



## Wildfire Programs Advisory Council – Meeting

Friday July 14, 2023

The complete Wildfire Programs Advisory Council can be viewed at the following website and serves as the official public meeting record: <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/Pages/wildfire-programs-council.aspx>

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### Welcome

Chair Bennett

The Chair welcomed the members of the council. The council approved the agenda and the previous meeting's summary. The Chair introduced the two new members of the council: Rene Braga representing the environmental justice community and Debi Lorence representing forestland owners whose property is wholly or partially within the wildland-urban interface. Each member of the council introduced themselves and Director Grafe introduced himself. The chair briefly reviewed meeting etiquette.

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### Public Comment

All

The chair referred the council to the written comments that have been posted to the council's web page [here](#). Additionally, two members of the public presented oral public comment to the council. Bob Hart expressed disappointment that senate bill 509 failed to pass because the additional coordination could have benefited wildfire programs. Carolyn Mayers agreed with Bob Hart and expressed additional need for assistance and referred to her written comments as well.

The chair encouraged interested members of the public to provide comment to the board both oral and in writing.

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### Wildfire Programs Director – Update

Doug Grafe

Director Grafe started his update with a review of the result of the legislative session and an update on the current funding status of state wildfire programs including changes from initial funding of these programs. The document summarizing the funding status can be found on the council's web page [here](#). Several members of the council expressed dissatisfaction with the apparent reduction in funding levels of some of the state's wildfire programs. The director provided a high-level overview of the status of each of the implementation agencies' work on applicable wildfire programs. The director gave an overview of the current state of the fire season in Oregon.

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### Wildfire Programs Advisory Council – Discussion

All

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The chair opened the meeting for council discussion.

The chair started discussion by bringing up the primary task of the council to create an annual report and deliver it to the legislature and the governor. The chair highlighted that the legislature in its discussions on wildfire programs, clearly referred to the 2022 WPAC report which should underscore the importance of the council's effort. The chair reviewed the next steps in drafting the 2023 report including council discussions on the overall direction of the report and the beginning of workgroup meetings in August.

The council spent time discussing the impacts of Senate Bill 80 and the council's expanded role in the rollout of the wildfire hazard map. The director reviewed the policy and programs that are tied to the map rollout. The Department of Forestry, the State Fire Marshal, the Building Codes Division, and Oregon State University all provided updates on the status of the work either on the map itself or on policy implementation that stems from the hazard map. The council and the agencies also discussed the best ways that the council can assist the work of the agencies and the plan for the communications and engagement surrounding the new map rollout.

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**Wrap Up**

Chair Bennett

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The chair thanked members for participation and gave notice that there would likely be an additional special meeting in September prior to the next scheduled meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>.