



ODF Wildland-Urban Interface and Statewide Wildfire Risk Mapping Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC)

December 9, 2021 Meeting Summary

I. Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
8:45 – 9:00 a.m. (15 mins)	<i>Pre-Meeting: Project Team Joins Early</i>
9:00 – 9:15 a.m. (15 mins)	Welcome, Agenda & Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Updates from ODF Agenda Review Materials and Meeting Requests
9:15 – 9:30 a.m. (15 mins)	Review Updated Workplan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll Questions (Excel) Big Picture RAC Flowchart (PP)
9:30 – 9:40 a.m. (20 mins)	Update Q #11: Should the department consider future growth, including planned undeveloped urban growth boundaries, as within the WUI boundary? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation (from 11/18): The Department recommends areas of existing and planned development, within the urban growth boundary or unincorporated communities, be included in the WUI boundary.
9:40 – 9:50 a.m. (20 mins)	Update Q #15: Should the next wildfire risk assessment take projected future regrowth into account? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation (from 11/18): The Department recommends that we don't take projected future regrowth into account, new risk assessments should capture regrowth as it occurs on the ground for accuracy purposes.
9:50 – 10:00 a.m. (10 mins)	<i>Break</i>
10:00 – 12:40 a.m. (80 mins)	NEW Q #12 In order to protect the homes most at risk from the impacts of wildland fire as it moves into communities, the State must establish and define factors to identify the internal (urban) and external (wildland) boundaries of the WUI. What should they be?



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation: The Department recommends the following, which are consistent with the regional and federal guidelines: The WUI is a geographic area with a minimum of one structure or other human development per 40 acres and: 1. A minimum of 50% wildland or vegetative fuels; or 2. within 2.4 km of an area greater than 5 km² with a minimum of 75% wildland or vegetative fuels; or 3. An existing and planned development, within the urban growth boundary or unincorporated communities, that is not identified in (1) or (2) (Question 11). 4. WUI also includes occluded geographic areas with a minimum of one structure or other human development per 40-acres within 2.4 km of an area greater than 2.6km² but less than 5km² with a minimum of 75% wildland or vegetative.
12:40 – 12:45 p.m. (5 mins)	<i>Stretch-Break</i>
12:45 – 12:55 p.m. (10 mins)	Public Comment
12:55 – 1:00 p.m. (5 mins)	Process Check-in, if Needed Next Steps Confirm action items, discuss follow-up, and share topics for next meeting.
1:00 p.m.	Adjourn

II. Relevant Links

1. Oct. 14th, 2021 Official Meeting Record: See, <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Pages/rac.aspx>
2. ODF RAC Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/board/Pages/rac.aspx>
3. Oregon Explorer Natural Resources Digital Library: <https://oregonexplorer.info/topics/wildfire-risk?ptopic=62>
4. Oregon Explorer Statewide Map: https://tools.oregonexplorer.info/OE_HtmlViewer/index.html?viewer=wildfireplanning



III. RAC Discussion Protocol on ODF Recommendations

(Modified During 10-14-21 RAC Meeting)

1. State Question
2. ODF and/or OSU Recommendation(s)
3. Use: a) OAR, b) Implementation, or c) Both
4. Basis for Recommendation (e.g., the reasoning behind it.)
5. What the Recommendation Does NOT Mean
6. RAC Clarifying Questions
7. Member Discussion with Q&A
8. Preliminary and/or Final Polling
9. Document Result:
 - a) Consensus or No Consensus
 - b) Revisit Next Meeting or Later in Process
10. Reminder: Either Way, Opportunity for RAC Member Comments to Accompany ODF Staff Report to Board



IV. Participant Attendance List

Organization	RAC Member	Attended	RAC Alternate	Attended
1000 Friends	Mary Kyle McCurdy	X		
Associated Oregon Loggers	Amanda Astor	X	Rex Storm	
Association of Oregon Counties	Mallorie Roberts	X	Drenda Howatt	X
Association of Oregon County Planning Directors	Holly Kerns	X	Lindsey Eicher or Jill Rolfe	
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	Jason Robison	X	Tim Vrendenburg	
Department of Land Use & Conservation	Jon Jinings	X	Sadie Carney	X
Hood River County Planning Commission	Leti Moretti			
Jackson County Fire	Robert (Bob) Horton			
League of Oregon Cities	Jim McCauley	X		
Office of the State Fire Marshal	Travis Medema	X	Chad Hawkins	X
Oregon Farm Bureau	Lauren Smith		Mary Anne Cooper	
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association	Nicole Palmateer Hazelbaker	X		
Oregon Fire Marshall's Association	Shawn Olson	X	Tanner Fairrington or Ryan Kragero	X
Oregon Forest Industries Council	Kyle Williams	X	Mike Eliason	X
Oregon Home Builders	Mark Long	X	Karna Gustafson	
Oregon Property Owner's Association	Dave Hunnicut	X	Samantha Bayer	
Oregon Small Woodlands Association	Roger Beyer	X		
Oregon State University	Chris Dunn	X		
Oregon State University	Erica Fischer	X		
Sisters Fire	Roger Johnson		Garrett Mosher	X
Special Districts Association	Michele Bradley	X	Jason Jantzi	
Sustainable Northwest	Dylan Kruse	X		
Tualatin Valley Fire	Les Hallman	X		
Western Environmental Law Center	Pam Hardy	X	Marlee Goska	
The Nature Conservancy	Amelia Porterfield	X	Kerry Metlen	X
Oregon State University – Institute of Natural Resources	Megan Creutzburg	X		



Non-Voting Information Sources

ODF	Tim Holschbach	Jenna Trentadue
ODF	Derek Gasperini	Adam Meyer
ODF	Tom Fields	
USFS	Ian Rickert	
BLM	Richard Parrish	

Visitors

Ben Deumling— Board of Forestry
Amber Cross
Andy McEvoy
Carine Arendes
Chase Browning
JTRYON
K Stevenson
Mayor Sally Russell
Meghan Tuttle
Myrica McCune
Peggy Lynch
Shawn Durham
Sadie
503-407-3334
503-428-6228

Facilitator

Sam Imperati, ICM resolutions



V. Polling

Poll Question #12: In order to protect the homes most at risk from the impacts of wildland fire as it moves into communities, the state must establish and define factors to identify the internal (urban) and external (wildland) boundaries of the WUI. What should they be?

ODF Recommendation: The Department recommends the following, which are consistent with the regional and federal guidelines: The WUI is a geographic area with a minimum of one structure or other human development per 40 acres and:

1. A minimum of 50% wildland or vegetative fuels; or
2. within 2.4 km of an area greater than 5 km² with a minimum of 75% wildland or vegetative fuels; or
3. An existing and planned development, within the urban growth boundary or unincorporated communities, that is not identified in (1) or (2) (Question 11).
4. WUI also includes occluded geographic areas with a minimum of one structure or other human development per 40-acres within 2.4 km of an area greater than 2.6 km² but less than 5 km² with a minimum of 75% wildland or vegetative *. **NOTE:** The word, “fuels” was inadvertently dropped.

Organization	Contact Person	Not Here	Abstain = 0	1	2	3
1000 Friends	Mary Kyle McCurdy					
Associated Oregon Loggers	Amanda Astor/ Rex Storm				X	
Association of Oregon Counties	Mallorie Roberts/ Drenda Howatt					
Association of Oregon County Planning Directors	Holly Kerns / Lindsey Eicher or Jill Rolfe			X*		
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	Jason Robison/ Tim Vrendenburg			X		
Department of Land Use & Conservation	Jon Jinings / Sadie Carney				X	
Hood River County Planning Commission	Leti Moretti	X				
Jackson County Fire	Robert (Bob) Horton	X				
League of Oregon Cities	Jim McCauley			X		
Office of the State Fire Marshal	Travis Medema/ Chad Hawkins			X		
Oregon Farm Bureau	Lauren Smith/Mary Anne Cooper	X				



Oregon Fire Chiefs Association	Nicole Palmateer Hazelbaker			X		
Oregon Fire Marshall's Association	Shawn Olson / Tanner Fairrington or Ryan Kragero			X		
Oregon Forest Industries Council	Kyle Williams/ Mike Eliaison					X*
Oregon Home Builders	Mark Long/ Karna Gustafson				X	
Oregon Property Owner's Association	Dave Hunnicut / Samantha Bayer					X
Oregon Small Woodlands Association	Roger Beyer					X
Oregon State University	Chris Dunn			X		
Oregon State University	Erica Fischer			X		
Sisters Fire	Roger Johnson/Garrett Mosher			X		
Special Districts Association	Michele Bradley / Jason Jantzi				X*	
Sustainable Northwest	Dylan Kruse			X		
Tualatin Valley Fire	Les Hallman			X		
Western Environmental Law Center	Pam Hardy/ Marlee Goska			X		
The Nature Conservancy	Amelia Porterfield/ Kerry Metlen			X		
Oregon State University – Institute of Natural Resources	Megan Creutzburg					
	TOTALS:	3		13*	4*	3*
	CODE	Not Here	Abstain	1	2	3

*NOTE: After the poll, there was further discussion. Members subsequently changed the position as follows:

- A) Michele Bradley: Was 2, now 1 for
- B) Kyle Williams RAC: I was a 3, I could probably be a 2. Just trying to make sure we create the best most credible outcome possible.
- C) Holly Kerns: Was 1, now 2. Further refinement would be a benefit, and the Planning Directors have expressed a lot of discomfort with the 1 home per 40-acre standard.



RESULT: No Consensus

Summary of Major Reasons in Support: See Meeting Recording

Minority Proposal: See Meeting Recording

Summary of Major in Reasons in Opposition: See Meeting Recording



VI. Meeting Chat

09:03:02 From Jon Jinings, DLCD :

Good Morning, Everyone! Jon Jinings, DLCD

09:08:20 From Megan Creutzburg, Inst for Natural Resources :

Hi Jon! And thanks for sending out your video of the drive through the fire to the group!

09:09:24 From RAC - Jon Jinings, DLCD :

Hi, Megan. I'm glad you found it interesting 😊

09:16:06 From RAC - Jon Jinings, DLCD :

Great question, Amanda.

09:17:34 From RAC - Jon Jinings, DLCD :

So what Tim is describing is the identification of the "geographic area," correct?

09:18:00 From RAC, Amanda Astor - AOL :

Thanks Jon

09:21:31 From Mary Kyle McCurdy (she/her) :

I was switching from phone to computer and so missed the opportunity for this question on the flow chart: it says "Are you on lands OWNED by members of socially and economically distressed communities..." Members of these communities are unlikely to own their land (e.g., this displaced from mobile home parks in the Alameda fire, and undoubtedly in other places). Is "owned" the term meant? If so, I don't think we are actually meeting the objective.

09:24:31 From RAC - Erica Fischer, Oregon State University :

Mary Kyle - that is the exact language in SB762, but I understand your point and I have written this down to look into further.

09:24:43 From RAC, Amanda Astor - AOL :

From the bill...

09:24:45 From RAC, Amanda Astor - AOL :

(a) On lands owned by members of socially and economically vulnerable communities, persons with limited proficiency in English and persons of lower income as defined in ORS 456.055.



09:25:50 From RAC Mary Kyle McCurdy (she/her) :

Thanks, Erica. I am sorry we did not catch it there! So I guess the issue is - are we limited by that? I just don't think that will get us to where we want to be.

09:29:25 From Holly Kerns, AOC PD- RAC :

Great point about ownership Mary Kyle, thanks.

09:29:42 From RAC, Amanda Astor - AOL :

Agreed

09:29:58 From RAC - Pam Hardy, WELC :

Mary Kyle makes an excellent point. As I understand it, the purpose is to provide extra assistance to those who are most vulnerable. The most vulnerable are not frequently landowners. Suggestion: ... owned or occupied ..."

09:31:38 From RAC Mary Kyle McCurdy (she/her) :

Thanks, all, Let's try to figure out how to get there. For example, could the agency ask if we could use language like that suggested by Pam Hardy? Other ideas?

09:32:40 From RAC - Jon Jinings, DLCD :

Dr. Dunn - We should have data for unincorporated communities. Here is a list of potential unincorporated communities in Oregon. It isn't entirely definitive but it should give an idea. Of course many (most?) of these communities won't be at risk.

https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/LAR/Documents/div022_survey_unincorp-communities.pdf

09:33:05 From RAC - Jon Jinings, DLCD :

Thanks, Jim. Great point.

09:36:10 From RAC - Erica Fischer, Oregon State University :

Thank you for all of the comments on the flow chart! These are very helpful.

09:36:37 From RAC - Chris Dunn, Oregon State University :

Thanks Jon. And please call me Chris.

09:40:20 From RAC - Megan Creutzburg, Inst for Natural Resources :

I understand that rationale Tim but that will make it so many communities that have recently burned will not have requirements to rebuild in a more fire-safe manner. It may take two or more cycles of risk assessment to see those fuels grow back and the longer-term risk be captured



09:45:00 From RAC - Pam Hardy, WELC :

The projected life cycle of the building should be considered in light of expected future risk when determining how to build back.

09:58:27 From RAC - Megan Creutzburg, Inst for Natural Resources :

This is an awesome visual, Erica!

10:05:18 From RAC Alt Kerry Metlen | The Nature Conservancy :

Clarifying question, what is the mapping unit? Is it a census block? Ownership parcel? Or pixel? If a pixel, of what size?

10:10:36 From RAC - Megan Creutzburg, Inst for Natural Resources :

Erica's mention of Washington's approach made me search for the Washington WUI map and they have a pretty cool storymap online. It would be great to have something similar for Oregon, it really walks folks through what the WUI is and how it was mapped:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7016c437623a445997c072a05e26afbb>

10:18:01 From RAC - Chris Dunn, Oregon State University :

Microsoft Building Footprints with DOGAMI updates

10:19:13 From RAC, Amanda Astor - AOL :

Here is the paper I referenced which is open access - <https://www.mdpi.com/2571-6255/3/4/73>

10:21:53 From RAC Alt Kerry Metlen | The Nature Conservancy :

So my understanding is that the analysis will be done at the level of the pixel (30mx30m), looking at a moving window which will focus the definition and yet provide buffers on structures and other human development. From there, properties will be allocated with WUI based on the pixel-based mapping.

10:24:51 From Derek Gasperini—ODF :

Sorry everyone, my Zoom connection crashed and stopped the recording.

10:34:59 From RAC - Dave Hunnicutt :

The 1/40 standard might appear in the Fed Register, but that does not make it a "national standard". As I understand it, the definition in the Fed Register had no regulatory impact. It was not used to establish regulations, like SB 762 requires. If we want to stick to "national standards" we need to focus on apples to apples standards, where the WUI definition is being used to create regulatory impacts.



10:38:10 From Kyle Williams RAC (OFIC) :

I'm good Sam, thanks for the clarification Chris. I still wonder about the mechanics of the difference between California's influence zone, and our 2.4km screen? I also want to add that the "National Standards" seem very clear to me that they are a framework from which states and other entities can work from. The process for establishing them is far below the bar for regulatory standards.

10:41:38 From RAC - Dave Hunnicutt :

When ODF published its Communities At Risk report in 2020, the agency did not use the WUI definition that they are advocating here. Your WUI definition, interface community definition and intermix definition all appear to rely upon the federal register, but seem to be significantly different than what you're proposing now. Why are we changing the requirements now?

10:43:09 From RAC - Dave Hunnicutt :

Are you saying Jon that LCDC won't be proposing any new land use regulations beyond design standards from OSFM and DCBS?

11:17:57 From RAC - Jon Jinings, DLCD :

I do, absolutely, respect attorneys.

11:31:43 From Tim Holschbach :

The Department recommends the following, which are consistent with the regional and federal guidelines:

The WUI is a geographic area with a minimum of one structure or other human development per 40 acres and:

1. A minimum of 50% wildland or vegetative fuels; or
2. within 2.4 km of an area greater than 5 km² with a minimum of 75% wildland or vegetative fuels; or
3. An existing and planned development, within the urban growth boundary or unincorporated communities, that is not identified in (1) or (2) (Question 11).
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11:35:13 From RAC - Michele Bradley :

3. Future growth is so unpredictable. I can be swayed to be a 1 instead of 2

11:40:06 From RAC-OFMA Shawn Olson :

Sam-Tanner Ferrington is stepping in for me, for a moment. Shawn



11:51:40 From RAC - Jon Jinings, DLCD :

Thanks, Dave, et al. I would simply add that LCDC's policies on rural and urban are in the context of Statewide Planning Goal 14. I believe the term "urban" in this discussion is better viewed in the context of the International WUI Code, which, to the best of my understanding, makes no such distinctions.

12:16:01 From Alt RAC Tanner Fairrington - OFMA :

I'm transferring back over to Shawn. Thank you for the responses!

12:35:57 From RAC Alt | Kerry Metlen | The Nature Conservancy :

The analytical unit is a 0.222395 ac pixel :)

12:37:01 From RAC - Dylan Kruse, Sustainable Northwest :

Kerry with those hard hitting stats.

12:38:11 From Sam Imperati :

0.222395 ... really! What about .222396?

12:39:11 From RAC - Megan Creutzburg, Inst for Natural Resources :

That size would be a complete game changer, Sam :)

12:48:19 From RAC - Jon Jinings, DLCD :

Isn't "constitute a fire hazard" key to the determination of what are "Vegetative fuels?"

12:51:14 From RAC - Erica Fischer, Oregon State University :

The definition that we have come up with is: "Vegetative fuels" are "those plants that during any time of year contain enough plant growth, slash or debris to constitute a fire hazard."

12:54:00 From RAC - Pam Hardy, WELC :

So lawn is very unlikely to constitute a fire hazard.

12:54:53 From RAC - Michele Bradley :

Was 2, now 1 for

12:55:45 From Kyle Williams RAC (OFIC) :

I was a 3, I could probably be a 2. Just trying to make sure we create the best most credible outcome possible.

12:55:56 From Holly Kerns, AOC PD- RAC :



Was 1, now 2. Further refinement would be a benefit, and the Planning Directors have expressed a lot of discomfort with the 1 home per 40 acre standard.

12:57:28 **From RAC - Jason Robison :**

Take what I gave you last year and double it.