

DRAFT November 6, 2019 Subcommittee on Federal Forests

In attendance:

Board members:

Joe Justice

Nils Christoffersen

Cindy Deacon Williams

Ex-Officio

Tom Imeson

Salem Staff:

Peter Daugherty

Chad Davis

Hilary Olivos-Rood

Public:

Rex Storm

Linda Lind

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm

State Forester Daugherty completed roll call.

Introduction and Agenda Review

Chair Christoffersen announced the issues in front of the Subcommittee, and suggested for the members to continue to focus on in 2020. He established the goals for the meeting before reviewing the main topic.

Shared Stewardship Agreement Overview

- State Forester Daugherty offered some background on the Shared Stewardship Agreement and explained why it is not necessarily the same way business has been done before. Noted a shift of power between Federal and State government was discussed and other collaborative agreements which are done by other states were reviewed. Stated a desire to formalize the Oregon Way, pace, and scale of treatments on Federal lands and thought the shared stewardship agreement is a good fit with the interagency Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) program. Characterized this agreement as an evolution of the agencies relationship and collaborative nature. He outlined what the agreement includes for stakeholder engagement, forest resilience goals, and overall vision to jointly determine management needs on a statewide scale, and the use of all available tools.
- Commented on a 20-year plan was included that explicitly called out direct actions to build in accountability, and as a starting point with other partners who planned to become part of the greater framework. Shared commitment and focus with outcomes and metrics were discussed. Stated a Forest Action Plan that sets state priorities will need to be updated, and how state involvement will help set the 20-year strategic plan, which is filled by the Governor's Wildfire Response Council (GWRC). Discussed how local communities will establish levels of treatments and work with stakeholders on the appropriate tools, as well become integrated into USFS planning with consideration of the agency's five-year operational plan. Noted how the plan will also include an interagency effort on staff sharing to meet agencies goals.

- Highlighted shared stewardship agreement next steps.
 - Bring in potential external partner collaborative groups like Non Government Organizations (NGO's) and determine how they would like to participate. Identified a need for some collaborative decision framework to be set in place, as the remaining portions of the agreement are shaped and implemented.
 - Noted a consideration of Federal funding to match State funding.
 - Listed a goal to update ODF district staff with the collaborative information that merges, especially in the Northeast region of Oregon.
- Davis commented on how the agreement will hold up with the change in administration, funding and agencies priorities over the next 20 years. He emphasized partnership involvement and sustainability were considered.
- Davis reviewed the need to pull out the substantive and relevant data shared across the interagency resources and shared some of the challenges of the agreement. He then discussed how the prioritization will be surveyed, selected, and communicated. Note that consideration was also given to how state and federal agency relationships and goals may differ between other states within the Pacific Northwest.
- Lind commented that ODF is the facilitator of the agreement and that it is statewide. Stated that information is beginning to be disseminated on how shared stewardship works with other agencies in Oregon. Noted the goal is to have more impact on a greater scale. She described the nexus of the GWRC with the shared stewardship agreement.
- Board members provided feedback.
 - Consider holding discussions on policy guidance for the Department as they proceed in implementation of the shared stewardship agreement. The language in the agreement is quite expansive, but the Board should weigh-in on what the Board perceives as priorities.
 - Reviewed what areas of Board guidance may be helpful in the efforts to implement the agreement's objectives. Discussed starting with a review of the value sets, created from the agreement, and determine the specific areas the Department's actions will be optimized.
 - Addressed the need to consider communities more broadly, to not limit to human communities, and include wildlife communities. Davis mentioned the Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment (QWRA) and the benefit for the Subcommittee members to review. He stated he will distribute to Subcommittee Board member to help explain the GWRC analysis and may also help better understand the intent of the shared stewardship agreement. Noted that he will outline sections of the agreement to indicate the work people are most likely willing to implement.
 - Reviewed the infrastructure elements within the agreement and how these elements are covered in the QWRA. State Forester Daugherty commented on the Department's involvement with the study. Discussed how the agreement may inform and decipher who should participate in the next revision.
 - Clarified the priorities of the agreement and what decision space is available on a local level. Asked members to consider how these values, priorities, and

objectives translate. Established need to set the appropriate parameters and incentives that are beneficial and useable on a local level.

- Discussed the consideration for a state pool of revenue, created through interagency efforts, to address non-revenue generating treatments in areas across the State. Stated there is a need to consider authorities or jurisdictional parameters that may be out of date, and this may provide opportunity for a Federal policy review and provide room to work with the Department.
- Thought about the scope of the work overall, and whether or not this remains on the mitigation side or whether it should expand to include the crossover of work in other divisions, as well as other partner agencies and inclusion of NGO or stakeholders.

Subcommittee Next Steps

- Discussed how the subcommittee can shepherd next steps after the Federal Forest (FF) workgroup is established, and potentially be reconfigured to carry out the GWRC recommendations and updates.
- Reviewed the creation of the shared stewardship advisory committee, where it would be housed if assigned, and how the FF subcommittee can help with facilitating conversations with the Governor to initiate this idea (e.g., Idaho shared stewardship group). State Forester Daugherty stated he will share the Idaho information with the Subcommittee members.

Public Comment

- No further comment provided.

Wrap-up Summary and Next Steps

- Chair Christoffersen recommended the subcommittee meet again on January 7, the afternoon prior to the Board meeting for approximately two hours, and as late in the day as possible. The Subcommittee Chair and State Forester will flush out agenda for January 7, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON WILDFIRE RESPONSE

November 2019: Executive Summary

Purpose

In response to increased wildfire risks affecting all Oregonians, Governor Brown signed an executive order creating the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response in January 2019. The Council is tasked with reviewing Oregon's current model for wildfire prevention, preparedness and response, and analyzing the sustainability of the current model to provide recommendations to strengthen, improve, or replace existing systems.

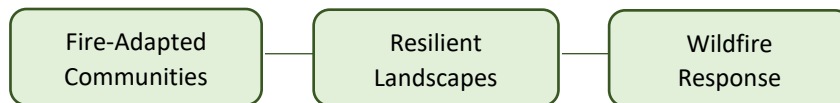
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Call to Action

Governor Kate Brown issued Executive Order 19-01 on January 30, 2019, establishing the Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response, and directing the Council to review Oregon’s current model for wildfire prevention, preparedness and response, analyzing whether or not the current model is sustainable given our increasing wildfire risks. To the extent this review identified insufficient or unsustainable systems, the Council was directed to develop recommendations for improvements.

In summary, upon extensive review over the course of 2019, the Council identified the need for comprehensive change. Consistent with best practices, the Council adopted the framework proposed by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which establishes three goals:



To create fire-adapted communities, Oregon must leverage its land-use system to improve structural resiliency to wildfire, enhance defensible space surrounding structures, and ensure adequate access and egress in the event of wildfire events. Further, Oregon must ensure its electrical utilities implement best-practice risk mitigation strategies to reduce human-caused ignitions. Emergency response, disaster recovery and health systems must modernize to fully consider wildfire risks, particularly to Oregon’s most vulnerable communities and populations.

To restore and maintain resilient landscapes, the state must actively manage its forests and rangelands, and prioritize treatments (thinning, prescribed burns, fuel removal) on 5.6 million acres of Oregon’s highest-risk natural systems. The costs of such treatments are significant, estimated at \$4 billion over 20 years, but warranted given the far-greater costs of inaction. Studies suggest the comprehensive costs of wildfire (e.g., economic losses, lost taxes, damages to ecosystem services, destruction of infrastructure, depreciated property values, etc.) on average, are 11 times greater than the immediate costs of firefighting. With firefighting costs exceeding \$500 million during high-fire seasons, comprehensive costs to Oregonians total several billion dollars – for a single year. Over a 20-year time span, comprehensive costs to Oregonians may easily total tens of billions of dollars. By investing in restoration treatments, Oregon may avoid these costs while creating green jobs in rural Oregon.

The most effective immediate remedy to wildfire is suppression, and after years of disinvestment, Oregon must invest to modernize its firefighting services. Oregon reduced its firefighting capacities during the Global Financial Crisis, and despite significant escalations in wildfire activity, has not yet regained these losses. Further, the breadth of wildfire activity in Oregon has grown in recent years, resulting in loss of human life, and destruction of valuable state assets. The State must expand the scope of its protection services, adding over 1 million acres to the 16 million acres it already protects to ensure all lands in Oregon have adequate wildfire protection.

As across western states, climate change, population growth, and record fuel levels combine to create a growing wildfire debt in Oregon, requiring an immediate and sustained response to mitigate risks statewide. This report contains recommendations that, together, constitute a necessary course correction. Through implementing these recommendations, Oregon has the opportunity to protect its citizens and natural resources, while providing much-needed jobs and rural revitalization.

Goal 1: Create Fire-Adapted Communities

Recommendation 1: Transmission System Wildfire Plan

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon legislature pass legislation requiring utilities to prepare risk-based, wildfire standards and procedures inclusive of criteria for initiating power outages. • The Oregon Public Utilities Commission (OPUC) use workshops to develop these risk-based standards and procedures. • All utilities and transmission and distribution system owners participate in these workshops.
Policy Type	New legislation, rulemaking, engagement
Additional Staff	None – authorize existing staff to organize and facilitate the workshop
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 2: Defensible Space

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and implementation of 2017 revision of Oregon Forestland Urban Interface Protection Act. • Support adoption of International Council Wildland Urban Interface Code through Oregon’s Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and local jurisdiction. • Create a mitigation fund to help underserved populations. • Support mapping and tracking of defensible space status.
Policy Type	Fund existing legislation, rulemaking, agency personnel, agency action
Additional Staff	8 - OSFM 12 - Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
Non-Staff Funding	Included under Land Use
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 3: Building Codes

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of interagency workgroup and policy decision-making committee to identify code gaps, needed updates, and assist local jurisdictions with updates. • Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) work with counties and cities on rulemaking for land use planning related to reducing wildfire risk. Adopting Building Codes standards such as R327 are an option for risk reduction. • As needed, update wildfire related building codes and establish goals for local adoption with State assistance. State to issue best practices guidance for code application with process recommendations for local jurisdictions to follow.
Policy Type	Agency action
Additional Staff	None anticipated at this time
Non-Staff Funding	None known at this time
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 4: Land Use

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State agencies create a wildfire risk map informed by state information that can be used at the property ownership level. • In coordination with cities and counties, the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) undertake rulemaking (under Goal 7) to adopt minimum standards for local governments to plan for wildfire risk. • State agencies (DLCD, ODF, and OSFM) provide technical assistance resources to counties and cities to implement wildfire risk planning, zoning, or development of mitigation standards.
Policy Type	Rulemaking, agency personnel, agency action, other: local government adoption and implementation.
Additional Staff	5 - DLCD
Non-Staff Funding	<p>\$12,000,000 in technical assistance grants to assist local governments with adoption and implementation.</p> <p>Wildfire Risk Information Development: \$75,000 year to maintain and update fire hazard data on Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer</p>
Priority	VERY HIGH

Recommendation 5: Property Insurance – Risk Mitigation Incentives

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and encourage insurance industry implementation of innovative policy changes and underwriting standards. These updates would motivate policy holders to make changes aligned with Oregon Cohesive Wildfire Strategies; to harden structures, provide for and maintain defensible space, create access for fire vehicles and evacuation routes. • Create a risk map for wildfire risk informed by State information that can be used at the property ownership level.
Policy Type	Other: Voluntary partnership with private insurance industry
Additional Staff	None
Non-Staff Funding	None anticipated at this time
Priority	VERY HIGH

Recommendation 6: Health – Air Filtration Systems

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>Oregon legislature create a new funding program designed to accelerate the installation of air filtration systems for low-income residences.</p>
Policy Type	Fund current programs (OAR 411-087-0010)
Additional Staff	Two FTE at \$250,000 per biennium = \$500,000
Non-Staff Funding	\$4,000,000
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 7: Health – Remove Barriers to Air Filtration Systems Installation

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) facilitate a multi-stakeholder discussion to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and remove barriers to residential air filtration systems and; • Discern the degree to which renters are protected from wildfire impacts.
Policy Type	Agency action
Additional Staff	None - authorize OHA staff to facilitate this process
Non-Staff Funding	Minimal
Priority	HIGH

Recommendation 8: Health – Air Quality Monitors

Description	Recommend: The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) install and maintain additional air quality monitoring systems.
Policy Type	Legislation, rulemaking, agency action
Additional Staff	4 FTE at \$250,000 per biennium = \$1MM
Non-Staff Funding	\$275,000
Priority	VERY HIGH

Recommendation 9: Health and Disaster Recovery – Regional Staffing

Description	Recommend: Six regional positions are added to Oregon’s Emergency Management System (OEM).
Policy Type	Legislation, rulemaking, agency action
Additional Staff	6 FTE at \$250,000 per biennium = \$1.5MM
Non-Staff Funding	Minimal; relates to creating office space in existing facilities throughout Oregon
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 10: Disaster Recovery – Stafford Act Reform

Description	Recommend: Oregon Federal delegation explore the feasibility of reforming the Stafford Act.
Policy Type	Letter from Governor Brown and Legislative leadership to the Oregon Delegation.
Additional Staff	No additional staff required
Non-Staff Funding	Minimal
Priority	HIGH

Recommendation 11: Disaster Recovery – Local Economic Opportunity Fund

Description	Recommend: Oregon Legislature authorize funds to the Local Economic Opportunity Fund (LEOF) to support local business wildfire preparation efforts.
Policy Type	Existing legislation
Additional Staff	1 FTE at \$250,000 per biennium
Non-Staff Funding	\$1,000,000
Priority	HIGH

Recommendation 12: Property Insurance – Access & Affordability

Description	Recommend: Oregon Insurance Commission monitors the property insurance market to ensure continued access to affordable insurance.
Policy Type	New legislation, agency action, rulemaking
Additional Staff	None
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	MODERATE

Goal 2: Restore and Maintain Resilient Landscapes

Recommendation 13: Leadership & Governance

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state establish clear governance regarding the deployment of significant state resources for restoration treatments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leadership and governance related to restoration treatments should align with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The overall governance structure of Oregon’s Cohesive Wildfire Strategy (outlined in “Cross-Functional Support Systems” of this report); and ▪ The Shared Stewardship Agreement between the State of Oregon and the US Department of Agriculture. • Clear lines of accountability should ensure the state is meeting its responsibilities to taxpayers, and that state investments are directed toward high-priority projects meeting pre-defined criteria. • Clear performance metrics be established. • Monitoring systems must verify metrics are met and ensure appropriate course corrections are pursued.
Policy Type	New legislation
Additional Staff	Dependent upon outcome of governance structure
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 14: Near-Term Capital Infusion

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state should build a long-term sustainable funding model, to treat 300,000 acres per year at a gross cost of approximately \$200 million annually. • These funds should be obtained from multiple sources, including federal and state investments, and timber and other revenues, as described in the Funding Strategy section of this report. • The state should not wait for the development of a long-term sustainable funding model, but should catalyze the treatment program to the full extent possible through available state funds. • The state should leverage state investment to attract maximum federal investment. • The state should build a strategic financial plan to project revenues from state and federal funding, timber, conservation and other non-commodity markets. • The strategic financial plan should incorporate state parameters for investment, to ensure optimal return-on-investment. • To the extent allowable, a long-term funding structure would be advantageous.
Policy Type	New legislation
Additional Staff	None
Non-Staff Funding	Dependent upon outcomes
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 15: Prioritization

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state should adopt the 2018 Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment (QRA) as the basis for prioritization of its restoration treatments, and improve/adopt future QRA analyses to continue prioritization treatments for greatest uplift. • The state set a goal to treat 5.6 million acres of high-priority forests and rangelands from 2020-2039. • The state should support the update and improvement of future QRA projects, starting with the next cycle in 2020. • The state put in place the comprehensive strategy and funding needed to achieve these objectives.
Policy Type	Agency action
Additional Staff	None
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 16: Near-Term Restoration Treatments

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent upon near-term state and federal funding capacity (Recommendation 2), the state should immediately implement maximum number of high-priority and/or available treatment projects. • Projects should fall within high-risk areas as defined by QRA, and within other regions providing substantial benefits to the state. • Publicly funded projects should target areas without sufficient commercial timber capacity to offset treatment costs. • Treatment on federal lands should target already NEPA-approved projects (currently totaling 2 million acres). • Treatment on non-federal lands should target willing landowners. • Funding should be directed toward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Field work; ○ Additional staffing of Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) foresters; and ○ Additional staffing for procurement and contract administration.
Policy Type	Fund existing legislation
Additional Staff	Dependent on funding availability
Non-Staff Funding	Dependent on funding availability
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 17: Building Project Pipeline

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with OSU Extension, National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), American Forest Foundation and other local community-based organizations to identify willing private landowners. • Contracting for environmental planning and analysis to advance future projects on federal land. • Interagency collaboration on unit layout for federal restoration projects.
Policy Type	Fund existing legislation
Additional Staff	Dependent upon funding availability
Non-Staff Funding	Dependent upon funding availability
Priority	VERY HIGH

Recommendation 18: Capacity Building

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODF and OSU Extension capacity via appropriations, with the respective roles of ODF and OSU Extension better clarified. • Federal capacity via advocacy. • Private workforce capacity via collaboration with education centers. • Collaborative capacity via Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFR), OWEB via Collaborative Capacity Grants.
Policy Type	Fund existing legislation, advocacy
Additional Staff	Dependent upon funding availability
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	VERY HIGH

Recommendation 19: Program Expansion

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of use of prescribed burns via Community Resiliency and Smoke Mitigation Grant Program and policy adjustments. • Expansion of restoration treatments on rangelands via launch of Invasive Species Grant program and agreement with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) replicating the Shared Stewardship Agreement with the US Forest Service. • Expansion of timber monetization, as part of a broader strategy and suite of treatments, to help offset restoration costs.
Policy Type	Fund existing legislation, advocacy, agency action
Additional Staff	Dependent upon funding availability
Non-Staff Funding	\$1 million (Invasive Specials Grant program)
Priority	VERY HIGH

Recommendation 20: Long-Term Barriers

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pace and scale of annual treatments must be increased 3-4x, on a sustainable basis to achieve the 20-year goal of treating 5.6 million acres. In addition to funding, a number of policy and operational barriers must be addressed. • The state should undertake a multi-year, highly-coordinated effort to identify and resolve barriers. An organizational response is warranted. • The state should leverage the opportunity presented through the Shared Stewardship Agreement to coordinate efforts with the US Forest Service, and should contemplate a similar agreement with BLM (Department of Interior). Likewise, the state should work within the Western Governors Association.
Policy Type	Agency action
Additional Staff	Dependent upon outcome
Non-Staff Funding	Dependent upon outcome
Priority	HIGH

Goal 3: Respond Safely and Effectively to Wildfire

Recommendation 21: Financing Facility

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODF should explore and implement structural and systems changes to expedite and standardize processing of financial transactions associated with wildfire. ODF should retain an independent contractor for this purpose. • Together with the Department of Administrative Services, the Legislative Fiscal Office and the Treasurer’s Office, ODF should evaluate options for a financial structure for managing seasonal borrowing costs to support wildfire response. • On both these projects, ODF should work under the direction of the Forestry Financial Oversight Team. • Project scope should extend to Office of the State Fire Marshal.
Policy Type	Agency action
Additional Staff	Pending outcomes of organization and systems review
Non-Staff Funding	Independent Contractor: \$ Dependent upon outcomes Revised Systems: \$ Dependent upon outcomes
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 22: Expansion of Protected Areas

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State to require all lands fall within a wildfire response jurisdiction, and for all jurisdictions to meet and/or exceed a baseline-level of protection. • Baseline definitions to be established through collaboration with state, counties and municipalities. • State to provide needed resources.
Policy Type	Amend existing legislation {ORS 477.315c - Rangeland Statutes}
Additional Staff	1 –OSFM 1-ODF
Non-Staff Funding	\$ Dependent upon outcomes
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 23: State Suppression Capacity

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total incremental funding: \$40 million per biennium. • Modernization of ODF and OSFM human resources and equipment. • Expansion of protected areas to include currently unprotected and under-protected lands. • ODF staffing beyond full-time Fire Protection staff (Private Forests, State Forests, Agency Administration) available for suppression as-needed during fire seasons. • <u>Note</u>: figures include financial/administrative personnel needed to process receivables, and were developed prior to establishment of the Forestry Financial Oversight Team. Figures are therefore subject to change as Oversight Team completes its assessment.
Policy Type	Fund existing legislation, agency personnel, agency action
Additional Staff	<p>ODF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 FTE Fire Protection • 12 FTE Private Forests • 9 FTE Agency Administration • 10 FTE State Forests • 8 FTE Rangeland and Cropland (expansion of protection area) • 61 FTE Total <p>OSFM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 FTE Total <p>Total Additional Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68 FTE ODF and OSFM <p>*See bullet above regarding Forestry Financial Oversight Team</p>
Non-Staff Funding	Dependent upon outcomes
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 24: Suppression Funding Formula

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>ODF, Legislative Fiscal Office and Landowner representatives should retain a third-party consultant to gather and verify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfire protection data; • Assess public vs private value from wildfire suppression services delivered by the State; • Benchmark suppression costs to landowners between Oregon and comparable states; and • Recommend an equitable cost allocation between landowners and the State.
Policy Type	Agency action
Additional Staff	Short-term Independent Contractor
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	VERY HIGH

Recommendation 25: ODF Organizational Model to Flex with Wildfire Fluctuations

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue ODF workforce prioritizing suppression during fire season (“militia model”). • New employees undergo training in core areas of responsibility, in addition to suppression responsibilities. • Provide adequate overall resources to staff suppression and other core ODF functions.
Policy Type	Agency action
Additional Staff	None
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	HIGH

Recommendation 26: Insurance against Catastrophic Wildfire Suppression Cost

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODF should renew its existing policy with Lloyd’s of London. • ODF should continue to monitor insurance markets and to weigh the benefits and costs of third-party insurance vs self-insurance.
Policy Type	Agency action
Additional Staff	None
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	HIGH

Recommendation 27: O&C Contract with Bureau of Land Management

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>Via the Governor’s office, the federal delegation and the Wildfire Council, the state should continue to advocate the BLM continue its agreement with ODF for fire protection and suppression services on all Oregon & California (O&C) lands.</p>
Policy Type	Other action (advocacy)
Additional Staff	None
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	VERY HIGH

Recommendation 28: Federal Suppression Capacity

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>Via the state Legislature, the state should pass a resolution addressed to the Undersecretary of Agriculture, the Chief of the US Forest Service and the Director of the BLM seeking additional severity/ preparedness funding dedicated to Oregon.</p>
Policy Type	Other action (advocacy)
Additional Staff	None
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	HIGH

Recommendation 29: RFPA Suppression Capacity

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue current funding levels for existing Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs). • Increase funding and capacity for ODF to strengthen RFPA program and expand to other lands as legislatively determined.
Policy Type	Dependent upon legislative direction and funding
Additional Staff	Dependent upon legislative direction and funding outcomes
Non-Staff Funding	Dependent upon legislative direction and funding outcomes
Priority	HIGH

Recommendation 30: State-Federal Interagency Performance

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>ODF and OSFM to jointly develop an expectations document to improve state-federal interagency performance, with particular attention to Incident Management Teams.</p>
Policy Type	Agency action
Additional Staff	None
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	HIGH

Recommendation 31: Suppression Collaborative

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>ODF and OSU Extension assess the potential to create new, or leverage existing, forest collaboratives whose scope would include wildfire suppression.</p>
Policy Type	Agency action
Additional Staff	None
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	HIGH

Recommendation 32: Oregon Fire Service Mutual Aid System, Systems Review

Description	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor and legislature direct OSFM to conduct a statewide analysis of the OFSMAS. • OSFM to make recommendations regarding capacity, organizational structure, different approaches across regions, mutual aid agreements, and other topics to modernize the OFSMAS. • Report to the Governor, Legislature, State Fire Marshal, State Forester, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and other stakeholders.
Policy Type	Agency action
Additional Staff	1 FTE (contractor or limited duration employee)
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	HIGH

Goal 4: Cross-Functional Support System

Recommendation 33: Public Engagement

Description	Recommend: Create a Task Force Charged with Developing a Cohesive Wildland Fire Communication Strategy
Policy Type	Agency personnel / Agency action
Additional Staff	1 FTE – OEM, ODF, OSFM (Liaison)
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	HIGHEST

Recommendation 34: Organization & Governance

Description	Recommend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state should determine the appropriate organizational strategy and structure to implement and improve upon the findings and recommendations of this report. • Strategy development, budgeting and financial planning should be coordinated in an integrated fashion, aligning resources with priorities. • Authority and accountability must be clearly identified, as well as monitoring and adjustments.
Policy Type	TBD
Additional Staff	TBD
Non-Staff Funding	TBD
Priority	VERY HIGH

Recommendation 35: Workforce Development

Description	Recommend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued work needed • The state should encourage and support regional initiatives such as the Rogue Siskiyou Regional Fire & Emergency Training Center, and similar developments underway across the State. • The state should take a broader look at workforce needs including wildfire suppression, landscape restoration, forest products and manufacturing, and rangeland management. Proactive assessments of the future workforce should inform State and local investments in workforce development programs.
Policy Type	TBD
Additional Staff	TBD
Non-Staff Funding	None
Priority	HIGH

Recommendation 36: Research & Decision Support

Description	Recommend: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future work beyond the time and scope of the 2019 Wildfire Council• The State should review the potential to launch and fund the Wildfire Center contemplated by OSU, and should continue to support the Institute of Natural Resources.
Policy Type	TBD
Additional Staff	TBD
Non-Staff Funding	TBD
Priority	HIGH

Recommendation 37: Funding

Description	Recommend: <p>A working group should be formed to work with the Governor’s office and the Legislative Fiscal Office to explore wildfire funding strategies within the context of Oregon’s overall public finance strategy.</p>
Policy Type	TBD
Additional Staff	TBD
Non-Staff Funding	TBD
Priority	HIGHEST

Conclusion

This report is the culmination of nine months of intensive research, analysis and deliberation by over 100 individuals serving on the Council and committees, and is a remarkable achievement given the breadth and diversity of the subject matter as well as the contributors to the report. The Governor's Council on Wildfire Response and five associated committees have urgently sought to meet the new challenges posed by wildfire to Oregon. At nearly every fork in the road, the Council chose comprehensive a cohesive solutions over expediency, in a non-partisan, intellectually honest manner.

The Council is pleased to deliver this set of recommendations, which are intended to be actionable, providing both immediate and long-term benefits to all Oregonians. The Council further wishes to reiterate that wildfire is a permanent aspect of life in Oregon, and the importance of wildfire is growing with a changing climate and growing population. Yet, at present, wildfire-related policies are siloed, scattered, and incongruent. Such an approach may have been adequate for another era, but must now be reconsidered. An enduring and cohesive strategy and governance structure are warranted, given the new realities of wildfire evident in Oregon today.

Ultimately, the Council recommends the addition of over 100 staffing positions at various state agencies, including but not limited to the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon State Fire Marshal, and the Office of Emergency Management. The Council also recommends an initial \$20 million in investments in non-staffing related costs, including support for rural economic development, health costs, and technical assistance grants to local communities. Should all 36 recommendations be implemented, the state has the opportunity to protect its citizens and natural resources, and to provide much-needed jobs and rural revitalization.

These recommendations are the first of many steps critical to ensuring the resiliency, safety, and health of Oregonians in both rural and urban communities. The Council urges the state's leaders to consider and fully implement its findings and recommendations.