

Oregon's Wildfire Response Council

Fact sheet – June 2019



Background

In response to increased wildfire risks affecting all Oregonians, Governor Brown signed an executive order creating the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response on January 30, 2019. The Council is tasked with reviewing Oregon's current model for wildfire prevention, preparedness and response, and analyzing the sustainability of the current model to provide recommendations to strengthen, improve, or replace existing systems.

Membership

Governor Brown appointed Matt Donegan to serve as Council Chair. By design, Council membership includes a broad variety of perspectives to reflect the threat of wildfire to all aspects of our health, environment, and economy. The 40 Council members bring experience and backgrounds in forestry and fire-fighting—but also business, agriculture, and government. Committee memberships include specific subject matter experts for additional perspectives. *For full Council and Committee membership rosters, see the [Governor's Council on Wildfire Response website](#).*

Committees

Guided by the same approach found in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, the work of the Council divides into three key areas, focused on impacts before, during, and after a wildfire. Reports prepared by each Committee will be presented to the Council for discussion, consideration, and action. The Council is expected to communicate its recommendations to Governor Brown in September 2019.

The Mitigation Committee will develop and recommend priority fire prone areas to the state for restoration based on high-level priorities set by the Council. The Committee will also make recommendations regarding the process necessary to evaluate geographical areas of focus, target limited resources and to develop the public-private partnership needed to maximize beneficial impacts of forest restoration on human and natural system health.

The Fire Suppression Committee is charged with evaluating Oregon's coordinated fire suppression response structure and protocol while anticipating a significant increase in complexity and severity of fire seasons. Key findings of this Committee will include evaluation of Oregon's fire response funding structure as well as protection responsibilities and resource coordination amongst state and federal partners across Oregon.

The Adaptation and Recovery Committee will examine and report on three key areas:

1. Impacts of wildfire on public health
2. The relationship between land use and the risks of catastrophic wildfire, and Oregon's disaster response capabilities.
3. How communities prepare for and recover from wildfire impacts, both from the public health and economic perspective.