

THE 20-YEAR STRATEGY

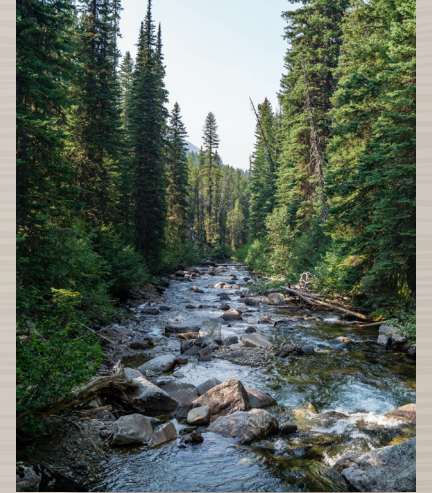
The Future of Landscape Resiliency in Oregon





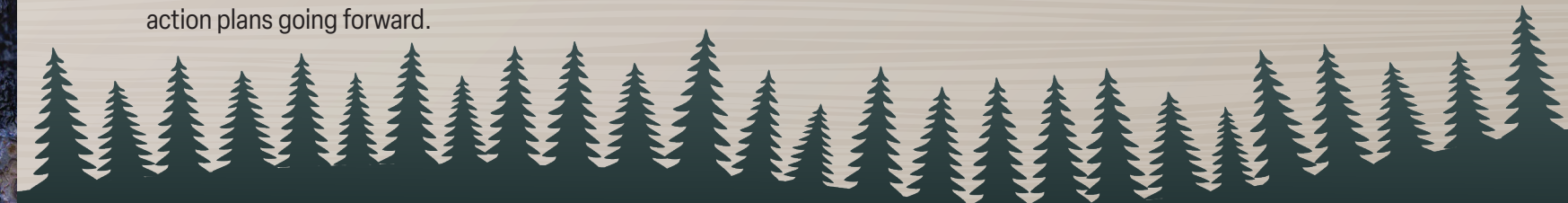
ABOUT THE 20-YEAR LANDSCAPE RESILIENCY STRATEGY

During the past two decades, Oregonians experienced a rapid escalation of catastrophic wildfire, home and property losses, higher suppression costs, and worsening ecological conditions on the land. These trends call for a bold, coordinated, and cohesive response to better address the state's mounting wildfire, social and ecological challenges. Oregon's Legislature, federal and state land management agencies, Tribes, community organizations and the public recognize the need for a new approach to establishing resilient landscapes and managing wildfire risk.



The 20-year landscape resiliency strategy will guide that new approach, which will change the way partners in Oregon do business to meaningfully reduce wildfire risk and improve landscape resiliency in the face of climate change. The intent of the strategy is to coordinate and leverage investment opportunities within priority geographies to achieve landscape-scale resilience and wildfire risk reduction. Agencies and partners are committed to maintaining an all-lands perspective in planning, prioritizing and implementing landscape treatments and using a shared stewardship/co-management model of addressing resource values and needs across ownership boundaries. This collaboration starts at the local level to ensure local expertise, priorities, values and interests are represented and are driving the necessary ground level treatments to meet the goals of the 20-year landscape resiliency strategy.

This document outlines the core components of the 20-year strategy that will be used to guide the development of detailed action plans going forward.



SHARED STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS



Governor's Office



Oregon Department of Forestry



USDA Forest Service



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



Bureau of Indian Affairs



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



Bureau of Land Management



Natural Resource Conservation Service



DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

Key contributors to the development of the 20-year strategy were:

- » The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, which established a national vision for wildland fire management, establishes three goals to address the growing threat of wildland fire: resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities, and safe and effective wildfire response.
- » Recommendations made by the Oregon Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. Established in 2019 in response to increasing wildfire impacts, the Governor's council reviewed Oregon's existing model for wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response and offered 37 recommendations to advance fire protection in Oregon, many of which were integrated into Senate Bill 762.
- » The 2019 Shared Stewardship memorandum of understanding between the state of Oregon and federal partner agencies that called for development of a 20-year strategic plan.
- » The Oregon Legislature's bipartisan directive in Senate Bill 762, signed into law on July 19, 2021, which directed the Oregon Department of Forestry to develop a strategic plan that prioritizes restoration actions and geographies for wildfire risk reduction. SB 762 drew directly from the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response and the Shared Stewardship MOU.

Although ODF is responsible for coordinating the strategy's development, the strategy itself will embody shared stewardship in action, with seven federal and state agencies and the Governor's Office at the table.

- » Oregon Department of Forestry
- » Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- » Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- » Governor's Office
- » USDA Forest Service
- » Natural Resource Conservation Service
- » Bureau of Land Management
- » Bureau of Indian Affairs

Partner agency leadership and subject matter experts have been meeting regularly to make decisions about the strategy and coordinate its development. Other key contributors to the effort include representatives of the forest industries, environmental groups, relevant community and interest-based organizations, representatives of public and private forestland and rangeland owners, and representatives of forest and rangeland partnerships and collaboratives. The combined efforts of these groups have helped establish a framework for moving landscape resilience in Oregon forward. As the work to further develop the strategy continues, there will be broader, more robust collaborative efforts that will include Tribes and other key partners, along with the general public.



OREGON'S 20-YEAR LANDSCAPE RESILIENCY STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

The vision statement below is intended to inspire people to work together toward the common goal of more resilient landscapes.

STRATEGIC ELEMENTS

These strategic elements help guide coordination, planning and investments across agencies.

- » Reduce wildfire risk to communities
- » Adapt ecological systems to persist in a changing climate
- » Create functional aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems
- » Support vibrant local economies
- » Protect healthy watersheds and water resources
- » Provide quality outdoor opportunities for all Oregonians
- » Promote equity through the stewardship of landscapes

VISION

Healthy and resilient landscapes supporting Oregon's social, economic, and ecological needs for future generations.

PRINCIPLE 1

Fund and support the development of locally led and collaboratively developed landscape assessments and plans that identify priority geographies and actions for landscape resiliency and wildfire risk reduction.

PRINCIPLE 2

Commit to long-term participation and membership in the shared stewardship governance structure.

SHARED PRINCIPLES

To accomplish the vision, the partner agencies have established the following four principles.

PRINCIPLE 3

Commit to supporting a science, information, and assessment network by providing information, expertise, and resources.

PRINCIPLE 4

Commit to identifying and supporting capacity across Oregon by collectively working together to monitor and adapt to make this strategy successful.

GOALS

The partner agencies established goals to define what needs to be accomplished to achieve the shared vision of healthy and resilient landscapes for future generations. These goals are intentionally high-level and address the broad scope of components necessary to achieve shared priorities, coordinate investments, and increase quality, pace and scale of resilience treatments across landscapes.

GOAL 1

Landscape Condition

Shift the incidence, frequency, and severity of wildfires toward a desired condition by maintaining and restoring landscapes in Oregon that are resilient to extreme fire, drought, insects, and diseases.



GOAL 2

Governance & Engagement

Maintain a high functioning collaborative governance structure that allows for shared decision making; ensures fairness in distribution of benefits, costs, and risks; supports efficiencies and alignment across boundaries; engages Tribes, community and interest groups, scientists, and local partnerships and collaboratives; and is adaptable to changing conditions.



GOAL 3

Communication & Awareness

Increase public awareness of the inevitability of wildfire, the importance of understanding how to live safely with wildfire, and current progress towards landscape resilience and wildfire risk reduction.



GOAL 4

Capacity & Readiness

Make collaborative planning and implementation capacity of agencies, Tribes, local partnerships, and workforce commensurate with the scale of wildfire risk reduction and landscape resiliency treatments needed across Oregon.



GOAL 5

Funding

Establish a diverse and stable funding portfolio of federal, state, and private sources commensurate with needs to achieve intended quality, pace and scale of resilience treatments and support the capacity and readiness of partner entities.



GOAL 6

Tracking, Reporting & Updating

Track progress and provide real time reporting that displays relevant information based on progress towards landscape resiliency goals and metrics, including investments, actions, and outcomes that can be displayed publicly. Update the strategy as new information becomes available and is deemed necessary.



As the landscape resiliency strategy is further developed and implemented, partner agencies will engage with Tribes, local partnerships and collaboratives, and others to refine these goals and co-develop measurable objectives, strategies, and tactics to help achieve them.

PRIORITIZING INVESTMENTS IN LANDSCAPE RESILIENCE

Landscape resilience is important to achieving the vision of this strategy but does not always address the necessary social and community concerns of living with fire, therefore risk reduction projects also play a key role in this strategy. Creating landscapes and communities that are resilient to wildfire requires a balance of activities oriented towards both risk reduction and ecosystem resilience. To achieve this balance, projects must be spatially coordinated, large in scale, across ownerships, and timely in implementation.

The initial priority geographies are large-scale landscapes and were chosen due to high wildfire risk and high landscape health need. In addition to wildfire risk and landscape health, existing projects and local priorities were included to shape priority geographies.

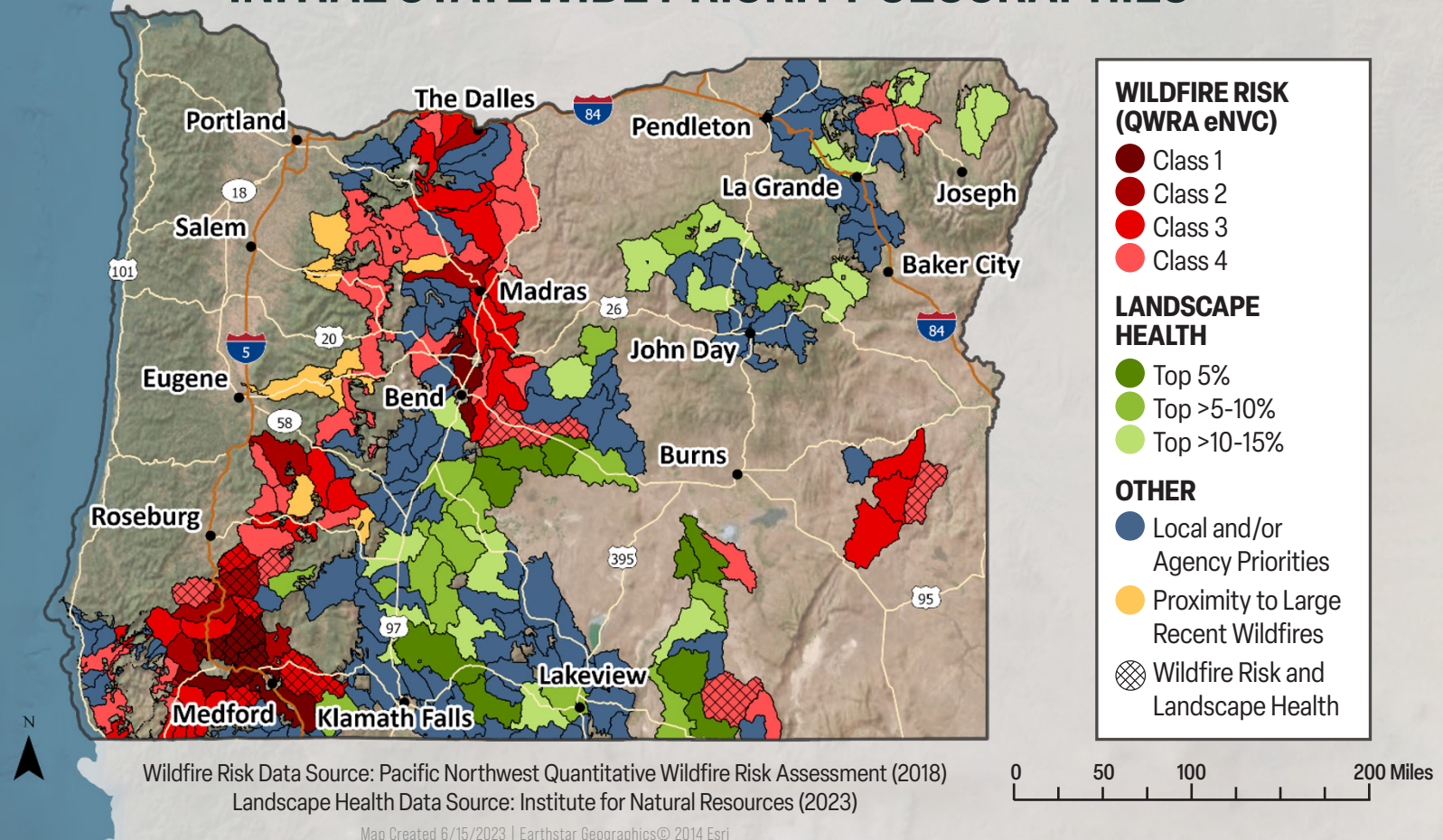
This map identifies priority geographies to inform resource allocation. Project-level decisions within these priority geographies (e.g., activities, location, and sequencing) must have a greater degree of coordination at the local level by agencies, Tribes, local governments and local partnerships and collaboratives. Priority geographies show relative risk reduction and resiliency need and local interests. These geographies will be periodically reassessed to evaluate continued need and opportunities for further investment of resources and funding. Periodic reassessment will provide agencies, Tribes and partners with up-to-date landscape conditions that will be used to further refine and identify where there is the greatest need and opportunity for resilience and wildfire risk reduction.

13.1 Million Acres Estimated Treatment Cost = +\$7 BILLION

7.9 Million Acres of Rangeland, Grassland, Shrubland and Sage Brush

5.2 Million Acres of Forests

INITIAL STATEWIDE PRIORITY GEOGRAPHIES





NEXT STEPS !

Partner agencies are focused on building out the action plan for the next five years based on the 20-year strategic framework. They have already identified a list of activities that are critical to that work:

- » Building the necessary collaborative capacity and workforce across sectors.
- » Expand engagement with Tribes, communities, and partnerships and collaboratives to integrate local values, needs, and opportunities into resilience projects.
- » Communications and public awareness.
- » Planning, including local landscape assessments and plans, federal authorization, and management plans.
- » Continuation of on-the-ground treatments that reduce wildfire risk and enhance landscape resilience, including:
 - Hand & mechanical thinning and fuels reduction treatments
 - Fine fuels reduction
 - Removal of invasive species
 - Prescribed fire
 - Managed fire
 - Maintenance of treatments



- » Furthering product utilization and mill infrastructure, especially for small diameter resilience treatment residuals.
- » Strategic post-fire restoration and rehabilitation that emphasizes planting the right species in the right place and under the right conditions, so forests and rangelands will remain healthy and resilient over time.
- » Conducting monitoring, data collection, research and adaptive management.
- » Developing decision support, tracking and reporting tools.
- » Developing new funding mechanisms.

