

**Developing Oregon's  
20-year Landscape Resiliency Strategy**

**Stakeholder Meeting #5  
January 10th, 2023**

# Path to Oregon's 20-Year Strategic Plan

Phase 1: Jan → July 2022

Phase 2: July - Dec 2022

Phase 3: Jan - Jun 2023

Phase 4: July 2023 →

## Build the Foundation

- Shared vision
- Governance structure
- Engagement with Sovereign Nations
- Stakeholder engagement
- Framework for plan development

## Compile Information

- ID and gather reports, maps, data, etc.
- Priorities from existing plans
- Produce supporting materials (priority maps, capacity & readiness assessment, etc.)
- Develop goals and targets
- ID steps to achieve goals
- Develop metrics and accountability mechanisms

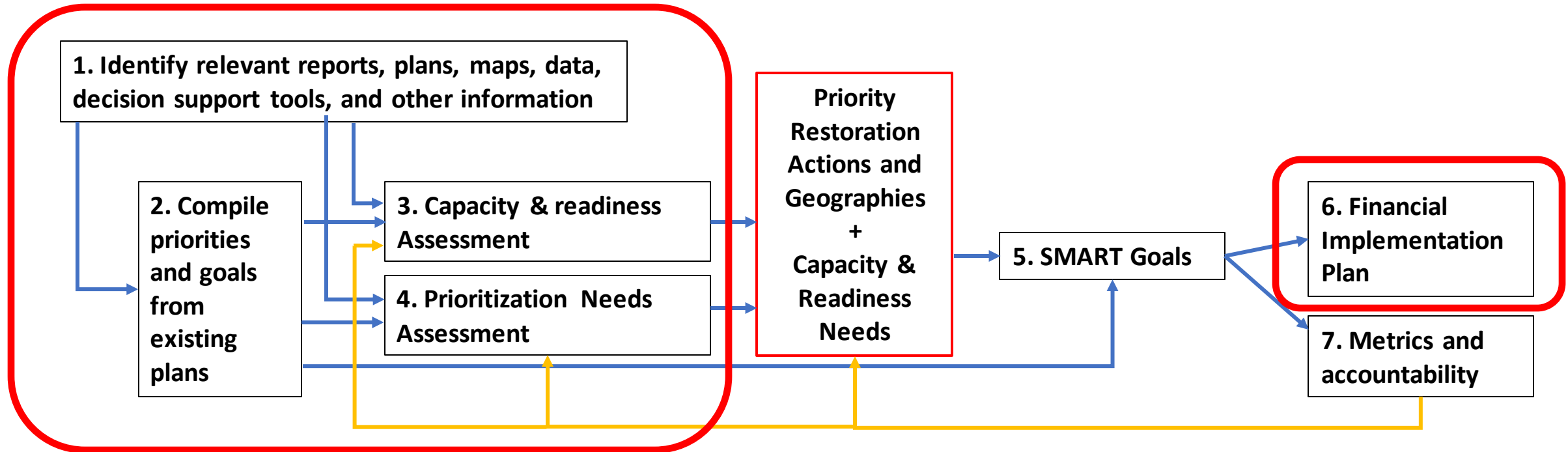
## Draft the Plan

- Draft
- Review
- Finalize and endorse
- Publish

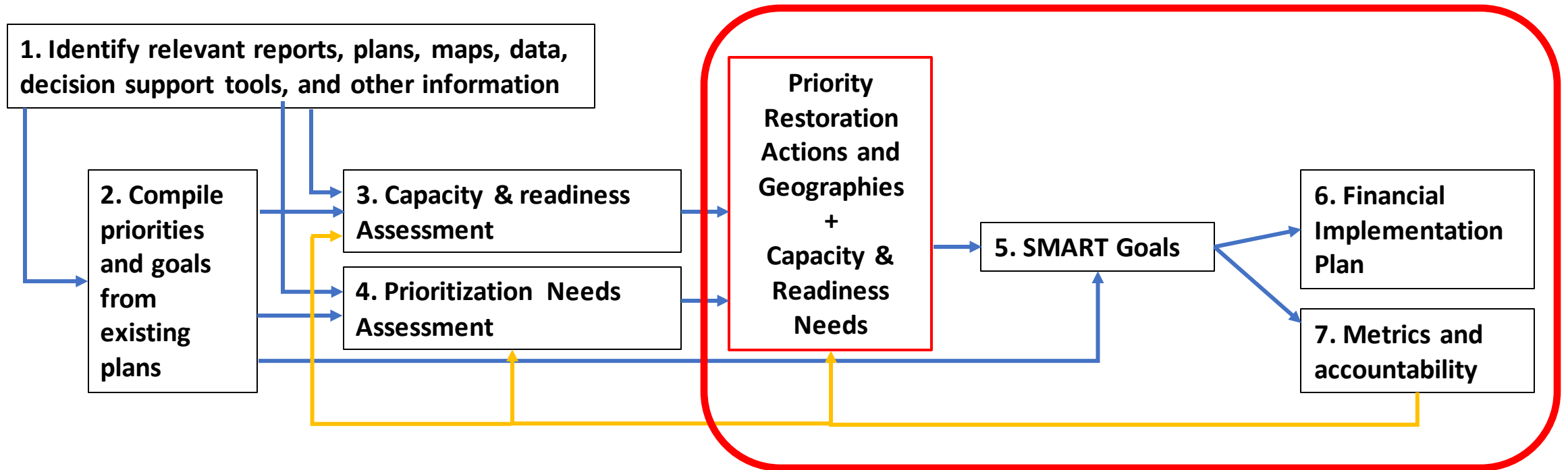
## Implement the Plan

- Plan roll-out
- S2 conference?
- Governance meetings
- Accountability reviews
- Adaptive management

# Workstreams to Produce 20-Year Strategy



# Workstreams to Produce 20-Year Strategy



# Timeline for Phase 3: January-June

**Jan – Mar:** Draft Report

Continue to develop and refine content

**March:** Present key components to Tribes, Stakeholders, SLG

**April:** Review initial draft report with Tribes, Stakeholders, SLG

**May:** Review revised report with Tribes, Stakeholders, SLG

**June:** Final report endorsed by SLG and released  
Begin implementation

## Presentations

**Jan 4:** ODF Board of Forestry

**Jan 25:** OWEB

# 20-year Strategic Plan: Draft Outline

## **I. Intro/context/purpose**

- S2 MOU & SB 762; why it is needed;
- Statewide challenges (fire, forest health, climate)
- Opportunities (funding, coordinated investments, etc.)

## **II. Vision and strategic elements**

## **III. Governance and engagement**

## **IV. Shared Priorities**

- Geographic; types of activities

## **V. Goals and targets**

- Actions to achieve goals

## **VI. Investment Strategy**

- Existing and additional funding, programs and authorities
- Financial Implementation Plan

## **VII. Accountability mechanisms and metrics**

## **VIII. Near term actions**

## **• Appendices**

- Existing plans and processes
- How the plan was developed: Participants & Process
- References

# Capacity & Readiness Assessment

## Purpose

- Identify where conditions are in place for near-term implementation
- Identify where conditions are not in place and what the gaps are
- Identify what needs to be done to create the necessary conditions for implementation

## Considerations (examples)

Human

Legal

Planning and Implementation

Infrastructure

Community/social

### Spatial Data

ex. NEPA ready acres, current milling infrastructure, partnership and collaborative geographic boundaries, agency priority areas, recent wildfire perimeters, etc.

### Local and Regional Groups

Agency

Tribal

# Capacity & Readiness Assessment

## **Agency**

- Process of assessing through ACIG and SLG

## **Tribal**

- Engagement among agency Tribal liaisons and Tribal representatives

## **Local and Regional Groups**

1. An online survey: Qualitative Capacity Assessment
2. Follow up from the survey to obtain more detailed information.
3. Development of a long-term engagement plan



# Qualitative capacity assessment

- To help understand “*communities with capacity and/or a track record for success and innovation, while supporting communities to build capacity.*”
- Examine existing all-lands partnerships and collaborative groups
- A first cut assessing geographies covered, capacities, barriers, and needs



# Steps taken

- Developed inclusion criteria for groups
- Developed assessment questionnaire with subcommittee
- Expert review (seven requested, four responded)
- Administered November 28<sup>th</sup>
- Folders of existing plans, documents for each group prepared

# Assessment population

- 36 groups solicited—**28** have responded
  - 9 westside
  - 15 eastside
  - 9 SW
- 78% response rate



# What does this get us?

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- Detailed profile of capacities, barriers, and needs for each group, can also summarize key themes by each region and the state where there are commonalities
- Spatial overlay of where each group operates (broadly)
- Remember: this is a **qualitative** assessment (and self-reported, and confined by what we chose to look at)

# Initial observations: top barriers

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- **Organizational functioning**
  - Turnover/lack of state or federal agency participation (12)
  - No or insufficient funding for basic operating capacity (12)
- **Planning**
  - Lack of or turnover of skilled planners or key planning team members within partner organizations or agencies (11)
  - Running out of “easy acres” and planning more would require more staff/technical capacity, social willingness, etc. (9)
- **Implementation**
  - Weather/seasonal windows for implementing treatments (14)
  - Federal policies or regulations (13)
  - Active fire seasons that disrupt our and our partners' planned work (13)

What's  
needed to  
increase  
pace?

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Increased federal, contractor, NGO, and collaborative capacity

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3<sup>rd</sup> party NEPA

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Dedicated funds for capacity, planning, implementation

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Completion of revised Forest Plans

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Increase use of CEs

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Planning for climate change effects

What's  
needed to  
increase  
scale?

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Increased federal, contractor, NGO, and collaborative capacity

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Dedicated funds for capacity, planning, implementation

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Implementation of more prescribed and managed fire

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More efficient NEPA covering larger areas

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Increased private landowner engagement

What's needed  
to increase  
**quality?**

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More monitoring, diversity in  
monitoring, and capacity for monitoring

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Cultural, heritage planning capacity

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Implementation of more prescribed fire

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Longer-term funding cycles



What's needed  
to increase  
**cross-boundary  
coordination?**

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Fund facilitation of coordination

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Prioritize this type of engagement

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Involve a greater diversity of relevant partners

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Increase connections between local groups within related goals

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Increase GIS mapping of treatments

# What are your hopes for this strategy?

## The importance of local

- “My biggest concern from a landowner perspective with the strategy is the potential for a top down approach that prioritizes acres treated over communities served.”
- “Alignment with local priorities. Empower local forest collaboratives and agency partners to plan, implement, and monitoring projects at whatever scale is meaningful to the landscape/watershed and community.”
- “Utilize the existing priorities of partners and combine them with assessment data to come out of a prioritization process. ”
- “Empowerment at the local level.”
- “Less top-down guidance and more grassroots prioritization of landscapes and projects; i.e., recognize that local efforts and knowledge should guide prioritization, and funding should be directed at action on the ground rather than generating computer models.”

# What are your hopes for this strategy?

## Stable funding for capacity

- “Access to consistent state-level funding; funding that spans multiple fiscal years.”
- “Long-term funding for regional capacity positions to be a part of the financial implementation plan.”
- “What my collaborative group needs for the most helpful outcome are to start building a structure and develop a plan, to begin with.”
- “ODF needs to recognize the importance of and continue funding the work with federal and collaborative partners.”
- “Recognition of the role of collaborative entities in bringing together multiple, cross jurisdiction organizations to refine strategies, approaches and outcomes.”
- “The most helpful outcome would be regular, dependable funding to support coordination, strategic planning, and coordination of landscape resiliency treatments. We are the most strategic and capable entities to provide project planning and implementation, coordination, monitoring and community engagement.”



# What next?

- Complete analysis with late responses
- Discuss alignment with prioritization workgroup and desired formats for report-out and interface with other pieces of the plan
- Build spatial layer with OSU INR
- Code existing plans/frameworks for local priorities
- Host focus groups to dig into complex questions with more detail

# Financial Implementation Plan

“20-year strategic plan that prioritizes restoration actions and geographies for wildfire risk reduction that can be used to direct federal, state, and private investments in a tangible way”

# Financial Implementation Plan

1. Identify **existing** funding sources, programs, and authorities that can be directed to priority actions and geographies.
2. Identify opportunities for **new** (or expanding existing) funding programs, sources or authorities.
3. Link existing and new funding to priorities, readiness/capacity, and goals.
4. Engage with federal and state partners to integrate shared priorities and goals into funding programs and activities.

# Funding Matrix - Headers

- Funding Source/Program
- Purpose and Caveats
- Host Agency
- Source (Federal, State, Private)
- Implementation (Federal, State, Private)
- Program Amount (Annual / Biennium)
- Project Amount and Match Requirement

# Federal, State, and Private Funding Sources

- Landscape Resiliency Program (LRP)
- Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFR)
- Small Forestland Grant Program (SFG)
- Competitive Grants
  - Western States, Community Assistance, Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR)
- Open Solicitation Grant Programs
- Focused Investment Grant Programs (FIPS)
- Partnership TA Grant Program
- Post Fire Recovery Grant Program
- Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)
- Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA)
- Joint Chiefs Landscape Scale Restoration Projects (Joint Chiefs)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Great American Outdoors Act
- Conservation Finance



# Additional Financing Opportunities

- Conservation Finance
  - USFS Conservation Finance Team
  - Blue Forest Conservation - Forest Resilience Bonds
- Philanthropic opportunities
- How to approach gathering this information?

# How to Define Geographic Priorities?

## Wildfire Risk

Restoration Need?

Social Vulnerability?

Other Values?

## Guidance from SLG

- The reason for our existence is to **treat areas of high fire risk**
- We are here because of **wildfire threat**

# Our Task

Develop a 20-year strategic plan that prioritizes restoration actions and geographies for **wildfire risk reduction** that can be used to direct federal, state, and private investments in a tangible way. (MOU & SB 762)

# How to Define Geographic Priorities?

SB 762: In selecting and administering projects, the department shall... identify strategic landscapes that are ready for treatment, giving priority to projects within the landscapes that are:

(A) On lands in the four highest eNVC risk classes identified in the United States Forest Service report titled “Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment: Methods and Results” and dated April 9, 2018

(B) Inclusive of federal lands with treatment projects currently approved under the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(C) Focusing on treatments protective of human life, property, critical infrastructure, watershed health and forest or rangeland habitat restoration; and

(D) Part of a collaborative partnership with agreements across diverse forestland or rangeland stakeholders...

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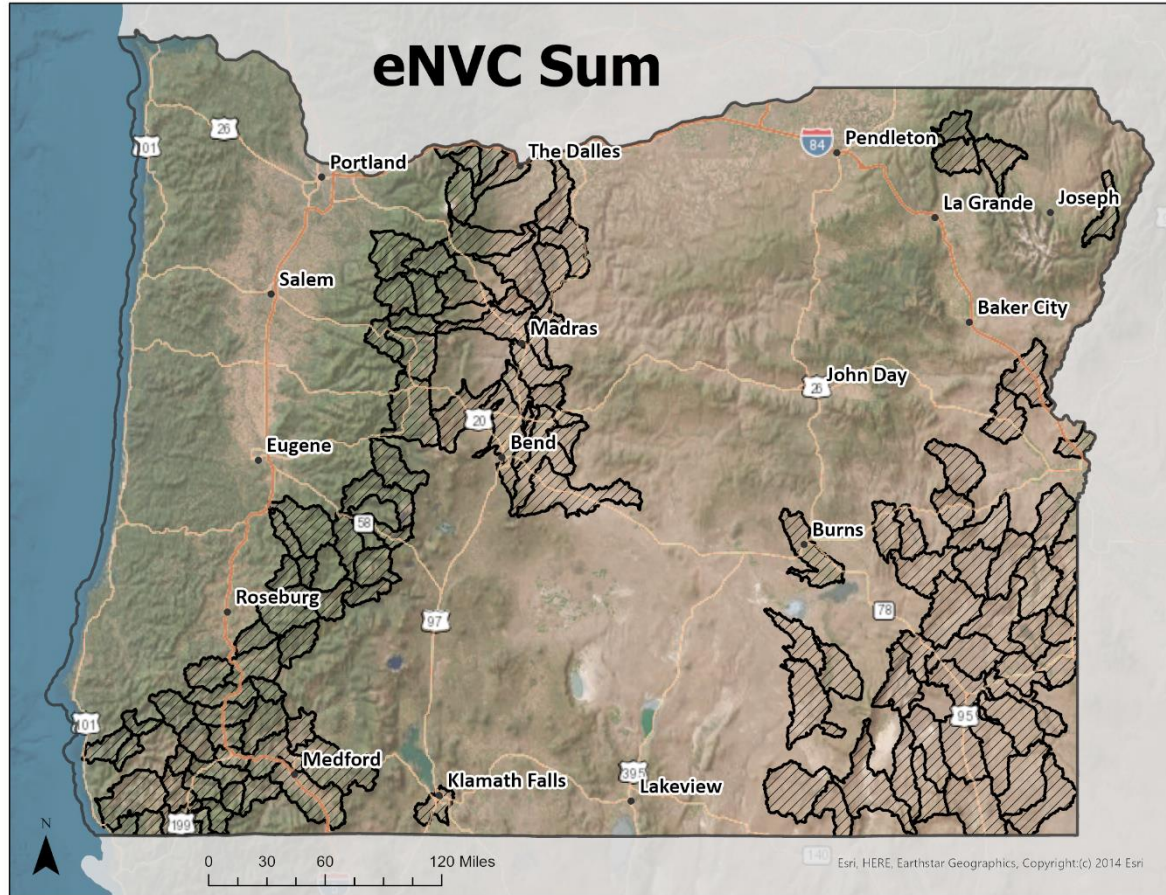
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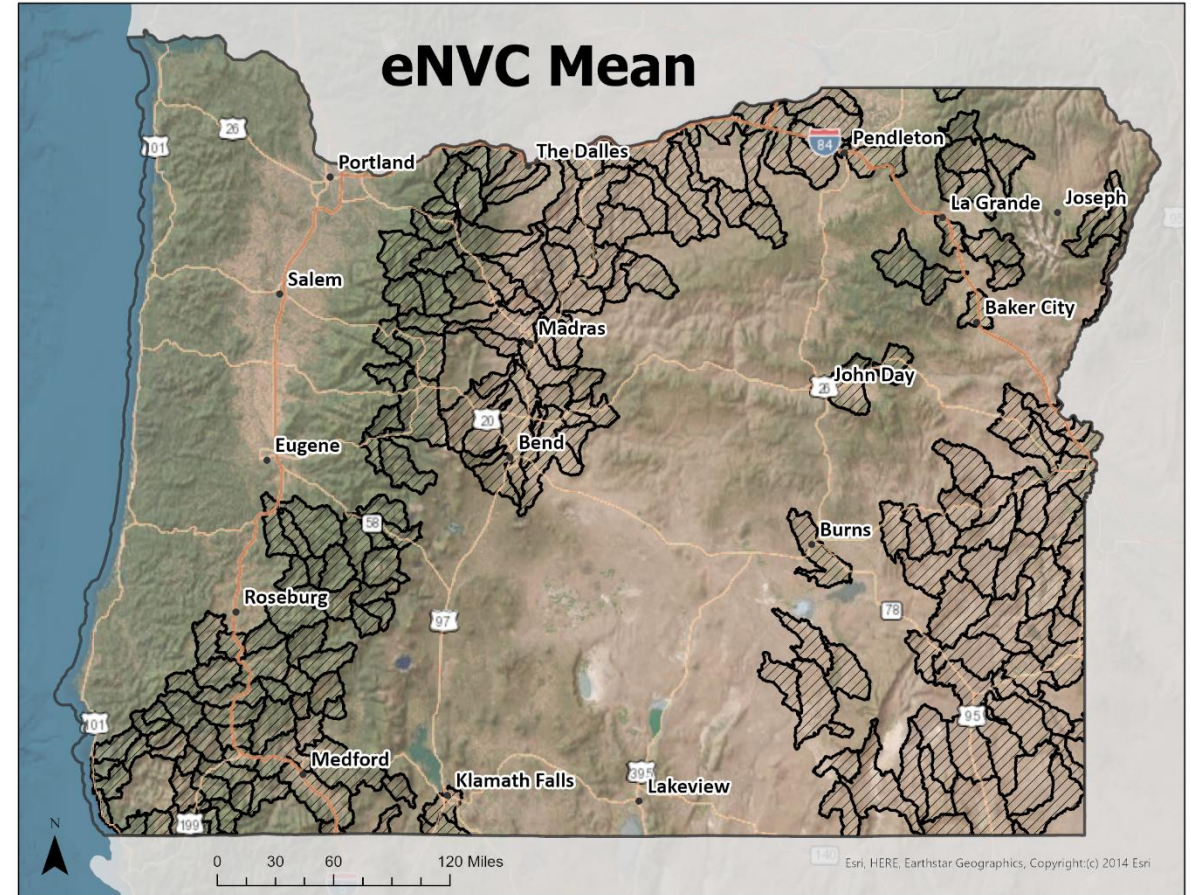
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# Overall Wildfire Risk: Sum vs Mean

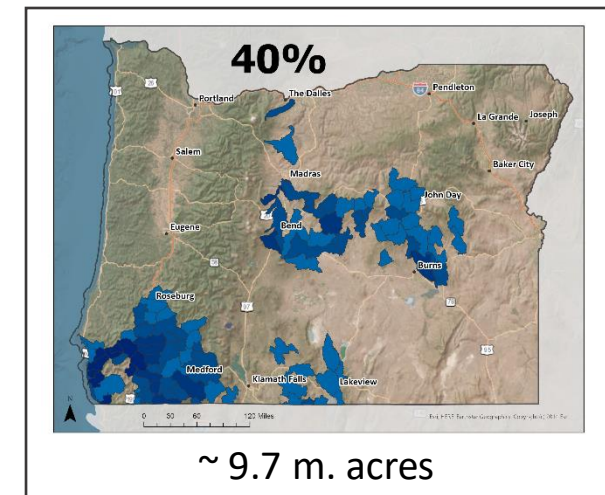
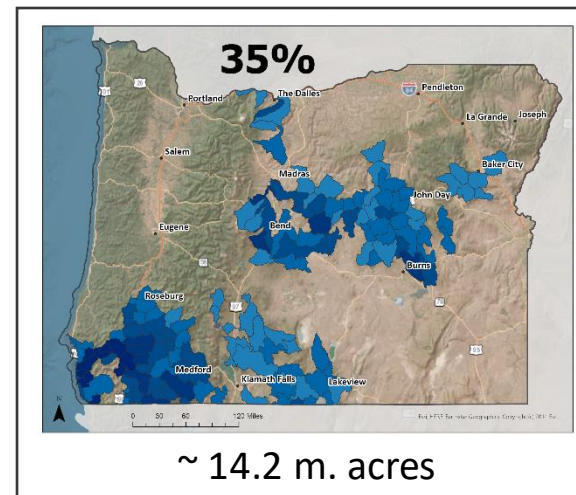
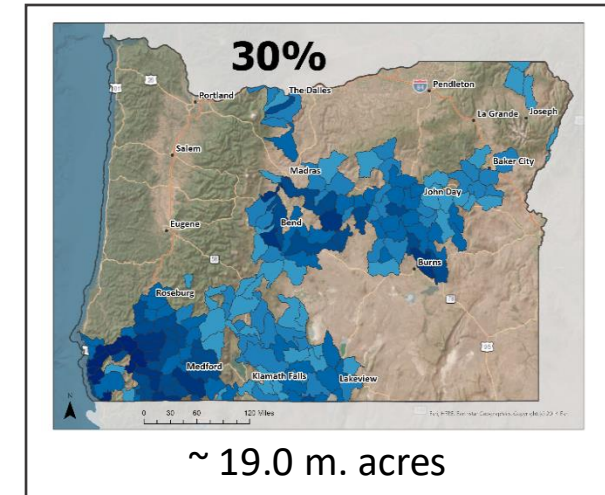
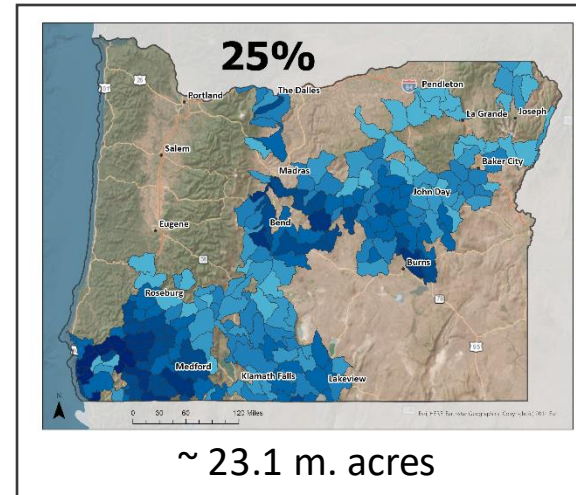
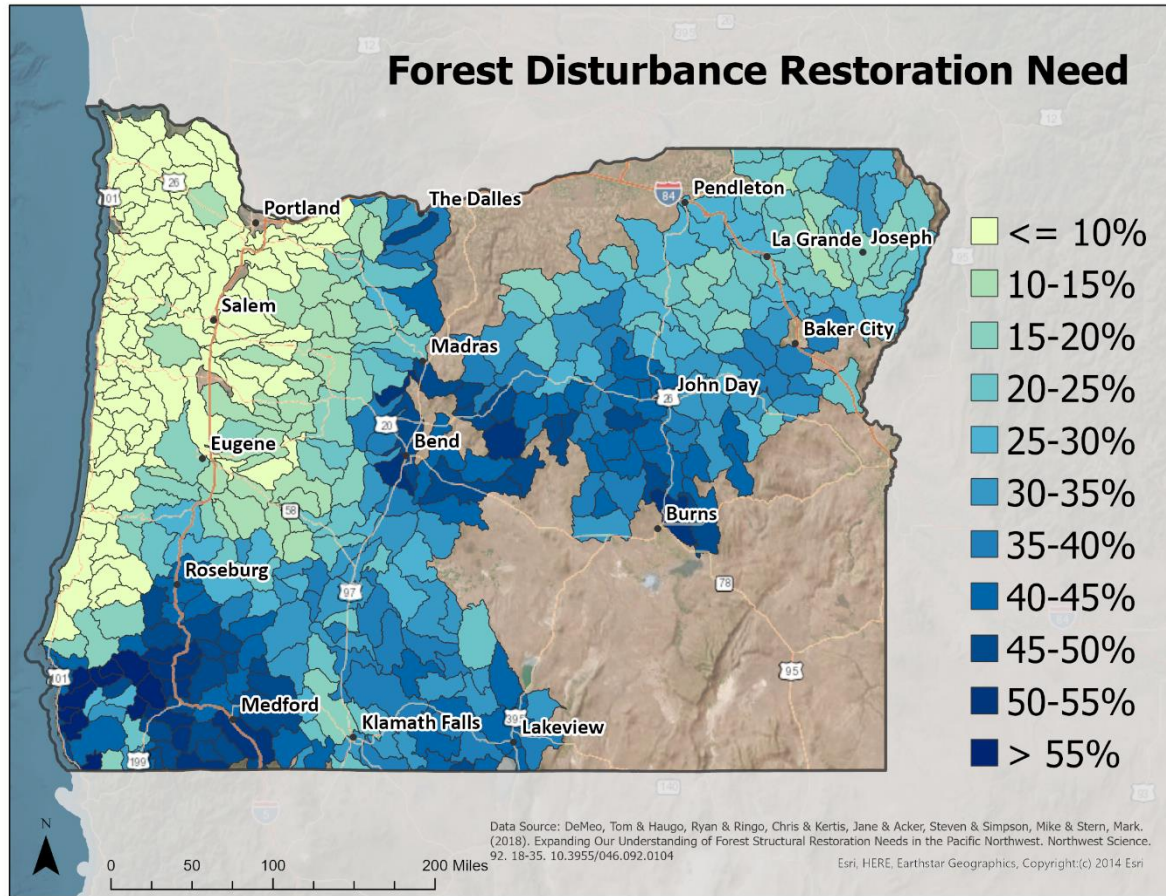


~14.8 m. acres (121 watersheds)



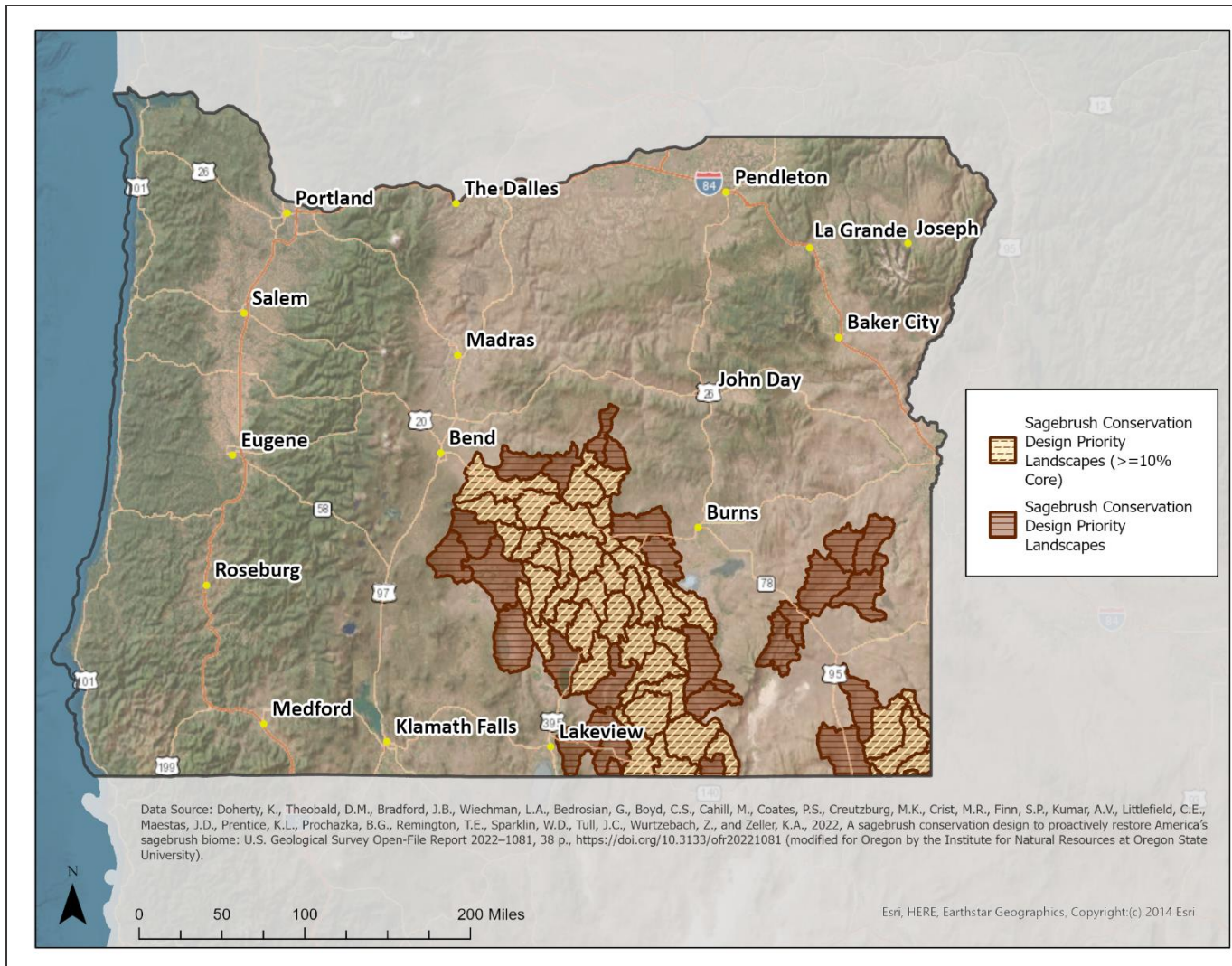
~20.9 m. acres (215 watersheds)

# Forest Disturbance Restoration Need



The percent of forestland requiring disturbance-based restoration such as thinning or prescribed burning to return to a condition similar to that which was present prior to European settlement.

# Rangeland Restoration Need



~ 5.3 m. acres

~ 9.6 m. acres



# Potential Criteria for Geographic Priorities

Phase 1: Initial 1-3 yrs  
June 2023

2. **Areas of high wildfire risk**, as defined by the top four eNVC classes in the *currently available* QWRA

# Potential Criteria for Geographic Priorities

Phase 1: Initial 1-3 yrs June 2023	Phase 2 – ∞ Modifications based on Decision Support info
	1. <b>The smallest geographic area possible</b> that satisfies the remaining criteria
2. <b>Areas of high wildfire risk</b> , as defined by the top four eNVC classes in the <i>currently available</i> QWRA	2. <b>Areas of high wildfire risk</b> , as defined by the top four eNVC classes in the <i>updated</i> QWRA
	3. <b>Restoration need</b> (Forest; non-forest/SageCon)
	4. <b>Ecosystem areas of high insect and disease</b>
	5. <b>Areas where agencies are already doing work</b>
	6. <b>Areas that have been negatively affected by recent wildfires</b>
	7. <b>Future Risk Factors</b> , including Insect and Disease; and Moisture Deficit (climate change)

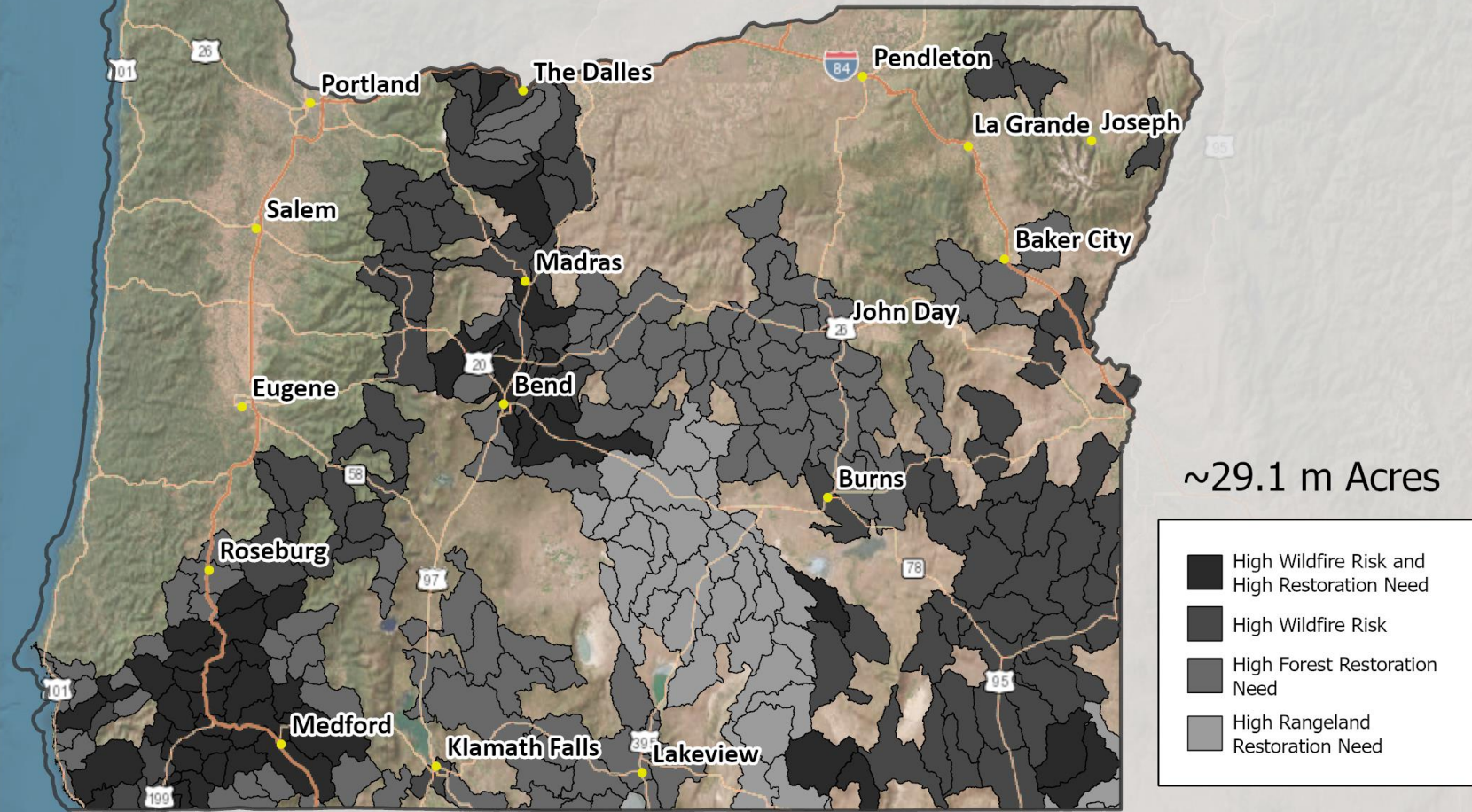
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# Possible Near-Term Priority Geographies for Treatment

Forest Restoration Need >35%, Sagebrush Conservation Design Core Areas >10%



~29.1 m Acres

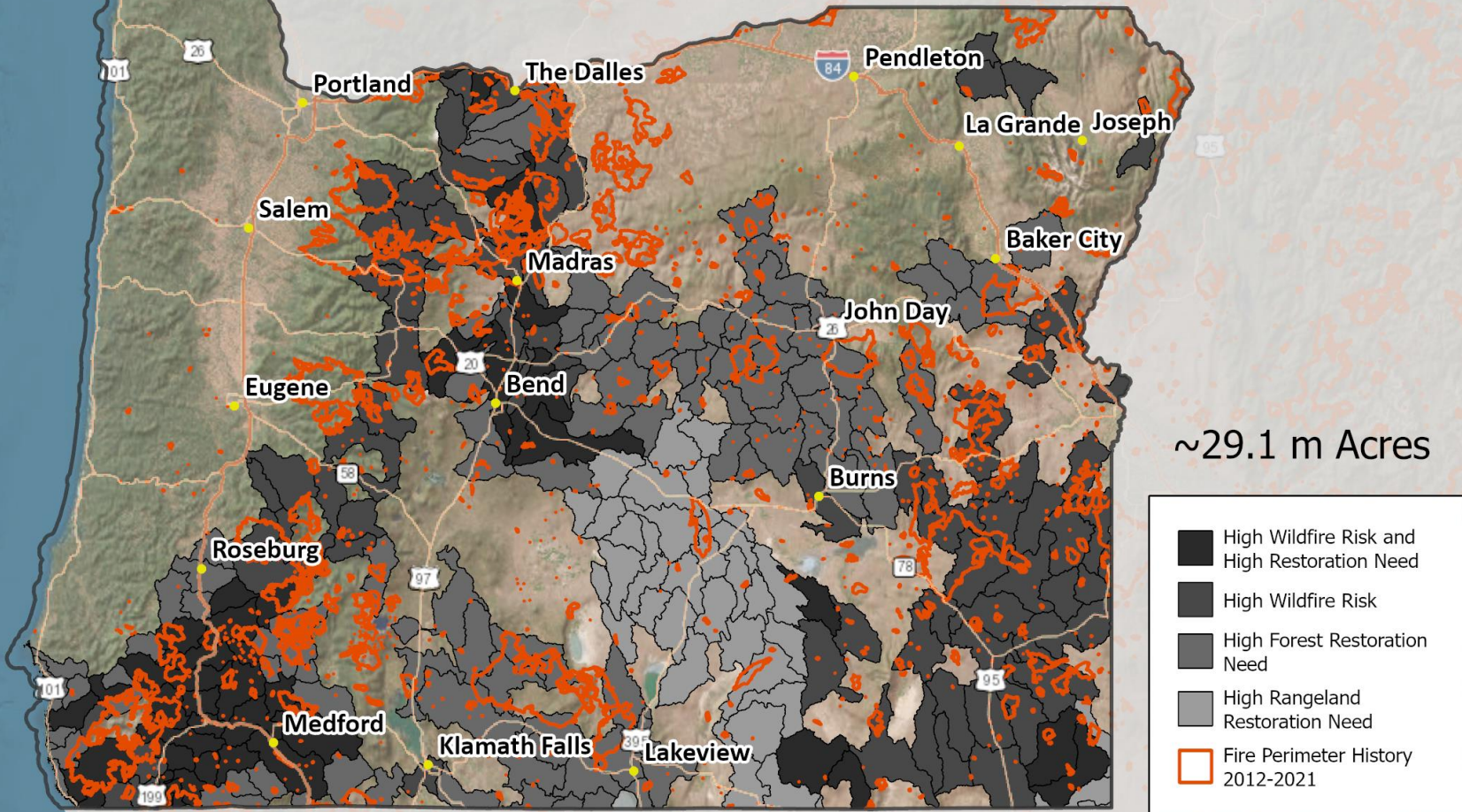
- High Wildfire Risk and High Restoration Need
- High Wildfire Risk
- High Forest Restoration Need
- High Rangeland Restoration Need

Data Sources: DeMeo, Tom & Haugo, Ryan & Ringo, Chris & Kertis, Jane & Acker, Steven & Simpson, Mike & Stern, Mark. (2018). Expanding Our Understanding of Forest Structural Restoration Needs in the Pacific Northwest. Northwest Science, 92, 18-35. 10.3955/046.092.0104; Gilberton-Day et al (2018). Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment: Methods and Results; Doherty, K., Theobald, D.M., Bradford, J.B., Wiechman, L.A., Bedrosian, G., Boyd, C.S., Cahill, M., Coates, P.S., Creutzburg, M.K., Crist, M.R., Finn, S.P., Kumar, A.V., Littlefield, C.E., Maestas, J.D., Prentice, K.L., Prochazka, B.G., Remington, T.E., Sparklin, W.D., Tull, J.C., Wurtzabach, Z., and Zeller, K.A., 2022, A sagebrush conservation design to proactively restore America's sagebrush biome: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2022-1081, 38 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20221081> (modified for Oregon by the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University).

# Fire Perimeter History 2012-2021

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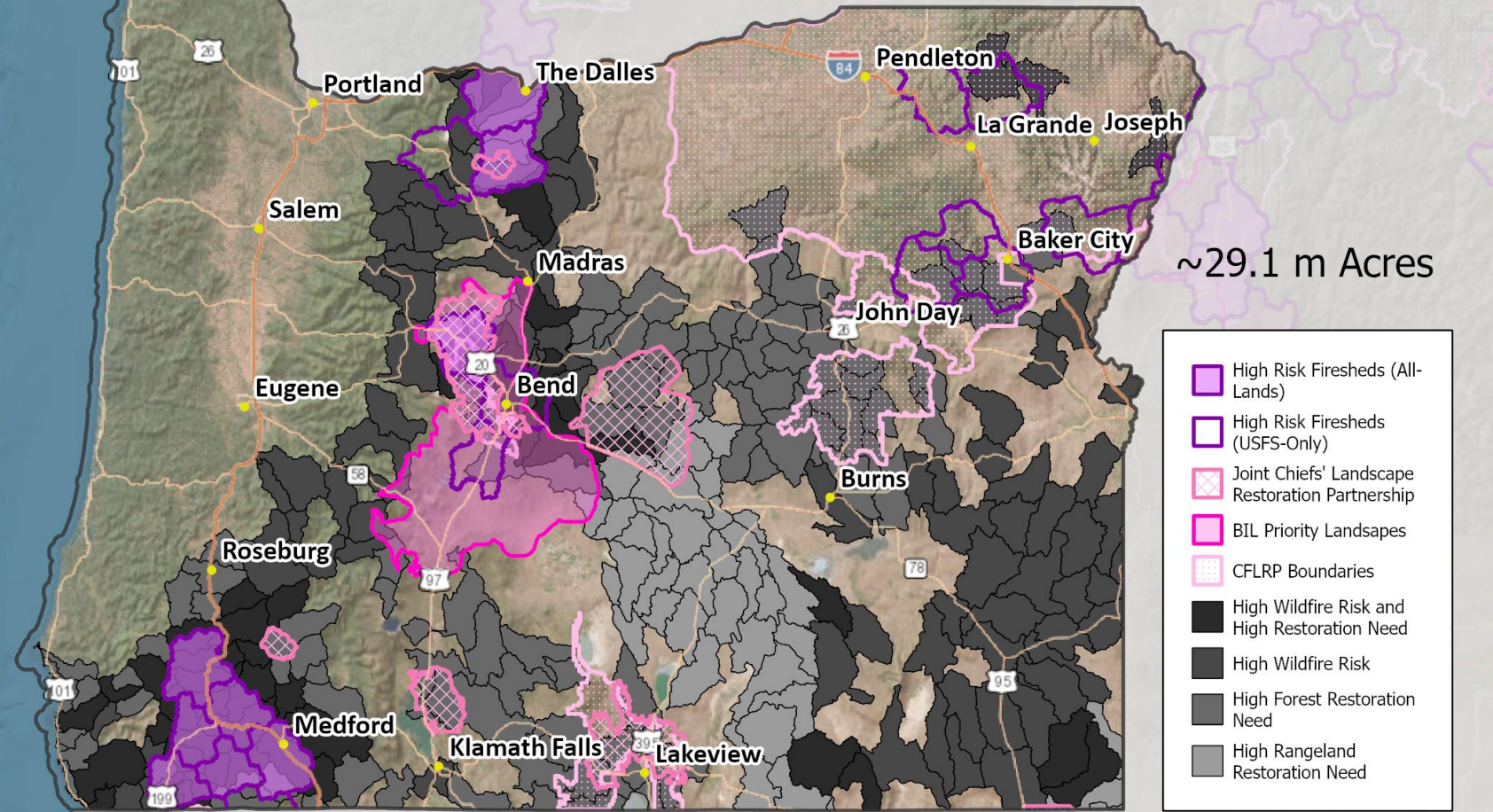


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# Agency Activity Areas (Partial)

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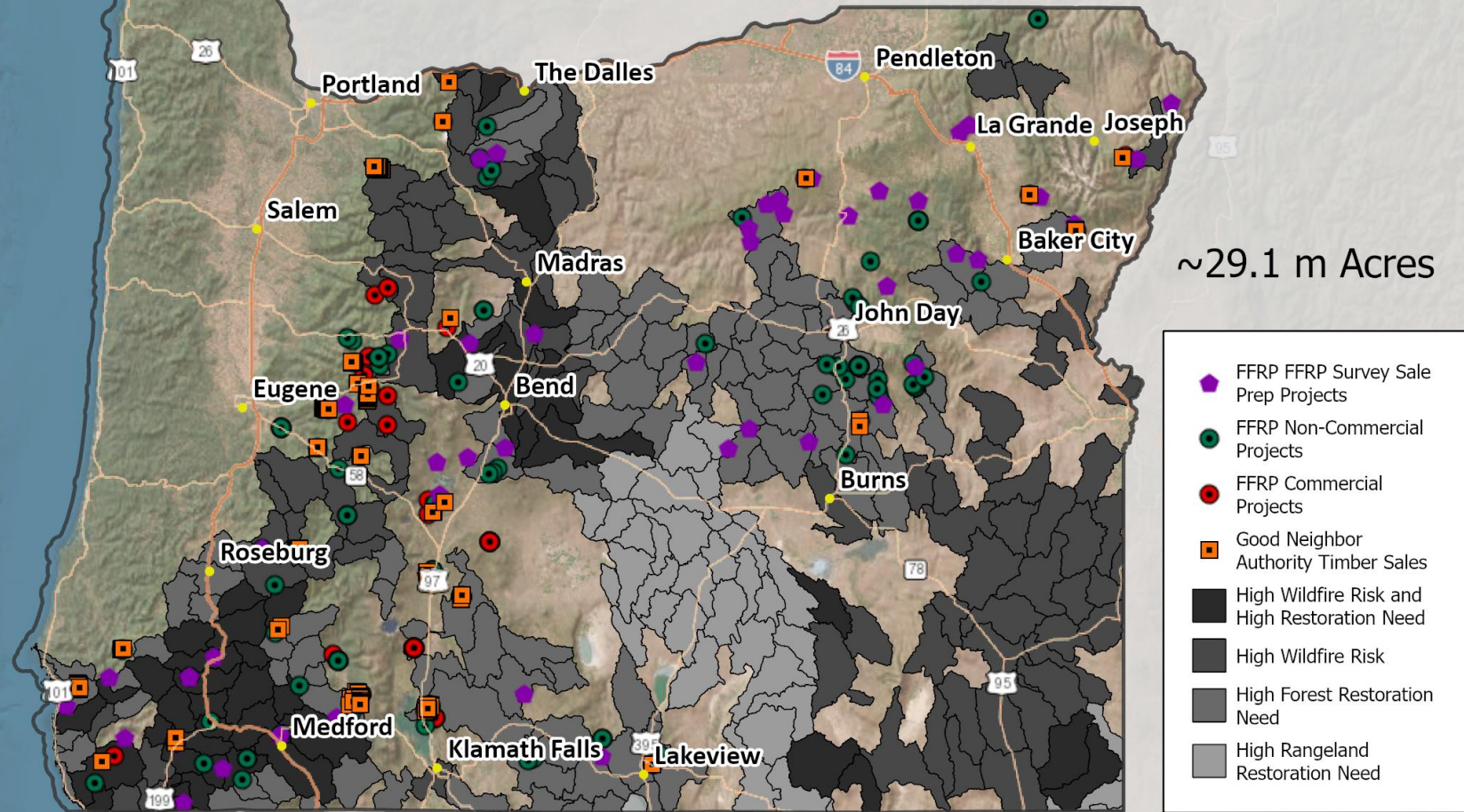


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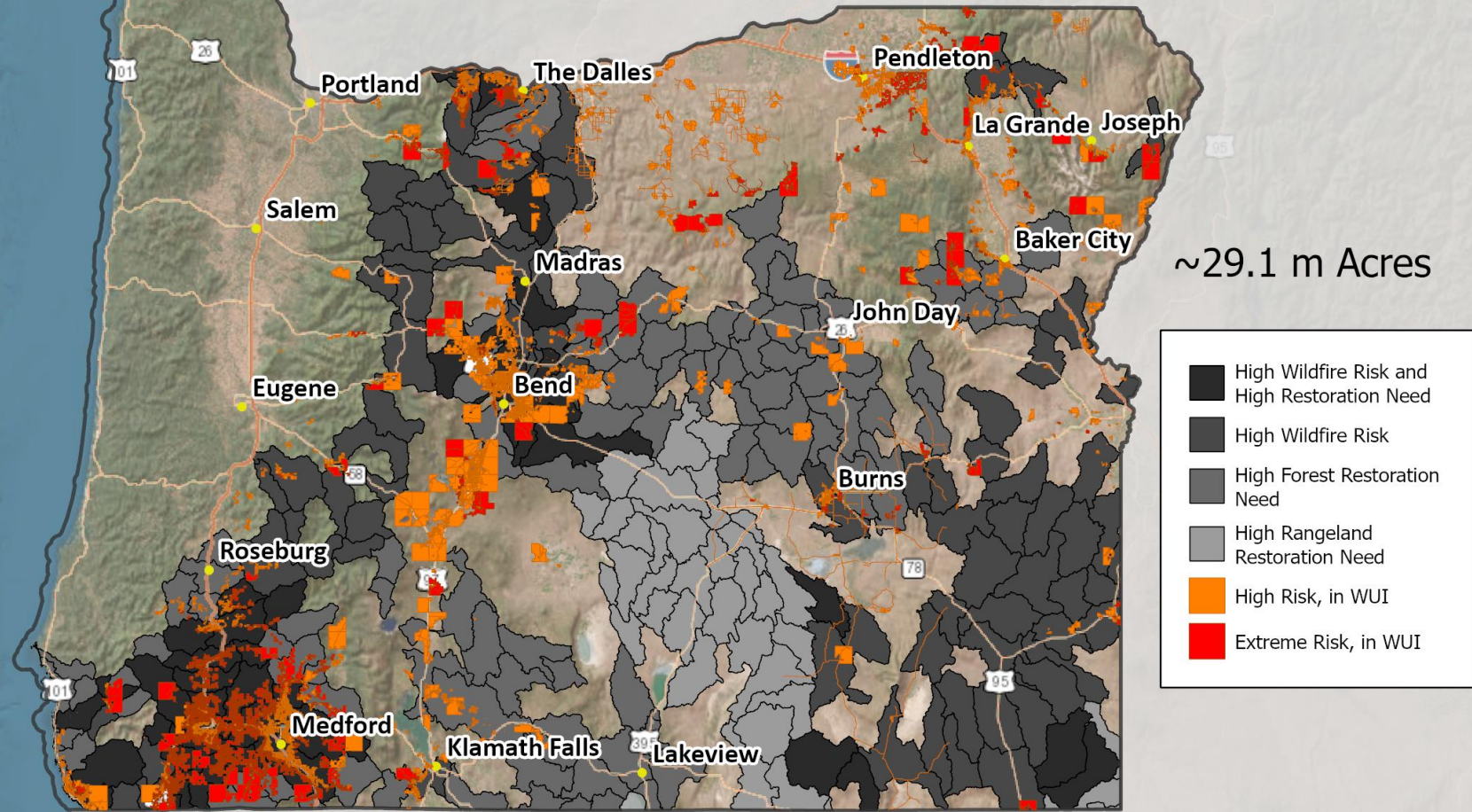


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# WUI Fire Risk

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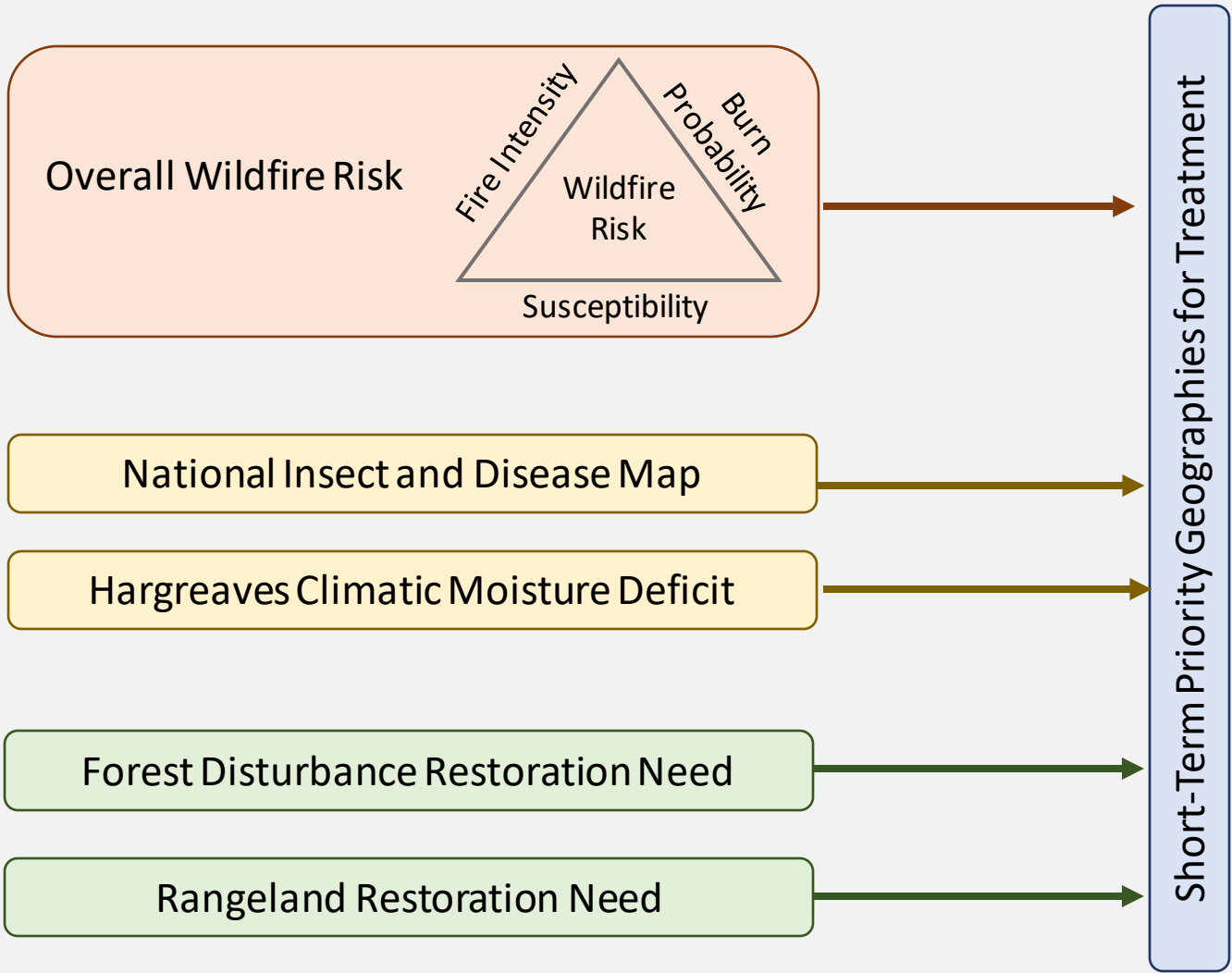
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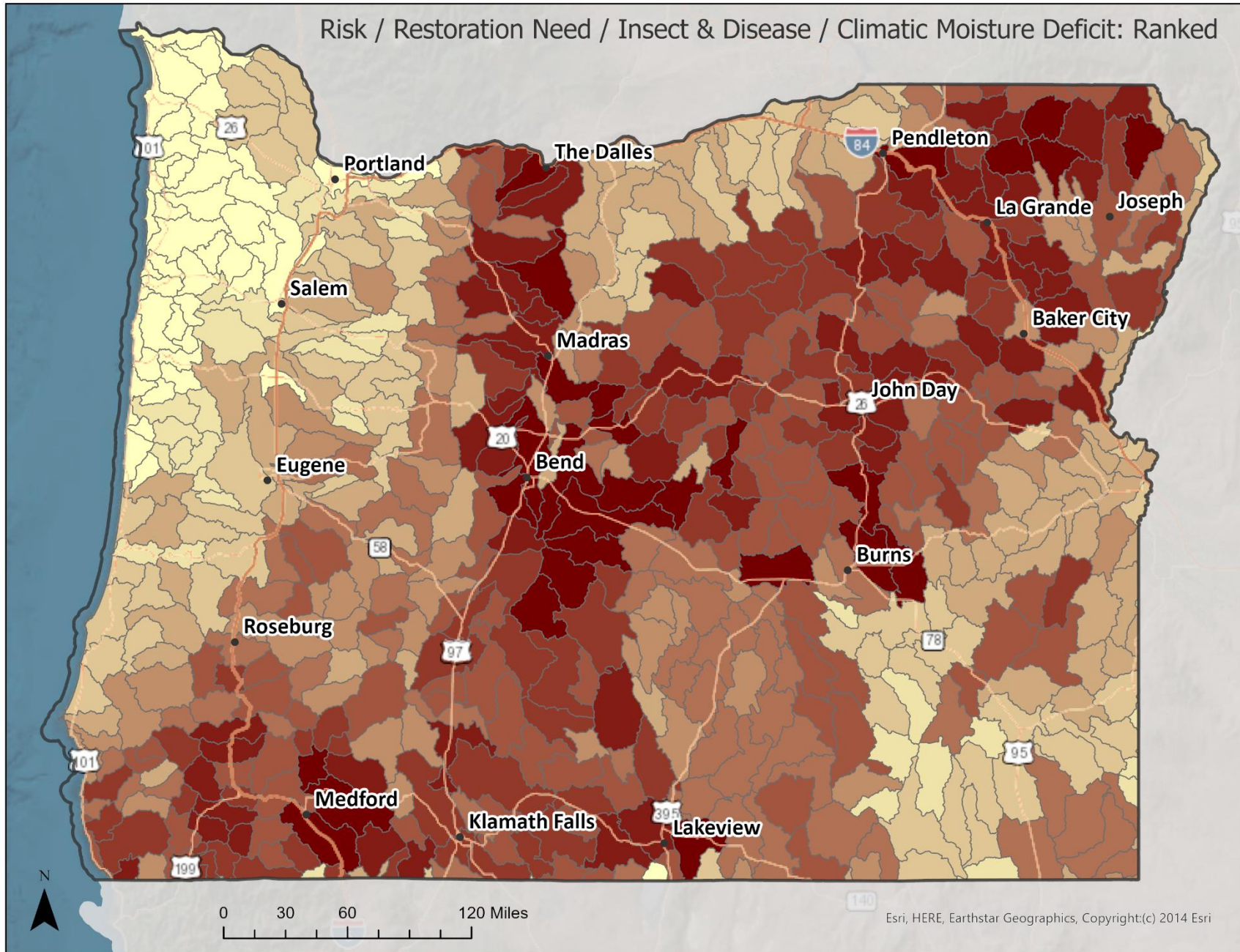
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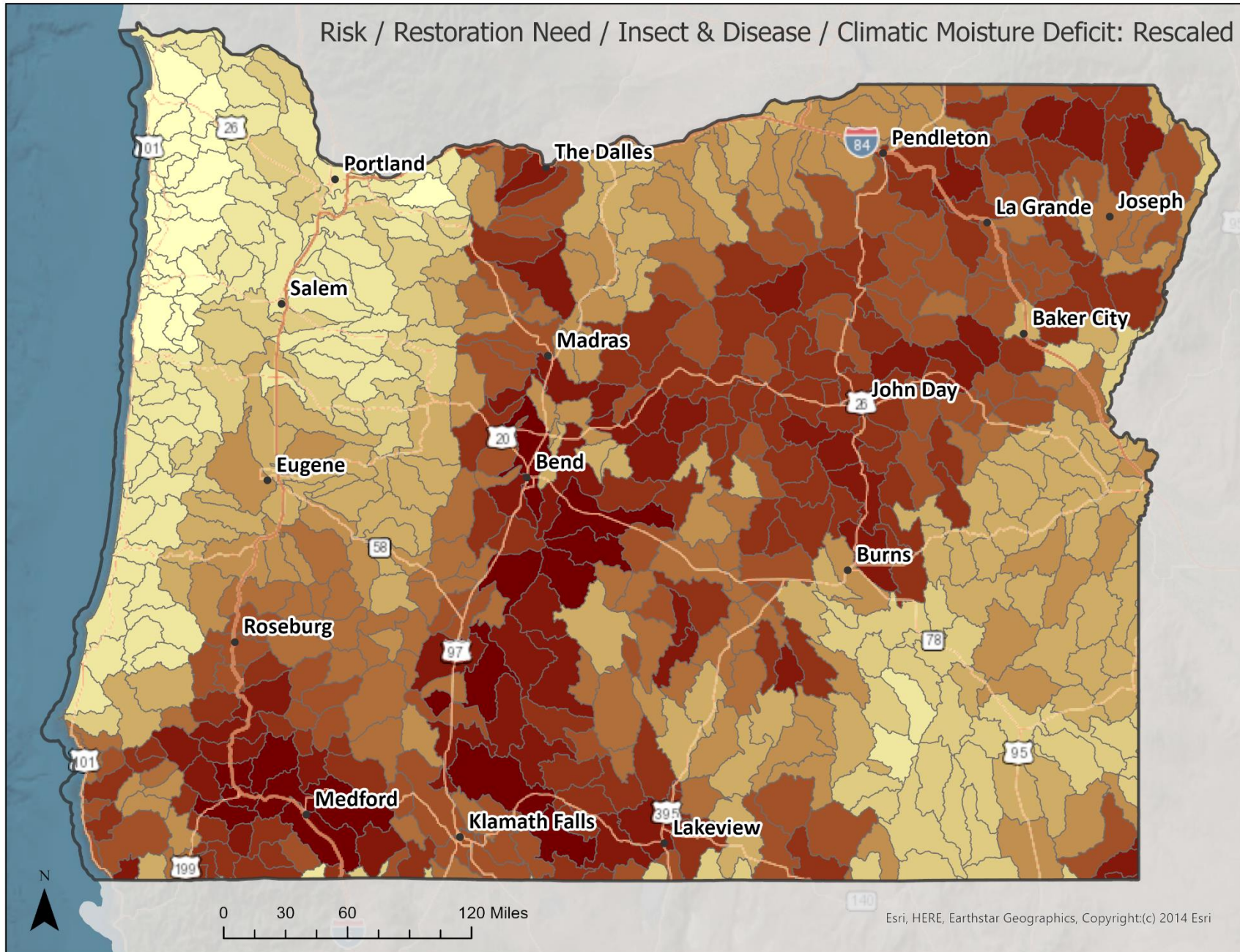




# Overall Treatment Needs: Ranked (using available data)



# Overall Treatment Needs: Rescaled (using available data)



**Thank you!**