



# DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

## 2015 Fire Program Review Committee Draft Recommendations

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### Sustainable Large Wildfire Funding Work Group

#### Recommendation 1 – Trust Fund

- Recommend a legislative ballot referral to amend the Constitution and dedicate two percent of lottery funds to the creation of a trust fund for the public share of large fire suppression costs for Department of Forestry jurisdictional fires and for reducing wildland fire risk.
- Recommend continuation of the Large Fire Funding Work Group along with legislator(s) from the full Committee and other interested parties to further develop the referral language and the implementation framework for the trust fund concept, and then present results to the State Forester, Board of Forestry Chair and Governor's office for consideration in the 2017 legislative assembly.

#### Recommendation 2 – Catastrophic Fire Insurance Policy

- Recommend EFCC/ODF regularly review and consider the value, retention and policy limits of the catastrophic insurance policy and when appropriate, purchase the policy.
- Recommend ODF continue to explore the concept of parametric insurance, and assess its strategic value and role with the Trust Fund.

#### Recommendation 3 – BLM Protection Study

Recommend ODF, EFCC and the BLM initiate a study examining the equity of BLM contributions to large fire funding costs expended on BLM lands, and present alternatives for reconciling identified issues to agency leaders.

- EFCC and ODF initiate work on June 7, 2016 by developing a draft charter.
- EFCC and ODF include BLM leadership early and throughout the process.
- EFCC provide study results and alternatives to the State Forester and to the Board of Forestry by June 1, 2017.
- The department will use the results to inform the 2018 BLM suppression contract process.

### Sustainable Fire Organization Work Group

The work group discussed ODF's mission to provide for a complete and coordinated wildfire protection system and recognized the current challenge to fulfill this mission along with other agency missions in State Forests, Private Forests and Administration. It was noted that the Secretary of State is conducting a robust audit on this "sustainability" topic.

#### Theme 1 – Severity

- The Committee recommends the additional severity investments, up to \$1.5 million, be pursued through ODF budget process. The intent is for it to be funded by the General Fund. ODF will develop metrics that allow for analysis of the effectiveness of severity investments.

#### Theme 2 – Improvements to the Complete and Coordinated System

- The Committee recommends the agency coordinate and collaborate with landowners, cooperating agencies and stakeholders to establish priorities on the additional themes identified by the Sustainable Fire Organization Work Group and recommends ODF embrace them and work to implement specific options over time, through budgetary and legislative processes.

# Wildfire Policy Work Group

## **Recommendation 1 – Landscape Resiliency and Fuels Management**

- Initiate a wildfire risk analysis to understand the potential of wildfire to move across public/private ownership boundaries. This study also may be able to inform prioritization of landscape-level fuel reduction treatments.
- Use Good Neighbor Authority agreements to increase pace, scale and quality of federal forest restoration projects. Establish a GNA agreement with Bureau of Land Management.
- Maintain the Board of Forestry’s effort through its Federal Forest Subcommittee to strengthen its voice on the importance of active management to increase fire resiliency on lands managed by the USFS and BLM.
- Continue ODF’s effort to pursue emerging landscape-scale, fuel reduction funding opportunities on both private and public lands.

## **Recommendation 2 – Smoke Management and Prescribed Burning**

- Partner with Oregon Health Authority to initiate a study to identify the factors that constrain land managers from meeting their prescribed burning objectives.
- Partner with OHA to initiate a public outreach effort to generate public understanding of the importance of prescribed burning to lessen the risk of wildfires.

## **Recommendation 3 – Rangelands**

- Continue to enhance coordination among Rangeland Protection Associations, the BLM and other partners to increase suppression capacity on rangeland fires. Continue to incorporate unprotected lands into existing and evolving RPAs.
- ODF should support innovations and research in rangeland landscape management, in coordination with the US Department of Agriculture (Agriculture Research Service) to lessen the risk of wildfire on Oregon’s rangeland.

## **Recommendation 4 – Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)**

- Request that the ODF Fire Protection Division work with the ODF Partnership Development Program to pursue Request that ODF Protection Division and ODF Resource Planning collaborate to initiate a study to analyze the suppression costs associated with fighting wildfires in the WUI and the role of Department suppression efforts in the WUI.
- Request that ODF Protection Division collaborate with the Department of Land Conservation and Development to optimize and align the current array of regulatory tools associated with wildfire mitigation, and continue to seek potential funding sources necessary to assist property owners with implementing defensible space treatments around residences and structures at the time of construction, and at appropriate intervals thereafter.
- Request that the ODF Protection Division conduct an effectiveness review of Senate Bill 360 policies and implementation procedures, and determine the most effective pathway forward, with a focus on its success in mitigating the risk of wildland fire fuels in the WUI.