



Weekly Summary Points 1.14.21

A weekly, high-level snapshot of the cleanup work underway to get Oregon communities rebuild-ready. As an internal document, these summary points are intended to provide awareness and basic background info as talking points.

Topline points for the week

- **Wet and windy weather continued this week, limiting Step 2 operations.** Weather will continue to play a role in ramping up Step 2 operations, but work continues. Hazard trees and tree debris are being marked, staged, and processed. Required environmental tests for asbestos and air quality are underway. Address signs are being placed at participating properties and work to remove ash and debris is kicking off near Phoenix at Bear Lake Estates in the coming days. Work orders will begin to ramp up weather permitting, and staff are ready and prepared for dry weather.
- **In addition to weather, task force staff are planning for and addressing contract crew resources with prime contractors given competition with California recovery efforts.** Staging operations along roadways have also been a challenge in some areas due to terrain and lack of space.
- **Additional General Fund dollars for debris cleanup work were approved last week.** The Oregon Emergency Board [approved](#) \$36.8 million in General Fund dollars on Jan. 8, completing the debris cleanup funding picture for the 2019-2021 biennium. An updated “At-A-Glance” one-pager is attached to capture this.

Situational awareness points

Brief summary points for your back pocket highlighting operations, political realities, and other high-level summary notes.

- **An advisory group of eight Oregon legislators met on Jan. 13th to hear an update about the cleanup process and contracting updates.** The meeting provided a recap presentation and shared details about the contracting process. The advisory group includes Senators Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, Findley, and Girod and Representatives McClain, Noble, Boshart Davis, and Gomberg. This will be a regularly scheduled group.
- **Operational discussions about debris removal and permitting in floodplain areas, as well as tree removal on BLM lands, are reaching resolution.** Meetings are in progress with local, state, and federal partners, and a permitting process has been identified for work in floodplain and floodway areas. State natural resource and environmental partners have been looped in and coordination will continue. Task force leadership met with Representative Peter Defazio’s office to

further discuss hazardous trees and removal funding on BLM land.

- **Some property owners continue to opt out of the cleanup process, but for those continuing to participate, Private Property Debris Removal Questionnaire submissions continue to climb.** Reasons for rescinding Right-of-Entry forms include responses stating that they've already cleaned their property, concerns about timing, and lack of trust in government. To note, a property owner must meet a range of local, state, and federal regulatory requirements to complete their own cleanup process.
- **The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have asked questions about cultural resources within wildfire impacted areas.** Task force and state staff will continue to maintain an open line of communication throughout the cleanup process with tribal liaisons.

Operations and contracting notes for the week

- **No new change orders, major contract changes, or disputes were added this week.** Three currently exist. Change orders to pay contractors twice monthly and redefining "hazard tree" for only trees impacting property and people are complete. The third change order—clarifying the definition of commercial safety truck inspections—is in progress.
- **The Northern Oregon operation (roughly Lane County, northward) continues with hazard tree removal and assessments amidst adverse weather,** including hazard tree marking, staging, and log processing operations in multiple major impacted corridors. Asbestos testing continues in the Lincoln City area and hazardous tree assessments are occurring near home sites in the area. Throughout the Northern Operation, crews are preparing for debris cleanup work on sites and installing address signs. For the Holiday Farm Fire area, slash processing continues at the Cougar Reservoir staging site. ODOT/Task Force staff are working with contractors to add staff to expedite environmental tests and work orders while monitoring extreme weather.
- **In southern Oregon, the first debris removal work order will be issued for the Bear Lake Estates mobile home park near Phoenix. Elsewhere in Southern Oregon, debris cleanup work has started via required asbestos testing, site prep for structural debris sites, and close coordination with landfills and recyclers as work ramps up.** Staff continue to coordinate with FEMA Direct Housing Mission. Similar to hazard tree work, ODOT/Task Force staff are working with contractors to add staff to expedite environmental tests and work orders while monitoring extreme weather.