

## STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	4
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing topic: Fire Program Review Committee
Presentation Title:	Fire Program Review Committee Update
Date of Presentation:	January 6, 2016
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### SUMMARY

This agenda item is to provide the Board with an update on the formation, organization, Charter (Attachment 1), and the outcome from the first meeting of the Fire Program Review Committee. The meeting was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, at the ODF offices in Salem.

### CONTEXT

Oregon has experienced a significant increase in wildfires over the past several years. Not only have these fires increased damages and costs to Oregon's forest landowners, and local communities but they have stretched the State's "complete and coordinated fire protection system".

Seeking ideas to address these challenges, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) initiated a Fire Program Review Committee. This committee is made up of forest landowners, wildland fire professionals, elected officials, the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office and other stakeholders to advise ODF in its effort to develop and implement a more sustainable fire organization, including large fire funding solutions.

### BACKGROUND

For the last three fire seasons, Oregon has experienced a significant increase in wildland fires, and related damages and costs. Contributing to an increasing duration and intensity of high fire danger periods have been long-term drought conditions, significant lightning events, limited snow pack and record breaking temperature periods. The amount of firefighting resources required has at times taxed the protection system, both financially and operationally. The increased need for agency resources has also coincided with a period of high workloads in the Department's other programs (State Forests and Private Forests), often delaying critical work in those program areas. In response to these challenges, the Department is initiating this strategic initiative to move towards a more sustainable fire organization for the future. A critical first step in implementing this initiative is to convene a "Fire Program Review Committee" comprised of key stakeholders and partners to focus on the following objectives:

- Develop recommendations for a more sustainable large wildfire funding structure.
- Develop recommendations for a more sustainable wildfire organization
- Help inform policy options to mitigate increasingly complex wildfire conditions in Oregon

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends the Board continue to support and participate in the Fire Program Review Committee.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Sustainable Large Fire Funding Work Group meets on January 7, 2016
- Sustainable Wildfire Organization Work Group meets on January 8, 2016
- Fire Program Review Committee meets on January 21, 2016

## **ATTACHMENT**

1. Fire Program Review Committee Charter