

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	11
Work Plan:	Fire Protection Work Plan
Topic:	Ongoing topic: Fire Program Review Committee
Presentation Title:	Fire Program Review Committee Update
Date of Presentation:	April 27, 2016
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SUMMARY

This agenda item is to provide the Board with an update on the Fire Program Review Committee's progress to-date and to provide a revised committee charter (Attachment 1).

CONTEXT

Due to the significant increase in wildfires over the past several years, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) initiated a Fire Program Review Committee December 2015. This committee is made up of forest landowners, wildland fire professionals, elected officials, the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office and other stakeholders to advise ODF in its effort to develop and implement a more sustainable fire organization, including large-fire funding solutions, and developing policy options to mitigate increasingly complex wildfire conditions in Oregon.

BACKGROUND

The Fire Program Review Committee has conducted three meetings to-date: December 1, 2015, January 21, 2016 and April 5, 2016. The committee has established three "Working Groups" which are conducting much of the staff work necessary for the committee to deliberate on its mission. The three working groups' status as of the April 27 Board of Forestry meeting are detailed as follows:

- Sustainable Large-Fire Funding Working Group: This working group will have conducted four meetings and is focusing on a series of recommendations to address the large-fire funding challenges, as we plan for the future of the state's protection system. Focus areas include the interplay between OFLPF, Insurance, and the General Fund, along with discussions regarding new revenue sources and development of a Trust Fund dedicated to large fire costs.
- Sustainable Fire Organization Working Group: This working group will have conducted three meetings and continues to consider investments in the protection system under the categories of Severity and Policy Option Packages and continues seeking greater effectiveness in the protection system under Administrative and Business Practices.
- Wildfire Policy Working Group: This working group will have conducted two meetings and has begun to define its scope of work, focused on resilient landscapes and the wildland/urban interface. This group may take more time to synthesize and define its anticipated outcomes for the overall committee work.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board continue to support and participate in the Fire Program Review Committee.

NEXT STEPS

- Fire Program Review Committee meets next at its final meeting on June 6, 2016.
- Sustainable Large-Fire Funding Working Group meets next on April 8, 2016.
- Sustainable Wildfire Organization Working Group meets next on April 11, 2016.
- Wildfire Policy Working Group meets next on May 19, 2016.

ATTACHMENT

1. Revised Fire Program Review Committee Charter