



State of Oregon Advancing Wildfire Protection

Office of Governor Tina Kotek





State of Oregon
Wildfire Programs Director - Report 21
Advancing Wildfire Protection in Oregon

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Implementation Agencies

Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS)
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)
Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)
Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM)
Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
Oregon State University (OSU)
Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Wildfire Programs Advisory Council (WPAC)

Executive Summary

As required by law, this implementation status report is produced by the Wildfire Programs Director every two months for the Governor, the Presiding Officers of the Oregon Legislature, and the chairs of relevant legislative committees.

Wildfire Program Highlights

Two focus areas have dominated the wildfire program efforts over this reporting cycle: 1. Fire season 2025 readiness and response, and 2. Legislative session.

1: Although we have entered fire season with more favorable snowpack and winter moisture than in recent years, fire activity has been significant to-date with over 150 wildfires statewide. Most wildfire causes have been backyard pile burning and prevention messaging has been leveraged throughout May's wildfire Awareness Month, emphasizing safe burning practices in partnership with Agencies and the non-profit wildfire prevention association: [Keep Oregon Green](#).

At the time of this report, the Butte River Fire, burning in Gilliam and Wheeler Counties, is the largest fire of the year at over 1700 acres and 90% contained. During the month of May, Douglas County has experienced a couple fires over 40 acres that burned for several days. By every measure – wildfire activity to-date has been significant. Predictions continue to hold for a near normal June and July fire season activity, with August and September escalating to above normal. Additionally, many western states are anticipating an above normal fire season which often leads to a competition of limited wildfire fighting resources during Oregon's greatest need.

Since January 2025, Oregon firefighters have deployed to support: California, North Carolina, Florida, Minnesota, Alaska and Alberta Canada. These deployments, through ODF, OSFM and local fire departments, are essential to support our partners who reciprocate during our time of need.



2: With one month left in session, the Legislature remains active in the wildfire space with several policy and funding bills including:

Policy Focus

- SB 83 (Hazard Map Repeal, Wildfire Advisory Council and Program updates) passed the Senate and is in the House Rules Committee for consideration.
- SB 85 (Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program Development) passed the Legislature, and the Governor signed.
- HB 3172 (Proactive Home Hardening Program) in Joint Ways & Means for consideration.

Funding Focus (guided by the 2024 legislatively directed Wildfire Funding Workgroup - [Wildfire Funding Report 2025](#))

- HB 3940 (Wildfire Funding Omnibus) in House Revenue Committee for consideration.
- SB 1177 (Kicker Redirect) introduced at Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue, where it remains for consideration.
- SJR 11 (Lottery) introduced at Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue where it remains for consideration.

In closing, wildfire continues to garner significant attention at the legislature, in the media and at many forums across the state. Addressing the wildfire challenges remains a top-of-mind issue for Oregon.

Duties of the Wildfire Programs Director

- Oversee implementation of the Wildfire Programs.
- Coordinate activities across all wildfire implementation agencies.
- Ensure compliance with deadlines.
- Monitor and assess the equity of any financial impacts from implementation activities on local jurisdictions.
- Supervise council staff and develop director reports every two months.
- Explore current and future opportunities to reduce wildfire risk.



Roles of the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council

- Advise and assist the Wildfire Programs Director.
- Monitor Wildfire Programs implementation and evaluate agency reports.
- Advise on changes necessary to dramatically reduce wildfire risk and ensure regional defensible space, building codes and land use applications are appropriate.
- Strengthen intergovernmental and multiparty collaboration including government, stakeholders and the public.
- Assess how Oregon's wildfire risk map may inform building codes and land use laws, rules and decisions in a regionally appropriate manner.
- Assess the application of defensible space requirements to vineyards, crops and other cultivated vegetation.
- Review the findings and recommendations in the DLCD's October 2022 report and make additional recommendations to land use planning, local comprehensive plans, and zoning codes to minimize wildfire risk.
- Report every October to the Governor and appropriate committees or interim committees of the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

Wildfire Programs Implementation Status

2025

○ Reporting requirement ○ Other implementation requirements.

Date	Responsible Party	Required Action	Implementation Status
Jan 1	OSU / ODF	Final wildfire hazard map announced on January 7, with notification letters distributed to high hazard parcels in the Wildland Urban Interface.	(Paused) On February 17 Governor Kotek directed ODF to pause on referring any wildfire hazard map appeals to the Office of Administrative Hearings until after the legislative session concludes; thus, allowing time for legislative consideration which is occurring through Senate Bill 83. Oregon Statewide Wildfire Hazard Map
Feb. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(Complete) OSFM report Jan 2025
Feb 20 & March 3	ODF/OSFM	Wildfire Funding Report to Legislature: W&M Public Safety and Natural Resources Sub-committees	(Complete) SB 5701 (2024) established a Wildfire Funding Workgroup to consider options for sustainable wildfire funding. Wildfire Funding Report 2025
Aug. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(On Track)
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor/relevant legislative committees	(On Track)

2026

Date	Responsible Party	Required Action	Implementation Status
Jan. 1	Counties	Required to ensure that all lands within the county that are outside of forest protection districts and susceptible to wildfire have baseline level or higher of wildfire protection	(Potential Adjustments) Given the modernization of fire protection since the passage of SB 762 (2021) such as the expansion of rangeland fire protection associations and OSFM's wildfire programs, the legislature is currently considering the elimination of this requirement within Senate Bill 83.
Feb. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(On Track)
Aug. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(On Track)
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor/relevant legislative committees	(On Track)

Note: OSFM biannual defensible space reporting and WPAC reporting requirements do not sunset.

Thank you.

The Wildfire Programs Director's Report is made possible by the dogged leadership of Oregonians across the state, the Legislature, and the Governor's office, working together to address the rising risk of catastrophic wildfire in Oregon.



Governor Tina Kotek
Wildfire Program

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