



# DRAFT CHARTER

## BLM Protection Study

Version 9

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### Fire Program Review Committee Recommendation

Recommendation #3 of the 2015/2016 Fire Program Review Committee is as follows:

“Recommend ODF, EFCC and the BLM initiate a study examining the equity of BLM contributions to large fire funding compared to large fire costs expended on BLM lands, and present alternatives for reconciling any identified issues to agency leaders.

- EFCC and ODF will initiate this work on June 7, 2016 by developing a draft charter to define the scope and intent of the study
- EFCC and ODF are to include BLM leadership early and throughout the process
- EFCC will provide study results and alternatives to the State Forester and the Board of Forestry by June 1, 2017
- The Department will utilize the results to inform the 2018 BLM suppression contract process.”

### Problem Statement

Providing fire protection responsibilities to western Oregon BLM lands is a critical component of ODF’s overall success in the Complete & Coordinated protection system for both public and private lands. The primary purpose of the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF) - ORS 477.755 (2) – is for “(a) Equalizing emergency fire suppression costs for safeguarding forestland in any forest protection district;” The various sources of payments collected for this purpose have traditionally been equitable and stable by all eligible OFLPF participants.

Currently BLM annual payments into the OFLPF as compared to expenditures for suppression of large fires on BLM lands may not be equitable when compared to other stakeholders/partners (public and private).

### Objectives

- Investigate and develop data to support recommendation(s) to mitigate and/or resolve identified large fire suppression cost and payment disparities that may exist between BLM and private/other public ownership to ensure equitable participation of OFLPF resources.
- Identify root cause(s) and possible contributing factors of large fire growth potential.
- Utilize findings to develop recommendations for possible contract modification as needed in the 2018 BLM contract renewal.

## Study Scope

Lands included in the Western Oregon BLM Protection Contract with a primary focus on fires which received suppression funding either directly or indirectly (General Funds, insurance or FEMA) through OFLPF for the 10 year period 2006-2015.

## Deliverables

- Analyses of fire suppression costs, trends of OFLPF payments in western OR from BLM, and root cause(s) and possible contributing factors analyses of western OR BLM forest fires.
- Recommendations to the EFCC, Board of Forestry, the State Forester and BLM Leadership.

## Potential Tasks (Determined by Project Steering Committee)

- Research and validate number of fires eligible for OFLPF funding which burned in western Oregon in the past 10 years (2006 – 2015) including investigation of root cause(s) and possible contributing factors for fires escaping initial and extended attack increasing expenditures for OFLPF
- Research and validate acres burned by those fires, conducting at least one case study to compare to other ownerships in western OR
- Analyze payments and expenses to the OFLPF from BLM contract lands and compare those payments and expenses to those from private forest landowners
- Solicit and document alternatives for improving payments, reducing fire suppression costs and/or reduce OFLPF cost exposure where appropriate from BLM lands in western OR
- Draft report of findings for EFCC, Board of Forestry, the State Forester and BLM leadership
- Report and/or confer with an oversight committee consisting of representatives from ODF, BLM, EFCC and subject matter experts

## Communications

Progress reports will be made in conjunction with quarterly meetings of the EFCC.

## Participating Sponsors & Partners

### Project Sponsors

- Ken Cummings – EFCC Chair
- Doug Grafe – ODF Protection Division Chief
- TBD- -BLM (Deputy State Director)

### Project Participants

- Tim Keith – EFCC Administrator – Project Leader
- Mike Dykzeul – Project Manager
- Nancy Ashlock – Project Analyst
- Steve Cafferata – EFCC
- Pete Sikora – EFCC (Alternate)
- Ron Graham – ODF Deputy Chief Protection – Project Advisor
- TBD – BLM Project Advisor
- Chrystal Bader – ODF Staff - Project Support

### Subject Matter Experts

- Bob Young – ODF Protection
- Melvin Thornton – DFPA Manager
- Milt Moran – Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc. – Private Landowner
- Colleen Conlee – EFCC Finance Coordinator

### Additional Advisory and Informational Partners/Contributors through the process includes:

- Doug Decker, ODF State Forester
- Ron Dunton, Acting BLM State Director
- Nancy Hirsch, ODF Deputy State Forester
- Jeff Fedrizzi – BLM State Fire Manager
- Lee Fledderjohann – EFCC Member
- TBD – Interior Department Representative
- Stacy Miller – ODF Executive Assistant

### **Resources Required – Project Staff**

One part-time position working for up to one year – July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 assisted by an additional part-time employee familiar with BLM process, procedures and the Western Oregon Protection Contract.

Project Staff have been hired as Limited Duration / Part-time ODF employees funded by EFCC.

Additional staff support will be available by ODF Protection Division and BLM personnel as their time allows.