

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Land Use Sub-Committee

August 15, 2019

I. OREGON LAND USE MEASURES TO ADDRESS WILDFIRE RISK – STATE-LEVEL

- **Oregon’s Defensible Space Law** ([ORS 477.015 through 477.061](#) and [OAR 629-044-100 through 629-044-1110](#)) – Statute and rule that enlist the aid of property owners to better protect their homes and firefighters during encroaching wildfires. The law requires property owners to reduce excess vegetation, which may fuel a fire, around homes and other structures. There is currently no funding or staff to monitor, encourage, or enforce compliance. To date, this statute has been entirely dependent on the individual homeowner for compliance.
- **Oregon Explorer: Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer** ([Site](#), [Basic Map Viewer](#) and [Advanced Map Viewer](#)) – Site and online mapping tools designed to increase wildfire awareness, give a comprehensive view of wildfire risk and local fire history, support community wildfire protection planning, and educate users about wildfire prevention and mitigation resources. Data gaps and limitations prevent robust and inclusive information presentation, at current levels, these maps are insufficient to support comprehensive address of wildfire and wildfire prevention to structures and infrastructure at a local planning level. For a map to be adopted to a local plan it must be (among other things) fixed in time (not dynamically updated as new information becomes available), and it should be tailored to the purpose.
- **Community Wildfire Protection Plans** – An element of the work performed by the [ODF Fire Protection Program](#) these plans created through a community driven process that identifies local priorities for community protection and resource management. Plans are used to enhance safety and reduce risk to communities, human structures and watersheds. Participating communities are eligible for prioritized funds from USFS and BLM for hazardous fuels reduction projects (Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HRFA) of 2003). Plan outcomes result in recommendations only and participation by individual landowners is voluntary.
- **Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 7: Areas Subject to Natural Disasters and Hazards** – [Goal 7](#) requires local governments (city and county) to develop comprehensive plans that address Oregon’s natural hazards. Wildfire is listed in Goal 7 as a natural hazard that may affect counties and communities in Oregon. The goal’s aim is to protect people and property from natural hazards using available information, planning, coordination, and education. Local governments must adopt a natural hazard inventory, as well as supporting plans and policies. DLCD, the state agency responsible for stewarding this goal at a

statewide level, works with DOGAMI, FEMA, and others to help implement local hazards plans. There are currently no statutes or administrative rules that specify local requirements or create statewide standards that support implementation of this goal. However, the goal gives both the state and local governments the authority to create policies that fall within the purview of Goal 7.

- **Oregon Climate Change Adaptation Framework** – [This 2010 document](#) summarizes key findings and recommendations for the State of Oregon with consideration to existing and emerging science on climate change. It evaluates statewide priorities in terms of preparing people, communities, and resources for current and coming changes. Increase in wildfire frequency and intensity section is included as Risk 3. Document is currently being updated by staff in the Oregon Coastal Management Program within DLCD.
- **Oregon State Building Codes: Residential Structures Code Program** – This DCBS division works with building officials, technical committees, advisory boards, and the public to adopt, amend, and interpret the [Oregon Residential Specialty Code \(ORSC\)](#). This code applies to the construction, reconstruction, and repair of one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses. [Section R327 Wildfire hazard mitigation](#) code amendment was added in January 2019. Amendments provide additional wildfire hazard mitigation provisions that are available for local adoption.
- **Portland State University: Population Research Center** – PRC provides population data, information, research, and analysis for Oregon and its communities. Center provided demographic information for the [Oregon State Data Center](#), the Oregon Populations Estimates Program, and a variety of commissioned projects. Provides information regarding both demography, and population growth in locations around Oregon.
- **United States Census/American Community Survey** – [The American Community Survey](#) (ACS) is an ongoing survey by the U.S. Census Bureau. It regularly gathers information on language proficiency, age of persons in household, household income, access to transportation, and housing characteristics. These data are useful for public and private sector, and not-for-profit stakeholders in allocating funding, tracking shifting demographics, and planning for emergencies.
- **Intterra** – A cloud based mapping tool that assists firefighting agencies with preplanning, incident management, in using analytics, when reporting, and in the field. Includes specific wildland/WUI tool module. Offers real-time updates of information for better understanding and incident control.
- **Oregon Commissioner of Insurance** – This executive position within the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services aims to protect the insurance-buying public.
- **Oregon's Forest Patrol Assessment** – Forest landowners pay an assessment to the state that is matched by the state's General Fund. This fund is used to help fight and prevent forest fires, as well as to educate the public.

II. OREGON MEASURES TO ADDRESS WILDFIRE RISK – LOCAL-LEVEL

- **Oregon Rural Fire Protection Districts** – ([ORS 478.001 through 478.990](#)) These membership organization protect a defined district with a full range of services that can include fire prevention, public education, fire suppression, rescue, and wildland fire control. In many cases these organizations are staffed by both professionals and volunteers. Geographic areas of coverage vary greatly, as does membership, volunteer support, resources, and equipment.
- **Natural Hazards Mitigation Plans** – [Oregon’s statewide natural hazards mitigation planning program](#) aims to create a disaster-resilient state of Oregon such that natural hazard events result in no loss of life, minimal property damage, and limited long-term impacts to the economy. The purpose of Statewide Planning Goal 7 (below) is similarly, to protect people and property from natural hazards. DLCDC helps local governments and tribes implement Goal 7 by identifying and planning for the hazards they are most likely to face. These NHMP’s result in a series of recommendations, but rarely interact with local zoning or permitting.
- **Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 7: Areas Subject to Natural Disasters and Hazards** – [Goal 7](#) requires local governments (city and county) comprehensive plans to address Oregon’s natural hazards. The goal is to protect people and property from natural hazards using available information, planning, coordination, and education. Local governments must adopt a natural hazard inventory, as well as supporting plans and policies. DLCDC, the state agency responsible for stewarding this goal at a statewide level, works with DOGAMI, FEMA, and others to help implement local hazards plans. There are currently no statutes or administrative rules that specify local requirements or create statewide standards that support implementation of this goal. However, the goal gives both the state and local governments the authority to create policies that fall within the purview of Goal 7.
- **Oregon State Building Codes: Residential Structures Code Program** – This DCBS division works with building officials, technical committees, advisory boards, and the public to adopt, amend, and interpret the [Oregon Residential Specialty Code \(ORSC\)](#). This code applies to the construction, reconstruction, and repair of one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses. [Section R327 Wildfire hazard mitigation](#) code amendment was added in January 2019. Amendments provide additional wildfire hazard mitigation provisions that are available for local adoption.
- **Local Zoning Code** – A zoning ordinance is a written regulation and law that defines how a property in a specific geographic location, or zone, can be used. Zoning ordinances specify whether zones can be used for residential or commercial purposes, and may also regulate lot size, placement, bulk and height of structures. Zoning code can include access and egress requirements. Zoning ordinances describe not only the acceptable use for specified areas of land, but procedures for handling infractions.