

# **EMERGENCY FIRE COST COMMITTEE MEETING**

**January 7, 2025  
10:00 a.m.**

**Tillamook Room (Bldg. C)  
Oregon Department of Forestry Headquarters  
2600 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310**

**Zoom Video Conference**  
<https://odf.zoom.us/j/93980256635>  
**Meeting ID: 939 8025 6635**

**Committee Members:** Brennan Garrelts, Chair  
Chris Johnson  
Erik Lease  
Kathryn VanNatta

**Administrator:** Nancy Hirsch

## **Agenda Topics**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the September 3, and November 6, 2024 Meetings**  
*[Decision Item]*
- 3. Financial Status of the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund** *[Information Item]*
- 4. Weather Update** *[Information Item]*
- 5. Update on Status of Large Fire Cost Collection Efforts** *[Information Item]*
- 6. Set District Deductible Rates for Fiscal Year 26** *[Decision Item]*
- 7. Fiscal years 24 Audit Report** *[Decision Item]*
- 8. Business Services Report** *[Information Item]*
  - Financial and Governor's Budget
  - Legislative Session
  - Strategic Investments Financial Report
  - FEMA Update
  - Severity resources financial report
- 9. Protection Division Report** *[Information Items and Decision item]*
  - BLM Agreement
  - GeoBoard
  - Strategic Investment status report and proposal *[Decision item]*
- 10. Administrator Report**
- 11. Public Comment / Good of the Order**

# EMERGENCY FIRE COST COMMITTEE

September 3, 2024

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 477.455, a meeting of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC) was held in the Tillamook Room of the Oregon Department of Forestry Headquarters in Salem and via Zoom Video Conferencing on September 3, 2024.

## **Committee Members Present**

Brennan Garrelts, Chair  
Kathryn VanNatta (via Zoom)  
Erik Lease  
Chris Johnson (via Zoom)

## **Others Present** (in person)

Nancy Hirsch, EFCC Administrator  
Lorna Hobbs, EFCC Finance Coordinator  
Kristine Klossen, Administrative Support, ODF  
Emily Sorce, Executive Support, ODF  
Kyle Williams, Deputy Director Fire Operations, ODF  
James Short, Chief Financial Officer, ODF  
Kate Skinner, Tillamook District Forester, ODF  
Ron Graham, Deputy Chief of Operations and Fire Protection, ODF

## **Others Present** (via Zoom)

Kiel Nairns, Fire Cost Recovery Specialist, ODF  
Tracy Wrolson, Protection Finance Unit Manager, ODF  
Brian Pew, Eastern Oregon Area Director, ODF  
Sione Filimoehala, CFO Analyst, DAS  
April McDonald, Principle Legislative Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Jerilee Johnson, Area Accountant, ODF  
Peggy Lynch, Lobbyist, League of Women Voters  
Matt Hoehna, Unit Forester, ODF  
Jim Carnegie  
Kay Rinker, District Business Manager, ODF  
Cheri Law, Fiscal Support, ODF  
Tara Sell, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, ODF  
Matt Moses  
Justin Tryon, Community Wildfire Forester, ODF  
Eric Kranzush  
Robbie Lefebvre, Asst to the Area Director, NWOA - ODF  
Ole Buch, Western Lane District Forester  
Suzanne Como, District Business Manager  
Carolyn Mayers  
Dan Quinones, District Forester, ODF  
Matt Howard, Northeast Oregon District Forester, ODF  
Ryan Miller, Administrative Rules Specialist, ODF  
Stacy McCarter, Mitigation Program Manager, ODF  
Blake Ellis, Fire operations Manager, ODF  
Katrina Chinn, Contracts Officer, ODF  
Dave Larson, Area Director, ODF  
Jim McCauley  
Rebecca Edmison, Business Manager, ODF

## **ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER, CHAIR COMMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Garrelts called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. He and committee member Erik Lease were present in the room and Chris Johnson and Kathryn VanNatta were present via Zoom. There was a quorum. Chair Garrelts continued; this has been a very difficult fire season. There is much I could say, but I believe the single most important thing is: Thank you. Thank you to ODF Incident Management Teams, ODF staff helping behind the scenes, and thank you to all the firefighters and support staff who have engaged – ODF, Federal, contractor, and private landowners.

I want to also say thank you to Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM), their teams, task forces and the rural fire departments and all that they provide to the complete and coordinated system.

The EFCC/ODF Eligibility Policy Workgroup was established at our June meeting. Since then, the workgroup has met several times, dedicating numerous hours to this important effort. The process has been collaborative, transparent, and rigorous. We will further discuss the policy proposal under agenda item 7.

The sustainable fire funding work is ongoing. I really don't have much to update the group on from an EFCC perspective. It is a very large group, trying to tackle a very large and complex problem. We are still working through the process.

## **ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2024, EFCC MEETING [Decision Item]**

Committee member Erik Lease motioned to approve the June 4, 2024, [Emergency Fire Cost Committee Meeting Minutes](#) as emailed to committee members. Kathryn VanNatta seconded the motion. All were in favor, and none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **ITEM 3: FINANCIAL STATUS OF OREGON FOREST LAND PROTECTION FUND [Information Item]**

The financial status of the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF) was reported by Lorna Hobbs, EFCC Finance Coordinator and reviewed by the committee. Lorna noted that the report covers the Oregon Forestland Protection Fund's fiscal year 2024 ending balance and revenue and expenditure projections for fiscal year 2025.

Both reports are in the meeting packet. We will be showing the fiscal year 2025 report on screen.

### FY24 as of June 30, 2024

- Ending balance on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, \$10,843,915.
- Total revenues received in FY24 \$12,068,663.
- Expenditures for FY24 \$13,153,500.
- FY24 claim total estimated at \$35,378,292.

### July 1, 2024, Report for FY25

- Beginning balance on July 1, 2024, was \$10,881,138.

### Projected revenues for FY25

- Item #1: Assessment revenues are projected to be at \$9,437,792.
- Item #2: Harvest tax revenues projected to date total \$2,025,100.
- Item #3: The interest income projected at \$423,451. The interest rate rose to 5.3% (from 5.2%).

The estimated total revenue for FY25 is \$11,886,343.

Projected expenditures for FY25

- Item #1: Payroll and operating expenses are estimated at \$185,000 for FY25
- Item #2: The Fund's payment for FY25 severity costs for the 2024 fire season is estimated at \$3,000,000.

2024 Fire Season Draft Claims

- Current estimated net claim total for FY25 claims is \$61,788,860 as of 8/28/2024.
- \$4 million was advanced to the Douglas Forest Protective Association for the Dixon fire.
- Estimated expenditures for FY25 total is \$13,185,000.
- The estimated fund balance on June 30, 2025, is \$9,590,395.

No further questions from committee members.

**ITEM 4: Previous Fiscal Claims Update** *[Information Item]*

**Claim Summary Update 2024**

The claim estimate summary was provided in the meeting packet and shows estimated gross costs; reimbursements from other agencies, FEMA claims and responsible parties; district deductibles; net claim totals and the status of district claims.

Highlight of the estimated net cost and status for each fiscal year.

**FY17**

- \$9.6M Net

**FY18**

- \$35.2M Net

**FY19**

- \$40.6 M Net

**FY20**

- \$10.6 Net

**FY21**

- \$42M Net

**FY22**

- \$54.3M Net

**FY23**

- \$18.5M Net

**FY24**

- \$35.4M Net

End of report.

**ITEM 5: WEATHER UPDATE** *[Information Item]*

Teresa Alcock, TzA, presented the 2024 Fire Season Outlook:

National Significant Fire Potential Outlook:

- As of September 3, 2024, fire potential reduced down to normal.
- Beginning to see the effects of La Nina. Season slowing events in August, but fire season continues.

- Thunderstorms waning in northeast Oregon.
- High pressure returns Wednesday with significant warming, drying and low-level instability- westside included.
- Beginning Fri-Sat, thermal trough setting up, mainly dry thunderstorms across southern Oregon.
- Watching for any potential east winds this week. Low relative humidity on the westside.
- Oct - Dec fire season potential starts to taper off.
- Experienced critical fire phase in Eastern and Central Oregon.
- Monsoon moisture in basin with thunderstorm activity. Looking at potential for more thunderstorms Friday and Saturday.
- High pressure starting today, warmer conditions, low 100's by the end of the week in north Willamette Valley and The Dalles.
- Temperatures back off over the weekend and humidity drops. Warm and dry conditions the first half of the month; last half more encouraging.
- Drought Check: Severe and moderate drought.

Chair Garrelts and Kathryn VanNatta thanked TzA for the detailed report.

There were no questions from committee members.

#### **ITEM 6: UPDATE ON STATUS OF LARGE FIRE COST COLLECTION EFFORTS** *[Information Item]*

**Tim Holschbach, Deputy Chief of Policy and Planning presented:**

##### Fire Cost Collection Claims:

Cost recovery is a continual work in progress. There were no new demands since the previous report. The Department is continually engaged with the responsible parties, lawyers, and insurance companies to work out the best path forward for recovery of suppression costs. Payment plans received in June and August was approximately \$6,600. There is slow progression on recovery, but we are working with folks with the ability to pay. Included in the report are a few small fires not on a payment plan.

##### Closed fire cost collection:

- Pike Rd., Labor Day fire from 2020 - \$500,000 settlement
- Neil Rock - settled and payment received.

##### Two other fires not on the report:

- Brush creek, South Cascade District – went through a small claims process and,
- Big Stump Beach, West Oregon fire – went through restitution.

We are utilizing two pathways as the Department retooled and updated its cost recovery policy and built new tools to fully utilize our authorities and the districts are taking advantage of those to get money back into budgets.

The year-to-date received is \$2.3 million in recovery actions through the course of year.

Fire Investigation list: No new fires added. This will be updated in December.

Chair Garrelts expressed appreciation for agency's focus and progress in moving things forward through process. He recognizes this pre-dates Kiel taking over and noted good processes put in place back then and encouraging to see it continue.

There were no questions from committee members.

#### **ITEM 7: GUIDELINES FOR ELIGILITY OF FIREFIGHTING COSTS** *[Information/Decision Item]*

Chair Garrelts commented:

I am pleased we have a draft policy package for the committee to review. This is a crucial step in advancing the MGO's recommendations as it seeks to streamline what was a complex set of standards and policies down to a clean 8-page document. To ensure transparency and avoid any surprises for key leadership, I would like to highlight both Nancy and I, along with ODF leadership, have been in contact with both legislative Fiscal Office and Legislative Revenue Office *\*\* said in meeting but later corrected to DAS CFO, for the record\*\** to discuss draft concepts. I have reached out to BOF Chair Kelly to notify him as well.

Chair Garrelts asked Nancy Hirsch to provide an overview of the Draft Eligibility Policy, with any feedback from employees, Draft Administrative Rule changes, an estimated fiscal impact and recommendation.

Nancy Hirsch, Emergency Fire Cost Committee Administrator presented:

Good morning, Chair Garrelts and members of the committee. Brennan has outlined several topics for me to provide an overview on. All will be information items except the Draft Administrative rule changes. I will be making a recommendation to you on the rule changes that will require a decision by the committee to proceed with public comment at the end of this agenda item.

There are four documents in your meeting material that relate to this agenda item – a staff report and three attachments.

Brennan has covered what occurred in June and highlighted the makeup of the workgroup. Principles that guided our work are in staff report page 1.

The workgroup included:

- EFCC Chair and Staff
- ODF Business Services leadership – CFO, Protection Finance Unit and Financial Reporting Manager
- ODF Deputy Director Fire Operations and the Protection Policy Deputy Chief
- Two District Foresters and one District Manager. Each area was represented.

The workgroup met four times.

- June 10 and 17, July 16 and August 29.

An Overview of the Eligibility Policy is documented in Attachment A and included in the summary that it:

- Eliminates the need to track type 3 fires for eligibility,
- Eliminates the need to track in-fire season versus out of fire season and dispatch card requirements related to resources responding,
- Defines all statistical and approved threat fires as emergency fire cost (EFC) eligible,
- Requires resource orders for all resources for EFC eligibility.

Many of these changes decomplex current standards. This proposal moves district budgeted operational personnel, equipment and support costs to emergency fire costs. This is likely the largest shift from district to emergency fire costs and will improve accounting for the true cost of the fires.

This proposal changes where certain administrative and management overtime was previously paid for by emergency fire costs to now the District or a Statewide Funding Source (excluding the OFLPF) will have to cover those costs when they are in-district on in-district fires.

Repair work must be documented in an approved incident action plan or repair plan. The acreage deductible is maintained. The daily deductible shifts to an incentive, so instead of districts paying the first \$25,000, these costs move to emergency fire costs. If emergency fire costs exceed \$25,000, then the

district pays the deductible. The helicopter deductible is eliminated, and a helicopter credit is added as an incentive.

Policy standards were reduced from 31 pages to 8. The proposed policy if approved, will go into effect January 1, 2025.

### **Initial feedback on proposed changes**

Last week we met with District and Association leadership and their key staff to gain feedback on what we are proposing. We had about 50 employees attend, and most districts/associations were represented. In general, their feedback included:

- Appreciation to modernized standards and many questions were clarifying in nature.
- Some questions and concerns of trainees on type 3 fires not being eligible, this is consistent with current standards.
- Reaffirmed process of approving threat fires through an email or phone to EFCC administrator and follow up with documentation to file.
- Some concern remains with administrative and management OT being paid for by districts.
  - A follow-up meeting is planned with District managers and District foresters for a more in-depth discussion including the fiscal analysis.
- Proposal surrounding repair definition needs further work to add more examples.
- Feedback for \$25,000 per day language is confusing and we had request to do a five-year analysis.
  - We have improved language in the version provided today and we do have a plan for further analysis on the five-year average.
- Included clarification on the helicopter credit when more than one district/association funds it and when claim does not exceed the credit.

We will continue to provide further feedback as received.

The next document I will speak to is the proposed rule modifications to Chapter 629, Division 165 (Attachments B [track change] and C [clean]).

In summary, the proposed amended administrative rule will serve to:

- Clarify the definitions/redefine emergency fire and emergency fire costs.
- Eliminate emergency fire examples that are no longer needed.
- Shift the current \$25,000 day/per fire deductible to an incentive model that aligns with the current Oregon Department of Forestry operation approach.
- Clarify a reference document.

Estimated fiscal impact on the proposed rule modifications. The proposal addresses recommendations made to ODF by MGO, an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor that reviewed ODF's financial processes.

Proposed amended administrative rules ensure the true cost of wildland suppression costs are accurately accounted for, tracked, reported and paid for at the statewide level.

Previously an average of approximately \$3.2 million of wildfire suppression cost were embedded in readiness, paid for by private and public landowners and the General Fund at the local level.

This proposal moves these costs to private and some public landowners and the General Fund at the statewide level where the rest of these costs are already accounted for. A portion of the costs that are



General Fund are simply moving from being paid for through the biennial budget to the emergency fire cost funding.

The cost moved does not increase any OFLPF revenue fees. This change results in increased certainty, in-district readiness budgeting and expenditures at the local level and improves certainty in the Department of Forestry fiscal year fire budgets.

Nancy then recommended that the EFCC direct the EFCC Administrator to proceed with the public hearing process and return in November for a special EFCC meeting to consider adopting the final rule language for Chapter 629, Division 165.

Chair Garrelts opened comment from ODF staff.

James Short commented: The agency supports these new eligibility guidelines and thanked the workgroup for excellent work. New guidelines continue the implementation of the MGO recommendations.

No other questions from committee members

Motion was made to approve recommendation as presented.

Kathryn VanNatta made the motion and stated, she thoroughly read the rules and found some English that was not agreed with and will provide further comments later. She continued, that the meeting that Nancy mentioned does need to take place with staff and District Foresters as part of the ongoing rule making process and therefore made the motion that EFCC direct the EFCC Administrator to proceed with the public hearing process and return in November with final rule language for chapters 629 division 165 and in addition to hold a meeting that the EFCC Administrator mentioned with Forestry staff and report back to the committee on the results. The motion was understood by all, Erik Lease seconded the motion, and all were in favor, and none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **ITEM 8: ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH REPORT [Information Item]**

*State Forester Cal Mukumoto said he was pleased with the move to decomplex.*

### **ODF Financial report:**

James Short, ODF Chief Financial Officer gave the ODF Financial report:

#### Fire Season Impact on Cash

- Gross Fire Costs - \$214.4 million
- Net Cost - \$63.8 million
  - \$10 million reimbursed from OFLPF
  - \$53.8 million reimbursed from General Fund
- Other Agency Cost Recoveries - \$95.8 million
- FEMA Cost Recoveries - \$52.8 million
- ODF \$148.6 million carry costs
  - 2–3-year reimbursement from USFS/BLM/FEMA

As the agency entered fire season 2024 the cash and general fund available July 1, 2024 was:

- Cash - \$62.4 million
- General Fund - \$24.9 million
- Available Resources - \$87.3 million
- As of August 30, 2024,
  - \$27.4 million in available resources.
    - Cash - \$22.3 million
    - General Fund - \$5.1 million

ODF is working closely with the Legislature, Chief Financial Office, Legislative Fiscal Office and Governor's Office to ensure financial obligations are met.

#### Accounts Payable

- \$34.4 million for large fire costs currently paid
- Next 120 days:
  - \$174.5 million in Large Fire Disbursements to pay out
  - \$20.0 million in Standard Operating costs.

#### Short-Term Mitigation

- All vendor payments will be at the 45 days
- Delay payments to State Agencies and Federal partners
- DAS will pay payroll
- Exploring option of advance payments from USFS, BLM and FEMA, but revenue potentially 6 months out.
- ODF has requested \$47.0 million from the Emergency Board in September.
  - Severity Request - \$7.4 million
  - Large Fire Request - \$40.0 million

#### Long-Term Solution

- Wildfire Funding Workgroup

In conclusion James stated, in preparation for the Emergency Board in December we will continue to deploy and adjust our financial strategies as needed to inform a December Emergency Board request. Likely that additional funding will be requested through a budget bill during the next legislative session to carry the agency's wildfire costs through the remainder of the biennium.

End of report.

There were no questions from committee members.

#### Strategic Investments

Tracy Wrolson, ODF Protection Unit Finance Manager reported the OFLPF 2020 strategic investments beginning balance at just over \$1.5 million and budgeted through June 30, 2024. Dollars spent to date total \$599,237, for a remaining project balance of \$862,762. Handouts show detail per project from detection cameras, guard stations, trailers all of which were approved projects. There is an undistributed amount of \$57,376. The progress report is updated and included in the handout for each project. With the current state of fire season, projects are experiencing some delay but looking at Fall to complete projects.

Questions on Strategic Investments:

Kathryn VanNatta commented: Many of the strategic investments are east of the cascades. Were we able to use any of those this fire season?

Brian Pew, Area Director for Eastern Oregon: Thanked the committee for allocations of funds. We have many success stories. The Central Oregon District grapple dozer has been used multiple times and is currently in use. The communication trailers were used many times on fires such as Shoefly in Central Oregon and Town Gulch and Winding Waters in NEO. Klamath Lake District also used a communication trailer at the helibase.

Cameras funded by the committee are in motion. The Chiloquin Guard Station has been in use all year to house fire fighters assisting in fire response readiness. Without these investments we would not have been as successful with fire response.

Progress reports are located at the bottom of the report which includes current in-depth field activity.

Chair Garrelts commented and requested to see some written success stories presented at the January or March meetings including data points on success of investments.

Brian Pew: Agreed that they would be good to share.

Kathryn VanNatta expressed appreciation for how the EFCC investments assisted with fire season.

Tracy Wrolson: We continue to try and spend the funds as appropriately as possible.

#### FEMA Update:

Large fires have wrapped up. \$2.3 million in suppression claims to receive within the next 6 months. \$23 million claim for the Golden Fire in Klamath is in the audit process. Approximately \$57 million for 2024 to go through the audit process. The Copperfield fire is FEMA eligible. Status of claims is provided in the meeting material showing outstanding totals.

There were no questions from committee members.

#### Severity Update:

Severity budget is \$13.5. Current expenditures are at \$16.4 million. Cost recovery is tremendous at 54%. There is \$7.6 million net severity. Helicopters and employees are still on contract.

There were no questions from committee members.

Kyle Williams commented they are preparing for the Board of Forestry (BOF) meeting. Tim Holschbach will discuss Hazard Maps. Derek Wheeler and Derek Gasperini have put in tremendous work on the maps. Topics will include State Forest workload, and significant projects in progress. Importance of long-term solutions and the challenges at hand. The next full wildfire funding workgroup will meet in October in Pendleton. In November, we expect to provide information to the legislature. He expressed his appreciation for the EFCC work on the eligibility policy.

Cal Mukumoto commented: This year's cooperation within the agency has been great. As Kyle said, we continue to do other work, and it all needs to continue to advance Forestry. Thanks for EFCC in simplifying our lives.

No other comments or questions.

Brennan Garrelts noted – need to clean up on agenda item 7; it was DAS CFO we met with not Legislative Revenue.

### **ITEM 9: PROTECTION DIVISION REPORT** *[Information Item]*

Ron Graham, Deputy Chief of Operations presented:

Things took a shift over the weekend after a small reprieve from what has already been a dynamic and challenging fire season. There were two team deployments over the weekend in the last 48 hours. Employing measures used back in July and working closely with partners in the NW Compact and the states we have agreements with, as well as working through the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) to get much needed resources. The system NASF has put in place with their Fire Director, and other regional directors was a daily call which has now shifted to three days a week, a check in call accessing all the states to help prioritize resources. For much of that time Washington and Oregon were the priority, shifting then to Idaho now back to Oregon this week. Blake Ellis is actively working that system, with the Salem Coordination center trying to get resources for Copperfield and Shoefly to support teams there.

Following are discussion items to be presented at the BOF meeting:

- Fire season outlook:

- Earlier predictions of a moderate fire season took a turn quickly with lightening events and high heat which ultimately led to larger fires, beginning around the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.
- 11 FEMA fires including Copperfield.
  - Tracy Wrolson quoted around \$500,000 in prepositioning claims due to use of severity resources on FEMA fires as well.
  - Tim has navigated well with FEMA, and we have been responsive as several fires merged.
- Current success rate of fire suppression.
  - Rate at 10 acres or less – currently at 94%, close to the average of 95-96%. Looking at typical statistics.
  - Sitting at approximately fifty percent of fires taking place on ODF protection.
  - First year ODF protection of BLM lands is not classified as stat fire for ODF.
    - It is a stat fire for BLM if point of origin is on BLM.
    - Effectively reduced our stat fire numbers.
    - First year to start tracking impacts.
  - Statewide approaching 200,000 acres of ODF direct protection burned out of 1.5 million acres statewide.
- Comparison of fire season in terms of acres burned in last 5 years.
  - 2020 the highest, followed by year 2021, then 2024 shaping up to be #3 on list as far as acres burned.
  - Looking at acres burned by decade and how the average is going up we will be well over 125,000 average acres burned with this fire season.
- Substantial year for IMT team deployments.
  - North Carolina team brought in as ODF teams were all deployed
  - Would like to see each team exercised once a year.
- Labor Day event, notably Shoefly and Copperfield fires and initial attack success.
- Parrish Creek Complex in John Day which potentially could have been large fire.
- Two fires, Wild Horse and Indian Hollow fires, both around 100-acre fires could have been substantial.
  - Challenging logistics, remote and long drive times to get access to them.
  - Utilized several out of state partner and Alaska strike teams.
- On the Silver Falls fire in West Oregon, the severity aircraft played big part with small single engine scoopers.
- Lee Falls fire near Forest Grove had potential to be large as well for Northwest Oregon.
- Oregon Military Department and National Guard contribution was substantial with Medivac aircraft, deployed for 60 days straight and 7 20-person hand crews deployed between the Falls and Diamond Complex as well.
- Severity program costs and good cost recovery.
  - Over our 10-yr average in flight hours for program as of last week.
  - Gross cost over \$16.0 million.
  - Initially set up working contract estimates over \$13.0 million with a \$10.0 million allocation.
- 54% recovery has been good this year. With FEMA supporting our partners in keeping those fires small in neighboring jurisdictions.
- Multi mission aircraft down in number of detections due to mechanical issues.
  - Challenges include foreign made airframe and availability of parts.
  - Tried to procure other aircraft with some success between other states' contracts.

- Safety.
  - Few incidents but overall numbers of reported injuries are down.
  - Small uptick in contractor injuries.
    - Will analyze possible trends. Fortunately, nothing critical as far as injuries.
- Weather reprieve and current weather as well as downturn in weather and season ending events.

Chair Garrelts commented: Over the last decade, teams have struggled with filling the middle management overhead positions. ODF had made effort to help build capacity, single resource bosses, strike team leaders, task force leaders, have you seen any reprieve of this issue? Historic season where system is tapped.

Ron Graham responded: Use of trainees has been high this year. We questioned if they should be used in qualified positions when we have critical shortages if they are qualified. At some point in time, we saw middle management overhead numbers unable to fill, nationally up in the 500 range. Critical shortages continue to be the trend nationally.

### BLM Update

The BLM agreement goes into effect July 1, 2024. Challenging year. Should lead to good AAR this off season to start untangling new business practices to be able to access and record stat fires on BLM land when point of origin was theirs. Changes in financial tracking and cost shares. The agreement took a while to get implemented and was signed just before fire season started. There was not much time to train and discuss implementation. There should be good feedback and lessons learned. Folks did the best they could given a complex situation.

### Geoboard

Not much time to meet as a board. Scaling back the Geo Board as restructuring is needed due to recent promotions, retirements as well as division and program leadership changes. We are going back to quarterly meetings. Still have an aggressive workplan with succession management project. The next Geo board meeting is in December where report outs will be from incident commanders on how fire season went from a team perspective. In accordance with changes going on with Police and Fire and other updates we start IMT recruitment in September with a goal of primary draft rosters completed by January. We expect follow-up recruitments to fill in all the holes. On a related note, the upcoming Fall Complex Incident Management Course is in Arizona though we are not sending a full team currently. We will send a full team when it is in the immediate area.

Chair Garrelts commented: Regarding the BLM agreement, is there any flavor of the conversations that have taken place this season recognizing what you described of full field implementation?

Kyle Williams responded: Mostly positive centered around finance procurement who's on first, paying agent vs. nonpaying agent, how we implement the language in the agreement. Learning on Salt Creek to Rons point, we signed that agreement June 30<sup>th</sup> and Salt creek launched on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Other ones are processes that will help us be more successful across the board specifically dispatch and implementation of new FireWeb technology that we continue to fine tune. Operationally we have received good feedback.

Chair Garrelts mentioned: Just a reminder that FireWeb was a strategic investment from this committee and shout out to Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA) who started beta testing on it earlier before the strategic investment request. Their leadership led to a good implementation that is working between the agencies.

Kathryn VanNatta commented: Heartfelt thank you to the Protection Division for all the hard work and dedication, coordination with local officials and information put out to folks affected by the fire. This is difficult work; I see some issues that can be improved upon and will discuss at a later time, but I am proud to work with you all.

Brian Pew commented: Clarification on the report that states Eastern Oregon communication trailers showing as “in progress” as we are using trailers currently. Another successful story is the Bly Guard Station. [A photo was shared on screen.] The Committee allocated \$300,000. They are ready to put in a helicopter pad and other improvements and plan to begin using it next year. The ODF agreement with the landowner will be signed within the month and the strategic investment money will then be spent. This project will be completed next October.

Chair Garrelts responded: Another feather in the cap of ODF’s ability to think outside the box and come up with creative solutions that lean toward success. Good to see the photos and continued progress.

Chair Garrelts continued: Before we move to agenda item #10, After this report it will be public comment. Feel free to use the raised hand function or enter a comment into the chat.

#### **ITEM 10: EFCC ADMINISTRATOR REPORT** *[Information Item]*

Nancy Hirsch, EFCC Administrator presented:

Lorna mentioned the open insurance claim from fire season 2021. If ODF wants to push hard on it, there is about \$2-\$3M left there with a couple pending recoveries.

Appreciate committee support to continue policy work. Look forward to the public hearing process and will continue conversations with district and association employees and their leadership. Hope to bring a solid product that we can share and is supported statewide along with the final draft policy and rules at an all-virtual meeting on November 6, 2024. We will get that calendar invite out.

#### **ITEM 11: PUBLIC COMMENT / GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chair Garrelts commented: No hands raised for comment or comments in chat. Jan 7, 2025 is the next EFCC meeting.

Eric Kranzush commented that we all play a large role in fire protection in Oregon. Thank you to the staff and committee for all the work supporting and addressing the myriads of financial and operational challenges the Department is facing across the state regarding fire protection. Keep up the good work.

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Garrelts adjourned the meeting at 11:43p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025**, at the Oregon Department of Forestry Headquarters in Salem and via Zoom Video Conferencing.

**Minutes drafted by:** Kris Klossen

**Minutes reviewed by:** Nancy Hirsch, and Lorna Hobbs

## EMERGENCY FIRE COST COMMITTEE

### SPECIAL MEETING

November 6, 2024

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 477.455, a special meeting of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC) was held via Zoom Video Conferencing on Wednesday, November 6, 2023.

#### **Committee Members Present** (via Zoom)

Brennan Garrelts, Chair  
Kathryn VanNatta  
Erik Lease  
Chris Johnson

#### **Others Present** (via Zoom)

Nancy Hirsch, EFCC Administrator  
Lorna Hobbs, EFCC Finance Coordinator  
Berta Bodi, Observer, ODF  
Emily Source, ODF  
Chris Cline, Acting Chief of Fire Protection, ODF  
Levi Hopkins, Prevention & Policy Manager, Fire Protection, ODF  
Eric Kranzush, Roseburg Resources  
Kyle Williams, ODF  
Andrea Lively, ODF  
Jake Barnett, ODF  
Tracy Wrolson, ODF  
Ron Graham, ODF  
Deanna Drinkwater, ODF  
Karen Jarratt, ODF  
Nicole Mann, ODF  
Mike Cafferata, ODF  
Jessica Neujahr, ODF  
Teresa Williams, ODF  
Matt Howard, ODF  
Echo Murray, ODF  
Chad Washington, OFIC  
Pat Skrip, Association Manager, DFPA  
Gina Miner, COD District Business Manager, ODF  
Jamie Paul, Detection Camera Coordinator, ODF  
Dominique Ray, Office Manager, CFPA  
April McDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office  
TJ Ramos, Assistant SOA Director, ODF  
Dan Goody, Astoria District Forester, ODF  
Randy Hereford, retired

#### **ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER, CHAIR COMMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Garrelts called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. All committee members were present and there was a quorum. He mentioned that if someone from the public wants to make comments, it would be taken care of in Agenda Item #5. Please use the Chat Feature or Raise your hand feature and I will ask and give a quick moment to allow for people to do that, but as we near that Agenda Item please be ready to do so. He also mentioned that meeting materials were emailed out to Committee members available on the Board of Forestry website under committees, EFCC.

Chair Comments: Today as this is a special meeting, we face the critical task of evaluating the proposals that implement essential recommendations from MGO's comprehensive review of fire cost management practices. These recommendations are designed to enhance transparency and accountability, and ensuring that our fire suppression expenses are tracked, reported, and funded accurately and equitably across the state. Those are the same values that this committee has as well.

He recognized the outstanding dedication of the EFCC staff, the protection policy and business services protection finance unit manager and ODF district staff that contributed to this effort. He extended his sincere thanks to all involved.

Kyle Williams was asked if he had any comments. He acknowledged the collaborative process and thanked EFCC staff, Brennan, EFCC members and staff for their engagement. He also acknowledged that it brings us well in line with the MGO recommendations. This is an opportunity over time to help us with alignment between our Biennial budgets and our Fiscal budgeting process. To me, those are the highlights of this effort, and should the committee choose to adopt this policy I would commit that our Districts would comply with that effort.

## **ITEM 2: OREGON FOREST LAND PROTECTION FUND PROPOSED RULES** *[Decision Item]*

Chair Garrelts stated that the agenda contains 3 interconnected decision items, each requiring careful consideration, and it is designed as a cohesive package. Given their interdependence I have asked our administrator to present the staff reports for agenda items 2-4 before we move forward with motions.

Chair Garrelts mentioned that if any part of the rule change does not pass or gets altered or modified in a significant manner, we will need to forgo today's decisions as the authority sought in the new policy depends on the approval of all three.

Nancy Hirsch said she has appreciated the support of Chair Garrelts and the committee over the last few months for her and Lorna as they work through this policy and, also appreciate the true collaboration and leadership that Tracy Wrolson has provided.

She provided a brief background on how we got to this point today, and then discussed the specific policy pieces, recognizing that they are interdependent.

Chair Garrelts asked if there were any comments or questions or motions by committee members. Since there were none, he gave the floor to Nancy to discuss Agenda Item #3.

## **ITEM 3: GUIDELINES FOR ELIGIBILITY OF FIREFIGHTING COSTS POLICY** *[Decision Item]*

Nancy then provided background information on conversations and meetings that have occurred since the September meeting. EFCC staff and the ODF Protection Finance Unit Manager have had several individual conversations with district and association personnel and, also hosted formal meetings with ODF and operating forest protective association leadership.

Both meetings with leadership were scheduled to ensure a complete understanding of the proposed changes, address questions and concerns and seek feedback for improvements. Based on feedback received there were improvements made to the proposed policy that increased clarity, and an example was added into the not eligible repair section. There were no substantive changes to the policy or fiscal impact.

Lorna and I are committed to continue to work through the implementation process and remain hopeful that any concerns and challenges will be met with innovation and creativity that we so often see from ODF districts and the associations.

She then provided an overview of the changes to the policy since September. A header has been added to be consistent with the Department of Forestry's policy format; we added definitions for emergency use and incident resource agreements; federal and rural fire departments were added to eligibility if they meet the other requirements; we removed a reference to ODF and the State of Oregon policy; we reworded the list of managers not eligible, primarily for clarity; added an example related to repair that is not eligible; also added federal and rural fire department personnel equipment and support costs during mutual aid periods are not eligible; and added recoveries related to the \$25,000 per day under the deductible and incentives to clarify what is already in practice.

Next step will be, if agenda items 2 & 3 are approved, Lorna and I will coordinate with ODF and deliver training across the department and with the associations prior to implementation.

Chair Garrelts asked if there were any comments, questions or individual motions regarding Agenda Item #3. Hearing none, Nancy moved on to Agenda Item #4.

## **ITEM 4: GUIDELINES FOR ELIGIBILITY OF FIREFIGHTING COSTS FOR THE OREGON FOREST LAND PROTECTION FUND DIRECTIVE** *[Decision Item]*

This agenda item is necessary if the committee approves agenda items 2 & 3. We would seek approval to rescind the current directive. The rescinded directive will basically be replaced by the new policy, if approved, and would go into effect



January 1, 2025. The new policy serves the same purpose as the directive did historically, the term policy replaced the outdated directive term.

Chair Garrelts asked again if there were any questions, comments or discussions necessary regarding anything that Nancy presented.

Hearing none, he then proceeded to discuss the 3 motions.

Agenda Item #2 – The recommended language for a motion is the EFCC directs the administrator to proceed with the promulgation of the proposed rules and rule changes as presented in the draft language for Chapter 629, Division 165 to go into effect on January 1, 2025. A motion was made by Kathryn VanNatta and seconded by Erik Lease. All were in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #3 – The recommended motion is EFCC will adopt the new eligibility of firefighting costs for the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund policy with a January 1, 2025, effective date. Motion made by Kathryn VanNatta and seconded by Erik Lease. All were in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 The recommended language for this motion is the EFCC rescinds the guidelines for eligibility of firefighting costs for the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund Directive effective January 1, 2025. Motion made by Kathryn VanNatta and seconded by Erik Lease. The correct date of the motion should be December 31, 2024. Kathryn VanNatta amended her motion to reflect the date of December 31, 2024, seconded by Erik Lease. All were in favor, motion carried unanimously.

#### **ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENT/GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chair Garrelts asked if there was anyone wishing to make a comment at this time. Hearing none, for the good of the order he again wanted to give a sincere thank you to all the work that has gone into this effort, and I think this a great step forward to help with the transparency and all those things I mentioned for the value that these rule changes will provide for Oregon's fire cost tracking.

Next quarterly EFCC meeting will be on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and the Board of Forestry will meet on January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Garrelts adjourned the meeting at 10:37.

**Minutes drafted by:** Berta Bodi

**Minutes reviewed by:** Nancy Hirsch and Lorna Hobbs

# Emergency Fire Cost Committee - Oregon Forestland Protection Fund

November 30, 2024

## FY25 Actual and Estimated OFLPF Account Balance

FUND BALANCE

BEGINNING BALANCE (as of 7/1/24)		OFLPF Account			\$10,811,138
REVENUE/TRANSFERS IN		Previous FY Revenue	Estimated FY25 Revenue	Actual FY25 Revenue	
Landowner Assessment & Surcharges:					
Federal	BIA, Corp of Engineers (100% collection rate)		\$26	\$0	
BOF & State	BOF & DSL (100% collection rate)		\$46,118	\$7,424	
Private & Other Public	County Assessments & Direct Bill (97% collection rate)		\$776,737	\$238,798	
Minimums	County Assessments & Direct Bill (97% collection rate)		\$691,911	\$217,952	
Improved Lots	County Assessments & Direct Bill (97% collection rate)		\$7,948,721	\$2,063,039	
1	Total Assessments from above		\$9,463,512	\$2,527,214	
2	Harvest Taxes		\$2,025,100	\$941,879	
3	Interest Income		\$394,996	\$137,898	
REVENUE TOTALS		\$0	\$11,883,608	\$3,606,991	
ACTUAL REVENUE RECEIVED AS OF November 30, 2024					\$3,606,991
EXPENDITURES/TRANSFERS OUT		Previous FY Expense	Estimated FY25 Expense	Actual FY25 Expense	
1	FY25 Payroll & Operating Expense		(\$185,000)		
2	Fire Season 2023 Severity (used \$3M cap as estimate)		(\$3,000,000)	(\$3,000,000)	
		\$0	(\$3,185,000)	(\$3,000,000)	
2023 FIRE SEASON CLAIMS** Net Amount					
Estimated FY25 Total	\$130,490,517	Previous FY Expense	Estimated FY25 Expense	Actual FY25 Expense	
COD	\$70,698,789			-\$10,000,000	
CFPA	\$4,141,359				
DFPA	\$15,782,611				
KLD	\$1,491,637				
NCAS	\$0				
NEO	\$19,959,131				
NWO	\$178,872				
SCAS	\$9,056,176				
SWO	\$8,611,870				
WLD	\$80,717				
WOD	\$0				
WRFPA	\$489,355				
			(\$10,000,000)	(\$10,000,000)	
EXPENDITURE TOTALS		\$0	(\$13,185,000)	(\$13,000,000)	
ACTUAL EXPENDITURES AS OF November 30, 2024					(\$13,000,000)
CURRENT FUND BALANCE ON Novmeber 30, 2024 (Beginning Fund Balance plus actual revenues minus actual expenses)					\$1,418,130
ESTIMATED FUND BALANCE ON June 30, 2025***					\$9,509,746

\*\* Fire Season Claims listed are based on a Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30.

\*\*\* based on assumptions/estimates that \$13.185 million will be expended from the fund.

AGENDA ITEM #3

# Winter Weather Update

Emergency Fire Cost Committee Meeting

**January 7, 2025**



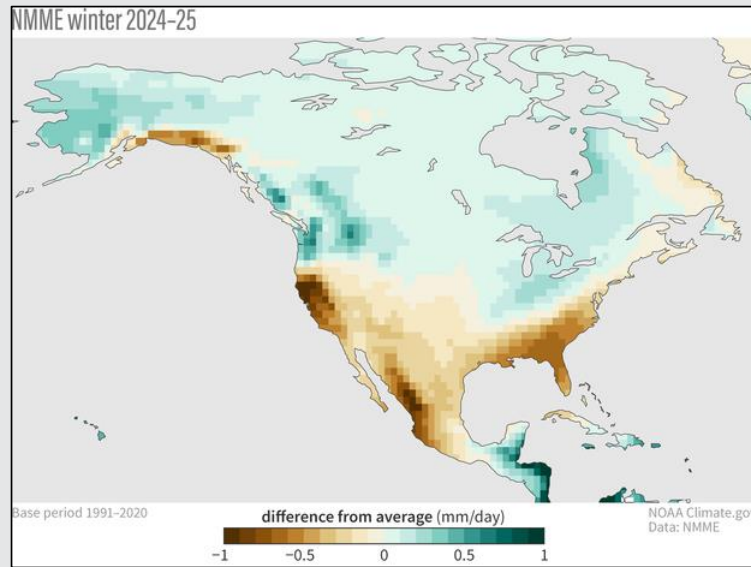
# In this briefing

- Winter season influence: cool neutral ENSO / weak La Niña
- Quick checks:
  - Temperature
  - Precipitation
  - Snow water
  - Drought
- NOAA CPC 3-month seasonal outlook
- National Significant Fire Potential Outlook
- Pattern change forecasted for PNW mid-January

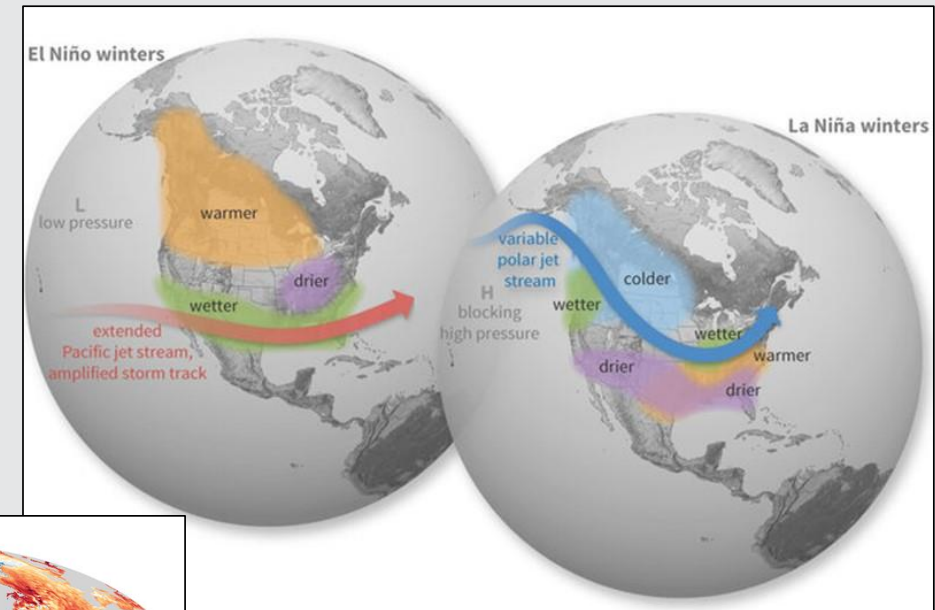
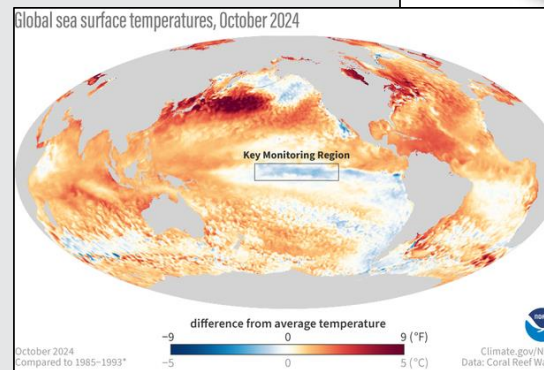




# Winter season influence: cool ENSO neutral



Winter 2024-2025 modeled average  
precipitation anomalies



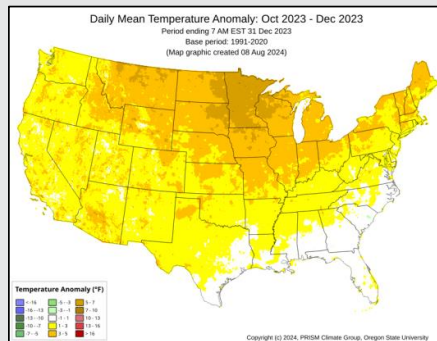
**La Niña conditions prompt forecasts to be relatively cooler  
and wetter than average in PNW, but  
we are still in a cool ENSO neutral**

source Climate.gov

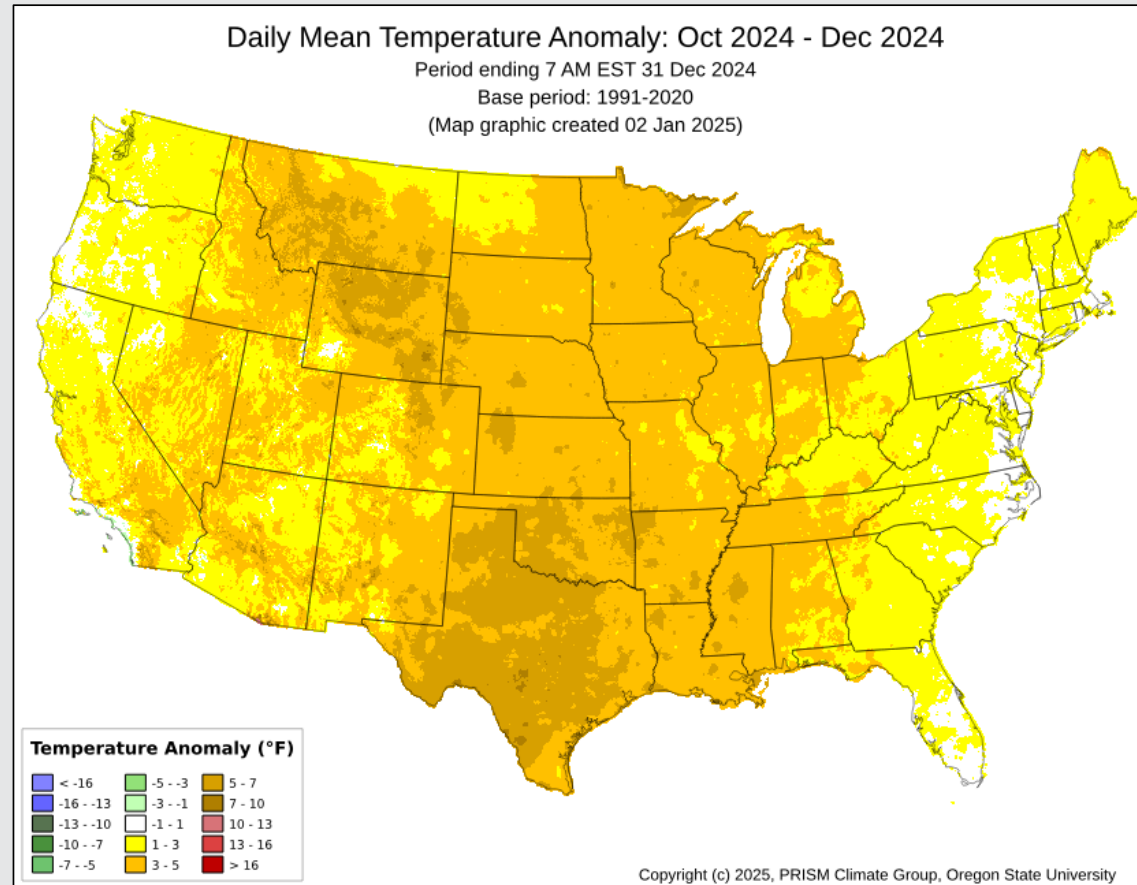


# Temperature check

Oct-Dec 2023

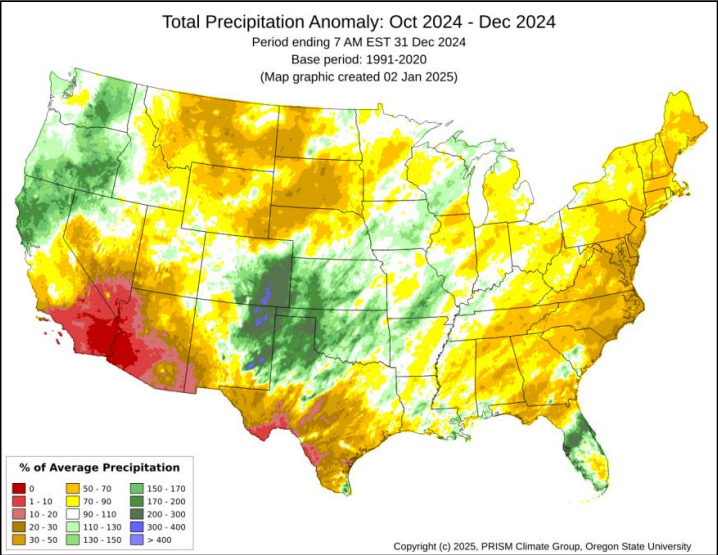


source PRISM OSU

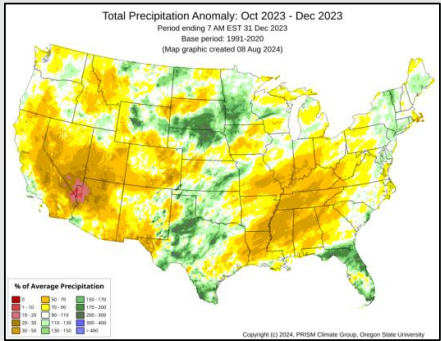


# Precipitation check

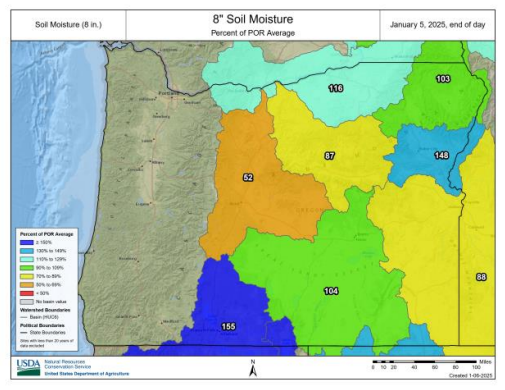
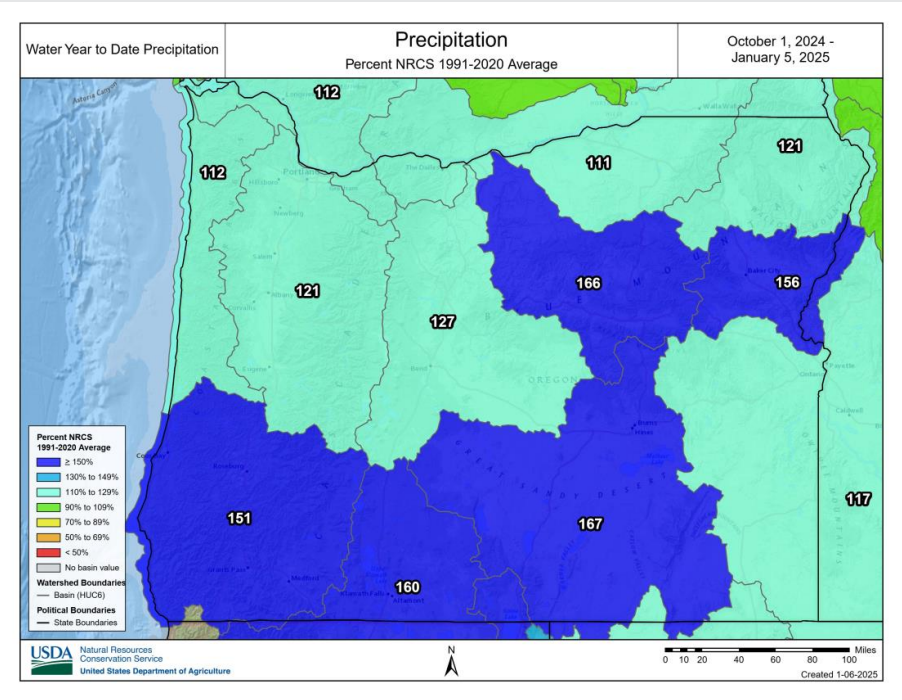
Oct-Dec 2024



Oct-Dec 2023



source PRISM OSU

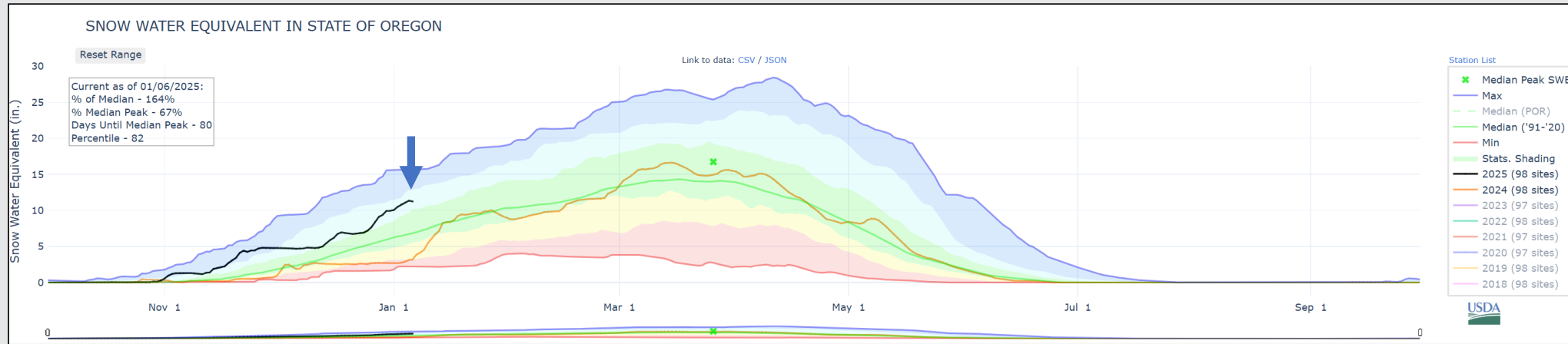


quick soil  
moisture  
check

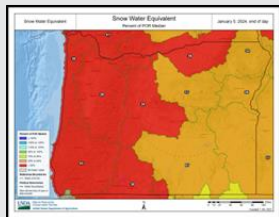




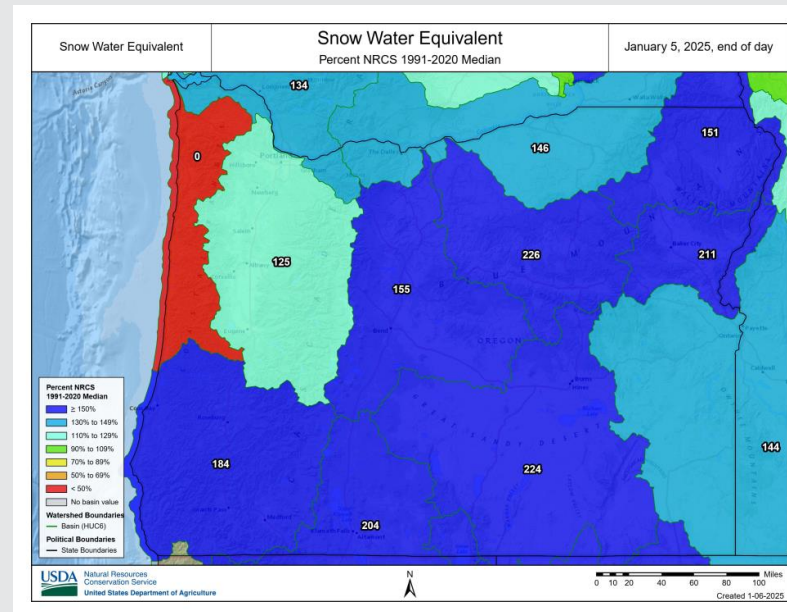
# Snow-water check



Jan 5, 2024



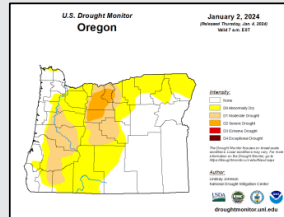
source NRCS



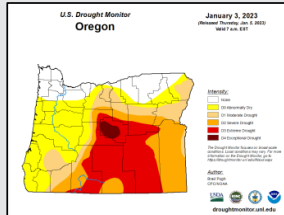


# Drought check

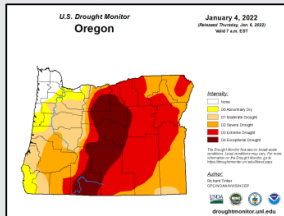
Jan 2, 2024



Jan 3, 2023



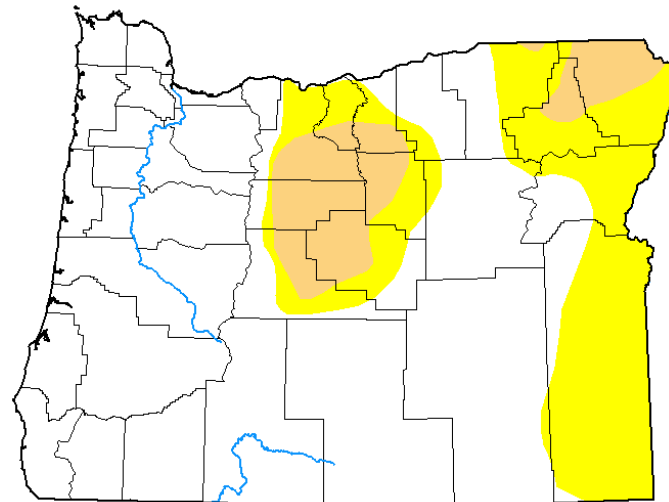
Jan 4, 2022



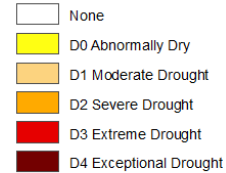
source UNL.edu

## U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

December 31, 2024  
(Released Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



### Intensity:



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:

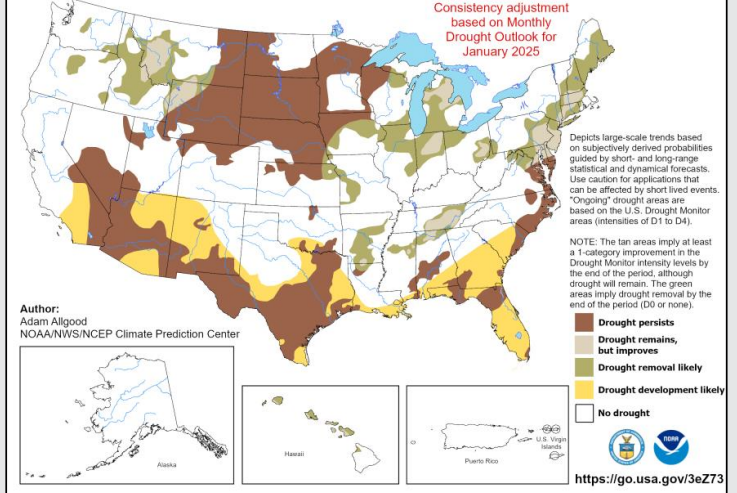
Rocky Bilotta  
NCEI/NOAA



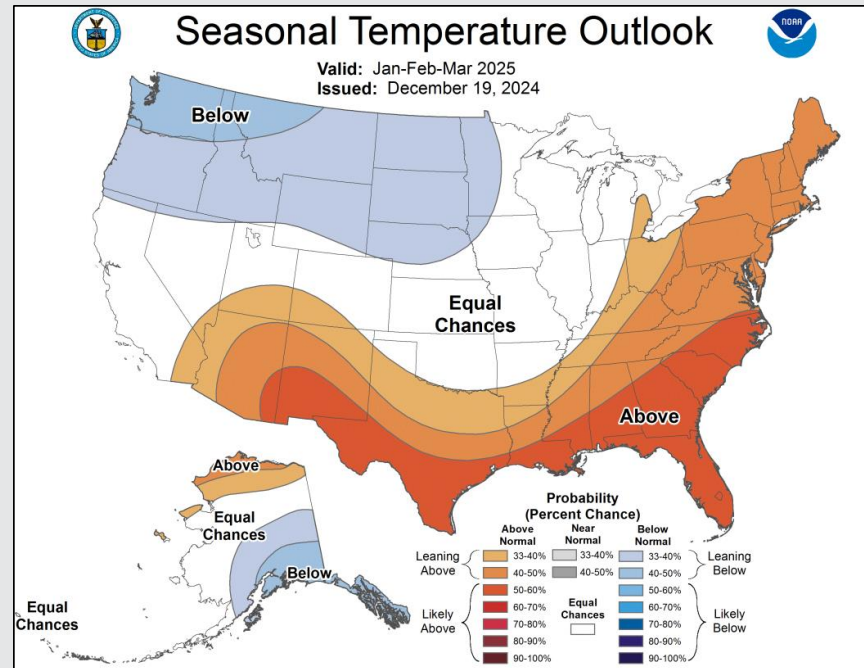
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

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

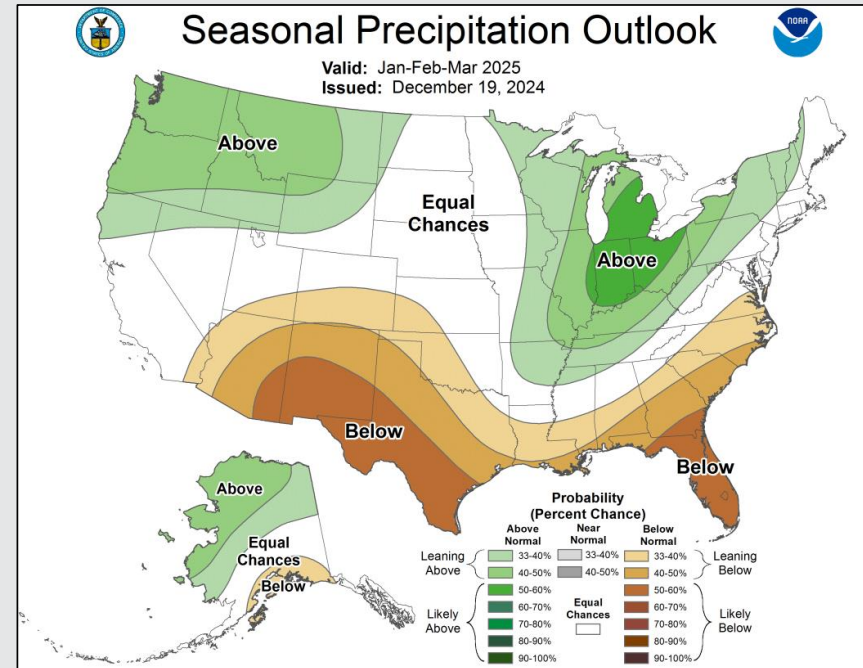
Valid for January 1 - March 31, 2025  
Released December 31, 2024



# NOAA 3-month seasonal outlook



temperature



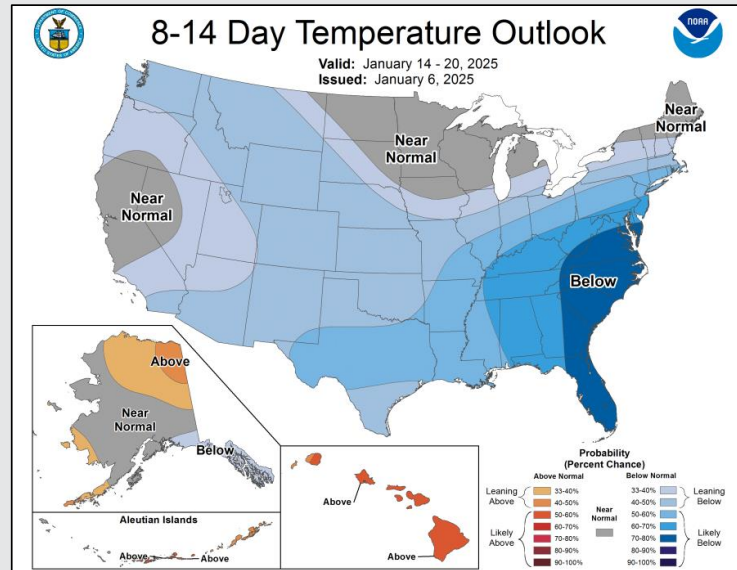
precipitation

valid Jan-Feb-Mar 2025

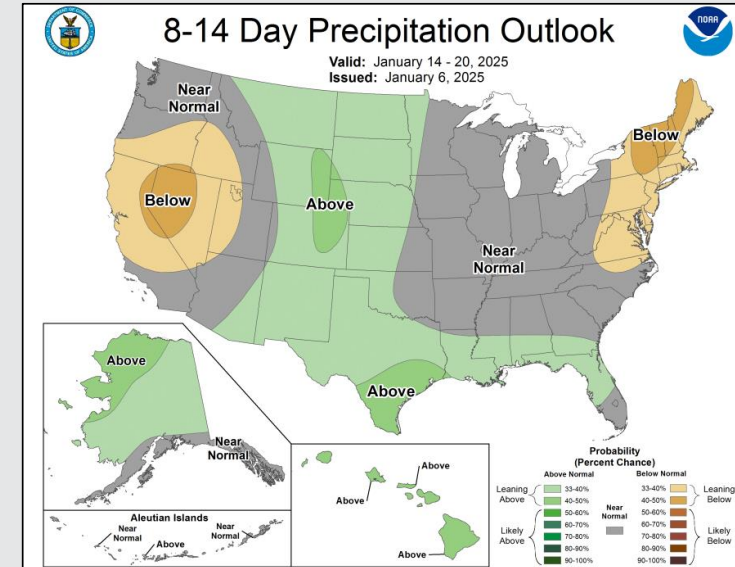
source NOAA CPC



# Potentially colder in later January

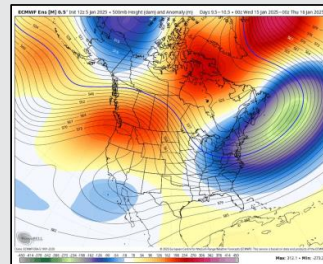


temperature



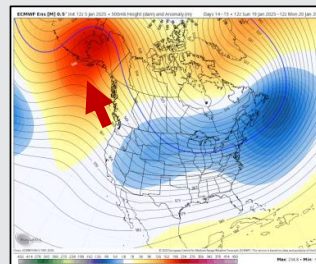
precipitation

Jan 15-16

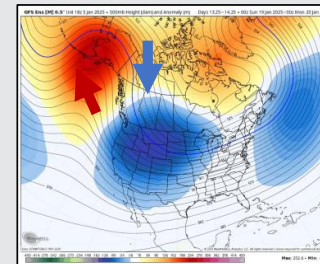


European ECMWF

Jan 19-20



European ECMWF



GFS

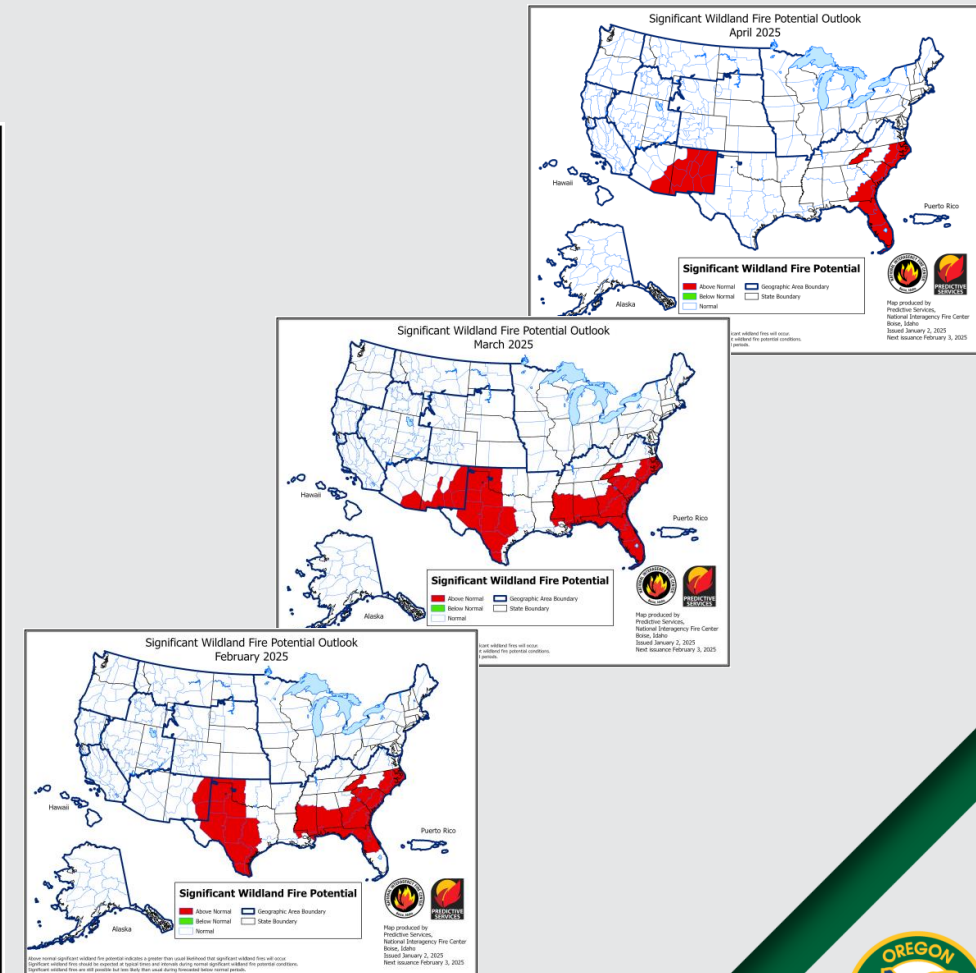
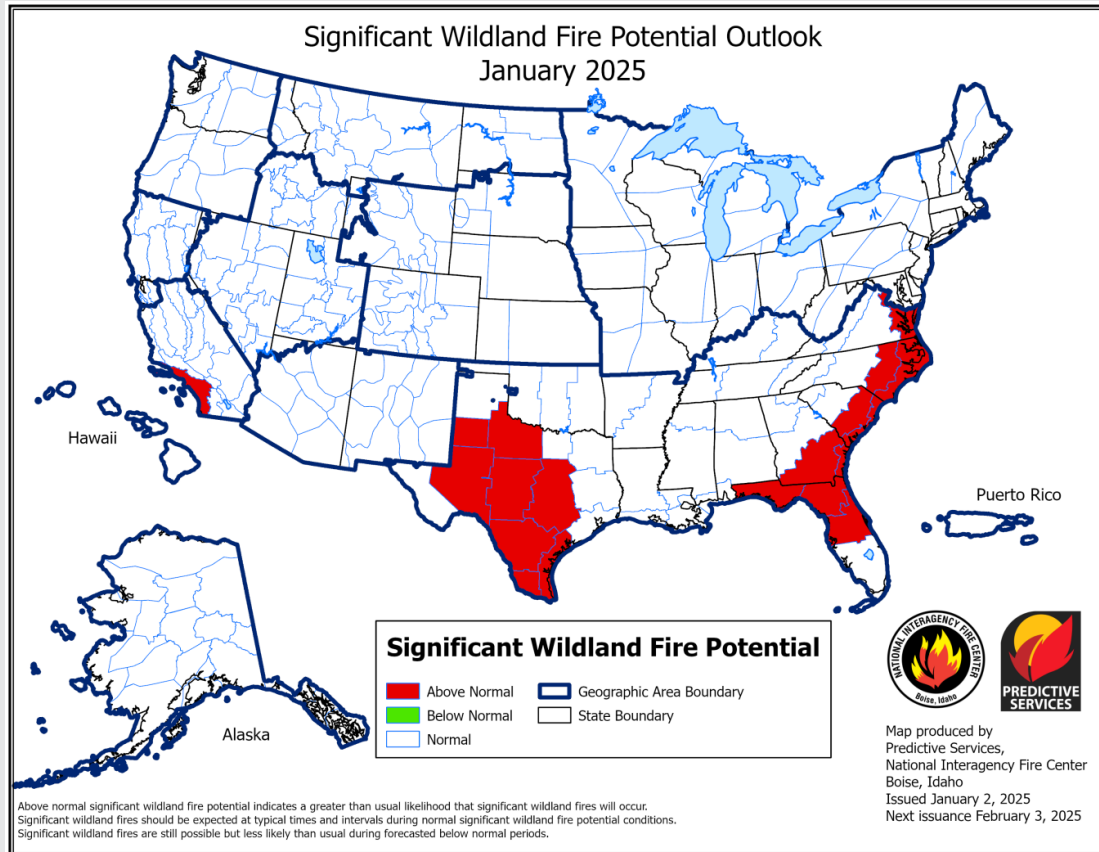
Modeled forecasts

source NOAA CPC, KPTV, Conduit





# NIFC National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook



source NIFC

valid Jan-Apr 2025



# Summary

- Cool neutral ENSO toward weak La Niña so far
- Ridging off the coast = warmer than normal in PNW
- Snowpack good at higher elevations, precip reasonable
- Potential pattern change in mid January: off-shore ridging may move NW – an opening for arctic air to move S into the PNW
- Until then, warmer and drier than normal



**FIRE COST COLLECTION CLAIM STATUS  
CLAIMS GREATER THAN \$5,000**

DISTRICT	FIRE NAME	YEAR	AMOUNT BILLED	STATUS
DFPA	ARCHIE CREEK/STAR MOUNTAIN	2020	\$12,843,270.45	Working with DOJ
CFPA	NORTH BANK LANE MM8	2020	\$934,818.45	Working with DOJ
WO	KIMBERLING MOUNTAIN	2020	\$370,860.34	Working with DOJ
DFPA	MYSTIC MOUNTAIN	2021	\$244,515.67	Communicating with RP
NEO	West Campbell	2022	\$119,446.83	Communicating with RP
KLD	Ana 238	2017	\$109,436.31	Working jointly with USFS
SWO	Neil Rock	2019	\$104,793.10	Working with DOJ
COD	Bologna Canyon	2011	\$69,781.22	Demanded
DFPA	Longview	2019	\$58,820.00	Communicating with RP
COD	Straw Fork	2017	\$40,918.39	Communicating with RP
SCAS	Jasper/Lowell	2013	\$39,149.07	Communicating with District
SCAS	Green Peter Peninsula	2020	\$30,238.33	Demanded
NCAS	Tom Rock	2019	\$19,980.42	Communicating with District
SWO	Jack Creek #6	2018	\$13,848.48	Communicating with District
NCAS	Gard Rd Fire	2018	\$11,118.03	Communicating with District
SCAS	McGowen Lookout	2013	\$10,669.01	Communicating with District
SWO	15360 Jones Rd	2019	\$6,529.68	Communicating with District
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>\$15,028,193.78</b>	

**PAYMENT PLANS FOR FIRES GREATER THAN \$5,000**

DISTRICT	FIRE NAME	YEAR	AMOUNT BILLED	PAYMENT RECEIVED	TYPE
WL	Sweet Creek MP 2	2020	\$4,575,880.73	\$154.82	Restitution
SWO	East Evans	2019	\$3,601,460.00	\$4,050.00	Restitution
SWO	Stratton Creek 1-3	2017	\$570,441.53	\$5,604.37	Restitution
COD	Jewel Road	2014	\$48,259.22	\$150.00	Payment Plan
SWO	North Applegate Rd 9244	2017	\$45,129.80	\$9,425.00	Payment Plan
SCAS	Northernwood	2021	\$27,535.08	\$20,178.36	Payment Plan
CFPA	Carpenterville Road	2012	\$22,849.94	\$3,125.00	Payment Plan
SWO	Rogue River Ranch	2022	\$20,322.65	\$0.00	Restitution
SWO	Takilma Rd 5430	2018	\$19,398.23	\$3,000.00	Payment Plan
CFPA	Lampa Ln	2018	\$16,535.40	\$5,900.00	Payment Plan
WL	26175 Siuslaw	2019	\$10,762.65	\$5,762.65	Payment Plan
DFPA	Happy Valley Rd	2017	\$8,538.70	\$2,100.00	Payment Plan
DFPA	Lowe Rd	2017	\$7,500.00	\$3,987.00	Payment Plan
KLD	Egert	2013	\$6,296.62	\$10.00	Payment Plan
SWO	Mo Creek	2019	\$5,228.09	\$1,246.00	Restitution
CFPA	Marlow Creek	2019	\$5,000.00	\$3,550.00	Payment Plan
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>\$8,991,138.64</b>	<b>\$68,243.20</b>	

**CLOSED FIRE COST COLLECTION CLAIMS GREATER THAN \$5,000**

DISTRICT	FIRE NAME	YEAR	AMOUNT BILLED	PAYMENT RECEIVED	CURRENT STATUS
DFPA	COUGAR CREEK	2022	\$298,143.77	\$298,143.77	Paid
KLD	Ponina	2021	\$353,004.51	\$0.00	Closed
COD	Bull Springs	2021	\$68,907.56	\$72,500.00	Settled
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>\$720,055.84</b>	<b>\$370,643.77</b>	

**SIGNIFICANT FIRE INVESTIGATIONS IN PROGRESS OR UNDER DOJ REVIEW**

DISTRICT	FIRE NAME	YEAR	FIRE COSTS	CURRENT STATUS
SCAS	Holiday Farm	2020	\$18,000,000.00	Waiting for USFS final report
SWO	South Obenchain	2020	\$14,000,000.00	Report complete, Certifying costs
NCAS	Santiam Canyon Fires	2020	\$10,000,000.00	Finalizing report
NCAS	Clackamas Co. Complex	2020	\$3,700,000.00	Finalizing reports
WO	Echo Mtn.	2020	\$3,500,000.00	Report complete, Certifying costs
COD	Fir Mountain	2020	\$3,000,000.00	Writing report
KLD	242	2020	\$2,600,000.00	Waiting for USFS final report
SWO	Slater	2020	\$700,000.00	Report recieved, Certifying costs
NEO	Elbow Creek	2021	\$15,500,000.00	Waiting for BLM/USFS final reports
KLD	Cutoff	2021	\$4,000,000.00	Conducting follow-up for report
NCAS	Mclver	2022	\$158,000.00	Finalizing report, Certifying costs
KLD	Golden	2023	\$5,000,000.00	Finalizing report
WL	7K	2023	\$2,300,000.00	Finalizing report
NEO	Jones Butte	2023	\$650,000.00	Conducting follow-up for report
WL	Moon Mountain	2023	\$342,000.00	Finalizing report
SWO	Upper Applegate	2024	\$500,000.00	Conducting follow-up for report
SWO	Salt Creek	2024	\$8,500,000.00	Conducting follow-up for report
COD	Larch Creek	2024	\$4,500,000.00	Conducting follow-up for report
COD	Lone Rock	2024	\$8,000,000.00	Conducting follow-up for report
COD	Microwave Tower	2024	\$2,500,000.00	Conducting follow-up for report
FG	Lee Falls Road	2024	\$380,000.00	Fianlizing report
DFPA	Devils Knob	2024	\$6,000,000.00	Conducting follow-up for report
DFPA	Milepost 98	2024	\$4,000,000.00	Conducting follow-up for report
KLD	Copperfield	2024	\$900,000.00	Conducting follow-up for report
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>\$118,730,000.00</b>	

**EMERGENCY FIRE COST COMMITTEE  
FISCAL YEAR 2024 AUDIT REPORT  
OREGON FOREST LAND, PROTECTION FUND  
January 7, 2025**

**I. Overview**

The Emergency Fire Cost Committee (EFCC) Administrator annually audits all fire costs which are a part of the claims against the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF). This report summarizes the findings of the EFCC's fiscal year 2024 audits; the Administrator recommends that the EFCC approve the audits and consequently authorize payment of those claims, as needed, when they are finalized.

Nancy Hirsch, EFCC Administrator and Lorna Hobbs, EFCC Finance Coordinator conducted the FY24 audits in coordination with the Oregon Department of Forestry's Area Accountants, Jerilee Johnson, Rory Spencer and Anthony Texiera; and Tracy Wrolson, Protection Finance Unit Manager. Additional assistance was provided by Debbie Queen, District Business Manager for the Department's Tillamook District. Additional attendees at the audits included EFCC members, district foresters/managers, office and business managers, as well as various unit foresters and other district staff employees. Audits were a hybrid of in-person and virtual attendance.

Fiscal year 2024 audits are complete, which included early spring fires that occurred in fiscal year 2023.

During fiscal year 2024, total extra costs were \$63,917,716.24. After reductions were made for district deductibles and fire cost recoveries, the total estimated claim to the OFLPF and General Fund is \$35,172,383.23. The following table identifies the districts/associations that became eligible for reimbursement after meeting all fire suppression cost deductible requirements outlined in OAR 629-165-0010 through 629-165-0100.

<b>DISTRICT/ ASSOCIATION</b>	<b>EXTRA COSTS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>RECOVERIES</b>	<b>DAILY DEDUCTIBLE</b>	<b>ACREAGE DEDUCTIBLE</b>	<b>NET CLAIM<sup>2</sup></b>
CFPA – Timber	\$593,421.08	\$0.00	\$68,795.60	\$126,581.04	\$398,044.44
COD – Timber	\$528,677.07	\$42,971.25	\$153,450.21	\$102,300.13	\$229,955.47
COD – Grazing	\$130,411.05	\$0.00	\$45,791.02	\$52,281.86	\$32,338.18
DFPA – Timber	\$35,058,083.59	\$16,512,789.12	\$82,599.81	\$91,095.46	\$18,371,599.21
DFPA – Grazing	\$130,954.53	\$59,054.88	\$99.19	\$13,511.82	\$58,288.64
KLD – Timber	\$8,027,730.09	\$4,314,536.94	\$133,656.04	\$101,137.36	\$3,478,399.75
KLD – Grazing	\$109,900.98	\$30,498.28	\$28,809.95	\$24,008.29	\$26,584.46
NCAS – Timber	\$1,130,368.90	\$0.00	\$79,573.98	\$53,049.32	\$997,745.60
NEO – Timber	\$872,249.39	\$5,290.00	\$73,618.09	\$84,631.13	\$708,710.17
NEO – Grazing	\$635,018.03	\$96,500.00	\$65,169.39	\$54,307.82	\$419,040.82
NWO – Timber	\$345,959.05	\$0.00	\$108,786.59	\$166,492.05	\$70,680.41
SCAS – Timber	\$9,044,440.13	\$2,129,993.00	\$139,294.95	\$92,863.30	\$6,682,288.88
SWO – Timber	\$3,687,894.63	\$1,021,850.00	\$140,409.75	\$93,606.50	\$2,432,028.37
SWO – Grazing	\$33,149.72	\$0.00	\$7,580.72	\$6,317.27	\$19,251.72
WLD – Timber	\$3,144,228.01	\$2,017,192.26	\$77,211.86	\$53,416.40	\$996,407.49
WOD - Timber	\$445,229.99	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$94,210.37	\$251,019.62
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$63,917,716.24</b>	<b>\$26,230,675.73</b>	<b>\$1,304,847.15</b>	<b>\$1,209,810.12</b>	<b>\$35,172,383.23</b>

<sup>1</sup>Extra Costs include fires that occurred in early spring of Fire Season 2024 that were not audited in 2024.

<sup>2</sup>Net Claim total includes fires that occurred in early spring of Fire Season 2024 that were not audited in 2024.



## **II. Audit Philosophy & Procedures**

OAR 629-165-0310 requires that emergency fire suppression cost claims against the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund not be finalized until “... (3)(b) The Administrator has audited each claim; and (c) The Emergency Fire Cost Committee has approved each audit. ...” With this requirement, the Administrator and Finance Coordinator analyze expenditures to assure that they meet all fiscal requirements of the agency and the State of Oregon, are necessary and appropriate for the suppression of the respective incidents and are appropriately documented.

This review assures that the EFCC maintains their financial responsibility to manage the OFLPF for the purpose of spreading the risk of emergency fire suppression costs among protection districts statewide – equalizing their eligible emergency fire expenses. In turn, the audits may help maintain the State Forester’s ability to procure affordable catastrophic fire insurance to protect the financial interests of forest landowners, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the State of Oregon. This in turn helps assure the State Forester provide a complete and coordinated forest fire protection system.

The focus of each audit can be separated into two parts. First, all equipment and aircraft charges are reviewed for conformity to pre-set pay schedules and appropriateness. Second, fire line payroll records are reviewed and compared to the Oregon State Payroll System’s (OSPS) official payroll records, and fire line equipment records are reviewed and compared to ODF billing for equipment rental records for accuracy. All costs are reviewed for conformity to FEMA eligibility when applicable, and fire cost recovery responsibilities.

The EFCC Administrator encourages the audits be attended by fire management personnel as well as fire business personnel. This affords the added benefit of the audit providing a forum for communicating EFCC policy, procedures, and philosophy to these personnel, as well as an opportunity for these individuals to communicate success stories (Attachment 1), emerging trends, and issues or concerns. These two-way discussions help assure that we are providing an emergency fire funding program that is responsive to evolving needs/changes in the forest fire fighting business and ensures continuity of the “Oregon way” of shared forest landowner and State of Oregon-funded firefighting. Lessons learned from audits are incorporated into the ODF|EFCC Large Fire Audit Process document.

## **III. Audit Results, Fiscal Year 2024**

The statewide total for reversal of charges (from EFCC eligibility back to the district or a vendor/provider) was \$62,143.85. Reversals were up from \$36.5K from the previous year mostly due to NCAS helicopter deductibles.

## **IV. Audit Summary and Follow-up**

All districts except for Walker Range FPA have claims for fiscal year 2024. Audits were held in April and May of 2024. These audits followed on the heels of a tremendous correction effort that was necessary that resulted from transitioning payroll to the state’s Workday payroll system. There were 78,000 lines of data to complete the corrections of the issues found in Workday. The effort district front line along with centralized staff made must be commended. There was over \$9 million of corrections made to make the Workday issues “right”.

South Cascade District’s audit was the first audit held on April 8 and 9, 2024. The draft claim consisted of eleven (11) fires, ten (10) of which had a net claim amount over \$5,000 and were audited. The Reuben Leigh fire from the spring of 2023 was included in the audit. The two fires

with the highest costs were the Priceboro and Grizzly fires with net costs over \$2 million each. The Bedrock fire was the third largest with a net cost of \$1.25 million. South Cascade District's net claim total for fiscal year 2024 was \$3.62 million.

Northwest Oregon FPA Districts' audit was held on April 23, 2024, and there were twelve (12) fires on their draft claim at the time of the audit. Only one fire, the Broken Gate fire in the Astoria District, was audited. It had a net cost of just under \$224,000. The FY24 net claim total at the time of audit was \$60,884.

West Oregon District's audit was held on April 29, 2024. There were seven (7) fires on their draft claim. Six (6) were audited. Hatchery Fall Creek fire had the highest cost with a net of \$209,155. The net claim amount at the time of audit was \$303,861.

Northeast Oregon District's audit was held on May 1, 2024, and there were fourteen (14) fires on the draft claim. Seven (7) fires were audited, including an early spring fire, the Albee fire, from their FY23 claim. The Jones Butte fire had the highest net cost of \$539,000. Northeast Oregon District's FY24 net claim total was \$1.186 million.

Klamath Lake District's audit was held on May 3, 2024, with twelve (12) fires on the draft claim and five (5) fires were audited. The two highest costing fires were the Golden and Morgan fires with net costs over \$1 million. The Golden Fire was the only FEMA fire during the 2023 fire season. The net claim totaled \$2.833 million.

Southwest Oregon District's audit was held on May 6, 2024. There were forty-five (45) fires on their draft claim; ten (10) were audited. The highest costing fire was the Smith River Complex with a net cost of \$669,000. The net claim total was \$1.254 million.

Western Lane District's audit was held on May 9, 2024, and had ten (10) fires on their draft claim. Three (3) fires were audited. The most expensive fire was an early spring (FY23) fire; the 7K fire had a net cost of just over \$2 million. The two FY24 fires that were audited were the Bennett Creek Road and Moon Mountain fires. Western Lane's FY24 claim had a net total of \$362,241 at the time of audit.

North Cascade District's audit was held on May 14, 2024. There were eight (8) fires on their draft claim. Three early spring (FY23) fires and four FY24 fires were audited. The highest costing fire was the 224 fire with a net cost of \$914,817. The net claim total at the time of audit was \$968,754.

Central Oregon District's audit was held on May 17, 2024, with twenty-one (21) fires on their draft claim, six (6) of which were audited. The highest costing fire was the Juniper Creek fire with a net cost of \$247,653. Central Oregon District's FY24 net claim total was \$254,822.42 at the time of audit.

Douglas Forest Protection Association's audit was held on May 23-24, 2024, and had four (4) fires on their draft claim, all of which were audited. The Tyee Ridge Complex was the most expensive fire with a net cost just over \$18 million. The Association's net claim total was \$18,429,911.98 at the time of audit.

Coos Forest Protection Association's audit was held on May 28, 2024. There were twenty-two (22) fires on their draft claim. Only the O'Brien Creek fire was audited, which had a net cost of \$524,624.48 after the daily deductible was applied. All other fires on the claim resulted in a zero net cost after daily deductibles were applied. The net claim after the acreage deductible was applied totaled \$398,044.44.

From a financial perspective Oregon's 2023 fire season was right at the net cost ten-year average. Fire Season 2023 was characterized by continuing drought and pulses of elevated, record-breaking heat events starting in mid-May through July. In August a period of intermittent but expected thunderstorms ignited several fires in western Oregon. Then in very late August and September, pulses of cool onshore flow and a season slowing event with wetting rains began to push the region closer toward the end of fire season. The ODF Incident Management Teams were mobilized two times to Oregon large fires: Golden in the Klamath Lake District, and the Tye Complex in the Douglas Forest Protection Association.

Fiscal Year 24 fire statistics were:

- 931 total statistical fires that burned 18,229 acres (15,510 timber and 1,950 grazing).
- 780 were human and 151 lightning caused.

The 10-year fiscal averages from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2024 are:

- 1,024 statistical fires and 110,358 acres burned.

Strategic investment highlight. ODF's Multi-Mission Aircraft with night vision and infrared technology tallied 80 flight hours, 30 primary fire detections, 7 secondary detections, and 3 live-stream operational support missions.

Oregon's complete and coordinated fire protection system continues to prove itself as a very efficient and effective model. The ODF, landowner partners, contractors and other cooperating agencies should be commended for their efforts across all functions in the resources required to provide for firefighter and public safety while minimizing costs and losses. During fire season 2023, 94% of fires were caught at 10 acres or less.

The Administrator works with the Chief Financial Officer, the Fire Protection Division Chief, Deputy Protection Division Chiefs and the Protection Finance Unit Manager to implement these audit findings and recommendations, instilling changes as needed.

The total financial impacts of the audit with reference to ineligible charges identified and charged back to the districts/associations are as follows:

District	Identified Issue	Correction	Total
<b>COD</b>			
955052-24	Overpayment of contract services	-\$3,217.50	
		<b>COD FY24 Total</b>	<b>-\$3,217.50</b>
<b>DFPA</b>			
731314-24	Unsubstantiated paid lunch for contract crew	-\$1,107.00	
		<b>DFPA FY24 Total</b>	<b>-\$1,107.00</b>
<b>KLD</b>			
981010-24	Overpayment of contract services	-\$7,507.96	
982022-24	Ineligible district employee	-\$1,551.16	
		<b>KLD FY24 Total</b>	<b>-\$9,059.02</b>
<b>NCAS</b>			
581042-23	Helicopter deductible	-\$4,123.30	
581072-23	Ineligible "readiness" charges	-\$760.00	
581083-23	Helicopter deductible	-\$12,000.00	
581013-24	Helicopter deductible	-\$12,000.00	
582039-24	Helicopter deductible	-\$10,041.00	

District	Identified Issue	Correction	Total
		<b>NCAS FY24 Total</b>	<b>-\$38,924.30</b>
<b>SWO</b>			
712082-24	Overcharge of vehicle milage	-\$75.02	
		<b>SWO FY24 Total</b>	<b>-\$75.02</b>
<b>WOD</b>			
552003-24	Added charges for contract services	\$594.01	
553011-24	Helicopter deductible	-\$10,023.50	
551025-24	Double charge for vehicle mileage	-\$331.52	
		<b>WOD FY24 Total</b>	<b>-\$9,761.01</b>
		<b>FY24 Grand Total</b>	<b>-\$62,143.85</b>

## V. Action Recommended

Pursuant to OAR 629-165-0310, the Administrator recommends that the Emergency Fire Cost Committee approve these audits of fires that burned in fiscal year 2024, and that fire suppression cost claims against the OFLPF from this fiscal year be authorized for payment when claims are finalized; conditioned on proceedings being brought to recover fire suppression costs from responsibilities. Due to conditional payments already made based on fire cost estimates, which enable districts to pay for costs, there may be no further OFLPF payments.

## **Fiscal Year 2024 District and Association Initial Attack (IA) Success Stories**

Initial attack of the year. The Protection Division started an annual award for recognizing the outstanding work that IA crews do each year. The criterion for submission is a fire that had all the indicators and factors that would eventually lead to an incident management team (IMT) deployment, but the local crews performed above and beyond to corral the fire at the local level. Multiple districts highlighted these success stories during the audit breakout discussion. For those IA stories submitted through the department process, the content remains essentially the same and are noted with an asterisk (\*).

### **Central Oregon District (COD)**

**\*John Day Unit** – Cottonwood Fire, 8.3 acres. IC – Stacy Lauritsen submitted the following narrative:

On the evening of Aug 05<sup>th</sup> 2023 a Thunderstorm approached the Fossil Unit from the Southwest coming up through Picture Gorge over Rudio Mountain and then sat in the Cottonwood Drainage for approximately 2 hours producing over 40 Positive strikes and an unknown amount of negative strikes as well as Flash Flood conditions. Over the next couple of days 9363 and 9364 completed numerous patrols on the Cottonwood, Lost Hubcap and Court rock roads through the area. At approximately 1400 hours on 8 Aug, both 9363 and 9364 were leaving the Monument Compound to do another Patrol through the area. While leaving Monument both engines received a dispatch for a fire on Cottonwood. Knowing the flooding conditions that were present a few days prior and not seeing a road in the immediate area on the map the decision was made to head up Cottonwood Road. Approximately 2.5 miles up Cottonwood Road, we found a wide spot to park, drive time about 5 mins and observed the fire at the bottom of the slope ranging 45-60% + in broken terrain as it went up from the drainage burning in Grass and Juniper. Fire behavior was making small runs in the grass with the wind and with the slope as winds would shift. Adjacent fuels were dense annual grasses with thick junipers in an area that is known for large fires throughout history. The decision was made that the best initial course of action was to have the crew of 9364 and the crew member from 9363 make our way in on foot, which was about a 15 min brisk hike in, while the Engine Operator of 9363 tied in with Dozer 93 to find a way in. While making the hike into the fire, Air attack informed us that there was a 2-track road that went in near the fire but not knowing where the road was, not being on the map and knowing that there was a good chance that it was impassable the decision was made to continue on foot. Upon arrival we quickly realized that we were in an area with very poor radio communications with dispatch and even difficult communication with arriving resources. The three on scene firefighters began hot spotting anchoring off of the drainage bottom and up the right flank then soon after supported by Bucket drops from ODF Helicopter 9KB. The Dozer went down to the 777 ranch to take a road that came at least part way up the main drainage. While 9263 was also arriving in the Cottonwood, Hwy 402 area was able to talk to a local resident that showed them where the 2-track road was that came in off the Cottonwood Road. 7AB (John Day ODF Helitack) was next to come on scene landing below the fire, tied in with IC and took over controlling Bucket operations as well as helping dig Hotline. 9263 arrived on scene after following the 2-track road that was very overgrown and approximately 30-45 mins of picking their way through the tall grass and mature Sage brush. Dozer 93 arrived about 15-20 mins after 9263 and began pushing line to reinforce the handline. Using natural barriers, Handline and Buckets were a major part of catching the fire

at 8.3 acres. Three SEAT drops were made to help secure the fire line along areas on the fire where the progression had already been stopped.

**\*The Dalles Unit, Winslow Road Fire 954036, IC T. Sheppard and Unit Forester K. Dodd**

Winslow Road Fire was reported 8/29/2023 at 12:00 pm. The weather that day was 72 degrees, 35-40% humidity and winds sustained 35 mph with gusts up to 65 mph. The fuels were pockets of timber, grass, and brush. This area is known for large fires and rapid fire spread, especially when wind driven.

Fire crews immediately responded as well as the 2 local Fire bosses, 4 WA DNR Fire bosses, 2 large scooper planes loaned out from the Camp Creek fire as well as 2 LATs. Not only did ODF respond but the new Petersburg Rangeland Fire Protection Association responded. Mount Hood Forest Service and National Scenic Area sent engine and extra severity resources to assist with initial attack.

The forward progress was stopped by 5:30pm. The fire's final size after an aggressive initial attack was 837 acres. This "Good Catch" during adverse windy conditions was contributed to by good coordination and strong relationships between other agencies and cooperators and the willingness to help each other out.

The successful IA was only possible with the quick and coordinated effort by ranchers, landowners, RFPA, Rural fire agencies, USFS, and ODF.



**\*Prineville/Sisters Unit – Juniper Creek Fire, 106 acres. IC Jeremy Hall and Acting Unit Forester, Chase Duncan**

On August 20th, the Juniper Creek fire ignited within the protected lands of the Oregon Department of Forestry's Central Oregon District, specifically in the Prineville/Sisters unit.

At that moment, Forest Officer Jeremy Hall, together with two engine crews from the Sisters ODF office, was conducting saw training in the field in the Sisters area. Around 11 AM, Jeremy received a radio call from Lake Chinook Fire Chief, alerting him to a reported fire in the Geneva area, requesting immediate assistance.

The Prineville/Sisters unit is dispatched out of the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center and relies on a network of mountaintop radio repeaters for communications in initial fire response. These repeaters are used not only by wildland agencies but also by various structural fire departments in the region. Each geographical area follows a pre-established mutual aid radio plan for coordinated initial attack responses to wildfires involving multiple jurisdictions.

The Geneva area, situated approximately 15 miles north of Sisters, is notorious for its frequent, large, fast-moving fires, often hampered by challenging accessibility. The travel time from Sisters to Geneva typically takes an average of 45 minutes. Notable past fires in the area that required Incident Management Team deployments include Awkawana, Graham Road, and Grandview, along with several type 3 fire team deployments over the years.

Upon being informed of the fire, Jeremy promptly mobilized the two ODF engines. He also contacted Protection Supervisor Chris Dayton, who was on his day off. Chris accessed the Pine Tel camera, one of many lookout cameras in the district, which revealed a substantial column of smoke, barely visible on the camera. During this time, Central Oregon was grappling with dense smoke from various statewide fires. Chris relayed what he observed on the camera to Jeremy and instructed him to call for Air Attack, deploy Seat planes from Prineville, and request any additional resources as needed.

The Central Oregon District had a strike team of move-up engines from the NW Oregon region touring COIDC when the fire started. Chris notified dispatch to divert the strike team to the fire and then proceeded to the scene himself.

Lake Chinook Chief 1310 was the first to arrive at the scene and estimated the fire's size at 5+ acres, with rapid growth. Jeremy, upon arrival soon after, assessed the fire at approximately 20 acres, with torching and spotting. He assumed command, directing the ODF engines to secure the fire's heel and ordering a second alarm, which triggered a predetermined allocation of resources as outlined in the dispatch cards. Additionally, he requested two additional dozers.

Due to the heavy smoke in the vicinity, Seat planes struggled to make their initial drops and had to return to base due to perilous flying conditions. Consequently, IC Hall ordered two helicopters, the only air assets capable of operating under the prevailing conditions, which played a critical role in slowing the fire when no other air resources could be deployed.

While en route to the fire, Chris received an update from IC Hall, who now estimated the fire at 40+ acres and expanding rapidly. Given the resources on the scene, Jeremy aggressively pursued direct attack strategies on the fire's flanks until the dozers arrived to create a firebreak, enhancing safety for firefighting personnel. Recognizing the area's fire history and the limited air support due to smoke, Chris initiated the activation of the COFMS type 3 team, anticipating the fire to develop into extended attack.

IC Hall swiftly organized divisions on the left and right flanks of the fire, assigning engine bosses to oversee each until the type 3 team's leadership arrived and could assume the roles. As the dozers arrived, they were immediately put to work on both sides of the fire. Chris Dayton arrived at the fire, taking charge of the division at the head of the fire, employing roads and backburning to impede the fire's advance. Two NWO engines from the strike team joined Chris, assisting in crucial areas until the dozers successfully secured the fire's flanks.

The firefighting operation involved a continuous direct attack, employing engine crews, hose lays, helicopters, dozers, and burnout strategies until containment was achieved, halting the fire's growth at 106 acres before transferring command to the type 3 team.



Effective mutual aid assistance from multiple agencies, including ODF, USFS, BLM, Lake Chinook Fire, Lower Bridge RFP, COIDC, severity aircraft, local IRA's, and landowners, was instrumental in containing the fire.

By 1800 hours that evening, the COFMS type 3 team assumed command of the fire, recognizing the need for multiple shifts to secure and mop up the fire while addressing logistical requirements.

The firefighting teams faced numerous challenges, including prolonged hot and dry weather, extreme fire danger conditions, heavy smoke hindering air operations, difficult access, the presence of light, flammable fuels, and wind patterns that made fire containment a formidable task. Considering recent and historical fires in the area, containing the fire at this size was a significant achievement.

Overall, the rapid and prudent decisions made by ODF personnel under challenging circumstances prevented the fire from growing further, averting damage to landowner properties and mitigating risks to additional resources, all while minimizing costs to taxpayers.



### **Coos Forest Protective Association (CFPA)**

**Anvil Fire – September 15 – lightning storm.** While this is not exactly an IA success story, it does demonstrate excellent partnerships and collaboration on a complex incident that CFPA would like highlight. The Anvil Fire resulted from a lightning strike, and it had been there for some time. The USFS got a road into the fire and had a line around it. However, there was a



crew injury that required the use of a helicopter, and the rotor wash caused fire challenges. The USFS also had a vehicle accident, and the road was blocked for a while. A few bad events combined with weather resulted in further fire growth.

Coordinating with USFS is an opportunity. Practice and experience are helpful and in this case finance and ordering were more efficient than ever before. Operationally CFPA engaged with a group of about 150 people. This group was able to focus on keeping the fire off private and the size of group worked efficiently and effectively. The group was tied in at all levels – air attack; finance, own hand crews, own burn module, and all the IRA and VIPR crews. The group was able to move around the fire and focus on areas of interest/threat. With this fire CFPA was able to process resource orders directly through IROC as one fire, one record. There was great communication, collaboration between two dispatch offices.

Operationally, resources were acquired quickly, and they were able to keep local IRA resources that know how to operate in this area. The combination of or local overhead (CFPA and ODF), hand crews and equipment together under consistent management as a group resulted in the success. Of note, it was mentioned that it took an additional operations person in the Incident Command Post to assure communication and alignment / support. It was critical that the Agency Administrators (AA's) understood the Group was working with them not against. Local leadership was also instrumental, in fact the key. The USFS locally has been focused on initial attack and has alignment through the region. It was also noted that out of region IMT's create challenges too and AA's must help bring these IMT's up to spend.

Financially, CFPA entered a no cost cost-share. The EFCC did lend money to CFPA on this incident and that money has already been paid back from the USFS and allocated towards the \$10 million OFLPF obligation for fiscal year 2024.

#### **Douglas Forest Protective Association – (Excerpt from DFPA annual report)**

**Chilcoot Fire – 207 Acres (DFPA protected land)** The Chilcoot Fire was started by a significant lightning storm on August 24, 2023 at 9:14PM, which was the same storm that started 21 fires in the Tyee Ridge Complex. This fire, which was originally called the Highpower Fire, then renamed the Chilcoot Fire by the Umpqua National Forest (UNF), was located on the Umpqua National Forest boundary, Bureau of Land Management land, and private timber land located about five miles north of the Steamboat Creek junction at Highway 138. Severity of terrain, rapid fire growth and limited resources due to multiple fire starts on the Umpqua National Forest contributed to the UNF's request for a federal incident management team. Suppression efforts then shifted from local resources to several Northwest Incident Management Teams during the duration of the fire on federally protected land. DFPA's Central Unit led the command of suppression for the 207 acres of private land under the Association's protection for a duration of about 2 weeks. The total fire size for the Chilcoot Fire was 1,940 acres, with the final report of 96% contained reported by UNF on October 2, 2023.



## Klamath Lake District

The **Golden Fire** (2,137 acres) was shared as a great example of the complete and coordinated fire protection system. It was a phenomenal catch led by the district. The fire was in the Bly Mountain area and started off Highway 140 west and crossed over to the east side. The fire was in a place of concern with homes and outbuildings and in some cases not knowing what people may have been living in. They expected the worst and approached the fire with all hands-on deck that included:

- Aviation – T1 airtanker was in Medford and got back quickly, they ordered and received what they needed.
- Law enforcement implemented appropriate evacuations
- Mutual aid responses were in full effect plus a county strike team with structure protection.
- County rural fire protection districts responded.
- The OSFM regional representative coordinated additional resources as needed, including an OSFM team.
- There was cross district support with a dozer and engines.
- The excellent partnership with BLM and FS resulted in them sending everything they had.
- The eastern Oregon area strike team was utilized too.
- The initial and extended attack efforts resulted in the fire being 80% lined and the fire stayed in its footprint when the ODF IMT team.
- Some unfortunate impacts included: Highway 140 was shut down until pilot cars on day 2, a lot of luting happened at night, and the fiber line for Lake County was burned/severed resulting in significant impact to Lake County.

## North Cascade District

**McCulley Fire** – September 10. This fire started in the early afternoon and a local resident reported it. Both forest officers were on their day off or off district along with the wildland fire protection supervisors. This was a great opportunity for a seasonal forest officer working in a developmental as an IC4. The IC did a great job on this fire. There was lots of successful coordination that highlights succession management. The IC was very successful in tapping and coordinating the right resources.

Two units (Mollala and Santiam) supported the fire, and they demonstrated good teamwork across district and showed depth in providing great fire-line leadership. State Forests personnel also added capacity – especially one reforestation forester. The Weyco helicopter was ordered along with tenders and engines on scene. The South Cascade District moved up to cover the south end of the district. Linn County Sheriff handled Level 1 evacuations. This was a great catch for this district.

**224 Fire** – This fire showed great cooperation with USFS. The USFS didn't wait, and mutual aid / relationships proved itself on this fire. The USFS sent an engine and a helicopter. The landowner was pleased with the mutual response. As a result, the fire did not spread to the USFS or BLM which were very close ownerships, and the fire had a lot of potential.

The community of Estacada has had recent fire history that has left them having a lot of concerns. PGE has responsibility to clear the North Fork Clackamas River / reservoir for aviation use and that was successful as scoopers were used. A private logging company was engaged early. Lastly, this was the first ever use of the Partenavia with Starlink. This enabled

fire managers to stream live real time infra-red results through a Teams meeting from the Pilot to aviation unit, division supervisors and district leadership. This resulted in identifying a critical spot fire.

### **Northeast Oregon**

**Pendleton unit** – Snipe Fire. 38 acres. Photo below is from air attack and details of the photo follow:

District Engines sit on the dozer line at the head of the fire. Helicopter 3NP (Severity resource) is on the dip on the lower left side of the photo. La Grande SEATS are about to secure the head of the fire in that timber edge on a load and return. The landowner was extremely pleased with the efforts and associated outcome.



**\*39 Road.** The 39 Road Fire was initially reported as a structure fire that had spread to the wildland on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 2300 hours. Pine Valley Rural Fire Protection District initially



responded and called for mutual aid due to the fully involved structure fire immediately spreading up a steep slope in the grass, brush and heavy timber.

Fire behavior was nearing extreme conditions for this late in the evening. Initial reports were 2–4-foot flame lengths, running and with independent/group torching. The origin of the fire was in the bottom of a drainage in the Hells Canyon National Recreational Area that feeds into the Snake River, with steep, inaccessible terrain upslope from the fire.

Initial attack response was heavy and included ODF, four (4) Rural Fire Protection Districts, USFS (Burnt Powder Fire Zone), landowner and contract resources. Initial attack was difficult due to a variety of factors including steep topography, aggressive fire behavior, inaccessibility, inability to use aircraft (fire started at night), long response time (hour and a half drive from the ODF office in Baker), and erratic winds. However, with a strong interagency response and sound tactical decisions by ground resources the fire was caught at 5.3 acres during the first shift. This minimized resource loss and fire expenditures thereby preventing a large and costly fire on the landscape.

**A side note to the 39 Road fire** – One dozer is good, but sometimes two is better. While driving to the fire a district trailer started on fire that was carrying a dozer. This was a complicated factor on IA. The operator was able to get the dozer off the trailer and got the truck detached. Then the operator got on the dozer and put the fire out that had started in the wildland. This Unit rolls dozer heavy, in this case 2 rather than one, especially during times of the year and on fires where potential is moderate to high and in this case, it paid off in an unexpected way.



**Jones Butte.** 115-acres. This fire had a timber component that made this fire rarer in this area. The district highlighted a strategic investment detection camera which made the detection, and the photos were used in the operational briefing.



**Drone program development.** The Northeast Oregon district has a small drone on every engine in La Grande. These infrared (IR) drones can be flown at night. They have implemented a standard operating procedure for flying IR on any fire over a 1-acre. It's been an excellent tool for effective and efficient mop up. Training and studying are about a 3-month investment by the crew. Crews are showing great initiative with their commitment to this both on and away from work to make this successful. One example of the use of a drone was on the **Jordan Creek Fire** which originated from a propane truck. The truck wrecked off road, was venting and on fire. There were three aircraft ordered from initial dispatch. The district used the drone first to assess and have good eyes on the fire. The fire was in a 'good spot' where it was burning – this key piece of intel was crucial for crew safety. It allowed for continued venting of fuel for about 45-minutes before the crews approached. Structure resources approached with water for cooling and the rest was finished by wildland firefighters.

#### **Northwest Oregon – FPA Astoria District**

**Broken Gate.** This fire represented the system working like it is supposed to aside from having some challenges getting access. However, that challenge resulted in a lesson learned and now their permanent forest officer now checks all gates in the winter.

Initially, the fire chief of the local RFD was on scene and ultimately there was good collaboration. Aircraft were requested at initial attack. If not for these, the fire would have been more complex and likely a longer duration and more costs. The aircraft bought time needed for night shift, and cooler temperatures. The fire line was completed by morning. One tanked helicopter was a huge plus, so they didn't have close HWY 30 and the SEAT was effective.

South Fork line construction started that evening and contract crews were added. Landowners provided heavy equipment and dozers. The fire was stopped at 42 acres. This fire had lots of potential with BPA lines and if they had to be shut down it would have shut down a mill and power to the entire city of Astoria.

#### **South Cascade District**

**\*Priceboro Fire, August 4 – Sweet Home Unit.**

Lane and Linn Counties somehow missed the normal spring and early summer moisture they usually get. All the moisture seemed to go north and south of. By August they were well above normal levels on fire danger indices.

On August 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 15:22 Sweet Home Unit resources were dispatched to a large fire located near 34014 Priceboro Road in the foothills of the Coburg Mountains in Linn County. The fire was spreading south due to a strong wind blowing towards the Mt Tom community which is accessed from a one lane road in Lane County. Mt Tom has only one road in and out. There are over 60 homes in the neighborhood. Fire size was about 25 acres by 4 PM. Air resources were ordered based off reports of the column prior to the first ODF engine being on scene. Harrisburg Fire department responded as well as other neighboring RFDs. OSFM provided structural resources which were mostly committed to the Mt. Tom Community. Linn County Sheriff enacted evacuations near the fire area. Additional helicopters and fixed wing aircraft were ordered for the fire. Two District dozers and IRA industrial resources responded to the fire as well. Crews worked to line the fire all night. Just a few hours into this fire the district asked neighboring districts and SOA for additional resources to help with this fire. By the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM there were aerial and ground resources beating on the fire. The fire continued to be pushed by the wind and very dry fuels. By the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> the fire was stopped ¼ mile from the Mt. Tom Community. Final Fire Size was 309.5. This was a textbook ODF initial attack. All of SOA districts and neighboring districts helped to keep this fire contained as small and as quickly as possible.

### **Southwest Oregon District (SWO)**

**Smith River Complex.** There was huge success getting coordinated with Rogue River – Siskiyou National Forest on the use of an ODF Group, prior to the fire entering Oregon. Local use of structural strike teams was successful too. There were plenty of structures within the lines that were put in place. The relationships and cooperation with local fire districts makes SWO very successful.

### **Western Lane District (WLD)**

**Moon Mountain** – (Excerpt from WLD annual report) The Moon Mountain fire started on the evening of July 3<sup>rd</sup>, when the area was experiencing above average temperatures, critically low RH levels and an ERC that reached its peak for the season. Our crews had also been busy working other fires leading up to this, working the 5.5-acre Halderson Road fire the afternoon and evening of July 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 5.5-acre Bennett Creek fire which started at 4:00 am the morning of July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Moon Mountain burned in a very high-profile location with potential to impact homes, Lane Community College, Interstate 5, large transmission lines, highly trafficked hiking trails, city water storage facility and an underground natural gas line. With the weather forecast and the afore-mentioned complexities, management decided to put together a type 3 team structure for day shift of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Even with minimal IA resources and significant nighttime fire behavior, firefighters were able to keep this fire in a good place until air resources and hand crews arrived the following morning. The total fire size was 35 acres.



**Haight Creek** (Excerpt from WLD annual report) – Ramping down from Moon Mountain, the district continued to see a steady number of fire starts through the middle portion of July. Between July 4th and 18th, the district suppressed 13 fires that burned 18.5 acres. At approximately 5:45 pm on July 18th, the Haight Creek fire was reported by a watchman on a nearby unit just east of the fire's location. Reminiscent of the Moon Mountain fire scenario, the district had been actively fighting fire on that day, having fought the 6.5-acre Gimpl Road fire and the 6-acre 30th Avenue fire that afternoon. At the time the fire started, temperatures were in the mid to high 80's and the relative humidity had dropped to 15%.

The fire's origin was directly off Oxbow Access Road in an area where people frequently camp. Although the early detection from the watchman allowed for a quick response, the fire quickly became established in a large stand of BLM old growth and thick understory. As the fire progressed up the steep slope to the south, crews were hampered by a large number of falling trees and rollers and it became clear that the ground and air resources on scene were not going to check the fire that evening.

The decision to order another type 3 team was made. The following day, a large contingent of air resources, including SEATs, helicopters, large air tankers and scoopers were deployed, as crews were still only minimally effective on the flanks as falling trees continued to pose significant risk. Fortunately, the fire was flanked by roads to the east and west and the intensive effort of the aviation resources on the head of the fire kept it from growing beyond 110 acres. Given the conditions and the alignment of slash and young stand units just beyond the head, it's amazing that this fire was not the next type one team deployment.



**West Oregon District (WOD)** – (Excerpt from WOD annual report) August 25 – dry lightning.

The 2023 fire season was busier than normal for the district in terms of number of stat fires and a longer season than our ten-year average. We had multiple fires go into extended attack which served as good training grounds for the new staff that have got in place across the district the past two years. One event was the dry lightning storm that occurred on August 25th which in turn started 12 fires across the district. This proved to be one of the largest lightning events the district has dealt with in its history. Thanks to our dedicated staff and well proven partnerships with our landowners, operators, federal counterparts, and local fire departments, we were able to minimize the acres burned to 44 during this event which included the district heavily assisting the Siuslaw National Forest on the Rock Creek fire which was threatening ODF protection.

All the fires during the lightning complex had a landowner representative resource, or local crews and/or IRA. A statewide severity resource helicopter in front of event was quickly assigned to WOD.



# Oregon Department of Forestry

## 2025-27 Governor's Budget



	2023-25 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2023-25 Legislatively Approved Budget	2025-27 Current Service Level	2025-27 Agency Request Budget	2025-27 Governor's Budget
<b>General Fund</b>	\$167,803,283	\$257,168,703	\$157,480,636	\$143,454,641	\$291,314,733
<b>Lottery Fund</b>	\$2,557,080	\$2,557,080	\$2,558,120	\$2,558,120	\$2,558,230
<b>Other Funds</b>	\$361,175,877	\$582,253,895	\$390,788,707	\$389,381,357	\$453,775,258
<b>Federal Funds</b>	\$45,278,229	\$81,911,546	\$56,752,010	\$85,007,582	\$84,701,219
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$576,814,469</b>	<b>\$923,891,224</b>	<b>\$607,579,473</b>	<b>\$620,401,700</b>	<b>\$832,349,330</b>
<b>Positions</b>	1,393	1,431	1,415	1,423	1,446
<b>Full-Time Equivalent</b>	1,056.02	1,075.02	1,085.24	1,074.23	1,097.23

### GB Budget Highlights – Policy Option Packages

#### Human Resources: Workforce Development – Package 104

This package creates one new manager position in the Human Resources Program to establish a workforce development function for the agency. The agency believes its workforce is its greatest asset, and is committed to providing a safe, diverse and inclusive workplace that encourages continuous learning and improvement. The agency needs to develop quantitative and qualitative approaches to efficiently and effectively attract, engage and retain our workforce. Currently the agency has no staff dedicated to this function.

Fiscal Impact: -\$24,743 General Fund, \$63,000 Other Funds, .49 FTE, 1 Position

#### Forest Resources Division: Urban & Community Forestry Grants – Package 105

This package increases Federal Funds expenditure limitation for implementing previously approved federal grants for the Urban and Community forestry program.

Fiscal Impact: \$28,000,000 Federal Funds, 0.00 FTE, 0 Positions

#### Human Resources: Agency Payroll Operations Transfer to DAS – Package 106

This package transfers the agency's payroll operations to DAS Shared Services. It is a technical adjustment to the agency's budget, reflecting DAS's assumption of payroll responsibilities during this biennium.

Fiscal Impact: \$190,158 General Fund -\$327,714 Other Funds, -2 FTE, -2 Positions

#### Fire Protection Division: Severity Positions – Package 107

This package establishes new position authority and adds an Other Funds expenditure limitation to support the staffing required to manage the existing severity program. While the Special Purpose



## GB Budget Highlights – Policy Option Packages

Appropriation (Package 101) funds the resources provided through the severity program, it does not include the necessary position authority to fully implement the program.

Fiscal Impact: \$4,014,099 Other Funds, 18.50 FTE, 37 Positions

## GB Budget Highlights – Capital Construction Packages

### Capital Construction: West Oregon Toledo Phase 3 – Package 108

This package provides additional bond authority, Other Funds limitation, and debt authorization to complete the new Toledo facility, including associated Cost of Issuance fees. It represents the third phase of the Toledo unit replacement project in Newport.

Fiscal Impact: \$6,754,060 Other Funds, 0.00 FTE, 0 Positions

### Capital Construction: North Cascade Santiam Replacement – Package 109

This package provides bonding authority, Other Funds limitation, and debt authorization to complete the new Santiam replacement office, including associated Cost of Issuance fees. The original facility was destroyed during the 2020 Labor Day fires in the North Cascade District.

Fiscal Impact: \$5,716,854 Other Funds, 0.00 FTE, 0 Positions

### Capital Construction: Klamath Facility Replacement – Package 110

his package provides bonding authority, Other Funds limitation, and debt authorization to complete the new Klamath Falls fire cache warehouse replacement, including associated Cost of Issuance fees. The original warehouse facility was destroyed by a fire at the district site.

Fiscal Impact: \$5,716,854 Other Funds, 0.00 FTE, 0 Positions

### Capital Construction: State Foresters Building Remodel – Package 111

This package provides bonding authority, Other Funds limitation, and debt authorization to repair and remodel the State Forester's Building (Building B) as well as related Cost of Issuances fees. The State Forester's Office Building Restoration Project is to maintain and improve the departments longest held and continuously occupied facility while preserving a historic resource that defines both the department and Oregon as a whole. This building is located centrally on the ODF headquarters campus in Salem. Completed in 1938, it currently houses executive leadership, Board of Forestry support, and other functions. Age and decades of deferred maintenance threaten the building's integrity and prevent use of many of the spaces to their full potential.

Fiscal Impact: \$22,436,385 Other Funds, 0.00 FTE, 0 Positions

## GB Budget Highlights – Capital Construction Packages

### Capital Construction: Western Lane Veneta Campus Remodel – Package 112

This package provides bonding authority, Other Funds limitation, and debt authorization for the Veneta Campus remodel. The objective is to invest in the modernization of the Western Lane District's headquarters and grounds due to the age and condition of most of its facilities. The project will include removal of six existing buildings, an addition to the existing administration building, construction of a new multi-purpose operations facility, and preparation for future developments.

Fiscal Impact: \$16,850,122 Other Funds, 0.00 FTE, 0 Positions

### Capital Improvement: Deferred Maintenance – Package 113

This package provides bonding authority, Other Funds limitation and debt authorization for multiple maintenance projects around the state as well as related Cost of Issuances fees. The purpose of this package is to address deferred maintenance and capital improvement issues, mandated by the budget instructions to be at least 2% of current replacement value (CRV) of the department's buildings and infrastructure.

Fiscal Impact: \$6,849,562 Other Funds, 0.00 FTE, 0 Positions

## GB Budget Highlights – Analyst Packages

### Fire Protection Division: Analyst Adjustments, Forestry Cash Flow Account – Package 090

The Cash Flow Account is increased by \$135M General Fund, and a General to Other Funds revenue transfer of the same amount is authorized. These Other Funds are intended to be used for wildfire expenditures to be reimbursed later by federal partners.

Fiscal Impact: \$135,000,000 General Fund, 0.00 FTE, 0 Positions

## GB Budget Highlights – Other Budgetary Adjustments

The Governor's Budget recommends numerous other actions throughout the department, including:

- General Fund reductions in Agency Administration and Forest Resources divisions
- Reduction of \$500K of General Fund support for Federal Forest Technical Assistance provided to local collaboratives
- Reduction of \$2.5M of General Fund in the Small Forestland Grants Program
- Emergency Board "holding" \$16M for ODF for wildfire severity costs
- Emergency Board "holding" \$14M for grants supporting the Private Forest Accord

### Strategic Investment (SI) Fund Recap

Updated Through: 11/30/2024

Description	Transferred Date	Transferred Amount	Totals
<b>2020 Investments</b>			
	Carry-Over Previous Funds		\$14,416.30
	6/26/2020	\$1,166,029.51	
	7/20/2020	\$338,930.42	\$1,504,959.93
Actual Spent			\$702,282.26
Pending Expenditures			\$0.00
Remaining Project Balance			<b>\$759,717.74</b>
<b>Undistributed Funds</b>			<b>\$57,376.23</b>

## 2020 Strategic Investment Project Expenditures

Updated Through: 11/30/2024

Strategic Investment Fund Investment						\$1,504,959.93	
Previous Strategic Investment Carry-Over						\$14,416.30	
Approved Projects	Project Owner	Project Number (PCA 13273 & Unit Index)	Funds Approved	Actual Spent	Pending Expenditures	Remaining Project Balance	Project Status
<b>1) EOA (KLD) Guard Stations</b>							
a. Bly Guard Station	Teresa Williams	44101A-20	\$300,000.00	\$99,000.00	\$0.00	\$201,000.00	In progress
b. Chiloquin Guard Station	Randy Baley	44101B-20	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Completed
<b>2) SW Detection Center</b>							
	Matt Fumasi	441002-20	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Completed
<b>3) EOA Detection Cameras</b>							
a. COD #1 (Snow Mountain)	Gina Miner	44104A-20	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	In progress
b. COD #2 (Tamarack <i>previously Baldy</i> )	Gina Miner	44104B-20	\$75,000.00	\$30,454.35	\$0.00	\$44,545.65	In progress
c. NEO #3 (Weston Mt <i>previously McEntire</i> )	Gina Miner	44104C-20	\$75,000.00	\$16,532.73	\$0.00	\$58,467.27	In progress
d. NEO #4 (Eden <i>previously TV Towers</i> )	Gina Miner	44104D-20	\$75,000.00	\$7,002.08	\$0.00	\$67,997.92	In progress
e. KLD #5 (Warner Canyon)	Gina Miner	44104E-20	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	In progress
f. KLD #6 (Sage Hen)	Gina Miner	44104F-20	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	Not Started
<b>4) CFPA Microwave</b>							
	Mike Robison	441005-20	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Completed
<b>5) EOA T3 Trailers</b>							
	Gina Miner	441006-20	\$225,000.00	\$134,293.10	\$0.00	\$90,706.90	In progress
<b>6) COD Grapple Dozer</b>							
	Marc DesJardin	441007-20	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Completed
<b>7) DFPA Fire Web Licenses</b>							
	Jonna Blomberg	441008-20	\$72,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$72,000.00	In progress
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>\$1,462,000.00</b>	<b>\$702,282.26</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$759,717.74</b>	
			<b>Undistributed Funds (includes Carry-Over)--&gt;</b>		<b>\$57,376.23</b>	\$759,717.74 <-- Cross Check	

Remaining SI Project balance will be forwarded to the next years' balance after all projects have been completed.

Project Status Reports	
<b>1) EOA (KLD) Guard Stations</b>	
a. Bly Guard Station	Project Complete, waiting on funds to be moved to FOIA for future rent payments.
b. Chiloquin Guard Station	Project completed.
<b>2) SW Detection Center</b>	
	Project completed June 2023.

<b>3) EOA Detection Cameras</b>	
a. COD #1 (Snow Mountain)	Cost analysis is within acceptable margins permitting Tamarack continues to come in under budget. Malheur NF is doing an analysis on which look out towers they intend to decommission, Snow Mt is part of this analysis. District is currently awaiting to be told the results of this study. If the site were to be decommissioned, that would include road maintenance and access, creating long term challenges. District is working through identifying secondary site.
b. COD #2 (Tamarack <i>previously Baldy</i> )	District is awaiting structural and site analysis requests from the Umatilla National Forest, anticipate an update in Winter or early Spring 2025. Purchase of network and camera equipment has begun, anticipate having all purchases complete and equipment ready for install by February 2025 (pending expenses ~ \$12,500). Installation anticipated June 2025.
c. NEO #3 (Weston Mt <i>previously McEntire</i> )	Name "McEntyre" changed to "Weston Mountain" and location moved approximately 10 miles west. Original LO wanted more \$ per year with agreement than originally estimated, decision was made to co-locate with County Radio District at new location. Agreement with County in progress, equipment is in procurement process, estimate camera on-line in April/May of 2025. Remaining funds (if any) will go towards 3rd identified camera site (Mt Harris). McEntyre is still a desirable camera site for the district and we will continue to communicate with the LO.
d. NEO #4 (Eden <i>previously TV Towers</i> )	Eden Camera is operational effective September 25th, 2024. Any remaining funds will be combined with the other project and routed to Mt Harris and/or other future camera sites.
e. KLD #5 (Warner Canyon)	Since the last update an area for the camera has been identified. It has been determined that the best route would be a Pepro mobile radio site that is designed to ease environmental and regulatory concerns. Currently waiting on the lease agreement to be signed by Lake County. The agreement was sent in June 2024 and will be presented to the commissioners during their next meeting. Once the agreement is signed the Pepro will be ordered. Estimation of six weeks of build time on the Pepro and looking to have this project completed in Spring 2025.
f. KLD #6 (Sage Hen)	An alternate site has been identified due to difficulties with Sage Hen Property. Drake Peak or Light Peak are the alternative sites. Currently waiting on NEPA to be completed. A Pepro mobile camera platform will also be utilized as it has little to no ground disturbance which will expedite the NEPA process. Once the NEPA process is complete, an agreement will be put in place. Tentative plan is to have this completed by Spring 2025.
<b>4) CFPA Microwave</b>	Project completed June 2023.
<b>5) EOA T3 Trailers</b>	All three trailers have been completed and distributed to the Districts. The trailers all recieved a "how to" manual for ease of use. The final expenditures should be in the ODF finance reports within the next month or two. Local estimates have all three trailers coming in under the allocated funds.
<b>6) COD Grapple Dozer</b>	Project completed.
<b>7) DFPA Fire Web Licenses</b>	The project is fully in place and ready to be utilized for the 2023 fire season. All SOA dispatch centers will be using FireWeb as a CAD, citation and burn permit database, daily vehicle roster, radio log, Fire Report data collection, incident cost estimator, and as the portal for all ODF Detection Camera systems. This summer (FY24) each dispatch center will pay for their licensing using the strategic funds awarded. This summer will be spent looking at the ways to utilize FireWeb through-out the agency in multiple capacities. FireWeb staff will be spending in person time with ODF and association staff mid-April through mid-May for customer support and training needs.

# ODF FEMA/Public Assistance Status

12/13/2024

FEMA/PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ROLLUP							Updated: 11/08/2024		
Fire Year	Claim Type	Estimate to Invoice	Total Pending Review	Amount Obligated	Payment Amount Requested	Grand Total Due to ODF	Count	Amount	
		<b>\$63,164,109</b>	<b>\$3,175,370</b>	<b>\$1,074,589</b>	<b>\$1,005,990</b>	<b>\$68,420,058</b>	47	<b>\$68,420,058</b>	FEMA/PA applications outstanding
2019	Admin - FMAG	\$185,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$185,000	13	<b>\$5,255,949</b>	FEMA/PA application total amount submitted
2020	Admin - FMAG	\$78,750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$78,750	10	\$2,080,579	FEMA/PA obligated amount
2020	Admin - PA	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	3	\$3,175,370	FEMA/PA pending review amount
2020	Fire - PA	\$298,950	\$0	\$1,074,589	\$1,005,990	\$2,379,529	34	<b>\$63,164,109</b>	FEMA/PA applications not yet submitted
2021	Admin - FMAG	\$41,789	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$41,789	25	\$62,839,070	FEMA/PA suppression claim amount
2022	Admin - FMAG	\$9,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,500	9	\$325,039	FEMA/PA admin claim amount?
2023	Fire - FMAG	\$1,000,000	\$3,175,370	\$0	\$0	\$4,175,370			
2024	Fire - FMAG	\$61,540,120	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$61,540,120			

OUTSTANDING FEMA/PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CLAIMS (final revenue not received)												
TOTAL				\$68,420,058	\$0							
District	Fiscal Year	Fire Season	Fire Name	Assets (AR)	Liabilities (AP)	Agency(s) Working With					Estimated Completion Date	Claim Type
SALEM	FY20	FS19	Mile Post 97 - Admin	\$185,000	\$0	FEMA					3-6 Months	Admin
SALEM	FY21	FS20	Beachie Creek	\$874,117	\$0	FEMA/OEM					1-3 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY21	FS20	Holiday Farm	\$116,050	\$0	FEMA/OEM					1-3 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY21	FS20	Archie Creek	\$298,950	\$0	FEMA/OEM					1-3 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY21	FS20	Archie Creek	\$926,552	\$0	FEMA/OEM					1-3 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY21	FS20	Brattain	\$46,799	\$0	FEMA/OEM					1-3 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY21	FS20	FEMA PA - COD, SWO, KLD, TIL, SCA	\$114,884	\$0	FEMA/OEM					1-3 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY21	FS20	FEMA PA - NCAS, WOD, FG, COOS n	\$2,103	\$0	FEMA/OEM					1-3 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY21	FS20	FEMA PA - CC	\$74	\$0	FEMA/OEM					1-3 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY21	FS20	PA 4562 ADMIN	\$10,000	\$0	FEMA/OEM					1-3 Months	Admin
SALEM	FY21	FS20	MOSIER CREEK - Admin	\$20,200	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Admin
SALEM	FY21	FS20	WHITE RIVER - Admin	\$3,550	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Admin
SALEM	FY21	FS20	GENERAL FEMA ADMIN	\$55,000	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Admin
SALEM	FY21	FS21	0419/422 Fires - admin claim	\$339	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Admin
SALEM	FY22	FS21	FIRE SEASON 2021 FEMAADMIN ALL	\$21,000	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Admin
SALEM	FY22	FS21	Bootleg - admin claim	\$15,600	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Admin
SALEM	FY22	FS21	Patton Meadow - admin claim	\$4,850	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Admin
SALEM	FY23	FS22	Milo McIver - admin claim	\$8,000	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Admin
SALEM	FY23	FS22	Miller Road - admin claim	\$1,500	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Admin
SALEM	FY24	FS23	Golden - Prepositioning	\$390,618	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY24	FS23	Golden - Suppression	\$2,702,761	\$0	FEMA/OEM					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY24	FS23	Golden - Suppression	\$1,000,000	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY24	FS23	Liberty - Prepositioning	\$81,991	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY24	FS24	Darlene 3	\$55,631	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY24	FS24	Darlene 3	\$39,698	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Larch Creek	\$155,479	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Lone Rock*	\$48,884	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Falls	\$45,285	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Battle Mountain Complex*	\$24,754	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Durkee	\$36,321	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Mile Post 132	\$60,195	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Elk Lane	\$103,894	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Lee Falls	\$5,156	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Larch Creek	\$9,496,698	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Lone Rock	\$14,323,635	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Falls	\$1,227,024	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Battle Mountain Complex	\$18,370,416	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Boneyard	\$1,264,728	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Courtrock	\$8,175,874	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Durkee	\$2,934,490	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Lee Falls	\$1,103,036	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Copperfield*	\$263,513	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Copperfield	\$2,855,410	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Rail Ridge*	\$125,000	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Pre-Position
SALEM	FY25	FS24	Rail Ridge	\$825,000	\$0	FEMA					More than 12 Months	Suppression



## 2024 Fire Season Severity Budget Status

### Severity Allocation Status

Fiscal Year	OFLPF & GF Allocation	Allocation Balance	Remaining % Allocation	OSFM Funding	Projected Allocation Balance	Projected % Allocation
2024	\$619,254	\$315,955	9%	\$154,000	\$1,133,144	11%
2025	\$10,000,000	\$688,533				
FS2024 Total	\$10,619,254	\$1,004,488	9%	\$154,000	\$1,133,144	11%

Note: Fire season expenses run from May 1 through April 30. Revenue is tied to the FY the transaction happened in.

### Severity Expenses & Recovery Summary

Fiscal Year	Fire Season Budget (no retardant/mobile cost)	Aircraft Contract Expenditures	AM/Pilot/Dispatch Expenditures	Crew & Helitack Expenditures	Area/Other State/AA Expenditures	Gross Severity Expenditures	ODF Fire Cost Recovery	Other Agency Cost Recovery	FEMA Prepo Claims	Recovery % of Expenses	Net Severity Expenditures	Remaining Budget	Remaining % Budget
2024		\$309,320	\$115,769	\$99,389	\$0	\$524,477	\$27,193	\$138,355	\$55,631	42%	\$303,299		
2025	\$13,519,631	\$17,413,147	\$576,262	\$323,483	\$3,144,428	\$21,457,321	\$7,857,715	\$3,354,625	\$933,514	57%	\$9,311,467	\$3,904,865	29%
FS2024 Total	\$13,519,631	\$17,722,467	\$692,031	\$422,872	\$3,144,428	\$21,981,798	\$7,884,908	\$3,492,980	\$989,145	56%	\$9,614,766	\$3,904,865	29%

### Severity Expenses & Recovery Detail

Resource Location	Resource Type	Fire Season Budget	Gross Severity Expenditures	ODF Fire Cost Recovery	Other Agency Cost Recovery	FEMA Prepo Claims	Recovery % of Expenses	Net Severity Expenditures	Remaining Budget	Remaining % Budget
Salem	Partenavia - 00V	\$79,412	\$46,690	\$8,050	\$1,890	\$0	21%	\$36,750	\$42,662	54%
La Grande	Detection - 65N	\$166,912	\$276,700	\$0	\$720	\$0	0%	\$275,980	(\$109,068)	-65%
Medford	Type 1 - 2WL	\$1,778,092	\$2,618,042	\$1,948,064	\$200,571	\$0	82%	\$469,408	\$1,308,684	74%
Glendale	Type 1 - 2KA	\$1,798,349	\$2,320,606	\$1,280,811	\$214,257	\$0	64%	\$825,538	\$972,811	54%
Klamath Falls	Type 1 - 2PL	\$1,562,099	\$1,986,604	\$364,513	\$422,980	\$263,513	53%	\$935,598	\$626,502	40%
Pendleton	Type 2 - 3NP	\$460,972	\$564,747	\$377,085	\$157,640	\$4,516	95%	\$25,507	\$435,465	94%
John Day	Type 2 - 8CC	\$498,412	\$780,405	\$435,676	\$161,938	\$14,670	78%	\$168,122	\$330,290	66%
Grants Pass	Type 2 - 4MM	\$508,012	\$653,387	\$268,894	\$113,786	\$0	59%	\$270,707	\$237,305	47%
Fossil	Type 2 - 9KB	\$505,492	\$550,352	\$321,097	\$66,545	\$34,726	77%	\$127,983	\$377,508	75%
Elkton	Type 2 - 0NH	\$522,772	\$563,283	\$444,665	\$38,596	\$0	86%	\$80,022	\$442,750	85%
John Day	Type 3 - 7AB	\$318,787	\$704,999	\$333,601	\$63,505	\$113,850	72%	\$194,044	\$124,743	39%
Prineville	SEAT - T-878	\$298,267	\$852,973	\$128,551	\$395,749	\$106,089	74%	\$222,584	\$75,683	25%
Prineville	SEAT - T-851	\$353,287	\$1,030,712	\$173,408	\$463,589	\$143,619	76%	\$250,096	\$103,191	29%
La Grande	SEAT - T-885	\$353,287	\$880,119	\$318,487	\$167,867	\$0	55%	\$393,765	(\$40,478)	-11%
La Grande	SEAT - T-852	\$353,287	\$1,069,572	\$367,123	\$245,426	\$27,729	60%	\$429,293	(\$76,006)	-22%
The Dalles	Fire Boss - 231	\$421,912	\$1,413,866	\$563,834	\$388,961	\$140,214	77%	\$320,857	\$101,055	24%
The Dalles	Fire Boss - 232	\$421,912	\$1,409,411	\$551,048	\$388,961	\$140,219	77%	\$329,182	\$92,729	22%
Various	AM/Pilot/Dispatch (17)	\$1,208,895	\$692,031	No cost recoveries for these categories as expenses to incidents are coded directly to an incident and not applied to Severity expenditures.				\$692,031	\$516,865	43%
John Day	Helitack JD (10+2)	\$449,703	\$286,807					\$286,807	\$162,896	36%
Grants Pass	Handcrew SWO (10+0)	\$406,066	\$77,473					\$77,473	\$328,593	81%
Medford	Helitack SWO (0+2)	\$101,853	\$30,035					\$30,035	\$71,818	71%
Coos Bay	Helitack CFPA (0+2)	\$101,853	\$28,557					\$28,557	\$73,296	72%
NWOA	NWOA Requests	\$250,000	\$188,139					\$188,139	\$61,861	25%
SOA	SOA Requests	\$250,000	\$324,180					\$324,180	(\$74,180)	-30%
EOA	EOA Requests	\$250,000	\$386,440					\$386,440	(\$136,440)	-55%
Various	Other State/ODF AA	\$100,000	\$2,245,669					\$2,245,669	(\$2,145,669)	-2146%

### OFLPF & General Fund Summary

Reporting Through: 12/13/2024

Fiscal Year	FS2023 Net Severity Expenses	FS2024 Net Severity Expenses	OFLPF 60% (FY up to \$3 million)	General Fund 40% (FY up to \$2 million)	General Fund 100% (FY over \$5 million)	FS2024 GF Request	Previous FY GF Uncollected	OSFM Funding	Total GF Request
2024	\$9,375,000	\$303,299	\$3,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$4,678,299	\$6,614,766	\$2,180,045	\$154,000	\$8,640,811
2025		\$9,311,467	\$3,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$4,311,467				
Total	\$9,375,000	\$9,614,766	\$6,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$8,989,766	\$6,614,766	\$2,180,045	\$154,000	\$8,640,811

# STAFF REPORT

**Agenda Item No.:** 9 - Protection Division Report  
**Topic:** Request for use of Strategic Investment funds  
**Presentation Title:** Continuation of Strategic Investment Proposal 'DFPA FireWeb Licenses'  
**Date of Presentation:** January 7, 2025 - Emergency Fire Cost Committee

## Summary

The ODF Protection Division and Douglas Forest Protection Association (DFPA) request use of the remaining unallocated SI funds to continue use of the FireWeb service in NWOA and SOA for 2025. This will cover an unfunded gap for next year's fire season until the agency is under new contract with the vendor and long-term funding has been secured for 2026 and beyond. These SI funds would be used to purchase FireWeb software licensing for one year. It predicates the agency's plan to implement FireWeb as the statewide replacement platform for the legacy FIRES reporting system.

## Background

FireWeb is currently under ODF and Forest Protective Association (FPA) contracts as an enhancement to the EVS detection system and as a computer-aided dispatch tool. ODF and the FPAs have been exploring ways to utilize FireWeb statewide as multiple, modular features.

- Detection - Enhancing the ForestWatch detection camera system through advanced GIS features and providing a web service so that camera imagery can be accessed via any computer statewide and via mobile platforms. FireWeb as a detection enhancement has been an integral part of the contract with the ForestWatch camera service for several years and is used in this capacity in EOA and SOA. This leads to field efficiency and real-time decision making based on accurate information and actual camera imagery. Of 209 fires initially detected by the system, 128 were detected when the fire was classified as 'small', comprising 61% of initial fires alerted very early, keeping costs down.
- Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) – FireWeb is the west side CAD system including use as a citation and burn permit database, daily vehicle roster, radio log, fire report data collection and incident cost estimator. It is in use in SOA and NWOA in this capacity. Intuitive, user-friendly web interactions allow for fire managers to make immediate and correct decisions regarding resource deployment.

NWOA successfully piloted the use of FireWeb as a CAD starting July of 2024. The previous fire reporting platform, FLAMES, was not used consistently and the program itself was at end of life. The FLAMES service was discontinued on Nov. 1, 2024, after the successful pilot of FireWeb.

- A third, future module, Fire Reporting, is currently being developed. A project team is working with DAS oversight to procure the FireWeb application as the replacement for the aged FIRES reporting platform. Adding this module feature will move the contract for FireWeb service out of the district/association protection budgets to an enterprise, statewide contract. This project is expected to be implemented for the 2026 fire season. By

adding the reporting feature of FireWeb, it allows the agency to push fire reporting directly to federal platforms such as IRWIN and InFORM, so that we can meet critical reporting required in the BLM Western Oregon Operating Plan.

## **Context**

Currently, FireWeb use is available through both ODF and FPA contracts. The agency wishes to contract FireWeb at the statewide level, removing it from the local district budgets. Use of FireWeb as a CAD and a detection enhancement service is currently in place.

To utilize FireWeb as the replacement platform for the legacy FIRES Reporting System, it must be implemented statewide with full participation to maintain accurate and complete fire data. Plans are in place for long term funding to be provided through State Fire Assistance (SFA). SFA funding will be available in 2026 and will continue. There is an unfunded gap for 2025 which this proposal wishes to address.

## **Analysis**

- Continuing use of the FireWeb platform will allow the state to develop a common operating picture at the enterprise level for full statewide implementation.
- This proposal would cover use for more than just a localized area or single district – the entire west side of the state will benefit in the short term. Implementation of the platform will be statewide by 2026 with no loss of momentum in FireWeb use. This is the Protection Division's top priority for SI request needs.
- Required and critical federal reporting will be maintained. The USFS and BLM partners have been instrumental in supporting use of FireWeb as the reporting solution for western Oregon centers.
- Intuitive, user-friendly web interactions allow for fire managers to make immediate and correct decisions regarding resource deployment and tracking. This has tremendous potential to save costs to the OFLPF by sending adequate or most appropriate air and ground resources to catch fires quickly.
- FireWeb allows for field users to access fire data, maps and reports via mobile devices such as tablets and cell phones leading to field efficiency and real-time decision making based on accurate information.

## **Recommendation**

ODF & DFPA request use of the remaining unallocated Strategic Investment funds of \$57,376.23 to purchase FireWeb licenses for 2025 in anticipation of SFA funding to be made available into the future. Priority is given to the NWOA district licensing, allocating \$45,000 while the remaining \$12,376.23 will be used to offset district costs in SOA for licensing. This is a continuation of the 2020 'DFPA FireWeb Licenses' Strategic Investment award of \$72,000.

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