

Agenda Item No.:	7
Work Plan:	Senate Bill 762 Work Plan
Topic:	20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy
Date:	June 7, 2023
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SUMMARY

The *20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy* is the product of a legislative mandate and is rooted in previous work, including the Shared Stewardship Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, and the Oregon Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response.

The 20-year Strategy responds to the Oregon Legislature’s bipartisan directive in [Senate Bill 762](#), signed into law on July 19, 2021. Known as the “Omnibus Wildfire Bill,” SB762 directed the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to:

Develop a 20-year strategic plan, as described in the Shared Stewardship Agreement signed on August 13, 2019, that prioritizes restoration actions and geographies for wildfire risk reduction. The plan must be able to be used to direct federal, state and private investments in a tangible way.

Staff will provide an informational update to the board specific to the development of a legislative report fulfilling the mandate within SB762.

CONTEXT

The *20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy* establishes a governance structure that sets broad statewide direction while creating engagement mechanisms with agency staff, Tribal Governments and agencies, local communities, regional groups, and others to partner on local priorities and project implementation. The strategy also establishes initial geographic priorities and goals to guide investments and identifies processes and mechanisms for updating and revising the priorities, goals, and approach. These include a dashboard to track progress, a science and resource assessment network to support learning, and a decision-support information hub to inform future decisions. In addition, the strategy creates a communications function to support coordinated messages across agencies, as well as public information, to encourage greater understanding about living with the continuing risk of wildfire. Finally, the strategy identifies a set of near-term actions intended to create the mechanisms and processes to support this work into the future, including local planning and capacity building, enhanced science and data, and a partner summit to launch the implementation of the strategy.

The heart of the strategy is the development of productive partnerships between federal and state agencies, Tribes, local governments, private landowners and industries, forest and rangeland groups, environmental and community groups, researchers, and others. The strategy emphasizes collaborating across these entities to identify joint priorities and develop landscape-scale cross-boundary restoration efforts. Agency partners will set shared statewide landscape-level priorities and goals and will work with Tribes and local entities to define locally-specific priorities and plans.

NEXT STEPS

Implementing Shared Stewardship in Oregon

The *20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy* seeks to guide federal, state, and private investments toward priority actions in geographies to reduce wildfire risk through landscape health and resilience. Agency leaders in the strategic leadership group are responsible for the success of the 20-year strategy, with support and guidance from agency staff, Tribes, community partners, and others.

Implementation will require some new activities and changes in some aspects of how agencies operate internally and externally. These new approaches will take time to put in place and will require the guidance and support of agency leaders, as well as input from Tribes, community groups, and others. They will also require procedural and policy changes. The strategy makes the following recommendations:

- *Invest in and strengthen agency and regional partnerships.*
- *Focus agency resources in priority geographies.*
- *Promote local landscape assessments and planning.*
- *Expand projects through coordination.*
- *Manage capacity and funding needs at local and agency levels.*
- *Track progress and adjust pace, scale, and approach as needed to achieve goals:*

Near-term Components for Implementation

Near-term components for implementation are the key early investments that will contribute to increasing the pace and scale of treatments and to achieving the goals of the 20-year Strategy effectively and efficiently. These components create the forums, processes, and structures that will advance the work of Shared Stewardship. The strategy makes the following recommendations:

Governance & Engagement

- *Shared Stewardship Partner Summit*
- *Fully Implement the Shared Stewardship Governance Structure*
- *Support Regional Engagement and Partnership*

Science, Information, and Assessment

- **Scientific and Resource Assessment (SARA) Network.** The SARA network will provide scientific, data, and decision support to implementing agencies and local groups. SARA is envisioned as an expert network and clearinghouse supported by a coordinating group consisting of one or more science liaisons from each of the participating agencies.

- **Decision Support Information Hub.** The Decision Support Hub will support Shared Stewardship planning at the state and local levels by serving as a clearinghouse for sharing information on available expertise, techniques, tools and data. The Hub will both provide information to and gather information from the regional planning efforts. It will draw data from the accomplishment tracking and dashboard to inform updates to geographic priorities, goals, and investment decisions.
- **Accomplishment Tracking and Dashboard.** The proposed tracking system and dashboard will communicate progress on investments, actions, and outcomes and will be based on the goals and metrics established in the 20-Year Strategy. The dashboard will supply data to the Decision Support information hub and will be a central, user-friendly location that summarizes information on investments, actions, and outcomes. It will communicate Shared Stewardship progress to all interested parties and inform the allocation of state and federal resources.
- **Local Landscape Planning and Assessments.** For areas that do not have adequate or up-to-date local landscape assessments, partner agencies will engage with Tribes and regional groups to complete them. Assessments might include evaluation of collaborative governance; wildfire risk and landscape health; treatment progress & needs; public health and smoke vulnerability; equity and social vulnerability; and business & economic development. These assessments will support planning efforts to determine local priority geographies and actions. They will help determine capacity gaps, policy barriers, and financial needs at the local level and collectively at the state level. This information will also feed into the proposed decision support information hub and help guide investments and updates statewide.

Communications and Awareness

- **Inter-Agency Communications Plan.** The development of an interagency communications plan is necessary to build and maintain support for the 20-year Strategy. Through the implementation of the communications plan, agencies would provide clear and consistent information to Oregonians about the work happening on the ground and how it contributes to making our state, ecosystems, and communities more resilient to wildfire.
- **Shared Stewardship Website.** This will be a central, multi-agency Shared Stewardship website that displays the *20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy*, accomplishment tracking dashboard, and program and funding opportunities.

Capacity Building

- **Tribal Staff Support:** Many Tribes have limited capacity to engage on the wide range of topics requested by state and federal agencies, including Shared Stewardship efforts. The *20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy* and the Shared Stewardship governance structure provide a platform for Tribes to participate. Partner agencies will seek appropriate mechanisms to support tribal engagement and partnership in Shared Stewardship efforts.
- **Underserved Communities Support:** Underserved communities are often under-represented in landscape resilience decision-making, yet are often disproportionately affected by wildfire, smoke, and other impacts. There are challenges and barriers to

participation that are unique to these communities. Partner agencies are committed to greater engagement with underserved communities and equitably implementing the 20-year Strategy. Partner agencies will seek appropriate mechanisms to support engagement and partnership with underserved communities in Shared Stewardship efforts.

- **Regional Partnership and Collaborative Support:** Forest and rangeland partnerships and collaboratives are central to the implementation of the 20-year Strategy. The Qualitative Capacity Assessment revealed that most of these groups had less than one FTE and that inconsistent funding was a significant barrier to building and maintaining the capacity of these groups to be effective. Partner agencies will explore a range of options for supporting these groups, including the development of local MOU's, support for landscape assessments and strategic plans, technical and facilitation assistance, and agency liaisons or coordinators to support these groups.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is informational.