



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE**  
**GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

DATE: 10.15.2020

TO: The Wildfire Economic Recovery Council

FROM: Jody Christensen, Mid-Valley Coordinator

**SUBJECT: Santiam Canyon Wildfire Economic Recovery Team (SC WERT) Memo**

**Summary:** The SC WERT held their second meeting, which included a Debris Taskforce removal overview and Step 2 discussion, roundtable discussions on gaps in community services, and a brief housing discussion in preparation for the 10.22.2020 meeting. Last week's memo highlighted issues, potential solutions and opportunities, and looking ahead items still relevant.

**Debris Removal preferred option is State Managed/Locally Coordinated:** After the Debris Taskforce presentation, Marion County Commissioner Kevin Cameron and Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker shared their joint-board and emergency staff discussions. They had questions about cost share, definitions of "shared Oregon values" and locally coordinated, and speed of removal concerns (i.e., drinking water downstream). The Commissioners agreed that the state managed/locally coordinated option was preferred. Both noted that the counties would not have the ability to fund the debris removal.

**Issues (in no particular order):**

- Runoff/erosion/debris mitigation for the Santiam River continues to be a top priority.
- Local governments need to understand the recovery decision-making process.
- Concerns about debris removal timeline. Is there a way to speed it up?
- Capacity and staffing issues for local governments and Mid-Willamette Council of Governments (planning and community development services)
- Staffing and resources for local service integration team, volunteer efforts, and distribution (i.e., food boxes). Need to reduce duplication and align support.
- Immediate behavioral health support needed.
- Concerns about communication to residents and cities about the clean up and recovery.
- Critical need for in-person FEMA navigators and ongoing case management.
- Immediate sheltering resources needed for people living in cars and tents estimated @100+ people.

**Potential Solutions and Opportunities:**

- Maximize opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses in recovery efforts.
- Convene a service provider conversation to get everyone connected and networked.

**Looking Ahead:**

- Capitalize on workforce/affordable housing opportunities by leveraging location and funding in FEMA's Housing Mission.