Work Group Recommendations

The Fire Program Review Committee (FPRC) tasked three work groups with formulating recommendations for consideration by the full committee. The work groups include:

- Sustainable Large Wildfire Funding Work Group
- Sustainable Fire Organization Work Group
- Wildfire Policy Work Group

**Sustainable Large Fire Funding Work Group**

**Recommendation 1 – Trust Fund**
- Recommends a constitutionally created trust fund to pay for the public share of large fire suppression costs on the Department’s jurisdictional fires. The work group detailed the trust fund’s governance and structure, including a fund cap and revenue sources.

**Recommendation 2 – Wildfire Fire Insurance Policy**
- Recommends the Department and the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC) regularly perform due diligence on the value, retention and policy limits of the existing catastrophic insurance policy and when appropriate, purchase the catastrophic insurance policy.
- Recommends the Department continue to explore the concept of parametric insurance, assess its strategic value and role with the proposed trust fund.

**Recommendation 3 – Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Protection Study**
- Recommends the Department, EFCC and the BLM initiate a study examining the equity of BLM contributions to large fire funding and costs expended on BLM lands.

**Sustainable Fire Organization Work Group**

**Discussion – Sustainable Organization**
- The work group discussed the Department’s mission to provide for a complete and coordinated wildfire protection system and recognized the current challenge to meet this mission along with other Department missions in State Forests, Private Forests and Administration. It was noted that the Secretary of State is conducting a robust audit on this “sustainability” topic.

**Discussion – Severity**
- The work group discussed the merits of expanding the existing severity program in $500,000 increments, as presented by the Department. The work group was interested in more information, demonstrating the effectiveness of existing severity resources and proposed increases to the severity program.

**Discussion – Program Development**
- The work group discussed several themes identified as critical to sustaining the Department’s mission to provide for a complete and coordinated fire protection system. Initial attack investments at the local district level, statewide aviation and incident finance support, training capacity, prevention and investments in technology rose to the top as critical considerations for future investments.
Wildfire Policy Work Group

Recommendation 1 – Landscape Resiliency and Fuels Management

- Initiate a wildfire risk analysis to understand the potential of wildfire to move across public/private ownership boundaries. This study may also be able to inform prioritization of landscape level fuel-reduction treatments.
- Utilize existing Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreements to increase pace, scale and quality of federal forest restoration projects. Establish a GNA agreement with the Bureau of Land Management.
- Maintain the Board of Forestry’s effort through its Federal Forest Subcommittee to elevate its voice on the importance of active management to increase fire resiliency on lands managed by the USFS and BLM.
- Continue the Department’s effort to pursue emerging landscape-scale, fuel-reduction funding opportunities on both private and public lands.

Recommendation 2 – Smoke Management and Prescribed Burning

- Initiate a study to identify the factors which limit land managers from meeting their prescribed burning objectives.
- Initiate a public outreach effort to generate public understanding of the importance of prescribed burning to mitigate the risk of wildfires.

Recommendation 3 – Rangelands

- Continue to enhance coordination among Rangeland Protection Associations (RPA), the BLM and other partners to increase suppression capacity on rangeland fires. Continue to incorporate unprotected rangelands into existing and evolving RPAs.
- The Department should support innovations and research in rangeland landscape management, in coordination with the US Department of Agriculture (Agricultural Research Service) to mitigate the risk of wildfire on Oregon’s rangeland.

Recommendation 4 – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

- Initiate a study to analyze the suppression costs associated with fighting wildfires in the WUI and the role of Department suppression efforts in the WUI.
- Continue to seek potential funding sources necessary to assist property owners with implementing defensible space fuels treatments around residences and structures, in collaboration with the Department of Land Conservation & Development.
- Conduct an effectiveness review of Senate Bill 360 with a focus on its success in mitigating the risk of wildland fire fuels in the WUI.