



Wildfire Programs Advisory Council – Meeting

Friday July 18, 2025

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>

Welcome

Chair Hunnicutt, Vice Chair
McCurdy

Chair Hunnicutt welcomed the council and highlighted the director's report and the planning for the council's annual report as the key issues facing the council in the meeting. The chair reviewed meeting etiquette, had roll of the council taken, and reviewed and approved the meeting summary.

Director's Report

Doug Grafe

Director Grafe gave the council an update on the activity early in the fire season and a summary of the 2025 legislative session.

For the fire season update the director was joined by Chief Ruiz Temple of OSFM and Kyle Williams of ODF. There was a review of active fires around the state and a look at the upcoming weather outlook and its impact on the current fire situation. In response to questions from the council Williams talked about the benefits of the new camera surveillance capacity and what is known about the causes of the current fires, Chief Ruiz-Temple talked about structure losses so far in the 2025 season, mostly in the Rowena fire.

Director Grafe reviewed the main wildfire related bills impacting state's wildfire programs. from the 2025 session. Senate Bill 83 repealed the statewide wildfire hazard map and directed the State Fire Marshal and the Building Codes Division to develop defensible space codes and wildfire hazard mitigation building standards respectively, to making them available for local adoption. Senate Bill 85 directed OSFM and the Division of Financial Regulation to work with the insurance industry to develop options for lowering insurance costs and increasing the availability of underwriting in the state. House Bill 3940 provided some additional funding for wildfire hazard mitigation and directed OSFM to create a proactive home hardening grant program. The bill also added two new members to the council, a representative of the insurance industry and a structural firefighter in the WUI.

Annual ReportAll

Chair Hunnicutt outlined the process ahead for completing the council's report. The council selected members for three workgroups that would each contribute to the report. Each work group would have a different focus. The three focus areas are wildfire funding assessment, post-hazard map, and insurance strategies. The Chair highlighted the importance of everyone's participation in the workgroups and the importance of the workgroup's efforts for the final council report.

Public CommentAll

Bob Hart provided public comments to the board about the importance of federal involvement in wildfire prevention and response efforts. He stated that we were glad to see more involvement from cities and counties. He urged the council to pursue incentives to help make retrofits more accessible for owners of current buildings.

Wrap UpChair Hunnicutt, Vice Chair
McCurdy

The chair wrapped up the meeting stating that the next meeting would be on October 17th. He also noted that some members would be approaching the end of their terms and that they should be considering if they want to continue to work for the council. Also, he noted that the council would be selecting its Chair and Co-chair for next year at the October meeting.
