

# Land Use Subcommittee Members

The Land Use Subcommittee held meetings on June 18 and July 16. An additional meeting is scheduled for August 20. The members of the Land Use Subcommittee are as follows:

- **Russ Hoeflich**, Executive Director of 1000 Friends of Oregon. Land Use Subcommittee Chair
- **Sadie Carney**, liaison to DLCDC
- **Holly Kerns**, Baker County Planning Director
- **Mark Long**, Building Codes Division Administrator
- **Meriel Darzen**, staff attorney with CRAG
- **Mike Myers** Director of Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (former Fire Chief, Portland Fire & Rescue)
- **Janine Salwasser**, Institute of Natural Resources, Oregon State University
- **John Stromberg**, Mayor, City of Ashland
- **Ellen Miller**, lobbyist for the Oregon Home Builders Association



# Create an Interagency Group to Modernize Current WUI Laws and Regulations

In response to mounting public costs, risk to humans, and risk to property, we recommend that an interagency workgroup and policy decision-making committee be established to modernize existing WUI laws and regulations relating to wildfire risk mitigation, with a focus on refining and advancing existing and new policy.

# Map Structures In High Fire Risk Areas

In response to the Mitigation Committee's recommendation to map priority mitigation areas, and **in support of better understanding and helping to plan for and mitigate against wildfire impacts in Oregon, the state should sponsor and financially support the creation and maintenance of a statewide wildfire risk to structures and infrastructure map.** The map shall take into account all valued land and water assets.

**The map will be updated comprehensively and regularly.** Both the map and its supporting data layers should be made accessible via the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer site managed by the Institute for Natural Resources and the Oregon State University Libraries and Press cosponsored by Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon State Fire Marshal, OGEO Geospatial Enterprise Office, and U.S. Forest Service.

# Map Structures In High Fire Risk Areas (cont.)

Supporting data layers include, but are not limited to: Wildland Urban Interface, high risk fire zones, communities at risk, socioeconomic conditions, municipal/source watersheds, infrastructure, existing structures, and other data layers essential to help guide federal, state, local and private risk reduction investments and planning for the protection of life, property, and our state's natural resources.

**The state wildfire risk map and supporting data, such as high fire zone designations, should be available for adoption as a regulatory tool by local planning agencies so should be scalable down to parcel-level where possible and support wildfire risk forecasts under different climate change scenarios.**

- <<actual map>>



# Support Prioritization of WUI

The state should prioritize the protection of already-existing and permitted commercial, industrial and residential development, in its defensible space investments and policies. Policies and funding should not be directed towards enabling new growth in high risk areas. Further, at the special meeting of the Wildfire Council on June 21st, 2019, the Council endorsed the prioritization of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), critical infrastructure and assets, as it seeks an integrated suppression-mitigation-adaptation strategy for Oregon. **The Land Use Subcommittee fully supports this prioritization and recommends the state make this an explicit policy.**



# Support Intent of Oregon's Defensible Space Law

Support the intent of Oregon's Defensible Space Law. As the number of fires within the WUI increase, along with associated costs, losses, and health impacts.

**It is recommended that Oregon transition from a voluntary defensible space management strategy to a mandatory strategy for all existing structures and facilities within high risk areas, both within the Wildland Urban Interface as well as other high risk areas identified by the Mitigation Committee.**



# Develop Best Practice Guidance and Reference Document for Building Design Approval

**Require** the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to issue Building Codes guidance and reference documents on best practices for the approval of building design and standards for all new residential and other structures that seek to protect life and property by **including requirements** for building materials and standards.



# Developing Program to Help Individuals Upgrade Structures and Manage Vegetation

Support the intent of Oregon's Defensible Space Law. As the number of fires within the WUI increase, along with associated costs, losses, and health impacts, it is recommended that **Oregon transition from a voluntary defensible space management strategy to a mandatory strategy** for all existing structures and facilities within high risk areas, both within the Wildland Urban Interface as well as other high risk areas identified by the Mitigation Committee.



# DLCD Should Engage in Rulemaking to Protect People and Assets from Wildfire Hazard and Risk

**Instruct and fund DLCD to engage in rulemaking pursuant protection of the state's people and assets from wildfire hazard and risk.** The rules should be intended to guide local governments in updating their comprehensive plans and land use ordinances to incorporate wildfire risk.

**This will give local planning offices (cities and counties) the ability to adopt adequate land use planning tools and guidelines to allow them to make appropriate decisions about development and protections in wildfire risk areas.** This work should be funded for the 2021-2023 biennium and should be completed in that biennium as a priority for DLCD, or at the soonest possible opportunity for funding that follows the completion of a statewide wildfire risk map.



# Fund Public Education Campaign Targeting People and Communities within High-Risk Fire Zones

Require funding for all communities within high risk fire zones to be dedicated to community education efforts. Education and training should fund iterative, age appropriate training for wildfire prevention and response that reaches grade school, middle school, high school, and broad community audiences.

In coordination with local fire departments, Sheriff's office or Local Emergency management organizations, state resources will be dedicated to high risk communities that will prepare and enable them to respond as individuals, families, and as a community.