



Wildfire Programs Advisory Council – Meeting

Friday October 17, 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 introduced the agenda and emphasized the importance of completing the council's annual report during the meeting. Role of the council was taken. The council approved the July meeting summary. The chair announced that all council members with expiring terms indicated that they wished to continue to serve on the council. Director Gafe went through the expiring terms and the current vacancies on the council. The chair held elections for chair and vice-chair. The council elected Samantha Bayer as chair and Nick Browne as vice-chair. Council members thanked Chair Hunnicutt and Vice-chair McCurdy for leading the council. Senator Golden thanked Chair Hunnicutt and Vice-Chair McCurdy as well as the members of the council as a whole for their service. Chair Hunnicutt announced that Jim McCauley would be leaving the council as he was retiring from League of Oregon Cities and thanked him.

Director's Report

Doug Gafe

Director Gafe updated the council on the 2025 fire season, federal reorganization, and upcoming WPAC activities.

Director Gafe highlighted how quickly the 2025 fire season got started with the Rowena fire and near immediate structure loss from that fire early in the season. The flat fire threatened over 800 homes but only five were lost, highlighting the importance of both response and mitigation. Director Gafe emphasized the tension between thinking about his fire season as a successful fire season while recognizing the losses and costs that were incurred. Director Gafe reviewed the statistics from the fire season. In-coming Chair Bayer asked if there was data about the increase in human caused fire and Director Gafe responded that there is extensive data that could be brought to the council for discussion in the future.

Director Gafe updated the council on federal consolidation of fire protection under the interior department. Consolidation was not fully enacted during this last fire season, but it is anticipated to progress in the lead up to the next fire season.

Director Gafe updated the council on the upcoming Ridgetop to Rooftop summit and noted that council members were all invited to the event which would focus on bringing together wildfire experts to develop ideas for wildfire risk reduction in Oregon.

Public Comment

Chair Hunnicutt, Vice Chair
McCurdy

There was no public comment.

WPAC Report

Chair Hunnicutt, Vice Chair
McCurdy

Chair Hunnicutt began the discussion of the council's annual report and noted that it was the most significant item on the agenda. The chair noted that the council would be going through the report and editing as they went.

During the council's review of the draft of the annual report council members discussed the overall efficiency of the document including efficiency of language and redundancy. The council ensured that the language of the report accurately reflected the recommendations that came out of the council's three workgroups and that those recommendations had the support of the council as a whole. The council resolved some perceived ambiguities and resolved any disagreements about specific recommendation language. The council also expanded the report's discussion of some recommendations. The council also talked about topics that may not have been fully discussed in the 2025 annual report but that could be worthwhile for the council to explore further in the 2026 annual report.

This is a link to the final version of the [2025 Wildfire Programs Advisory Council Annual Report](#).

Wrap Up

Chair Hunnicutt, Vice Chair
McCurdy

Chair Hunnicutt wrapped up the meeting announcing that the council's next meeting would occur on January 13, 2026.
