

# **PREPARING FOR WILDFIRE RISK: THROUGH THE LENS OF OREGON'S LAND USE SYSTEM**

Presented by Russ Hoeflich,  
E.D. 1000 friends of Oregon

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of Oregon



# Oregon Fire & Land Use Facts



Area within the bounds of Oregon's **241** cities and towns totals **800,000** acres.



Area outside Oregon's Urban Growth Boundary totals **61.3** million acres.



There are over **100,000** residences outside of the Urban Growth Boundary and represents 8% of Oregon's housing stock which is valued at over **\$12.7 billion** dollars.



In 2017, 19,978 structures were threatened. The total fire suppression cost for the year was **\$454 million**.



Over the past 30 years, **84%** of wildfires in Oregon's 31-million acre wildland-urban interface were human-caused.

# Oregon Fire & Land Use Facts



Over the last 20 years, Oregon has experienced **15 megafires**, fires that burned over 100,000 acres. In 2018 there were 1485 human-caused fires in Oregon that burned 309,657 acres, and 684 lightning caused fires that burned 573,747 acres.



Land burned increased by 2.56 acres per square mile in Oregon from the 1980's to the early 2000's.



36% of the homes built in Oregon today are built in the WUI and **80.4%** of the vacation homes in Oregon are built in the WUI (one of the highest rates in the nation).



Oregon had the **second-largest** increase in acres burned in the nation.

# Oregon Fire & Land Use Facts



73% of all wildfires on lands protected by ODF were human-caused.



The fire suppression costs in Oregon are largely footed by the federal and state government, with little contribution from Oregon's counties and cities who approve all building permits.



The Forest Service estimates that the lion's share of its overall firefighting dollars, between 50 percent and 95 percent, are spent defending homes.



Acres of privately-owned forestland: **10,191,000 (34%)**

Acres publicly-owned forestland: **18,981,000 (64%)**

Acres of tribal-owned forestland: **484,000 (2%)**

# Question #1

How do we as a state guide public and private mitigation investments in order to ensure the protection of both life and property? Where do we focus our limited investments?

## Question #2

Is it time to call for the creation of an official statewide fire risk map that would house all the vital data layers essential to help guide our federal, state, local and private risk reduction (mitigation) investments?

# Question #3

A three-part question:

- In light of the rapidly changing fire risk models, should Land Use Goal 7 -- the Goal focused on Natural Hazards -- establish implementation rules developed for our state's growing wildfire hazard?
- Do local planning offices (cities and counties) currently have adequate land use planning tools and guidelines to allow them to make appropriate decisions about development in wildfire risk areas?
- Would they benefit from guidance related to permitting new construction and defensible space design near new and existing infrastructure?

# Question #4

**Post the Paradise fire in California, should Oregon establish evacuation and access requirements, including multiple ingress/egress points for all new (and some high-risk existing) developments?**

# Question #5

**Should a wildfire hazard inspection be required along with a building inspection before sale for all structures within high wildfire risk zones?**

# Question #6

**Should there be an agency responsible for defensible space monitoring and enforcement?**



**THANK YOU**

[Russ@friends.org](mailto:Russ@friends.org)

(503) 497-1000 X 414