



2022 Fire Season

Update

Mike Shaw- Chief of Fire Protection Division

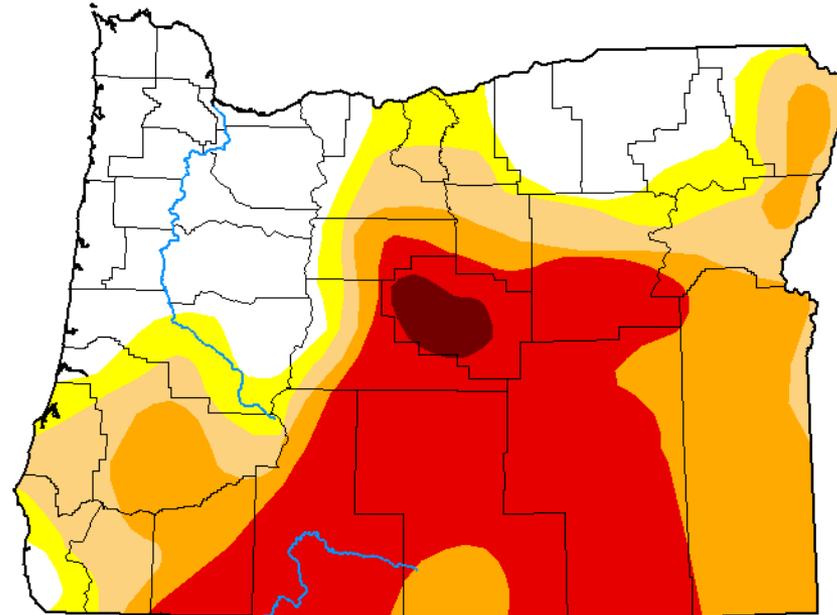
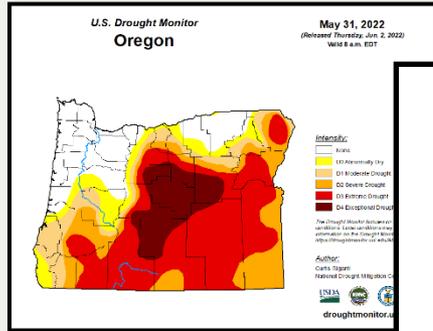
Ron Graham-Deputy Chief, Operations-Fire Protection Division



Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

August 30, 2022
(Released Thursday, Sep. 1, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

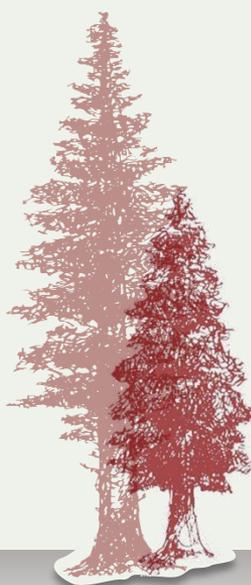
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

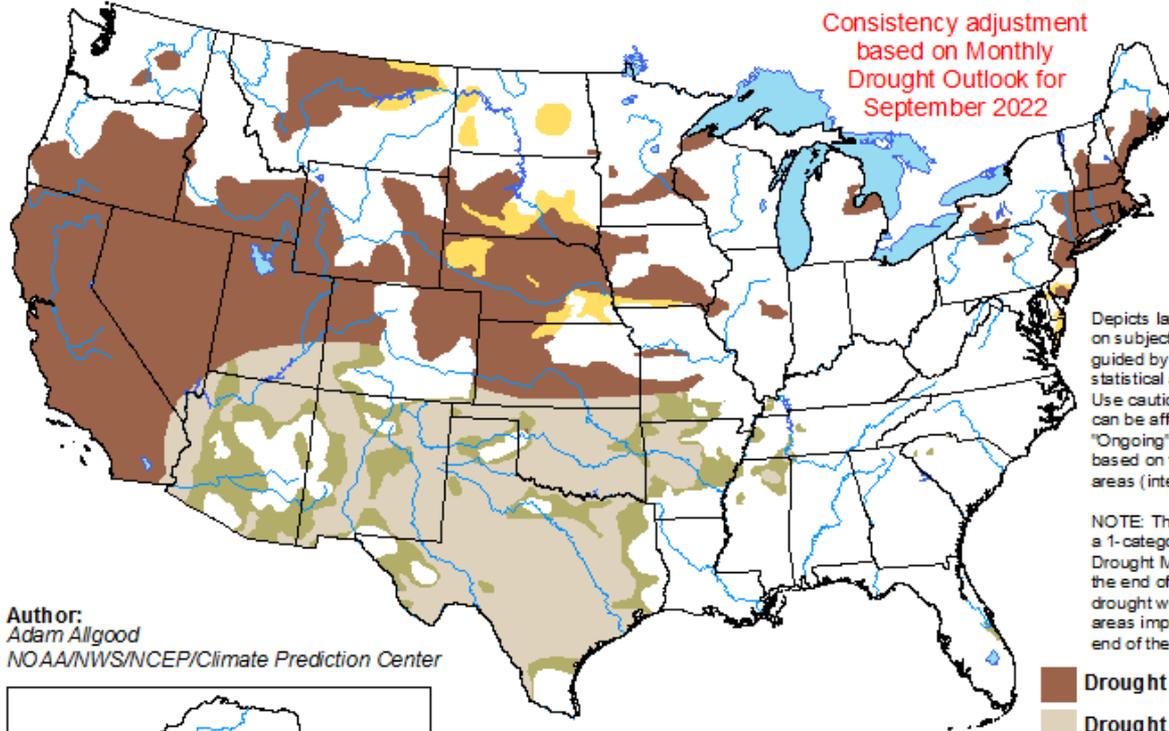


Seasonal drought outlook

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 1 - November 30, 2022
Released August 31, 2022

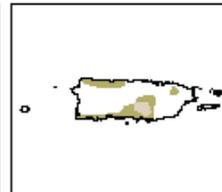
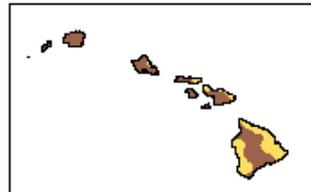
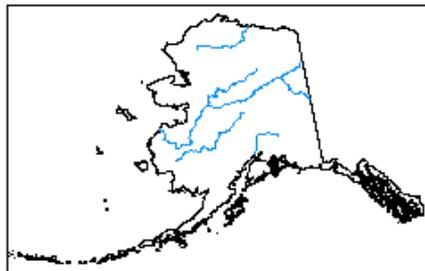
Consistency adjustment
based on Monthly
Drought Outlook for
September 2022



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

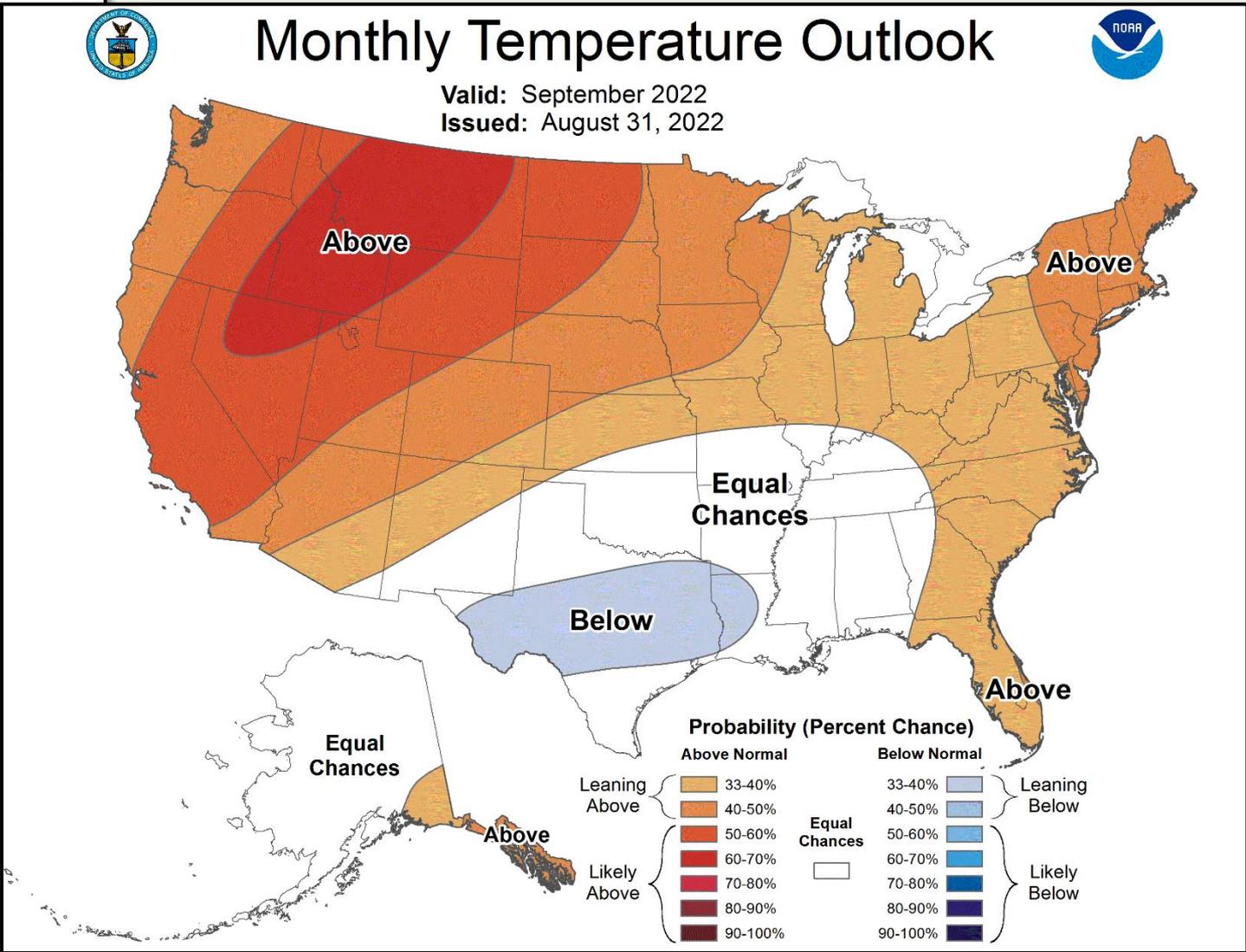
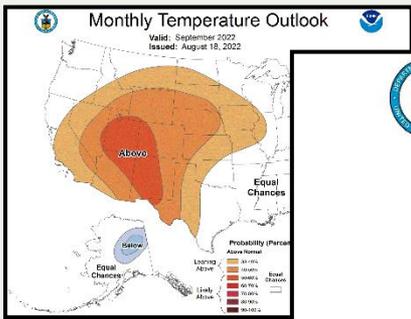


- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>





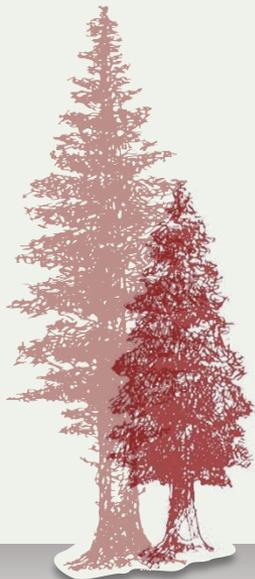
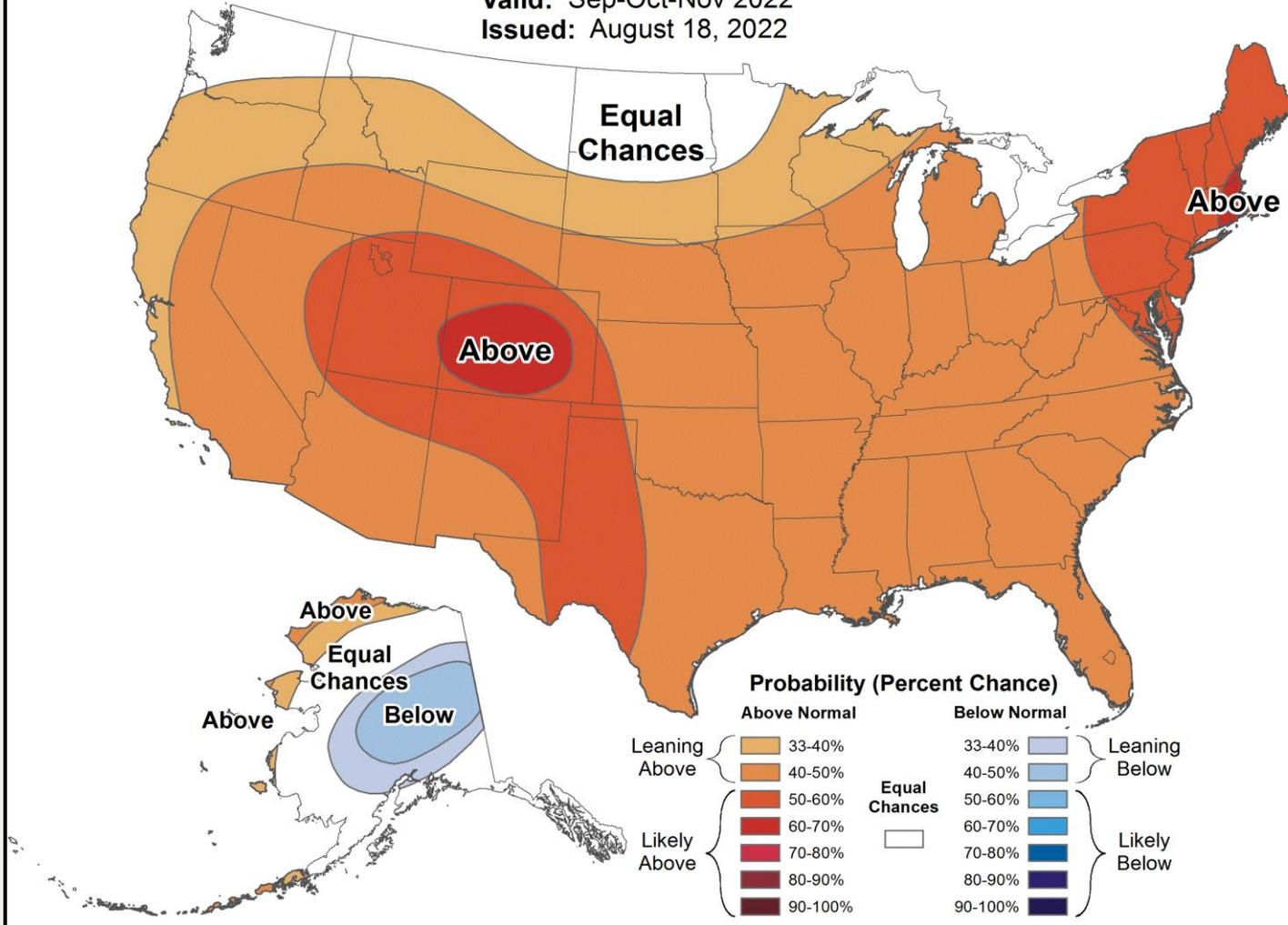


Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2022

Issued: August 18, 2022

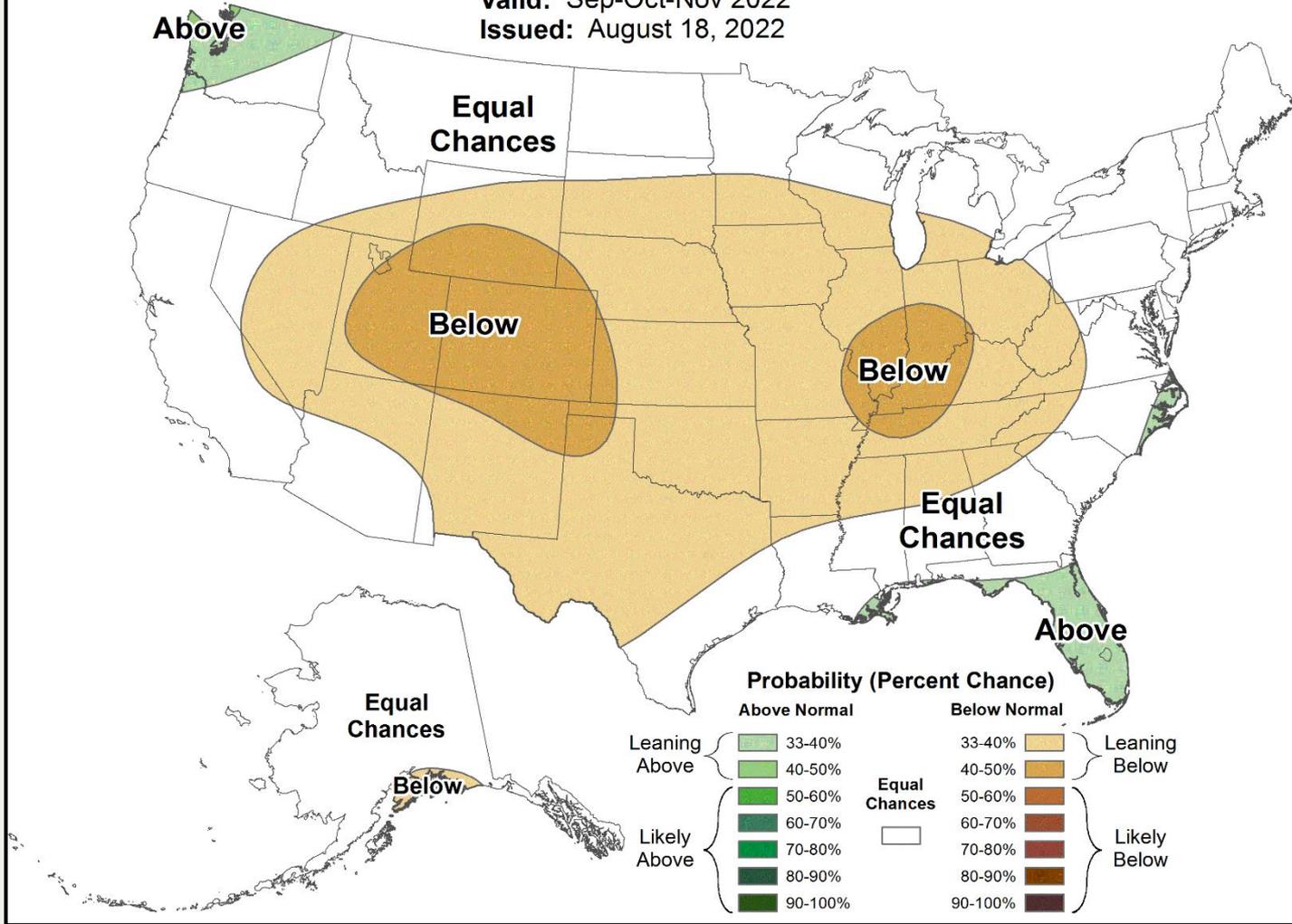




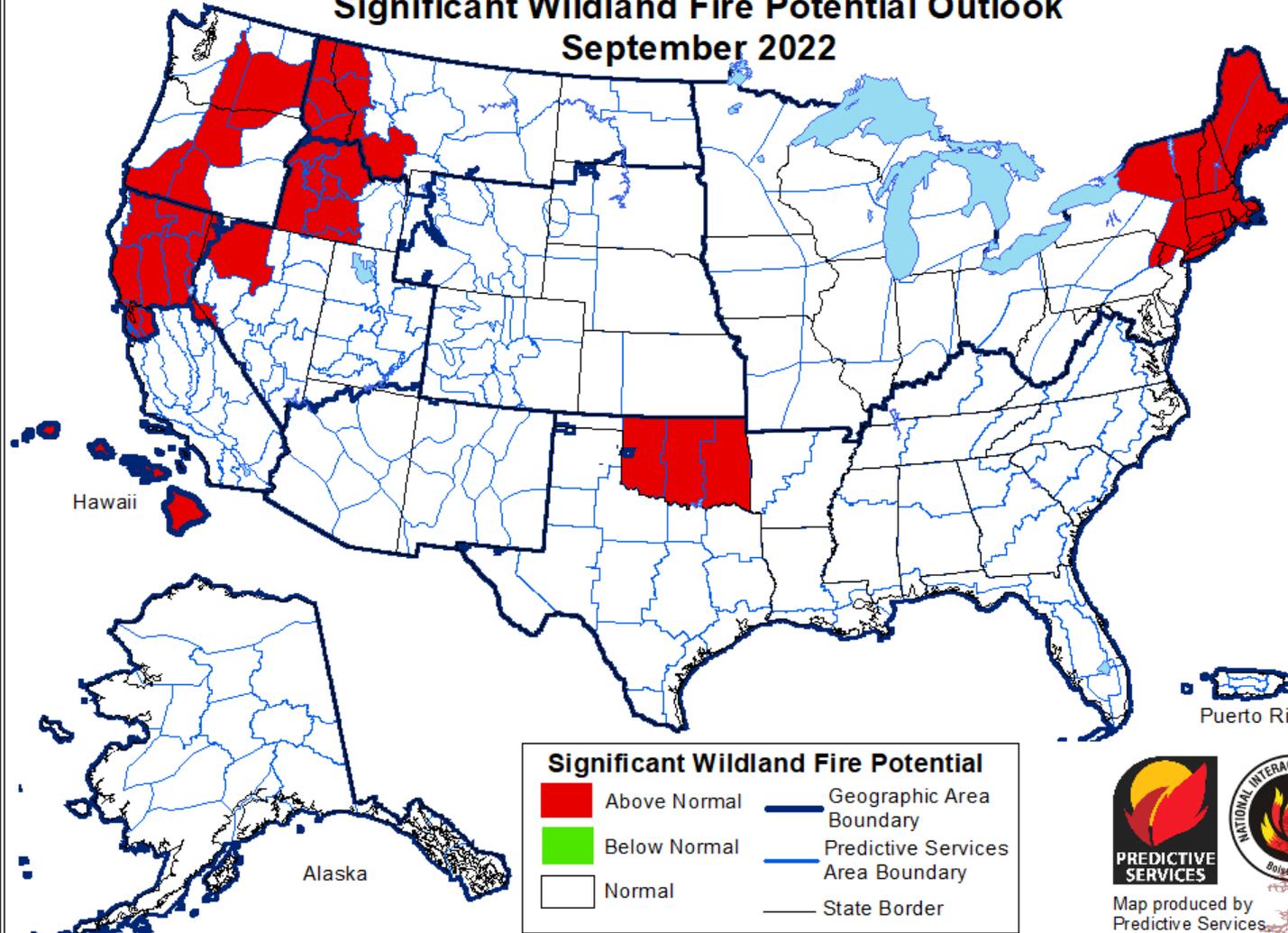
Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2022
Issued: August 18, 2022



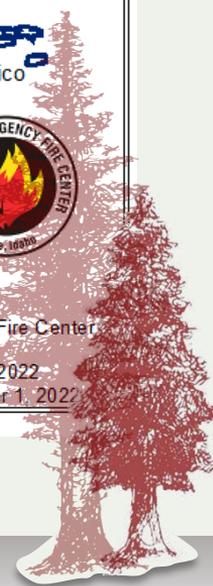
Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook September 2022



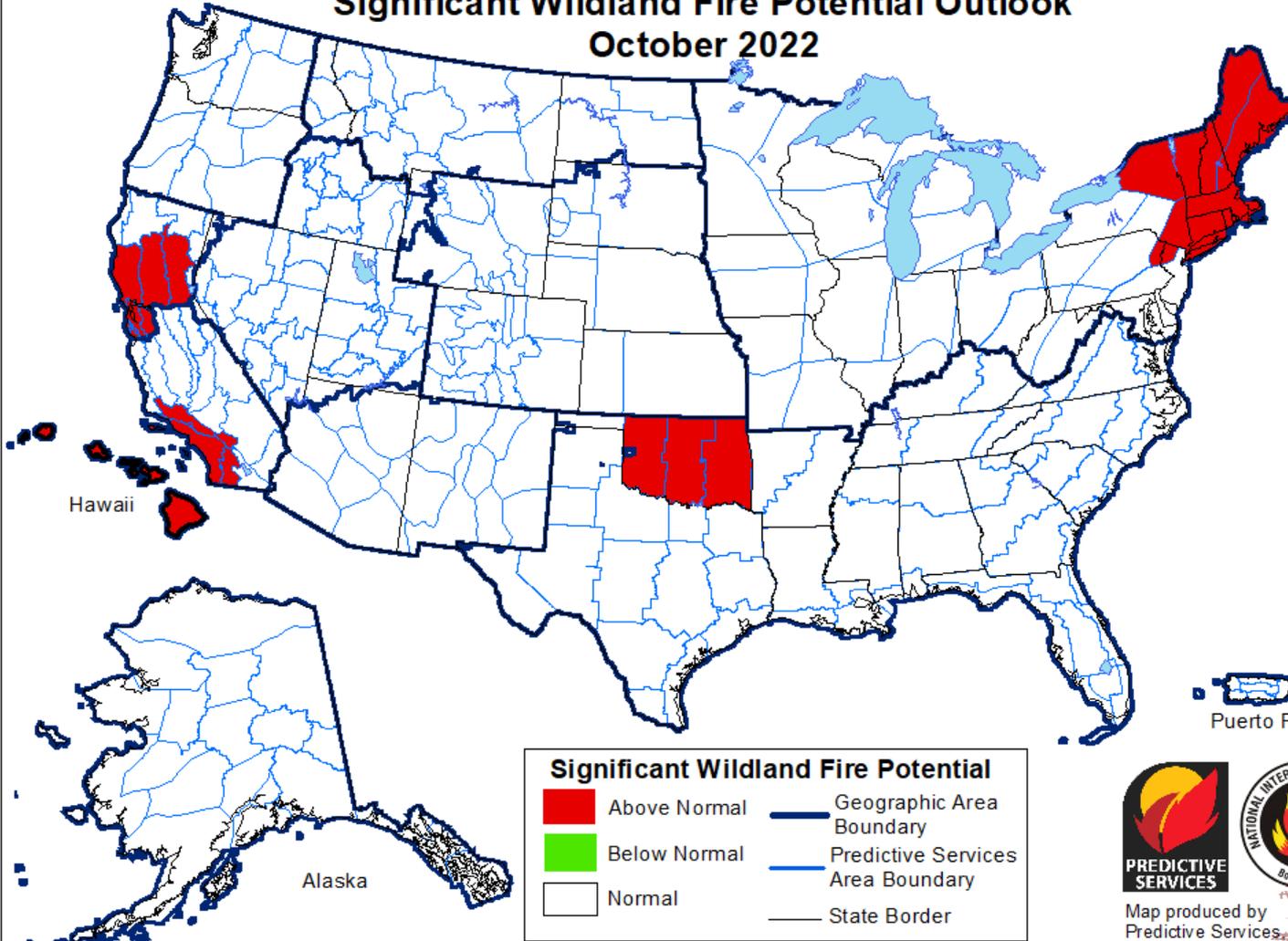
Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.



Map produced by
Predictive Services
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
Issued September 1, 2022
Next issuance October 1, 2022



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook October 2022



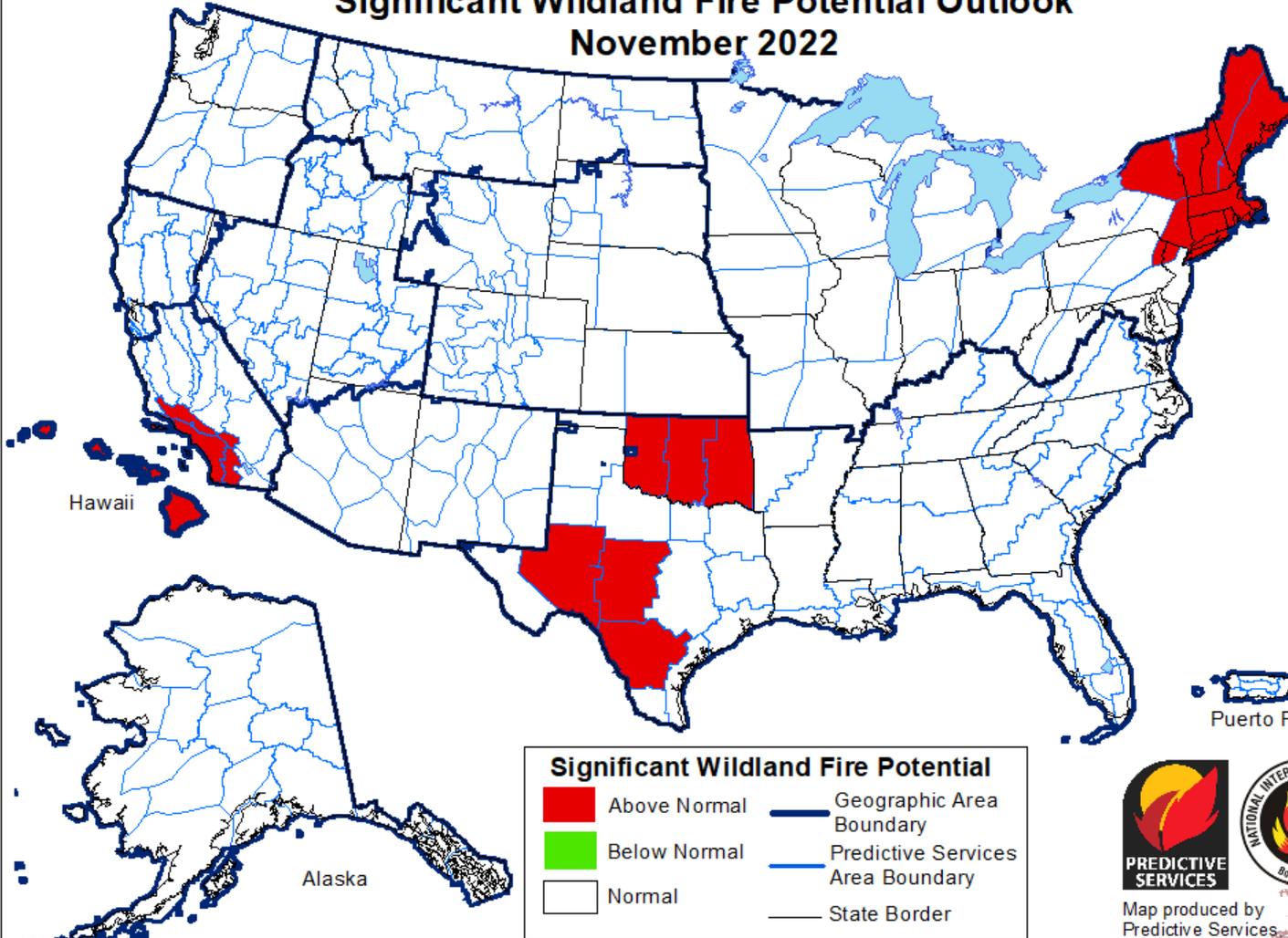
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Map produced by
Predictive Services,
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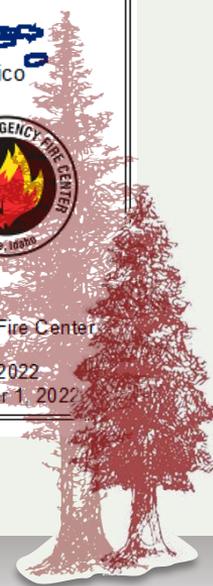
Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook November 2022



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.



Map produced by
Predictive Services
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
Issued September 1, 2022
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Fire statistics to date

Sept 6, 2022

2022 Year To Date

	Fires	Acres
Lightning	189	2009
Human (and UI)	443	322
Total	632	2,331

10-Year Average (2012-2021 Year To Date)

Lightning	242	49,221
Human	602	27,892
Total	844	77,113

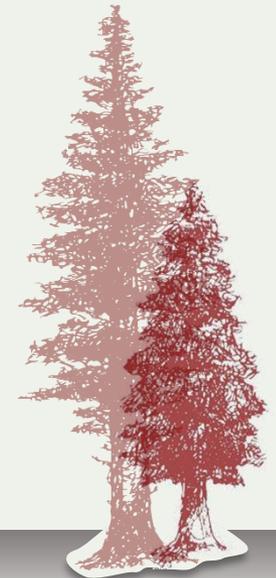
97%

fires kept at 10 acres or less
to date in 2022



2022 vs 10 Year Average

- ~ 25% less fires
- ~ *fraction* of the acres burned



ODF Number of Fires

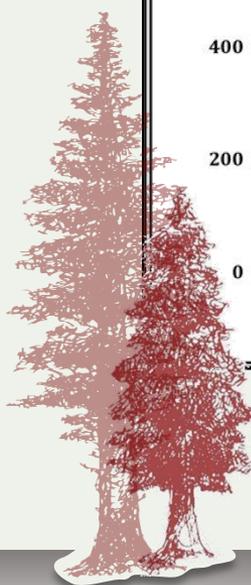
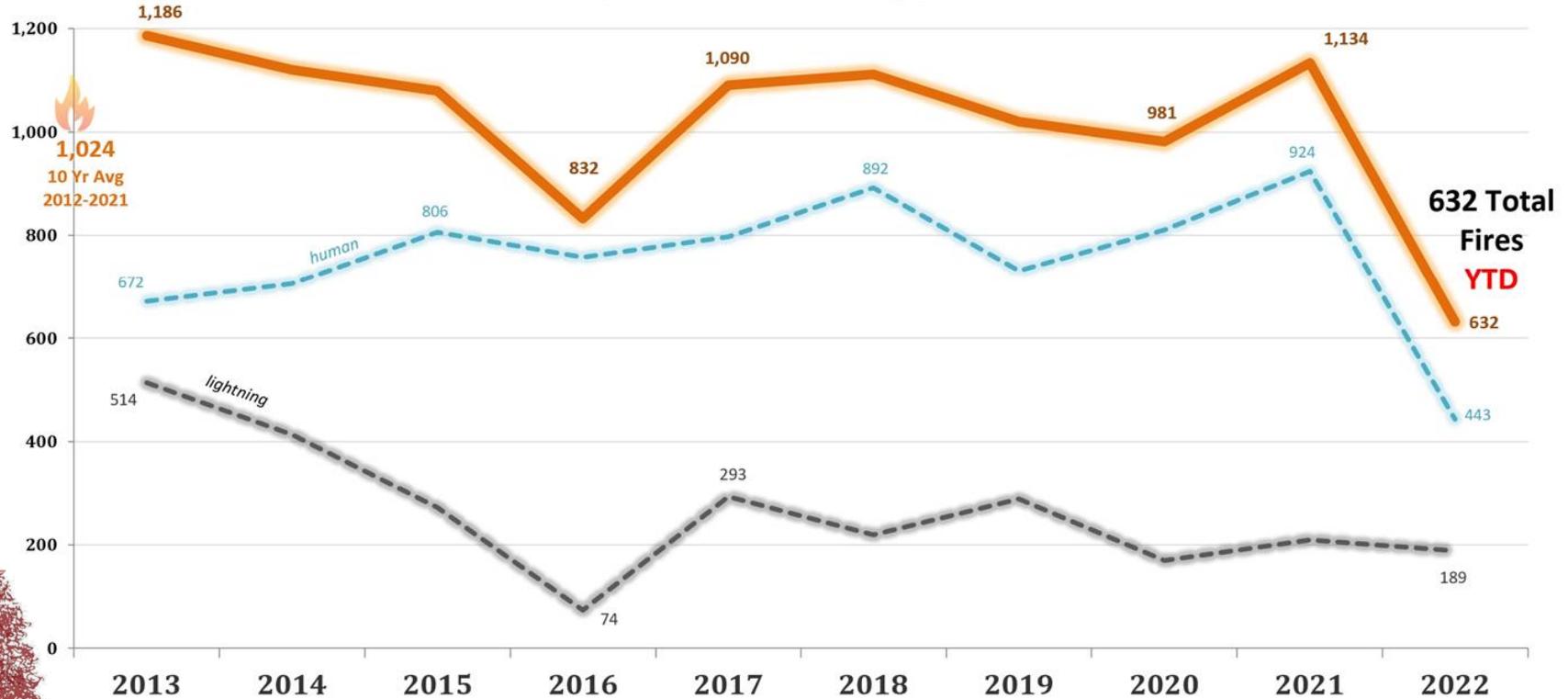


Oregon Department of Forestry Number of Fires 2013-2022

ODF Fire Intel. Data 9/06/2022.
Fires Under Investigation are accounted for in Human Category.

Number of Fires

--- Lightning --- Human



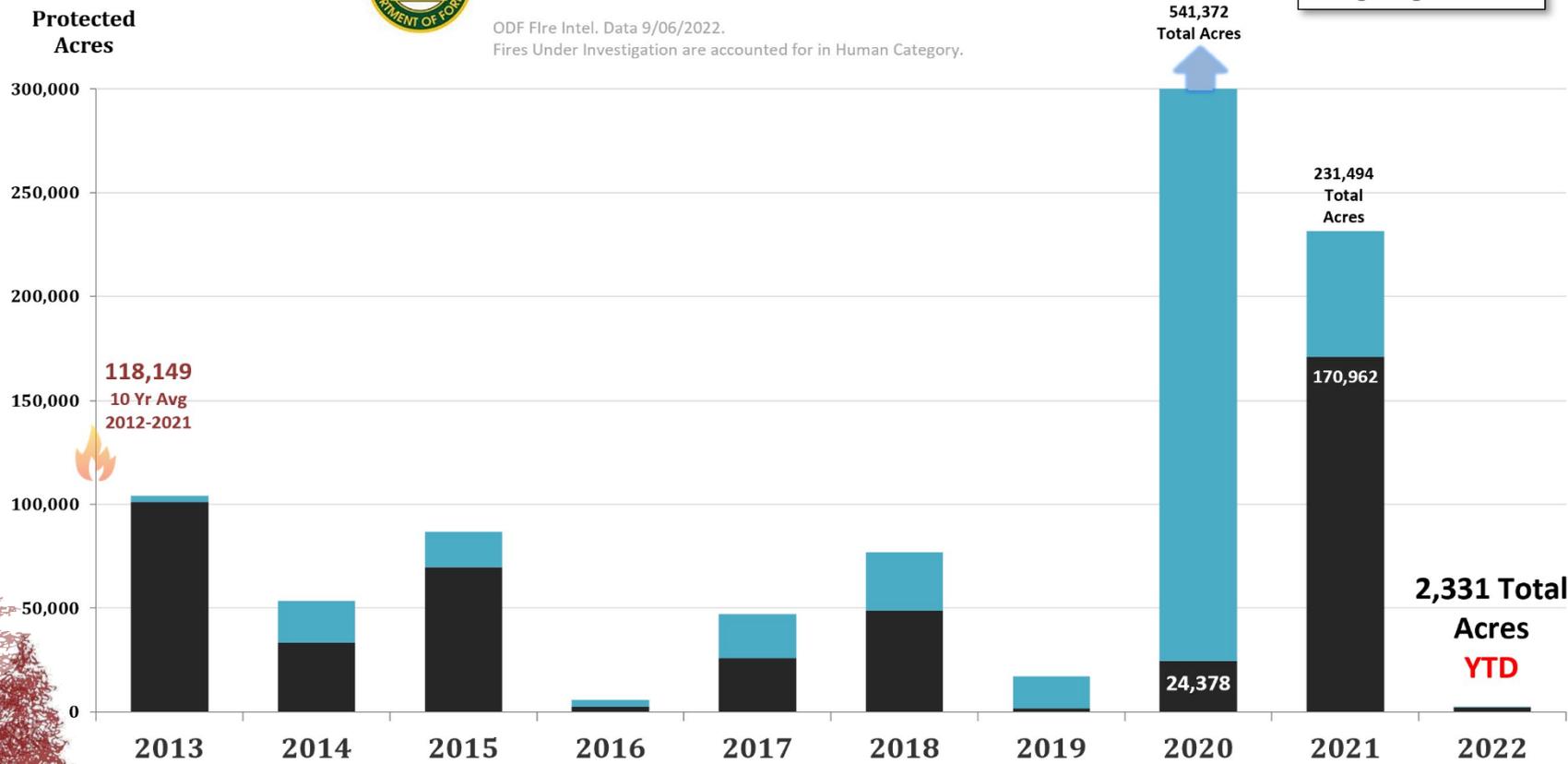
ODF Acres Burned



Oregon Department of Forestry Protected Acres Burned 2013-2022

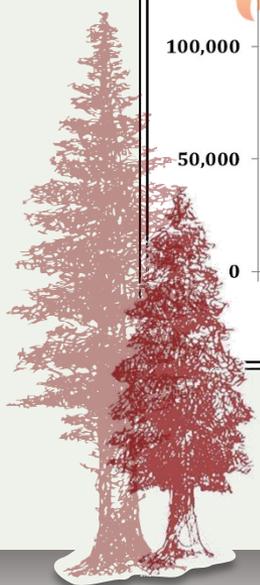
ODF Fire Intel. Data 9/06/2022.
Fires Under Investigation are accounted for in Human Category.

■ Lightning ■ Human



118,149
10 Yr Avg
2012-2021

2,331 Total
Acres
YTD



ODF large fire costs 2013-2022



ODF Large Fire Costs 2013 - 2022

ODF Protection Finance and EFCC Data 09/06/2022.

Values are by calendar year including non-jurisdictional fires for 2013-2021.



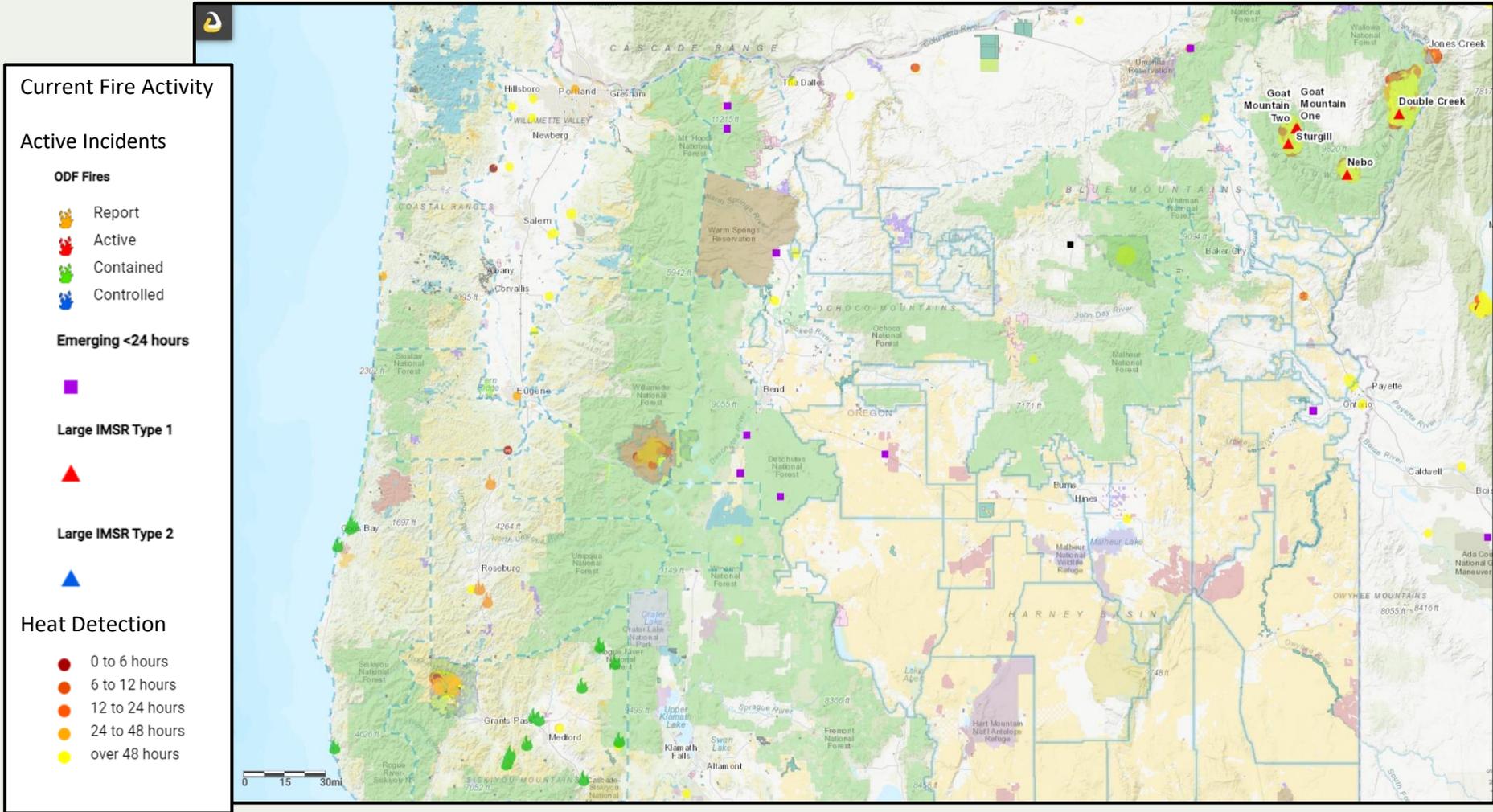
Costs
(Millions)



*includes draft claims figures



Sept 6, 2022 Statewide Active Fires



Rum Creek Fire

Lightning 8/17/22

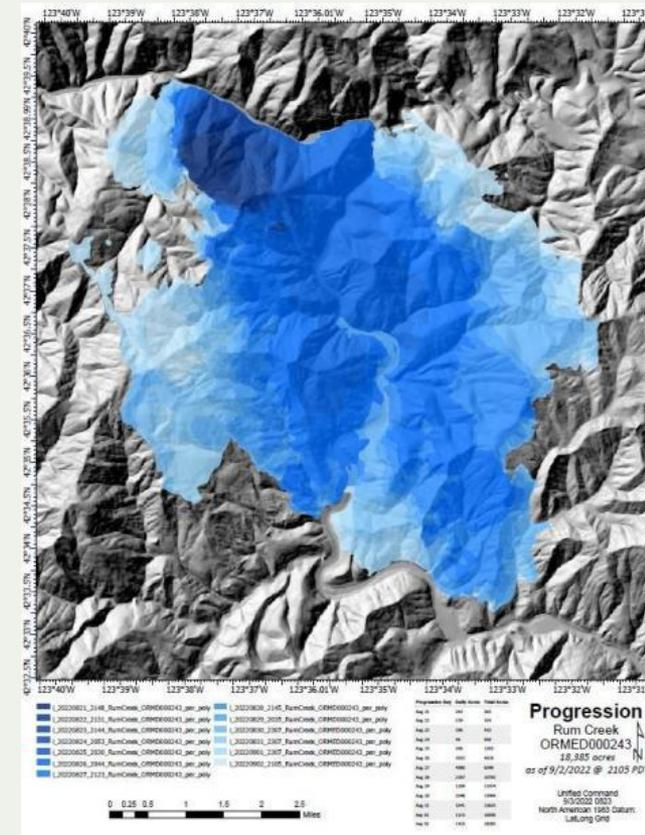
Acres as of 9/06: 20,029

Unified Command:

NW IMT 13 (Gales)

ODF IMT 1 (Hessel)

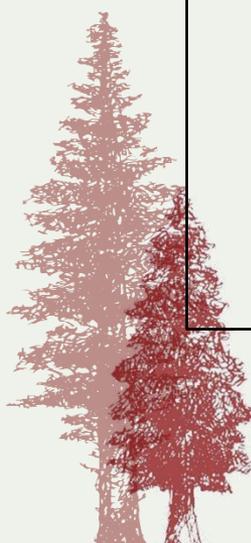
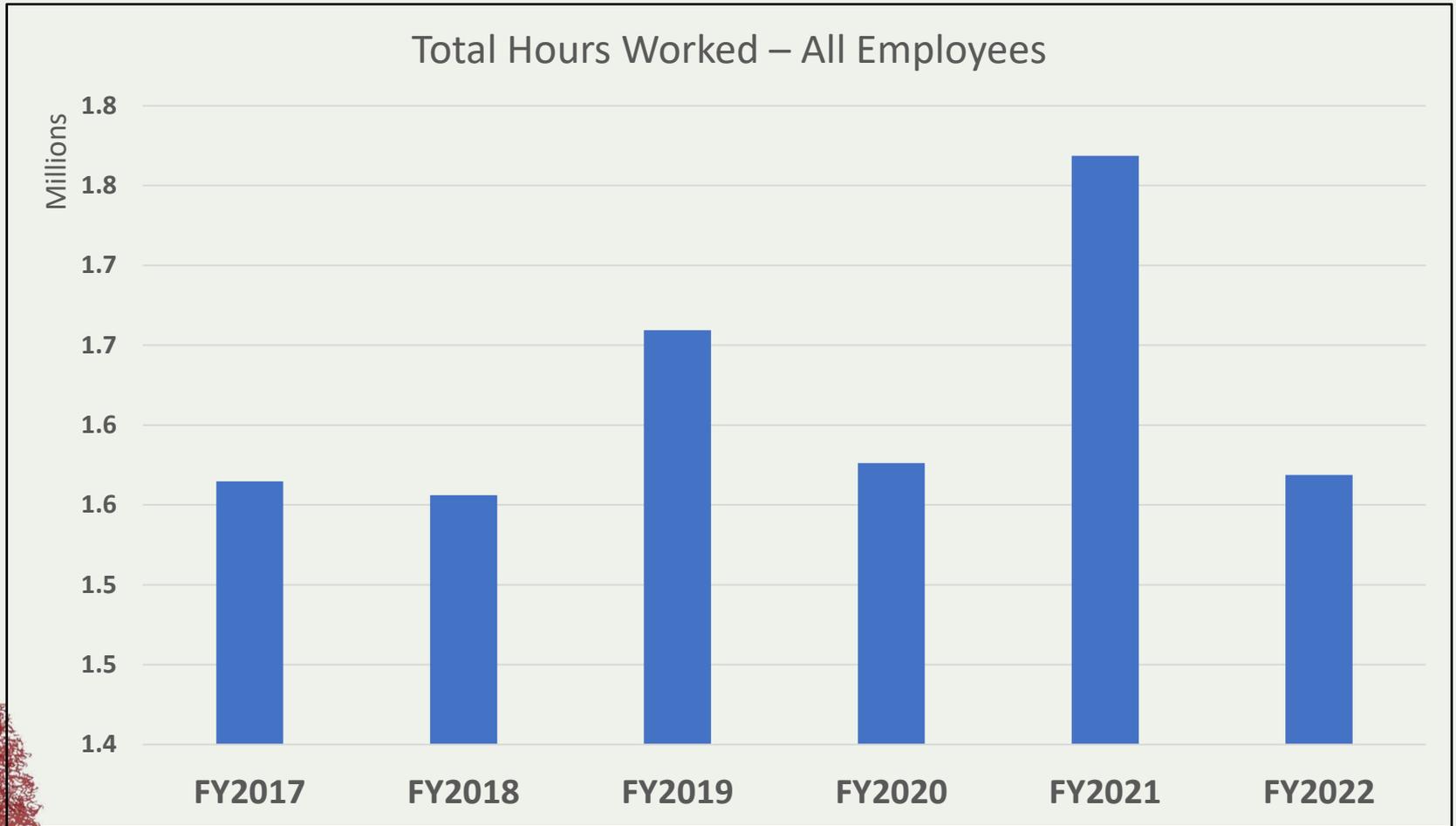
OSFM Blue (Magers)



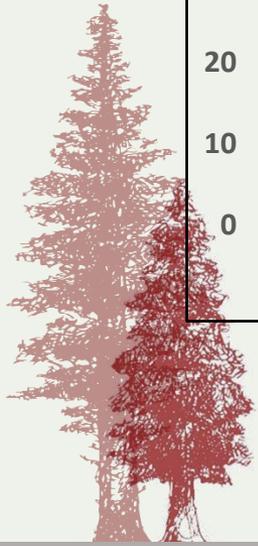
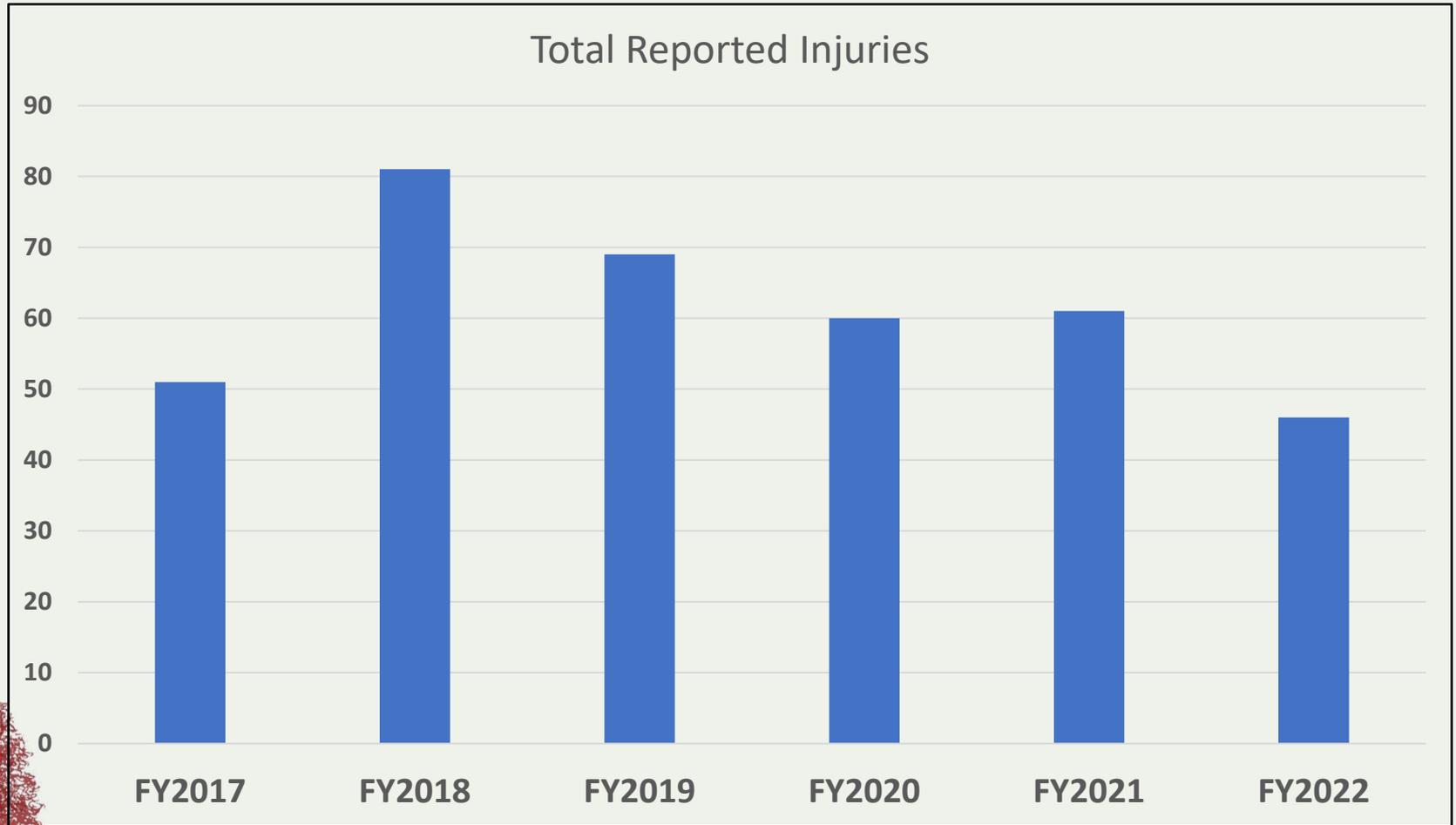
Community Meeting 8/30



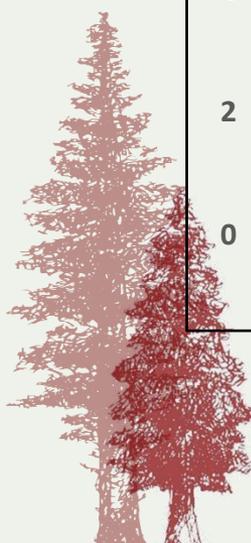
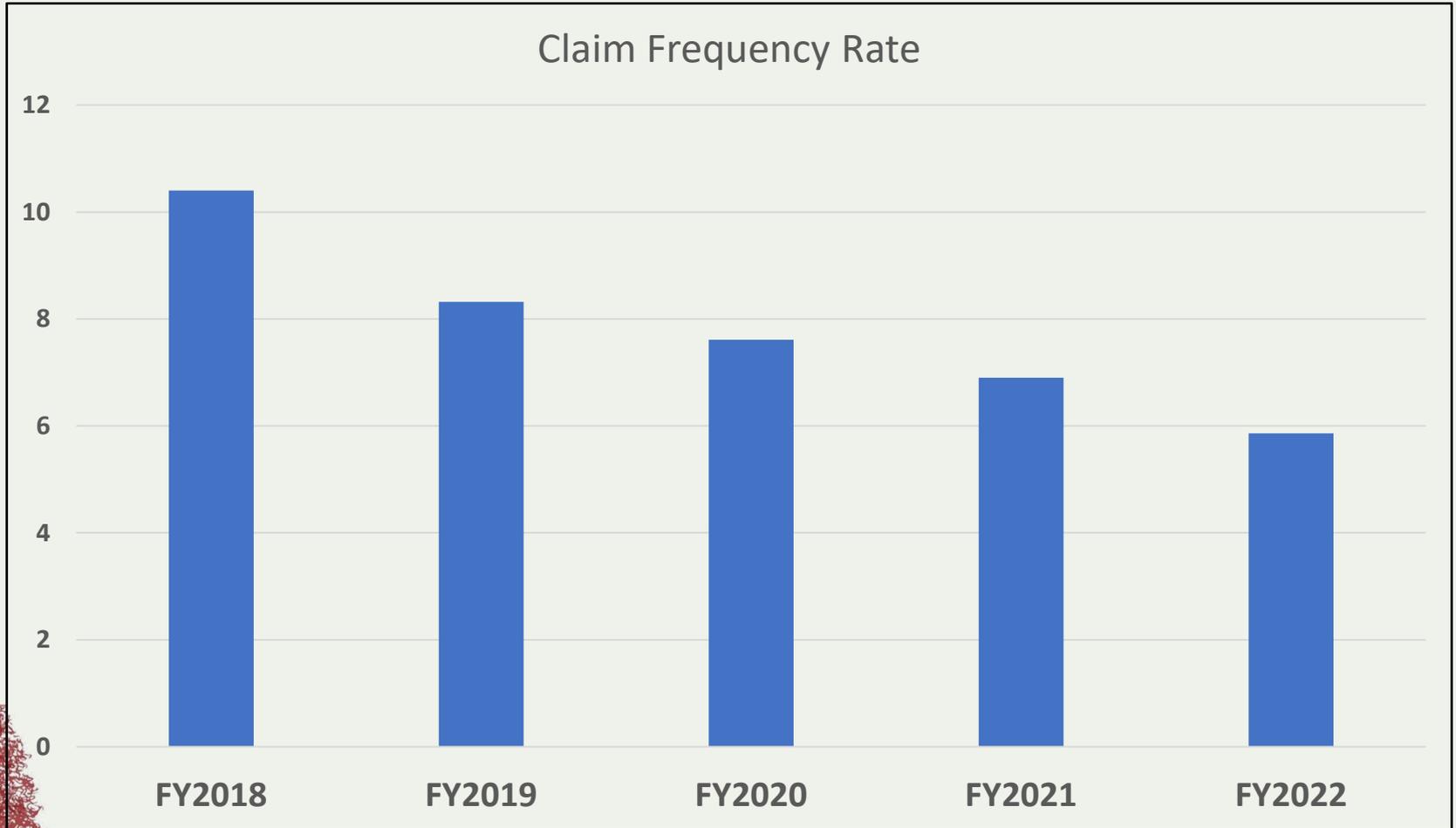
Statewide Safety Statistics



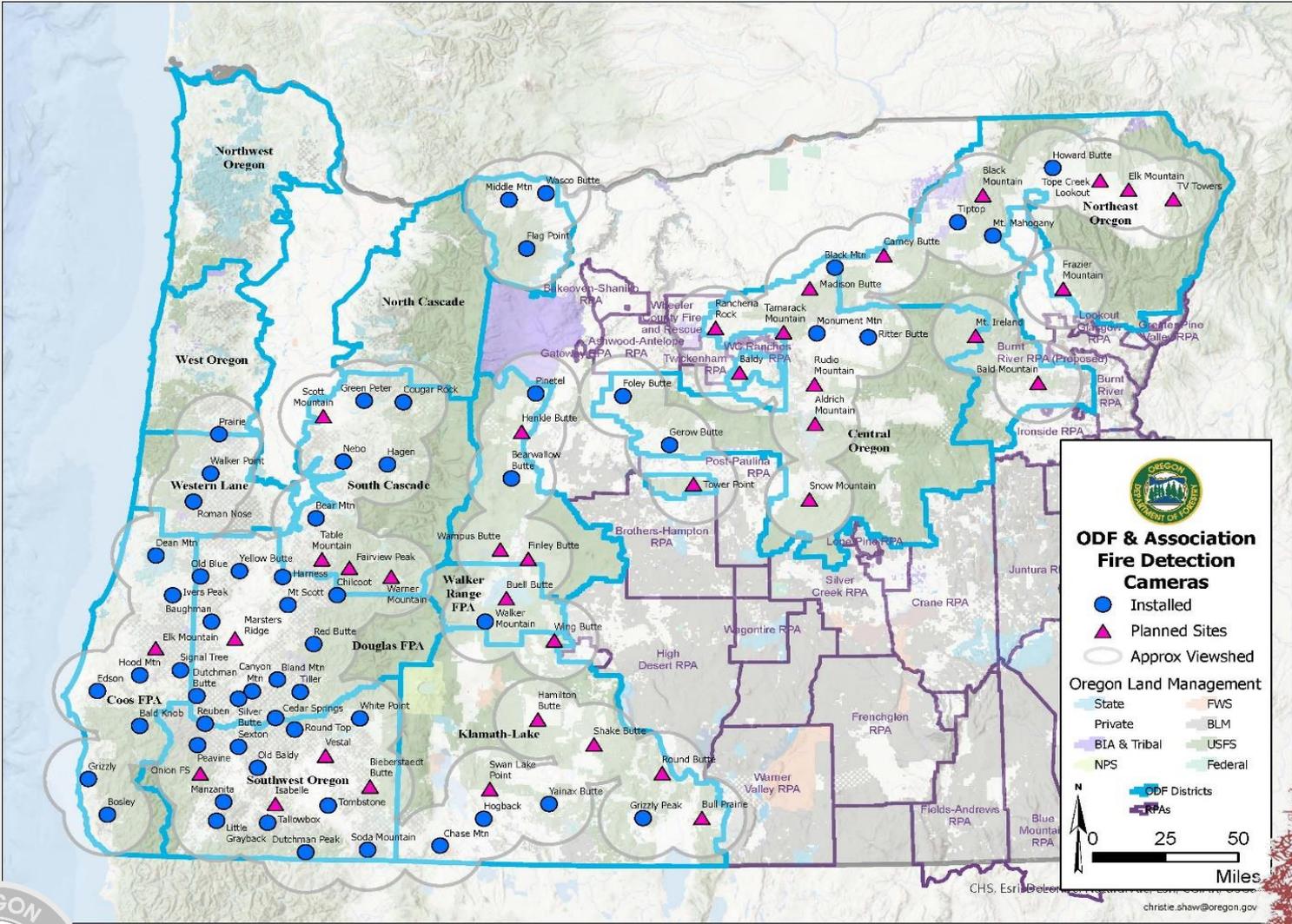
Statewide Safety Statistics



Statewide Safety Statistics



Early detection



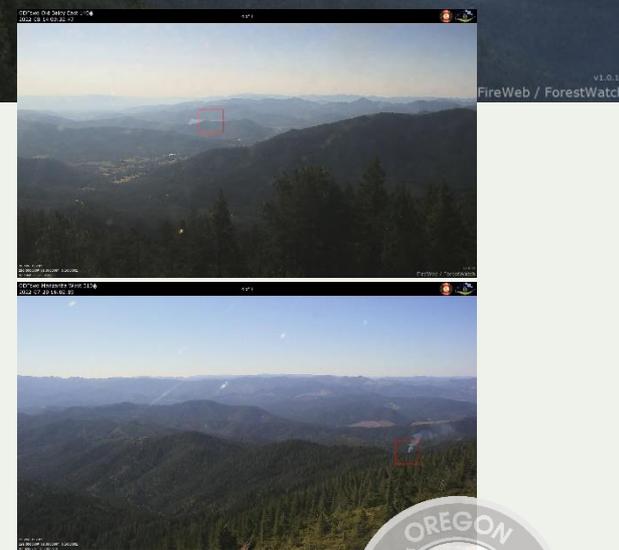
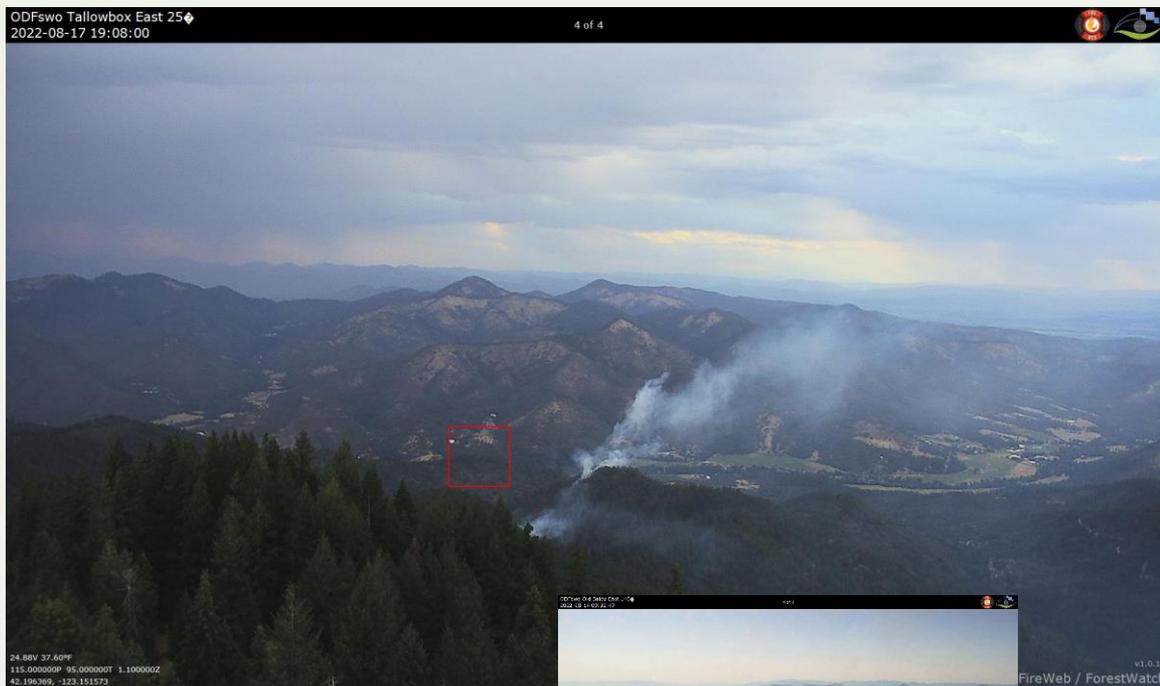
Detection Cameras

ODF Southern Oregon Area

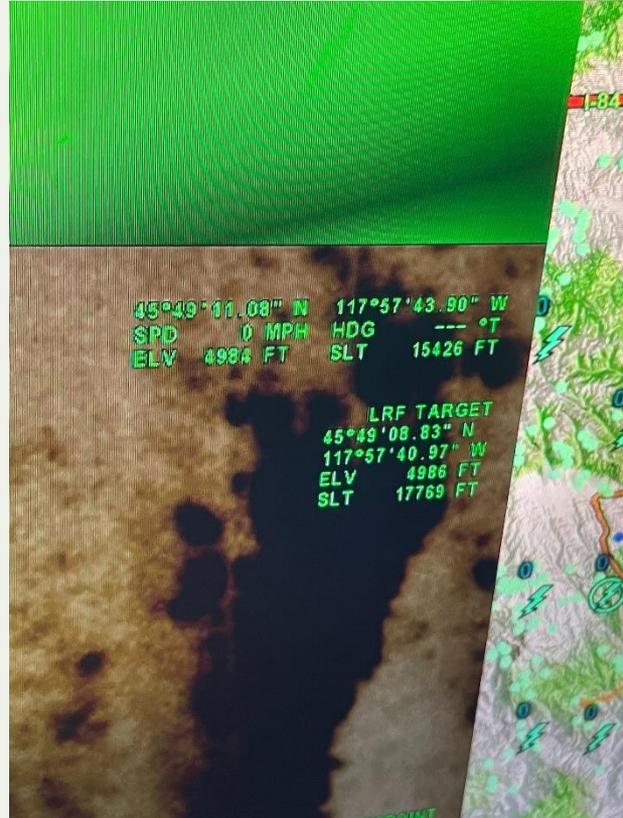
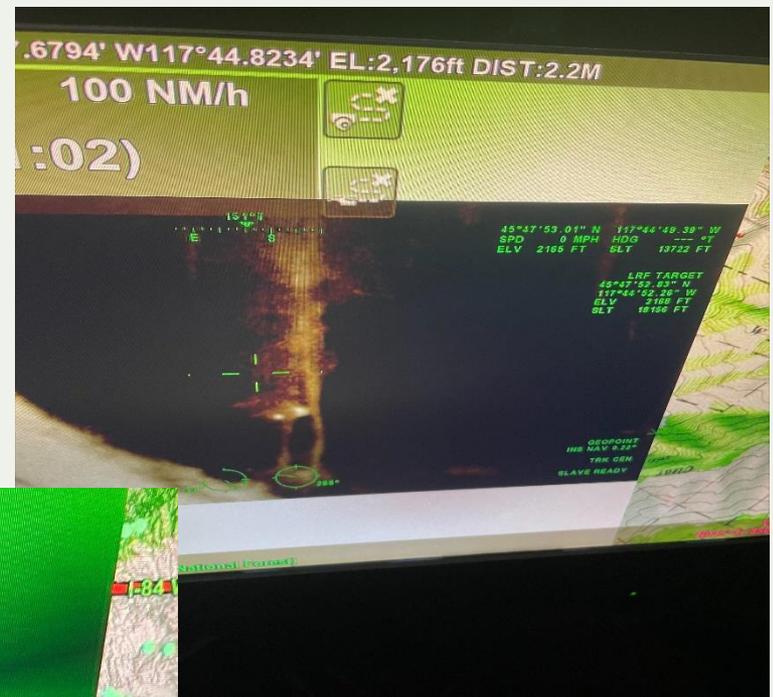


Peavine West
295° / NW / 1.1

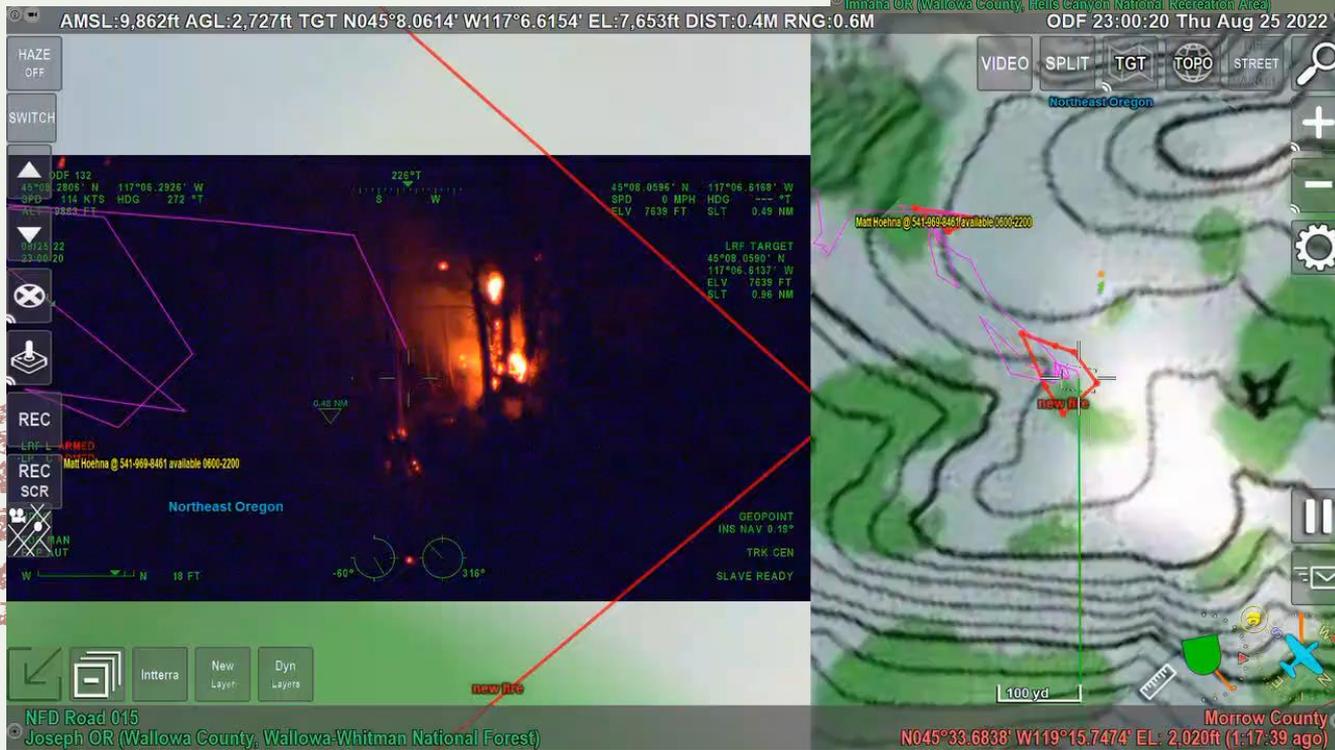
Rum Creek Fire



Multi Mission Aircraft



Multi Mission Aircraft



Severity Aircraft



Oregon's complete and coordinated fire protection system



Comments on the ODF SB762 Fire Risk Map Roll-out

***Alan Journet Ph.D. Cofacilitator, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
August 30th, 2022***

I offer these comments following the ODF wildfire risk assessment map roll-out webinar I attended for SW Oregon.

That Oregon is suffering an increased wildfire risk should be obvious by now to almost all residents of the state. Our experience at Southern Oregon Climate Action Now in engaging with Southern Oregonians reveals that little about the prevailing causes of this trend is known to many residents. As a result, many residents resist efforts to address the problem when proposals seem to confound their understanding - even when such proposals are predicated on fire ecology realities. It is always difficult to persuade someone that a well-developed solution is appropriate to solving a problem if they do not understand what the problem is, or even that it exists.

The following elements of the wildfire problem are not known to many Oregonians:

- 1) We live in an unusual Mediterranean winter wet / summer dry climate, a climate that has existed throughout the development of our forested systems. The consequence of this is that our forest soils and the vegetation itself have dried out annually for eons making the systems prone to allowing fires to spread once initiated.
- 2) Historically, the dry forests of the region tended to be open forests with grassland surrounding fewer trees. Historical fires tended to burn quickly through the grasslands and contribute little damage to the fire-tolerant and fire-resistant trees while eliminating intrusive fire intolerant seedlings.
- 3) As a result of this pattern, the dry forests were fire prone, fire adapted and, most critically, fire dependent.
- 4) With the establishment of a very successful fire suppression program last century, these fires resulted in reduced area burned. As a consequence of the 'success,' of this program, invasive fire intolerant vegetation has increased in density building up the fuel to the point that fires can now spread rapidly into the canopy and produce major conflagrations when previously their intensity and severity were generally much lower.
- 5) Over recent decades area burned by fire has increased, but this has not reached the area burned prior to fire suppression.
- 6) The historical pattern of fires was likely also influenced by the cyclical Pacific Decadal Oscillation as it cycled between warm dry periods that promoted fire risk, and cool moist periods that tended to reduce fire risk.
- 7) The influence of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation has now been superseded by ongoing global warming driven by human-induced emissions of greenhouse gases. This warming has the climate influence of making our summers even hotter and reducing both winter snowfall and summer precipitation. This is exacerbating dry summer and fall conditions that promote the spread of fires once they are initiated.

Many Oregonians have been lulled into a false sense that increasing fire risk is generated by reduced logging. Thus, they blame increased fire risk on those who argue that fire suppression and global warming are the root causes.

A few weeks ago, ODF rolled out its wildfire risk maps, a process which included a well-attended webinar in SW Oregon. The maps were not well-received by a large number of participants.

If ODF is to be successful in promoting a program to address the fire risk that is founded on an accurate understanding of the problem, it will be necessary to educate the public about the causes of the problem so that they are aware of what makes sense by way of a response. A public that does not appreciate the inevitability of wildfire in this warmed up Mediterranean climate will not accept solutions that require individual modifications to management behavior that return forests to the open structure that allowed fires to occur without causing massive devastation. A public that thinks the wildfire remedy is to increase logging will not respond favorably to suggestions that home hardening and defensible space are critical components of a fire resilient lifestyle.

Additionally, a public that does not understand that wildfire is a landscape phenomenon rather than a tax lot phenomenon, will reject proposals that take a landscape approach, and will expect that if their tax lot has been treated, their fire risk is thereby diminished.

It is clear that SB762 was developed with the best of intentions, and that the Wildfire Risk Maps were developed as a way to educate the public about the risks they face as a first step towards helping them reduce that risk. Regrettably, there continues to be inadequate understanding among Oregonians of the causes of the problem. Thus, many residents did not readily understand and accept the ideas presented.

Many Oregonians do not understand that the risk that their land will suffer a fire is different from the risk that their house will survive the fire. The former is the landscape problem that the maps address, while the latter is the issue addressed by home hardening and defensible space.

It appeared to me that many attendees at the ODF webinar thought that if they had completed the recommended defensible space treatments, an approaching fire would either die at their property line, or by-pass them. What many folks don't seem to appreciate is that we undertake the steps to reduce our risk – not to eliminate it. Many folks also seem not to understand that the threat to their homes comes as much from the embers flying in the wind as from the actual flames making direct contact with their buildings. Again, those with this misunderstanding will be unlikely to appreciate how the risk maps benefit them by indicating what steps they should take to reduce their risk.

Furthermore, folks who think the problem is caused by decreased logging in our public forests will likely not accept any personal responsibility for taking steps to reduce their risk and thus reduce risk to their neighbors. And, even more dangerous, such individuals will reject any effort to impose management or, maybe, will oppose incentivizing management that reduces risk across the neighborhood and up to the landscape level – which is what these efforts are trying to achieve,

One of the basic problems in the roll-out of the wildfire risk maps was the apparent assumption that those attending the program essentially understood items 1 – 7 above. Although those presenting the program and responding to questions offered comments that were consistent with the above understanding, these comments targeted ears that were predisposed to reject much of the premise and thus the remedy.

While we recognize that the support of an organization such as Southern Oregon Climate Action Now that accepts the science behind climate change and argues for natural resource management policies that are consistent with both climate science and forest science may not be the most conducive to reaching many of those who resist action resulting from SB762, we stand ready to bring our understanding of the issue and educational techniques to help in any way we can. Please contact us if you think there is a way in which we can help.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Journet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "J".

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