

SANTIAM CANYON WILDFIRE

Response & Recovery

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OREGON

MARION & LINN COUNTY RECOVERY EFFORT PROGRESS

by Scott McClure, Marion County
Long-Term Disaster Recovery Manager

Much progress has been made recovering from the 2020 fires in the Santiam Canyon. Thousands of people were impacted; many very seriously. While progress is being made, many survivors are struggling. Recovery, both at a personal and canyon-wide level, will be long.

It will take a lot of effort and time to fully recover the canyon. The good news is that there are many hands working on recovery. While it would be impossible to list every person or organization working on wildfire recovery, some major entities include: multiple Federal Government agencies; multiple State of Oregon agencies; Marion County; Santiam Canyon cities; Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments; Santiam Service Integration Team; The Santiam Canyon Wildfire Relief Fund; United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley; Santiam Canyon Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG); Strategic Economic Development Corporation; Detroit Lake Foundation and the Santiam Canyon Wildfire Relief Fund. Many, many individuals and groups are also part of the effort.

Marion County stepped up to lead the government's response to the wildfires. Marion County hired a Disaster Recovery Manager, placed city government specialists in Gates and Detroit, secured emergency funding for Gates and Detroit, acquired additional planning and building services support and commissioned multiple studies that will help with long-term recovery. The Marion County Board of Commissioners is intensely involved in the recovery process, including taking the lead on short-term and long-term housing projects, and most County departments are also involved.

Disaster recovery, however, will not be successful without private citizens and organizations involved. For Santiam Canyon wildfire recovery efforts, the Santiam Service Integration Team (SIT) took on the huge task of providing case management services to survivors. Case Managers help survivors with everything from finding housing, helping with food and medication, gaining emotional and mental health supports, getting through FEMA and private insurance processes and providing information on rebuilding.

The Santiam Canyon Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) is a volunteer driven group that supports individual and families as they recovery from the wildfires. The LTRG is closely tied to the Service Integration Team Case Managers. The LTRG fundraises, coordinates donations, organizes volunteers, provides direct assistance and serves as a key source of information on recovery efforts.

Both the Detroit Lake Foundation and Santiam Canyon Wildfire Relief Fund have raised millions of dollars for the recovery and will play an important role for years to come. Statewide foundations have also been very generous with funding for recovery projects.

Much effort has been put into the recovery process so far. Much will be needed in the future.

In this initial newsletter, we will be taking a deep dive into who the Marion County partners are and what their focus is.

SANTIAM CANYON FEMA ASSISTANCE

If you tried to get help from FEMA by applying for disaster assistance and were found to be ineligible, you can still appeal. Often, it's just a matter of supplying extra documentation or information. It's important to read the determination letter carefully to identify the reason for being declared ineligible. Some common reasons include:

- The person is insured and needs to provide an insurance settlement or denial to be considered for assistance.
- Additional information is needed from the survivor, i.e. proof of identity, proof of occupancy, annual income, or a childcare assistance letter.



- There were multiple registrations using the same address.
- Damage to a secondary residence (where the survivor lives less than six months of the year).
- The home is safe to occupy, and/or personal property had minimum or no damage.
- FEMA is unable to contact the applicant.

Many of these issues can be easily resolved by visiting a Drive-through Disaster Recovery Center or calling the FEMA helpline: 800-621-3362 (TTY) 800-462-7585.

For more information, visit: www.disasterassistance.gov



CANYON CITIES UPDATE

*by Scott McClure, Marion County
Long-Term Disaster Recovery Manager*



The Cities of Detroit, Gates and Mill City all sustained damage in the Beachie Creek/Lionshead fires. Mill City is processing a higher number of building permits than usual. They also worked very hard to help survivors by standing up a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer park and allowing a temporary recreational vehicle park. They are actively engaged with Marion County on some potential housing projects that would help people return to the canyon.

Detroit and Gates sustained significant damage in the fires. They have had to address how to keep their operations going with a significant reduction in water and property tax revenue, how to handle a crush of new building permits and processing their own damage claims through FEMA and insurance companies. Building permit issuance has been complicated by destroyed homes that don't meet current zoning standards, septic tank issues, flood plain issues and countless other complications that vary from lot to lot.

Detroit went several months without water. They now have a Phase I system in place and just got verbal approval from FEMA for their long-term improvements. Detroit City offices were lost in the wildfire, but they hope to be able to move back to Detroit in the near future.

Gates had to replace many water meters that were destroyed in the fire and are working to better protect their water system. The City government has been very supportive of a planned tiny home complex that will be built on the former motel site to help with interim housing needs for wildfire survivors. They have changed their land use rules to allow this new use.

Each of these cities have had to absorb a whole lot of new work, that just gets added to all the regular work and business. They are up to the challenge and working hard for their citizens.

LYONS

Website:
www.cityoflyons.org
Address:
449 5th Street
Lyons, Oregon 97358
Phone: (503) 859-2167

SUBLIMITY

Website:
www.cityofsublimity.org
Address:
245 NW Johnson Street
Sublimity, OR 97385
Phone: (503) 769-5475

MILL CITY

Website:
www.ci.mill-city.or.us
Address:
444 S 1st Ave.
Mill City, OR 97360
Phone: (503) 897-2302

GATES

CHECK OUT GATE'S NEW WEBSITE!

Website:
www.cityofgates.com
Address:
101 Sorbin Ave W
Gates, Oregon 97346
Phone: (503) 897-2669
Email: ctygtes@wbcable.net

DETROIT/IDANHA

Website:
detroitoregon.us
Address:
2340 Martin Drive, #103
Stayton, Oregon 97383
Phone: (503) 854-3496

STAYTON

Website:
www.staytonoregon.gov/
Address:
362 N. 3rd Avenue
Stayton, OR 97383
Phone: (503) 769-3425



The mission of the Santiam Canyon Long Term Recovery Group is to support the recovery efforts of a string of small towns along Oregon's North Santiam River — including Lyons, Mehama, Elkhorn, Mill City, Gates, Detroit, Idanha and Brietenbush.

The Santiam Recovery is currently having a new website developed for the intended purpose of being a one-stop resource to provide victims with information or resource needed to rebuild and restore lives in the Santiam Canyon.

The new website is scheduled to launch by November, 2021.



Better City
Solving Problems. Creating Opportunity.

Better City will be supporting Marion County efforts with new economic development plans, supporting businesses, and creating a future plan for the county.

Their main focus is recovery and helping the Santiam Canyon cities to come back stronger.

SANTIAM SIT

Santiam Service Integration serves as a safety net by facilitating resources and information for individuals and families. The program is designed to coordinate community providers and services to identify needs, find solutions, and avoid duplication of services.

Santiam Service Integration is supporting the Santiam Canyon Wildfire Recovery through the following: Donated resources are coordinated through the Facebook Page, Santiam Canyon Wildfire Relief Fund. These resources will be matched to individuals and families whose needs will be presented to SIT via the extensive network of local service providers already established in the region. Santiam Service Integration helps survivors with appealing FEMA, connecting households with supports for insurance navigation, provide disaster case management for families and individuals who have been displaced from their primary residence among other services.

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SANTIAM CANYON WILDFIRE RELIEF FUND

Our mission is to support residents living in the Santiam Canyon who have been affected by Lionshead and Beachie Creek wildfires by raising funds to provide relief, support the recovery and clean up, and assist in the rebuild of our communities including Idanha, Breitenbush, Detroit, Niagara, Gates, Mill City, Lyons, and Mehama, Oregon.

\$3,370,089

AMOUNT DONATED

\$1,849,269

AMOUNT DISPURSED

1,186 FAMILIES SERVED

2,246 ADULTS SERVED

863 CHILDREN SERVED

DETROIT LAKE FOUNDATION

The mission of the Detroit Lake Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for residents and establish a sustainable economic recovery to ensure that the city thrives for current and future generations.

The Detroit Lake Foundation, along with the Santiam Rebuild Coalition created by SEDCOR aligned with the common goal of building the Detroit Lake Community Center. The center will be nearly 24,000 square feet of space which will be used for various activities.

- Event Space For Lease - Space to host community/visitor events year-round.
- Office Space & Equipment
- Historic and Educational Feature of Detroit's History
- Daycare and Early Education at the Center to Support Families of Detroit.

The main purpose of the community center is to create a true space for community - where all walks of life can come together to engage and grow. This is the first of many planned projects to help the Detroit community rebuild. Learn more at: www.detroitlakefoundation.org.



United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley

For over 80 years, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley has been working to meet the needs of vulnerable families in our region. No matter the crisis, we have always remained steadfast in our commitment to take care of our community. When the wildfires wreaked havoc across our region, forcing thousands of people to evacuate and seek shelter, we immediately jumped into action with a Resource Hub to meet their most pressing needs.

Today, we are facilitating Long Term Recovery by structuring the effort to support families and communities by working with nonprofit partners, county, city and federal teams to help our friends rebuild and thrive. This effort will continue for the next four to six years.

Learn more at:
www.unitedwaymwv.org/santiam-canyon-long-term-recovery



MARION COUNTY REBUILD PROGRESS REPORT



BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED: 285
38% of estimated repairs and replacements



SEPTIC PERMITS ISSUED: 369
53% of estimated repairs and replacements



DEBRIS CLEANUP: 330 OF 489 HOME SITES IN ODOT PROGRAM CLEARED
67.5%



HAZARD TREE REMOVAL - 13,943 OF 25,500 TREES REMOVED
62%

HELPFUL RESOURCES

MARION COUNTY
www.co.marion.or.us

Marion County Commissioners
www.co.marion.or.us/BOC

CLEAN UP EFFORTS
EPA Household Hazardous Waste
541-225-5549

Marion County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
3250 Deer Park Dr., Salem,

Marion County Environmental Services
503-588-5169
environmentalservices@co.marion.or.us

ODOT Debris Removal
503-934-1700
odot.wildfire@odot.state.or.us

SCWRF Property Clean-up
503-881-9846
troy.gulfstrom@gmail.com

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FEMA
800-621-3362
disasterassistance.gov

Santiam Canyon Wildfire Relief Fund
503-409-3652
sitmobile@santiamhospital.org

Small Business Association
800-659-2955
FOCWAssistance@sba.gov

MENTAL HEALTH
Psychiatric Crisis Center (24/7)
503-585-4949

Marion County Youth & Family Crisis Services
Youth - 24 years of age
503-576-4673

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (free, confidential, 24/7)
800-273-8255

REBUILD RESOURCES
Construction Contractors Board
503-378-4621
<http://search.ccb.state.or.us/search>

Home Builders Association
503-399-1500
www.homebuildersassociation.org

Linn County Permits
541-967-3816
www.ci.linn.or.us

Marion County Permits
503-588-5147
building@co.marion.or.us

SEDCOR Santiam Rebuild Coalition
nharville@sedcor.com

TAX RELIEF
Oregon: 503-378-4988
www.oregon.gov
Federal:
<https://go.usa.gov/xgnbq>