

Agenda Item No.:	6
Topic:	Federal Executive Orders and US Wildland Fire Service
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SUMMARY

- Recent federal executive actions, rulemakings, and regulatory rescissions are reshaping the policy framework governing forest and natural-resource management on federal lands. A number of these changes have direct implications for forest management, wildfire risk reduction, environmental review, and intergovernmental coordination in Oregon.
- This item provides an overview of several consequential recent and pending federal rule changes affecting Oregon forest and resource management, outlines their status in the federal rulemaking process, and identifies potential implications for forest management activities, including Good Neighbor Authority, shared stewardship, and cross-boundary projects.
- This is an informational item.

CONTEXT

Federal land management agencies play a substantial role in forest management and wildfire response in Oregon. Changes in federal regulations and policy direction can affect agency procedures, planning frameworks, and the timing and structure of on-the-ground activities.

Over the past year, multiple federal rulemakings and executive actions have been initiated or finalized across several policy areas. These actions are largely federal in nature and are proceeding through established rulemaking processes. The department is monitoring these developments for awareness and coordination purposes.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

U.S. Forest Service Roadless Rule

The U.S. Forest Service has proposed rescission of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. If finalized, this action would remove nationwide prohibitions related to road construction and timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas, while other applicable planning, environmental, and species-protection requirements would remain in place. In Oregon, national forests include inventoried roadless areas that would be subject to this change if finalized.

Bureau of Land Management Conservation Rule

The Bureau of Land Management finalized a Conservation and Landscape Health Rule in 2024 and has initiated a subsequent rulemaking to rescind or revise that rule. The proposed action would adjust how conservation is considered within BLM land-use planning and project decisions. BLM-managed lands in Oregon would be subject to any final changes adopted through this process.

Endangered Species Act Rule Updates

In 2025, federal wildlife agencies released four proposed rule changes addressing Endangered Species Act listing procedures, critical habitat designation, protections for threatened species, and interagency consultation. Public comment has closed, and final rules are expected in 2026. These proposals address how ESA requirements are implemented and may affect consultation and review processes for federal actions, including forest management activities.

NEPA Regulatory Changes

In 2025, the Council on Environmental Quality rescinded its NEPA implementing regulations. Federal agencies now rely on agency-specific NEPA procedures. USDA has updated Forest Service NEPA regulations accordingly, with revisions focused on procedural clarity and efficiency. These changes apply to federal actions and may affect how environmental review is conducted and scheduled.

Northwest Forest Plan Amendment

The Northwest Forest Plan amendment effort was paused in 2025 and is expected to restart in 2026. A draft environmental analysis is anticipated later in the process. The amendment will establish the long-term management framework for federal forests covered by the Plan in Oregon.

Intergovernmental Coordination and Wildfire Governance

Oregon continues to work with federal partners through existing coordination frameworks, including Shared Stewardship and Good Neighbor Authority. Recent federal actions related to wildfire governance, including establishment of a U.S. Wildland Fire Service, are intended to streamline federal wildfire response and may affect coordination over time.

ATTACHMENTS *[as applicable]*

- None