

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	7
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing topic: Fire Program Review Committee
Presentation Title:	Fire Program Review Committee Update
Date of Presentation:	June 8, 2016
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SUMMARY

This agenda item is to provide the Board with an update on the Fire Program Review Committee's progress to-date and to provide a revised committee charter (Attachment 1).

CONTEXT

Due to the significant increase in wildfires over the past several years, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) initiated a Fire Program Review Committee in December 2015. 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, and developing policy considerations to mitigate increasingly complex wildfire conditions in Oregon.

BACKGROUND

The Fire Program Review Committee conducted four meetings: December 1, 2015, January 21, 2016, April 5, 2016 and June 6, 2016. The committee established three "Working Groups" which conducted much of the staff work necessary for the committee to deliberate on its mission. The three working groups' status as of the June 8 Board of Forestry meeting are as follows:

- Sustainable Large-Fire Funding Working Group: This working group had its final meeting on May 13th and is focusing on a series of recommendations to address the large-fire funding challenges. Focus areas include the interplay between Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF), insurance, and the General Fund, along with discussions regarding new revenue sources, development of a trust fund dedicated to large fire costs and reviewing the large fire funding aspects of the BLM contract.
- Sustainable Fire Organization Working Group: This working group had its final meeting on May 17th and is focusing on a series of recommendations to address sustaining the complete and coordinated fire protection system in the context of increasingly complex fire seasons. The committee has considered additional Severity investments and protection system investments, along with broadly evaluating the sustainability of the current organization to address sustainable wildfire prevention and response.
- Wildfire Policy Working Group: This working group held its final meeting on May 19th and has defined its scope of work, focused on fire resilient landscapes and the wildland/urban interface.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board continue to evaluate the recommendations established through the Committee effort.

NEXT STEPS

- Fire Program Review Committee final report will be published by the end of June.
- The Division will return to the Board to present the final report.

ATTACHMENT

- (1) Fire Program Review Committee Charter