



## Wildfire Programs Advisory Council – Meeting

Friday October 11, 2024

The complete Wildfire Programs Advisory Council can be viewed at the following website and serves as the official public meeting record: <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/Pages/wildfire-programs-council.aspx>

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### Welcome

Chair Hunnicutt, Vice Chair  
McCurdy

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The chair welcomed the council members and reviewed the meeting agenda. Roll was taken of the council members present. Council members reviewed and approved the draft meeting summaries of the July and September meetings.

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### Director's Report

Doug Grafe

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Director Grafe gave an update on the 2024 wildfire season. The fire season was still active and nearly two million acres had burned. There were 12 active fires amounting to 300,000 uncontained acres. Over the course of the fire season, there were 17 conflagrations, 42 residences lost and 132 total structures, and over 30,000 residences were under some level of evacuation at some point.

The director then reviewed the status of council appointments stating that the legislature was considering the appointments and the announcements were expected within the next week. Director Grafe went on to express appreciation and gratitude to all council members for their work.

Dave Hunnicutt and Mary Kyle McCurdy were nominated to continue as chair and vice chair of the council and there was no objection.

Finally, Director Grafe noted that the planned meeting dates for the council in 2025 were January 17<sup>th</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, and October 17<sup>th</sup>.

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### Public Comment

All

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Bob Hart provided public comment to the council. He stated that if a county had requirements for vegetation modification that are over and above state requirements then the county requirements should be allowed to remain. He expressed concerns about speckling on the map and how that could effect both the perceived legitimacy of the map and the property owners that are being regulated as a result of the map.

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The council started by discussing potential administrative fixes to Senate Bill 762 including:

- Aligning the terms of the council members with the due date of the council's report to the legislature
- Grandfathering in local jurisdictions hazard maps that predate the statewide map for the purposes of applying the wildfire mitigation standards of section R327 of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code
- Adding an additional council member with experience in the insurance industry and ensuring eastern Oregon representation; a wheat rancher specifically was requested to be able to speak to the issues relating to agriculture involving continuous fuel.
- Changing the director's report from bimonthly to quarterly
- Adding a small travel budget for the chair and vice chair

Senator Golden provided some general comments on the legislature's work relating to wildfire programs and the council. He highlighted that the council's voice and expertise can inform the work of policy makers in addition to the recommendations on administrative fixes to SB 762. He acknowledged that there may still be additional work to do relating to mapping to bridge the communications divide between the science behind the map and the people who will be impacted by wildfire related regulation. He noted that some cities have expressed an interest in adopting the mitigation standards of R327 in areas beyond those in the map. Finally, he noted that the wildfire funding work group continued to work on solutions for long term durable funding for wildfire programs.

The chair moved the discussion to focus on finalizing the council's report to the legislature. The council discussed how best to approach the issue of funding for wildfire programs in its report. The council discussed the importance on funding suppression currently but that funding suppression without also funding mitigation programs was likely unsustainable over the long term. The council also acknowledged that with a separate workgroup dedicated to wildfire programs funding, it wasn't completely clear what the council's role was in making funding recommendations. The council also considered how best to discuss not just funding mechanisms but also how best that funding can be prioritized to maximize the impact, particularly in high hazard zones of the wildland urban interface.

The council agreed to review the draft language for the report after the meeting and to suggest necessary edits by October 15, 2024.

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**Wrap Up**

Chair Hunnicutt, Vice Chair  
McCurdy

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Chair Hunnicutt thanked the council and let them know that meeting invites for the 2025 council meetings would go out once new council appointments have been finalized.

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