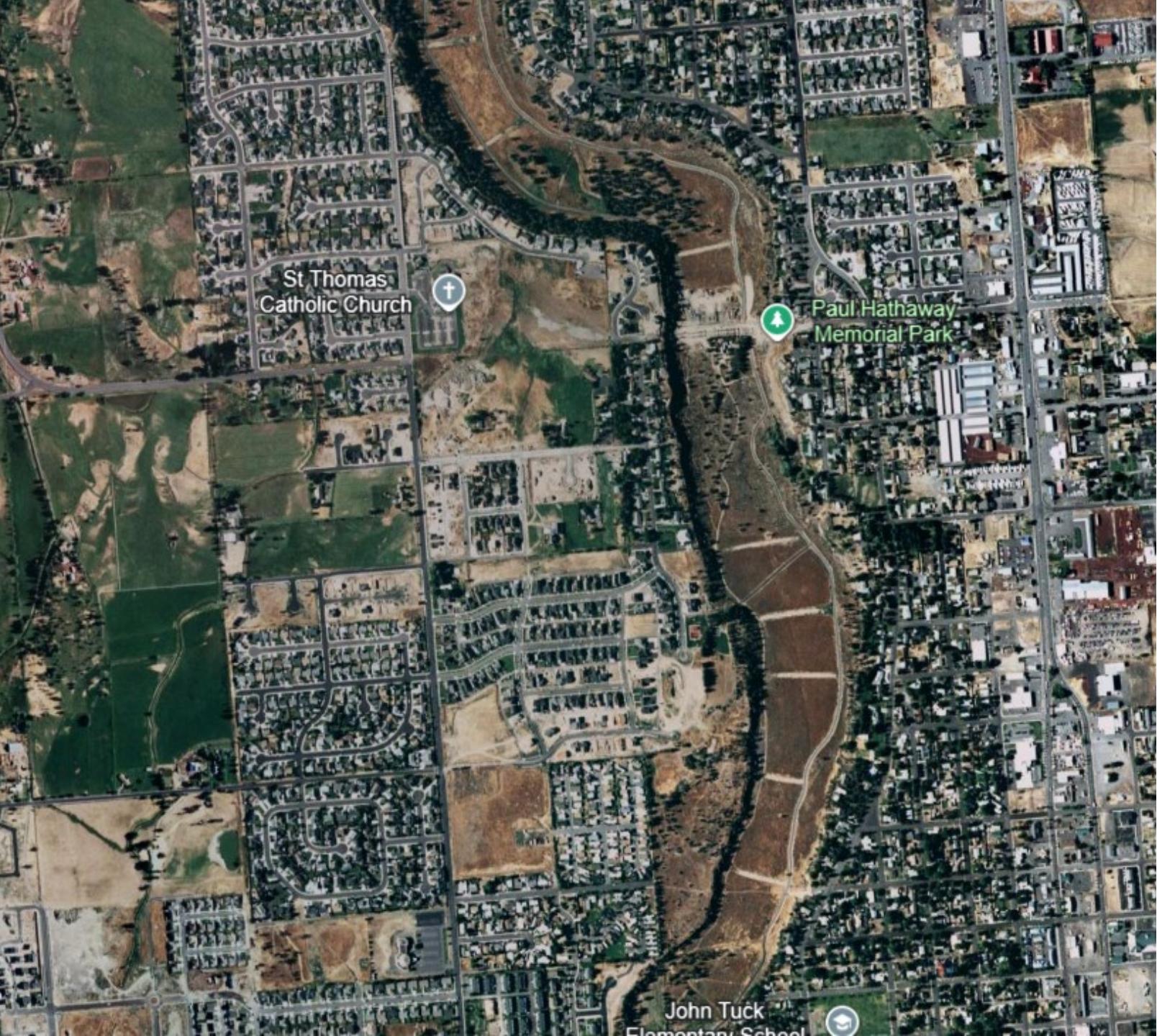
# MOWED FIRE BREAKS

## PURPOSE:

- CREATE GROUND COVERAGE  
BREAKS IN DENSE CHEAT  
GRASS

## SPECS:

- CURRENTLY 65' WIDE
- IN AREAS WITH NO JUNIPER





# LADDER FUELS

## PURPOSE:

- REDUCE GROUND COVERAGE SPREAD

## SPECS:

- RAISE CANOPY 4 ' - 6' ABOVE THE GROUND
- REMOVE FALLEN DEAD WOOD



# LADDER FUELS (BEFORE)





# LADDER FUELS (AFTER)





# THINNING AND DEFENSIBLE SPACE

## PURPOSE:

- CREATE 10' CROWN SPACING TO REDUCE FUEL TRANSFERS

## SPECS:

- REMOVE TREES 8" OR SMALLER REMOVE AND CREATE A 10' SPACE BETWEEN EVERYTHING KEPT
- REMOVE ALL GROUND COVERAGE UNDERNEATH THE DRIPLINE



# DEFENSIBLE SPACE (BEFORE)





# DEFENSIBLE SPACE (AFTER)





# DEFENSIBLE SPACE (BEFORE)





# DEFENSIBLE SPACE (AFTER)





# MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

FEB. 2026

MAR. – APR. 2026

NOV. 2026

OCT. – NOV. 2026

MOW AND TREAT  
FIREBREAKS

PRIORITY  
THINNING

MOW AND TREAT  
FIREBREAKS

PRIORITY  
THINNING

# MAINTENANCE TIMELINE



# QUESTIONS?



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Department of Forestry

Central Oregon District

Prineville Unit

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October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

## Summary of Mitigation Recommendations in Dry Canyon

### 1. Surface Fuel Management

**Problem:** Continuous grass and brush fuels will allow a surface fire to spread rapidly.

- **Action:** Implement regular and recurring maintenance of grass and brush species.
- **Treatment Objective:** In large brush fields, create a mosaic of brush patches separated by low-fuel gaps to balance habitat retention with reduced fire hazard.
- **Methods:** Treatment could include prescribed burning, mowing, or biological controls such as targeted grazing with goats.
- **Frequency:** This will be an ongoing project, likely required at least once and potentially twice, per year on the most vulnerable acres.

### 2. Juniper Treatment (Ladder and Canopy Fuels)

**Problem:** Ladder fuels will cause surface fires to torch individual and groups of juniper trees, which will cast numerous embers downwind and ignite new spot fires.

- **Thinning:** Conduct an extensive thinning project targeting the dense groups and clumps of Western Juniper.
- **Pruning & Cleaning:** Every juniper that remains post-thinning should be limbed up, and all brush must be removed from beneath its drip line. This clean state must be maintained.
- **Strategic Focus:** Special attention must be paid to junipers growing directly against the cliff bands, as these trees represent a primary pathway for fire to travel from the canyon floor to the residences on the rim.

### 3. Strategic Fuel Breaks

**Problem:** A fire with momentum will not be stopped by existing fuel breaks, and firefighters lack adequate access to safely engage a wildfire in the canyon.

- **Assessment:** Existing fuel breaks, such as the paved bike trail, will be ineffective against a fire with momentum.
- **Recommendation:** More fuel breaks are needed. They should be strategically placed to run both parallel and perpendicular to the canyon to slow a fire's momentum.
- **Purpose:** The breaks should be designed to serve two functions: slow the spread of fire and create safe and effective access for firefighting resources, such as Type 6 engines.

#### **4. Defensible Space and Home Hardening**

**Problem:** Homes situated directly on the canyon rim are highly vulnerable to ignition from embers, radiant heat, and direct flame contact.

- **Outreach:** A comprehensive and targeted defensible space outreach and education program is needed.
- **Target Audience:** The program should focus specifically on homeowners whose properties are located directly on the canyon's edge.

Sincerely,

Eric Metzger  
Community Wildfire Forester  
541-669-2093  
[Eric.j.metzger@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:Eric.j.metzger@odf.oregon.gov)

**From:** [Joshua Wedding](#)  
**To:** [Maria Ramirez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Dry Canyon  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 12:19:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#), [image002.png](#), [image003.png](#)

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FYI!



**Josh Wedding** | City of Redmond  
*Public Works Operations Manager*

**Phone** 541.504-2022  
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**From:** Lauren Street <[Lauren.Street@deschutes.org](mailto:Lauren.Street@deschutes.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 12:13 PM  
**To:** Joshua Wedding <[Joshua.Wedding@redmondoregon.gov](mailto:Joshua.Wedding@redmondoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Dry Canyon

**[EXTERNAL]:** This email originated from outside of the city. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Josh,

I apologize for the delay in response. I've outlined our recommended fuels reduction treatment that we implement on Deschutes County projects in western juniper dominated areas.

- Cut and fell all trees and seedlings less than 8 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH). Stump height shall not exceed 4 inches.
- Cut limbs on remaining trees, including dead and live branches, to a variable height of 4-6 feet.
- Cut approximately 80% of bitterbrush, sagebrush, and rabbit brush over 2 feet in height to a height of 4 inches in areas mixed with western junipers.
- Avoid disturbance of soil and brush areas where cheatgrass is not present.
- Cut and masticate all brush under dripline of remaining trees.
- Swamp material (brush, limbs, and other materials) up to 8 inches. Chip and masticate remaining material.
- Chipped and masticated materials must not be greater than 4 inches in depth.

Give me a call when you get a chance and we can discuss this further. My work cellphone number is 541-213-0864.

Thank you!

**Lauren Street | Natural Resources Specialist**  
**DESCHUTES COUNTY**  
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**From:** Joshua Wedding <[Joshua.Wedding@redmondoregon.gov](mailto:Joshua.Wedding@redmondoregon.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 3, 2025 10:04 AM  
**To:** Lauren Street <[Lauren.Street@deschutes.org](mailto:Lauren.Street@deschutes.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Dry Canyon

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Good morning Lauren,

Just trying to touch bases with you again regarding the dry canyon. Leadership is pressing hard for recommendations from our trips out there this year and what possible prescriptions we could implement for fire mitigation. I know you guys are busy, we are just trying to outline work we could do this off season based on industry best practices that are somewhat consistent throughout the county. If a phone call would be easier, I am up for that as well. Thanks for your help on this and I look forward to talking with you again.



**Josh Wedding** | City of Redmond  
*Public Works Operations Manager*

**Phone** 541.504-2022  
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**From:** [Paul Catino](#)  
**To:** [Maria Ramirez](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fire Break Details  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026 9:48:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

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Hi Maria,

Thanks for checking in — happy to help. A 40-foot break will definitely be helpful and it's a reasonable starting point for the north end of the canyon. If there are spots where you have room to go wider, that's always a plus, especially on slopes or in wind-exposed areas. 100 feet is a good goal where feasible. The most important things are keeping the breaks continuous and maintained through the season. Ensuring you tie the mowed areas into existing roads, trails, or other open spaces will also help their effectiveness.

Hope this helps!

Paul

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**From:** Maria Ramirez <[maria.ramirez@redmondoregon.gov](mailto:maria.ramirez@redmondoregon.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 9:53 AM  
**To:** Paul Catino <[pcatino@coic.org](mailto:pcatino@coic.org)>  
**Cc:** Joshua Wedding <[joshua.Wedding@redmondoregon.gov](mailto:joshua.Wedding@redmondoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Fire Break Details

Hi Paul,

I recognize Lauren has a very large workload, so I was hoping that you might be able to advise us on mowing fire breaks and the width that we should be mowing? We want to do 8-9 in the north portion of the canyon and are planning to move them 40' wide. Do you have any advise on this?

Thanks!



Maria Ramirez | City of Redmond  
Special Projects and Natural Resource Program Manager

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**From:** Maria Ramirez  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026 9:07 AM  
**To:** Lauren Street <[lauren.street@deschutes.org](mailto:lauren.street@deschutes.org)>  
**Cc:** Joshua Wedding <[joshua.Wedding@redmondoregon.gov](mailto:joshua.Wedding@redmondoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fire Break Details

Hi Lauren,

Thanks for helping put together the recommendations for the canyon. We took the thinning, limbing, and vegetation reduction into a system to display what the before and after would look like (see below). We are also planning to start mowing firebreaks within the next couple weeks. We were mowing 8-9 firebreaks starting all the way back in 2003. The attached is a photo from 2005. We spoke with our Fire department last week about this and they directed us to ask you about width and the number? In the past, we mowed them at 40' wide. Do you have any thoughts on that?

Before Fire Prevention: