

Wildfire Programs Advisory Council: October 2022 Report

Updated outline (30 March 2022)

OVERALL CONSIDERATIONS FOR REPORT

Goal and purpose: To produce a high-quality report that meets the objectives set out in Section 36 of SB762. This report will be technically sound, fact-based, informative, and reflective of the diverse perspectives and insights of the council’s expertise. It will offer productive lessons learned and recommendations to advance fire prevention in Oregon.

- Target audience for the report is the Governor, legislature and appropriate committees or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly.
- Many aspects of the bill won’t be fully implemented at this point and there will be a report every October, so this isn’t a comprehensive account of all outcomes. The council’s purpose is described in Section 36 and this report should address that purpose.
- Need to establish clear and consistent terminology, tone, and visual appearance that will be aligned across the report.

Roles:

- This report is owned by the council and will reflect what they want to say. All 19 council members will be meaningfully involved through workgroup (i.e., subcommittee) processes.
- The Director, Chair, and Vice Chair will provide leadership of council process and workgroups to develop report content and messages.
- OSU (EJ Davis) and DLCD (Susan Millhauser) will provide planning and writing capacity in support of the council’s work on the report. This will include primary responsibility for developing/writing report sections #1-6 and 10, and writing support to workgroups on report sections #7—9.
- DAS will provide report layout and design.

Workgroups:

1. Workgroup #1: *Alignment and editorial group*. This workgroup will focus on providing synthesis across workgroups, ensuring alignment of terminology and content, and finalizing the report. They will lead on writing report section #9. Will be led by Chair Bennett.
2. Workgroup #2: *WUI and land use group*. This workgroup will lead the development of report section #7 which addresses Council obligations under SB 762 Section 36: (2) (b, e, f, g). Will be led by TBD.
3. Workgroup #3: *Advancing fire protection group*. This workgroup will lead the development of report section #8 which addresses Council obligations under SB 762 Section 36: (2 a, c, d). Will be led by TBD.
4. Director Grafe will engage with all work groups to support the effort.

Expectations for workgroups:

- All council members will participate in a minimum of one workgroup.
- Workgroups will convene regularly and with sufficient time to fulfill their missions.
- Workgroups will meet interim milestones for sharing progress, issues, and needs with council leadership and each other so that opportunities and challenges are addressed in a timely manner. A timeline of these milestones will be developed. Agencies will respond to workgroup requests for information and content to facilitate this process.
- All workgroup interactions will follow group agreements (i.e., ground rules) to ensure respectful environments and progress towards common goals. Documenting areas of concern and outstanding questions in productive, clear ways is part of that process.

POTENTIAL OUTLINE OF REPORT

1. Title page

2. Acknowledgements and front matter details

Include a glossary of terms and acronyms

3. Table of contents

4. Executive summary

5. Introduction:

- Context (history of SB762 and council, purpose and role of council as described in Section 36)
- Description of process used to develop report
- Overview of report

6. Summary of SB762 requirements and activities

This report section need not be lengthy, but should provide information in an effective manner.

This could involve, for example:

- Using language and information aligned with Director's reports.
- Providing a graphics and summary table easily depicting activities, who is responsible, and the interconnections.
- Offering a bill section-by-section summary in an appendix as in the Director's reports.
- Organizing by the three goals of Cohesive Strategy

Resilient Landscapes

Fire Adapted Communities

Safe and Effective Wildfire Response

Could use a table and diagram for each goal, and then a master diagram showing how each of the three goals are connected.

7. Assess the progress and appropriateness of defensible space, building codes, and land use applications and how the wildfire risk map informs those

This will be a substantial report section and directly tied to the obligations of the council as specified in bill Section 36 (13). It will be based off the efforts of workgroup #2 to develop content and reports from relevant agencies. Components of this section at minimum would include:

- Summarize progress to date on relevant sections of bill:
 - Section 7: Statewide map of wildfire risk
 - Section 8: Defensible space
 - Section 11: Land use
 - Section 12: Building codes
- Assess how statewide wildfire risk map informs codes, laws, rules, decisions: (*Assessing ways the statewide map of wildfire risk described in section 7 of this 2021 Act may inform development of 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 Department of Land Conservation and Development findings and recommendations in their agency report required by Section 11, and make additional recommendations related to potential updates to the statewide land use planning program, local comprehensive plans, and zoning codes to incorporate wildfire risk maps and minimize wildfire risk to people, public and private property, businesses, infrastructure and natural resources (*to be added in December 2022/January 2023 once complete*)
- Consideration of socially and economically vulnerable communities in program development.

8. Assess collective progress, opportunities, and obstacles for the present and future of wildfire risk reduction in Oregon

This report section will address cross-cutting themes including identification of what it means to “*dramatically reduce wildfire risk*” and protect public health, interagency and stakeholder collaboration to achieve the goals of SB762 and beyond, and other important components of work under this bill that are not covered by report section #7. It will also be future-focused, with an eye toward lessons learned and the bigger picture. It will be based off the efforts of workgroup #3 to develop content and reports from relevant agencies. Components of this section at minimum would include:

- Summarize progress to date on relevant sections of bill: Activities that involve managing vegetation and preparing landscapes and communities for fire, while also reducing sources of ignition. Throughout this report section, include some engaging aspects: e.g., box vignettes offering examples of projects or efforts that show the cross-agency connections that meet multiple objectives; visuals and photos of the work being done, people, and identifiable (and measurable when possible) outcomes to date.

- Sections 2-6: Utilities
- Section 13-15: Public Health
- Section 18: Wildfire risk reduction through landscape resiliency grants, small forestland grants, Firewise grants, 20-year plan
- Section 21: Oregon Conservation Corps
- Sections 25-27: Prescribed fire
- Provide space to describe and make recommendations about aspects of wildfire risk reduction that are not explicitly addressed in specific sections of the bill, but that are significant to Oregon’s economy and communities, such as impacts and opportunities for advancing fire protection across wheat growing counties and rangelands.
- Describe what it means to reduce wildfire risk and how we might measure/identify outcomes that indicate a dramatic reduction of wildfire risk over the short, medium, and long term; and in different settings around the state. This section addresses the first half of SB 762 (2) (b).
- Develop strategies to 1) strengthen intergovernmental and multiparty collaboration and enhancing collaboration between governments and stakeholders on an ongoing basis; and 2) enhance collaboration among governmental bodies and the general public to advance fire protection for Oregon.
- Consideration of socially and economically vulnerable communities in program development.

9. Summary of recommendations from across sections and conclusion

Key insights and recommendations from across the report will be synthesized here, and an appropriate conclusion offered. This will draw on the work of all three workgroups, but will largely be the purview of workgroup #1.

10. Appendices

- Appendix A: Section by section bill summary
- Appendix B: List of WPAC members and representation
- Additional appendices as needed