

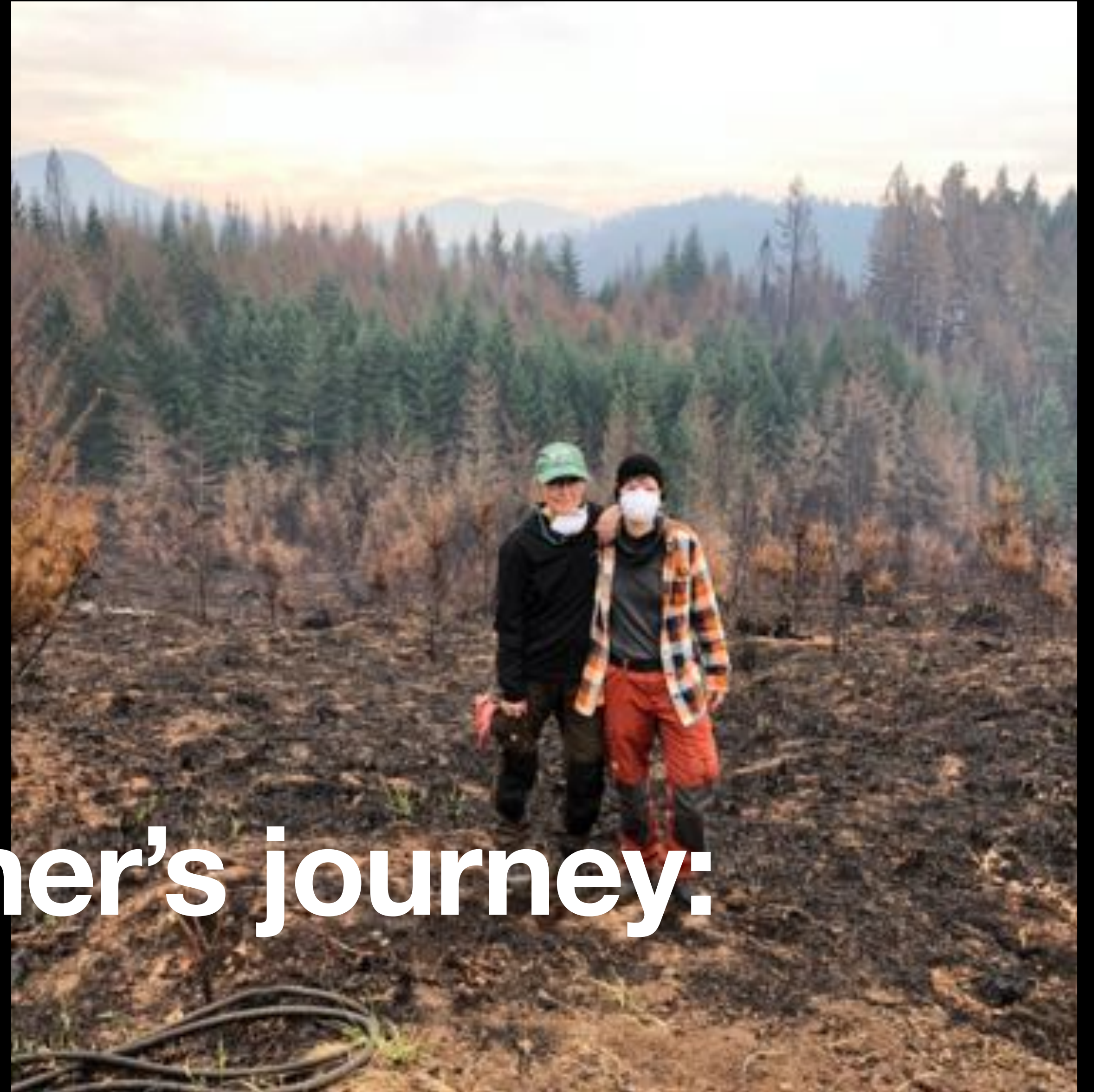


Committee for
Family Forestlands



Annual Report July 20, 2022





**one woodland owner's journey:
reprise & update**







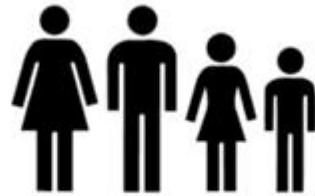








Committee for
Family Forestlands





Senate Bill 762

Certified Burn Manager Administrative Rules

Mike Shaw
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July 20, 2022

Overview

- SB762 Requirement overview
- Rules Advisory Committee Process
- Rule Section review
- Department's Recommendation
- Next Steps



Prescribed Fire

SB 762, Section 25 - 26

- Requires the Board of Forestry to establish by rule a Certified Burn Manager Program.
- Required consultation with the Oregon Prescribed Fire Council.
- Required a progress report to the Legislative assembly.
- Required clarification regarding joint permitting of cross property boundary prescribed fire use.



Rules Advisory Committee

- Associated Oregon Loggers
- Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde
- Oregon Forest and Industries Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- Oregon State University
- Sustainable Northwest
- Oregon Prescribed Fire Council
- Oregon Small Woodlands Association
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Board Member McComb



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1000

- **Purpose** - to set forth the standards, requirements, and procedures by which the Certified Burn Manager program will be operated, pursuant to ORS 526.360(3).
 - Removing a fire hazard to any property;
 - Preparing seed beds;
 - Removing obstructions to or interference with the proper seeding or agricultural or grazing development or use of that land;
 - Promoting the establishment of new forest crops on cutover, denuded or underproductive lands;
 - Implementing pest prevention and suppression activities; or
 - Promoting improvements to forest health, including improvements to fish and wildlife habitat.



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1005

- **Definitions** - The definitions proposed for this rule division are to provide clarification and context that was not clear in the law.
- Pertain to:
 - Accreditation and training providers
 - Training and certification
 - Certified Burn Manager Advisory Board



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1010

- **Intent**

- The Certified Burn Manager program is intended to provide oversight of training and certification concerning the safe and effective use of prescribed burning and to promote the use of prescribed burning for the purposes outlined in ORS 526.360(1).
- Participation in the Certified Burn Manager program is voluntary.
- Nothing in OAR 629-042-1000 to 629-042-1070 is intended to reduce the ability of a district to exercise their responsibility to ensure that burning in their jurisdiction is conducted in a safe and lawful manner.



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1015 and 1020

- **Certificates generally**
 - Issued to individual
 - Issued for a period 5 years, renewable
 - Non-transferable
 - Only authorized individuals can document training requirement completion
- **Application procedures.**
 - Completed certification book
 - Completion of a test
 - Any fees required.



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1025

- **Training**

- Classroom
 - Complete an approved course from a training provider, or
 - An approved correspondence course, and
 - Achieve a passing score on a test
- Certification book – valid for 3 years
 - Issued after completing classroom requirements
 - Proficiency classes
 - General
 - Pile burning
 - Broadcast burning
- Historical recognition considerations



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1030 and 1035

- **Testing**
 - Must obtain passing score before receiving certification book.
 - Can be administered by ODF or a training provider
- **Investigations and revocation**
 - ODF responsible for ensuring certifications used in a safe and lawful manner.
 - State Forester's Representative may revoke a certificate.
 - 30 days notice
 - CBM may appeal to Certified Burn Manager Advisory Committee



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1040

- **Certified Burn Manager, Required Actions**
 - Prepare or review burn plan
 - Confirm landowner notified adjacent landowners
 - Be on site during ignition, and initial stages of mop up
 - Be available during mop-up, until responsibility for burn is terminated.
 - Must notify ODF prior to ignition, and after burn meets plan parameters and responsibility is terminated.
 - Shall not permit dangerous activities; must cooperate with investigations.



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1045 and 1050

- **Certified Burn Manager, prohibited actions**
 - May only conduct burns that align with ORS 526.360(1)
 - May not terminate responsibility for the burn unless replaced, burn transferred to landowner, and ODF district notified
 - May only use “Certified Burn Manager” title if holding a valid certificate
 - May not falsify records
- **Limitations**
 - Activities must be identified in burn plan;
 - Must be a type of burn the CBM is certified to conduct;
 - Must be conducted on classified forestland.



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1055

- **Landowner requirements and prohibitions**
 - Notify adjacent landowners
 - Provide a copy of the burn plan if requested.
 - Landowner may not terminate a Certified Burn Manager's responsibility unless:
 - Transfer conditions have been met;
 - Certified Burn Manager has been replaced with another;
 - Landowner has assumed responsibility for the burn and executing the burn plan; and
 - Local ODF district has been notified.



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1060

- **Certified Burn Manager Advisory Committee**
 - Seven-member committee established to advise:
 - Administration of the Certified Burn Manager Program
 - Review proposed certificate revocations.
 - Members broadly representative of those involved in the planning and conduction of prescribed fire and land management activities
 - Three federal ex-officio members



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1065

- **Training Providers**

- Accredited by the State Forester's representative to conduct and document trainings through agreement.
- Must have a minimum of 2 years teaching adults or familiarity with subject matter.
- Curricula must be approved
- Must maintain records of trainings and tests conducted.
- Similar suspension and revocation parameters as Certified Burn Managers.



Rule Section Review

OAR 629-042-1070

- **Fees**
 - \$50 application fee for initial certificate
 - Training providers may charge reasonable fees for trainings provided and documented.



Staff Recommendation

- The Board directs the Department to proceed with the public hearing process and return with the final rule language for Chapter 629, Division 42.



Next Steps

- July 2022 – Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Fiscal Impact Statement sent to Secretary of State. Notify legislators and interested parties.
- August 2022 – Conduct public hearings.
- November 2022 – ODF submits final proposed rule with public comments to Board of Forestry for approval.
- November 2022 – Submit rule to Secretary of State and Legislative Counsel for filing.
- Spring, 2023 – Program launch



The logo of the Oregon Department of Forestry is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a landscape of mountains, trees, and a river. The word "OREGON" is arched across the top, and "DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY" is arched across the bottom.

Questions?

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Chief – Fire Protection
503-945-7204

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Tim Holschbach
Deputy Chief – Policy & Planning
503-945-7434

tim.j.holschbach@odf.oregon.gov



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Collaboration Update

July 20, 2022

Presenters:

Josh Barnard, Division Chief, Forest Resources Division

Adam Coble, Forest Health and Monitoring Manager, Forest Resources Division

Rebecca McCoun, Riparian & Aquatic Specialist, Forest Resources Division

Jennifer Wigal, Water Quality Administrator, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Overview

- **Background - ODF & DEQ MOU**
- **Designated Management Agency (DMA)**
- **MOU Implementation/ Collaboration**
- **Total Maximum Daily Load Plan(s)**
- **Plan Components, Implementation Matrix, Dates**



Reminder: Regulatory Framework

- **DEQ identifies Designated Management Agencies (DMA).**
- **ODF is the DMA for water quality protection from nonpoint sources resulting from forest operations on nonfederal forestlands**
- **DMA's have legal authority**



Designated Management Agencies (DMA's)

- **Urban DMAs (local cities and Counties)**
- **Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA)**
- **Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF)**
- **Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)**
- **U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)**
- **U.S. Forest Service (USFS)**



Collaboration

ODF & DEQ MOU Updated and Signed in December 2021

Revisions included:

- **DOJ Clarified authority**
- **ODF & DEQ's Commitment/Roles**
- **Flow chart on interagency collaboration**
- **Increase Accountability**



Collaborative Efforts (January - June 2022)

- **Monthly ODF-DEQ manager and staff meetings**
- **Updates on TMDL development across the state**
- **Updates on forest practices rule amendments**
- **Increase in staffing**
- **Coordination on development of ODF Willamette Mercury TMDL implementation plan**
- **Federal re-engagement on full approval of Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Source Control Plan**
- **Planning on integration of climate change considerations in TMDLs**



DEQ participation in ODF efforts:

- ❖ **Forest practices rulemaking - Advising**
- ❖ **Adaptive Management Program Committee - Seat**



DEQ shared opportunities for ODF:

- ❖ **Nonpoint Source Plan update and annual report preparation**
- ❖ **Commenting on Draft Integrated Report and TMDL Priorities**
- ❖ **Rule revision - Aquatic life beneficial use map update**
- ❖ **Upper Yaquina River Watershed Bacteria and Dissolved Oxygen TMDLs advisory group**

ODF staff recently appointed to RAC



ODF TMDL Implementation Planning

- Under the new MOU
 - ODF will develop implementation plans for each TMDL
- First: ODF Willamette Mercury TMDL Implementation Plan
- Future: Statewide Approach (Example, Statewide Temperature TMDL Plan)
- DEQ initiates plan development order



Implementation Plan

- **Background**
- **Geographic Scope**
- **Sources**
- **Management Strategies & Implementation Goals**
- **Compliance & Effectiveness Monitoring**
- **Adaptive Management**
- **Public Engagement**



TMDL Implementation Plan Matrix

- Pollution TMDL**
- Potential Source(s)**
- Strategy**
- Action**
- Timeline**
- Measurable Outcome**

Example:

- **Mercury in Total Suspended Solids**
- **Roads**
- **Forest Road Inventory Assessment**
- **Pre-Inventory Process Year 1**
- **2024-2025**
- **# Large Industrial Landowners**
Types of HCV per HUC
HCV initiated or completed

Temperature TMDL Planning

Per the District Court's final order and judgement, DEQ must amend and submit replaced temperature TMDLs to EPA for approval or disapproval.

Jan. 15, 2024

7-15-2025

- Southern Willamette Subbasins*
- Mid-Willamette Subbasins*
- Lower Willamette, Clackamas, and Sandy Subbasins*

ODF will have approximately
18 months

Feb. 28, 2025

8-28-2026

- Willamette River mainstem and major tributaries
- South Umpqua and Umpqua Subbasins

Apr. 17, 2026

10/17/2027

- Applegate, Illinois, Lower Rogue, and Middle Rogue Subbasins
- John Day River Basin
 - Upper Rogue Subbasin

June 4, 2027

12/4/2028

- Snake River - Hell's Canyon
- Lower Grande Ronde, Imnaha and Wallowa Subbasins
- Middle Columbia-Hood, Miles Creeks

May 29, 2028

11/29/2029

- Walla Walla Subbasin
- Willow Creek Subbasin
- Malheur River Subbasins

Moving Forward

- **ODF & DEQ managers and staff will continue to convene regularly.**
- **Work together on the ODF's Willamette Basin Mercury TMDL implementation plan.**

Draft Plan due February 17, 2023

Final Plan due August 17, 2023

- **Work together on integration of climate change considerations in TMDL implementation and forest practice best management practices**





Questions?



Wildfire Prevention Program Overview

Oregon Board of Forestry

July 20, 2022

Mike Shaw

Chief – Fire Protection

Tim Holschbach

Deputy Chief – Policy & Planning

Joy Krawczyk

Public Affairs Director

Overview

- Wildfire Prevention Laws and responsibilities
- Wildfire Cause statistics and programming
- Public Information and Awareness
- Next Steps





Wildfire Prevention Laws & Responsibilities



Oregon Revised Statutes

- **477.005(1) Policy**

- The preservation of the forests and the conservation of the forest resources through the prevention and suppression of forest fires hereby are declared to be the public policy of the State of Oregon.

- **526.041 General duties of the State Forester**

- The forester, under the general supervision of the State Board of Forestry, shall:
 - (5) Take action authorized by law to prevent and extinguish forest, brush, and grass fires.

- **477.365(1) Duties and powers of wardens**

- Under instructions from the forester as to their exercise of state authority, all wardens shall:
 - (a) Take proper steps for the prevention and extinguishment of fires within the localities in which they exercise their functions.



OAR 629-047-0020

General Policy

- It is the policy of the Oregon Department of Forestry to gain compliance with the fire prevention requirements of ORS Chapter 477 first through education and cooperation, and second through enforcement. Authorized fire wardens are to educate forest users on the need for the fire prevention requirements of ORS Chapter 477 and to cooperate with the users in formulating solutions to compliance problems within the realm of these requirements.





Wildfire Cause Statistics & Programming



10-Year Averages

- **State of Oregon:**
 - 2,215 fires, 719,587 acres
- **ODF Protection:**
 - **Lightning:** 251 fires, 32,371 acres
 - **Human:** 730 fires, 62,892 acres



Human-Caused 10-Year Averages

- **Industrial Operations:**
 - Slash burning: **28** fires, **520** acres
 - Equipment use: **20** fires, **237** acres
- **Public "at home":**
 - Debris burning: **99** fires, **461** acres
 - Mowing dry grass: **4** fires, **2,649** acres
- **Public "out and about"**
 - Campfires: **72** fires, **1,542** acres
 - Vehicles: **65** fires, **441** acres



Industrial Activities

- Regulated through the Industrial Fire Precaution Level system on west side of the Cascade mountains, and through “fire season” requirements on the east side of the Cascade mountains.
- Department previously reviewed program and administrative rules, recommending updates to the Board, adopted in 2017.
- Rules and policy continuously reviewed and analyzed by the Industrial Fire Precaution Level Review Committee.



Public “at home”

- Regulated through “closures” under the authority of ORS 477.535 - 550.
- Regulates activities such as chainsaw use, off-road vehicles, open fires, cutting metal, mowing grass, fireworks, etc.
- Direct public engagement for education and enforcement through district fire wardens and forest officers.



Public “out and about”

- Rely on a coordinated wildfire prevention system
- Wildfire Awareness Month in May.
- Year-round, statewide efforts to promote fire prevention, home protection, and fire adaptation



Oregon State University
Extension Service





Public Information & Awareness



State Gov Campaign

prevent wildfires

STOPPING WILDFIRES STARTS WITH YOU



prevent wildfires

PEOPLE CAUSE THOUSANDS OF WILDFIRES EVERY YEAR.

BE SMART, BE SAFE, AND HELP PREVENT THE NEXT ONE.



prevent wildfires

#1 CAUSE OF WILDFIRES

DEBRIS BURNING

- CALL BEFORE YOU BURN.
- CHECK CONDITIONS.
- CLEAR 10 FEET AROUND YOUR PILE.
- HAVE WATER AND A SHOVEL NEARBY.
- KEEP IT SMALL.
- STAY WITH THE FIRE UNTIL IT'S DEAD OUT.



prevent wildfires

VEHICLES

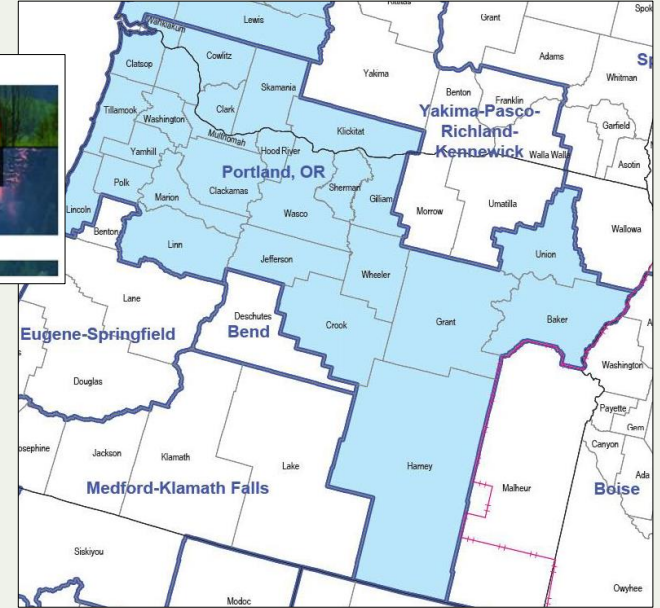
WORN OR FAULTY PARTS CAN CAUSE ROADSIDE FIRES.

CHECK YOUR VEHICLE BEFORE HITTING THE ROAD.

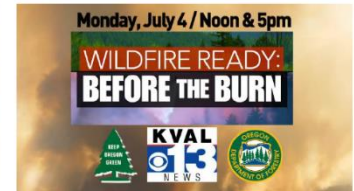


KATU/KVAL Sponsorship

KATU EXPOSURE



KVAL EXPOSURE





Next Steps





MGO RECOMMENDATIONS

Implementation Management Plan



PRESENTED TO
Board of Forestry

July 2022

mgo

PRESENTATION
AGENDA

01

REVIEW
METHODOLOGY

02

IMPLEMENTATION
STATUS AND
HIGHLIGHTS

03

MANAGEMENT
UPDATE

04

SHARED
DISCUSSION
AND
FEEDBACK

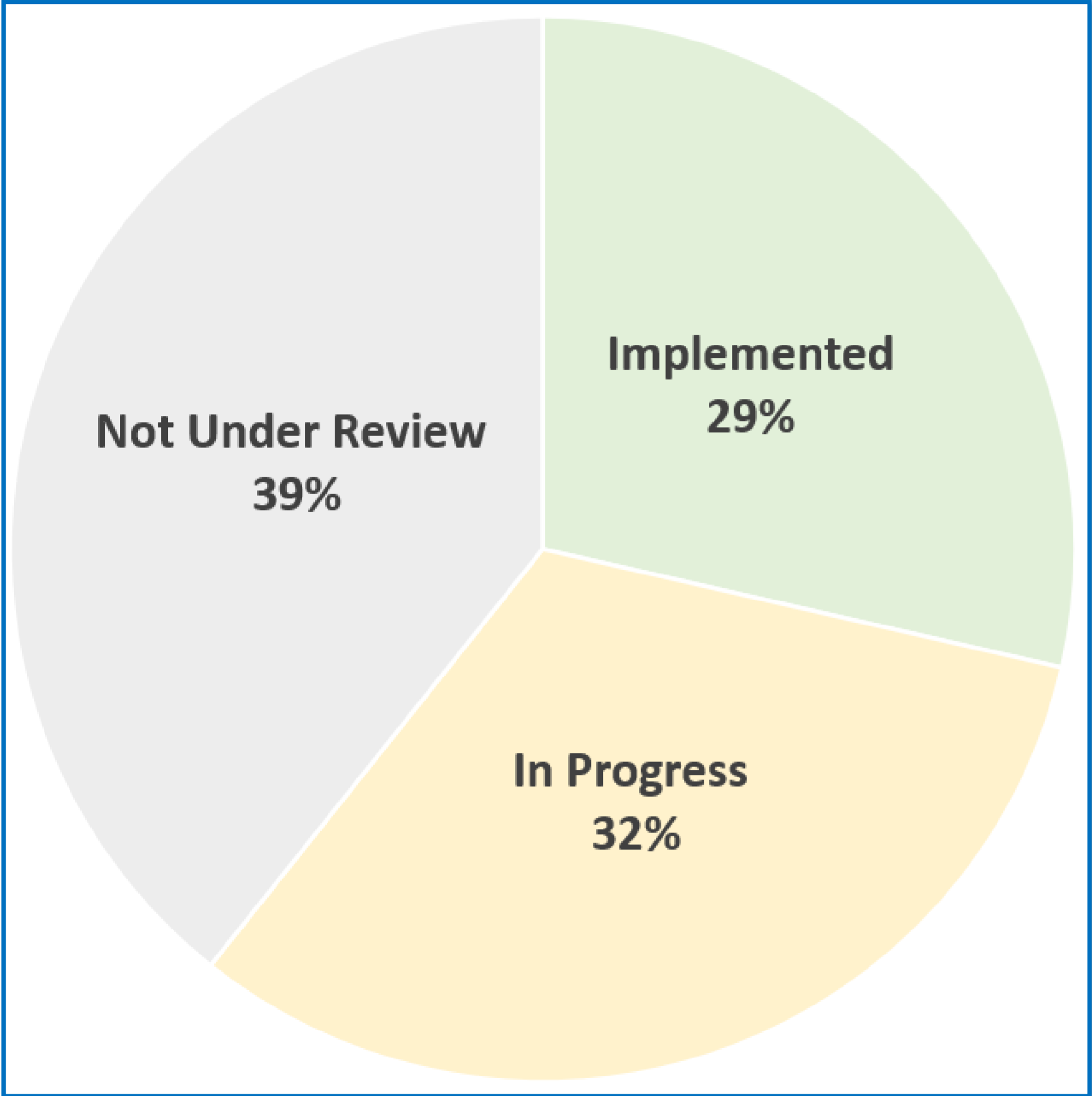
DISCUSSION
TOPICS

METHODOLOGY



- **Identify Documentation to Satisfy Each Recommendation**
- **Prioritize Recommendations for Review**
- **Request Documentation**
- **Conduct Analysis**
- **Summarize Status and Rationale**

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OVERVIEW

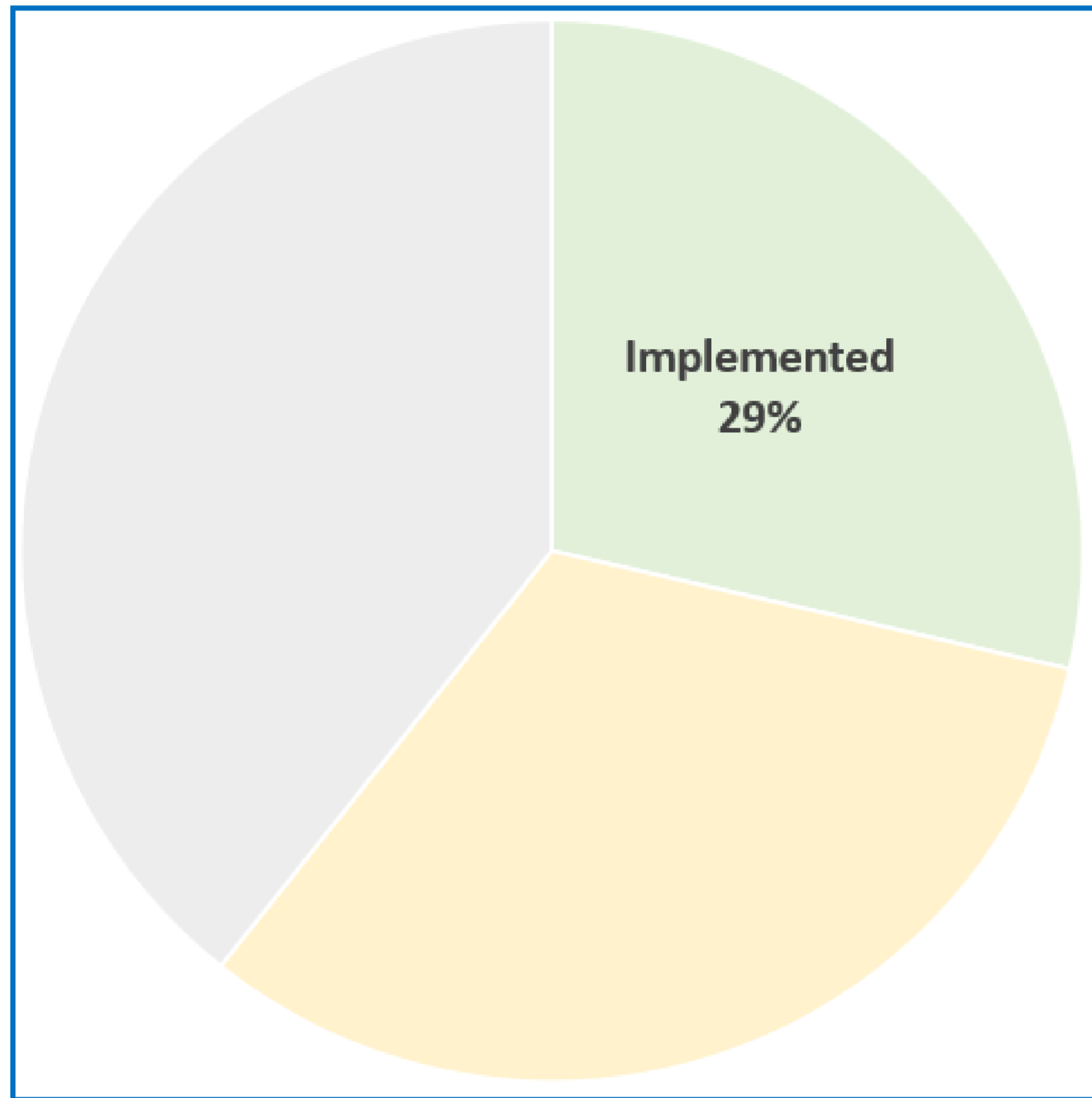


N=28

PERIOD RESULTS

- **Eight Recommendations Implemented**
Five Implemented in April 2022 Review
Three Implemented in June 2022 Review
- **Significant Progress with Nine Recommendations**
Seven In Progress in April 2022 Review
Two In Progress in June 2022 Review

RECOMMENDATIONS - IMPLEMENTED

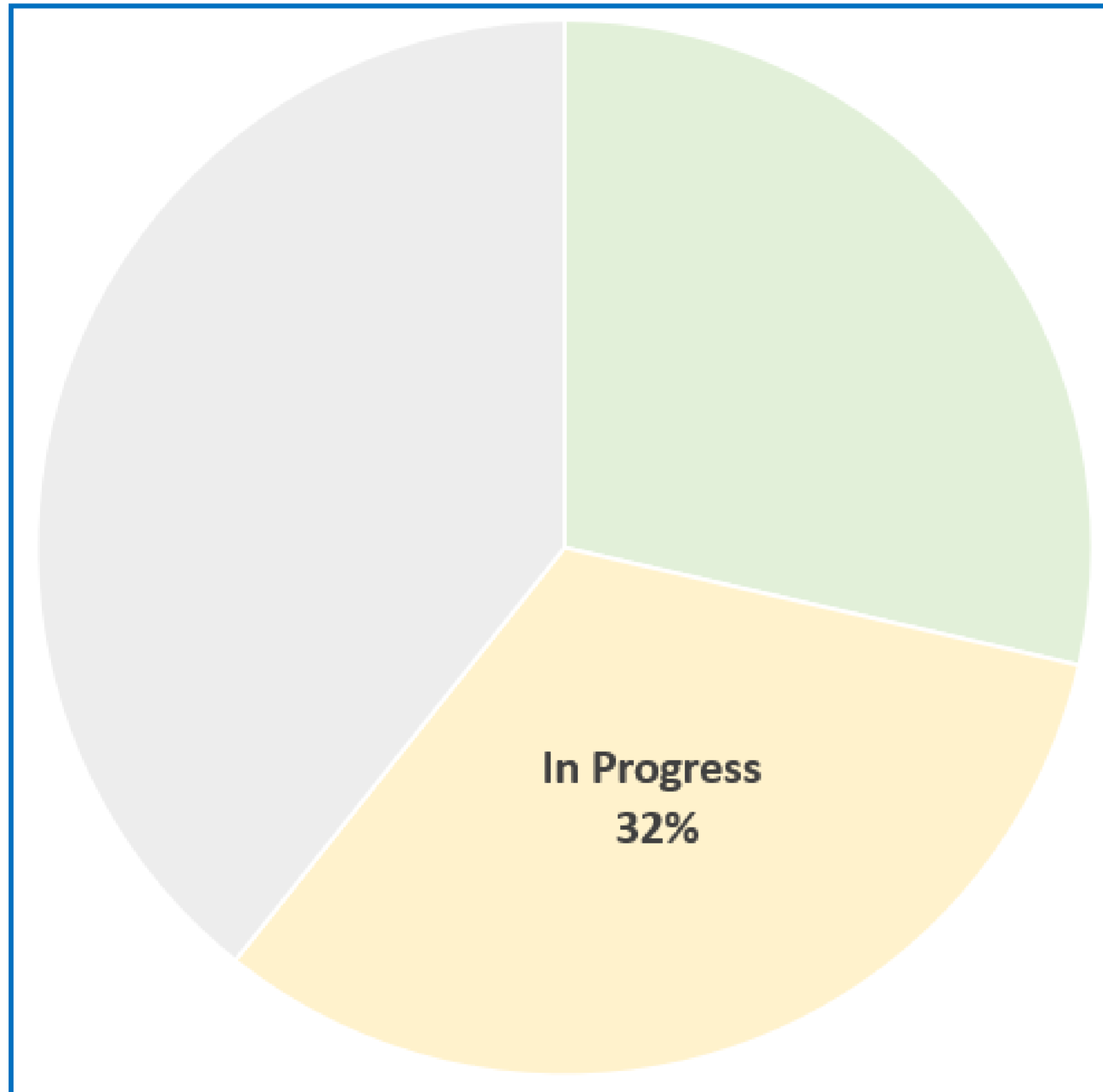


During April 2022 Review Cycle, Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 16, and 27 were deemed implemented.

Rec #	Theme	Risk Rating as of June 2022		
		High	Medium	Low
12	Annual Rate Assessment	↓		X
23	Budgeting Requirements		↓	X
24	Budgeting Reconciliation		↓	X

X is the current rating of the recommendation as of June 2022.
 ↓ in the box of the June 2021 risk rating means the risk rating as of June 2022 has been lowered
 – in the box of the June 2021 risk rating means the risk rating as of June 2022 has not changed.

RECOMMENDATIONS - IN PROGRESS



Rec #	Theme	Risk Rating As of June 2022		
		High	Medium	Low
18	Change Management		-X	
26	FEMA Claim Status Reporting			-X

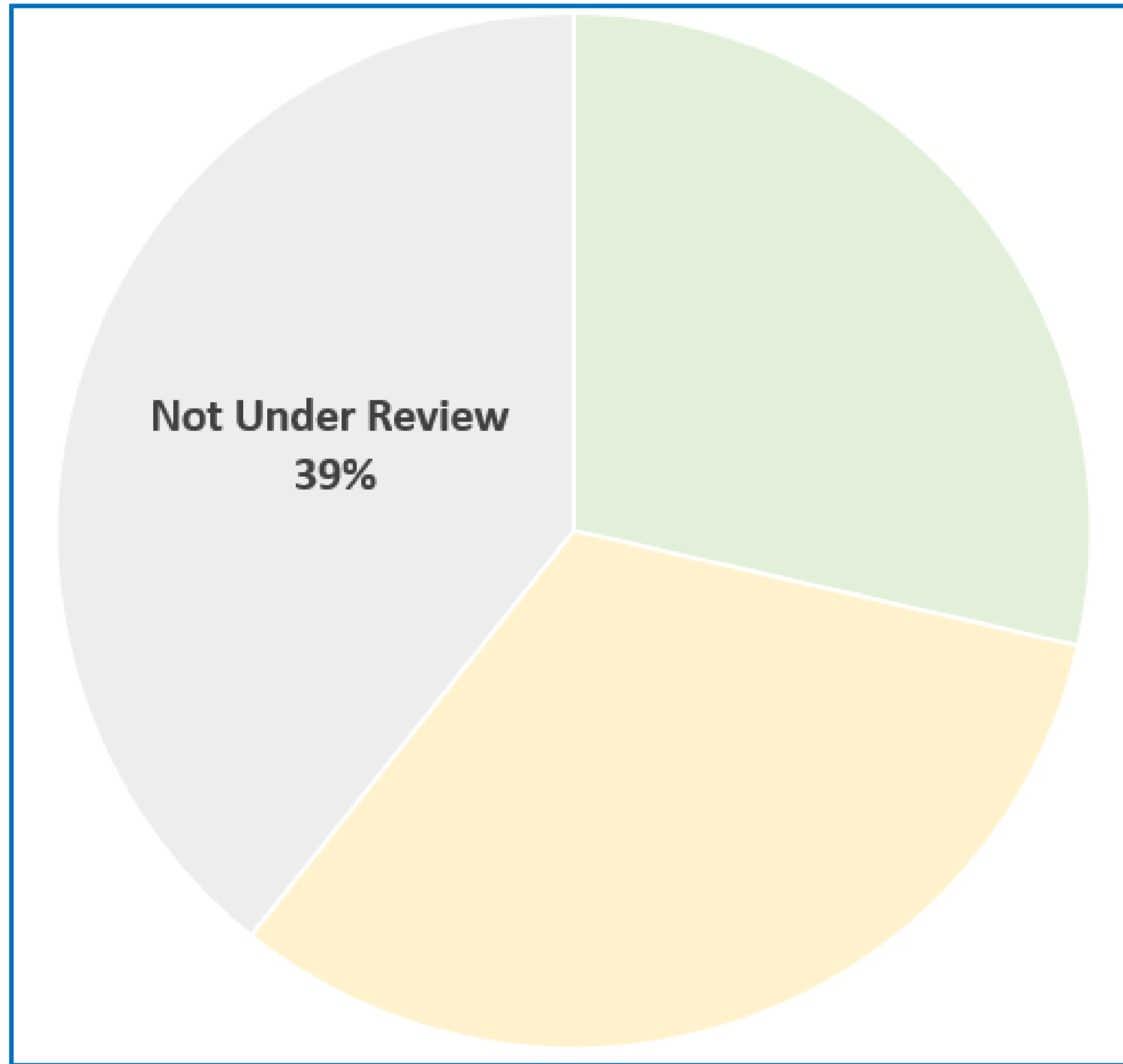
X is the current rating of the recommendation as of June 2022.

↓ in the box of the June 2021 risk rating means the risk rating as of June 2022 has been lowered

- in the box of the June 2021 risk rating means the risk rating as of June 2022 has not changed.

During April 2022 Review Cycle, Recommendations 4, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17, 20 were deemed in progress.

RECOMMENDATIONS - NOT UNDER REVIEW



5 Recommendations - High Risk Rating

4 Recommendations - Medium Risk Rating

2 Recommendations - Low Risk Rating



ODF MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Implementation



Successes



Opportunities



ODF MANAGEMENT UPDATE



IMPLEMENTATION

- Recap from ODF IMP Version 4

Total: 28 Recommendations

- 16 Active
 - 13 progressing
 - 3 recently initiated
 - 4 Pending/On Hold
 - 3 Not Started
 - 5 Complete
- Future: Aligning ODF IMP Version 5 with MGO assessments, reduction of risks, and prioritizing remaining work.



ODF MANAGEMENT UPDATE



SUCCESSSES

- Progress
- Outcomes



ODF MANAGEMENT UPDATE



OPPORTUNITIES

- Fire Funding Structure
- Recruiting
- Continued Policy Development
- Admin Modernization Program
I.T. Application Development

SHARED DISCUSSION & FEEDBACK



Work Products and Process

Information for Oversight Role

Priorities for Next Review Cycle

Areas for ODF to Prioritize

Requests for Next Presentation

July 20, 2022, Board of Forestry Testimony

Chair Kelly, members of the Board of Forestry, State Forester Mukumoto. These written comments are provided to you as part of FTLAC's statutory responsibility to advise the BOF and the State Forester on matters which affect management of the State Forest Trust Lands (ORS 526.156). FTLAC is concerned about the proposed HCP. In this letter we provide the testimony provided at the BOF meeting by FTLAC Chair and Tillamook County Commissioner David Yamamoto with figures added, as well as additional comments.

FTLAC BOF Meeting Testimony

Chair Kelly, members of the Board of Forestry, State Forester Mukumoto, Staff: I am David Yamamoto, Tillamook County Commissioner and Chair of the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee (FTLAC). I am here today representing FTLAC in order to fulfill our statutory responsibility to advise the BOF and the State Forester on matters which affect management of the State Forest Lands (ORS 526.156).

Board members, at these BOF meetings, I have heard much talk about the HCP, and FMP goals and strategies, and I have raised many questions, many not fully answered. What I have not heard much about is vision. Today, I pose to you the question: what is your vision for management of our State Forest Lands?

At the last board meeting, we heard Board Member Chambers talk about her forestry tour in Finland, sustainable forest management, and the multiple products generated from sustainably harvested timber. We also heard that simple, top-down directives threatened that sustainable economy.

I have not heard a discussion here, at the BOF, of an integrated view of what the State Forest Lands provide. Instead, there are siloed statements about narrowly defined values. Discussion of the next Forest Management Plan has centered on the number of meetings hosted and number of comments collected. The plan itself is built on at least 21 goals and a host of strategies, each seemingly developed in isolation, without consideration of the tension between goals, or overarching needs: the need support the residents in our rural communities, the need to manage lands sustainably, the need to respond to environmental changes, disturbance and climate change.

The Tillamook Working Lands & Waters Cooperative recently hosted two tours of working lands and waters in Tillamook County. On the tours, one in April for the House Energy and Natural Resource Committee, and the second in June for County Commissioners from across the State as well as several other VIP's from across the State, we saw what I think is an inspiring vision for sustainable land management. We toured farms and forests in Tillamook County managed by local residents, while producing raw materials for local manufacturing, all in a community known for its recreational value. We saw the cows that produce milk for Tillamook cheese and ice cream, and trees that supply timber to the Hampton and Stimson mills in Tillamook which makes building materials used right here in Oregon and in neighboring states. We heard from land managers who work with their neighbors to ensure community values are met, that water quality is maintained, and fish habitat restored. As a result of their work, Tillamook County is home to some of the strongest Coho runs in the state.

An alternative vision I hear at the BOF is that we should not utilize our local natural resources. We hear that use is merely exploitation. We hear that we do not need the wood products we manufacture locally. What we do not hear is that data do not support this view.

Demand for softwood lumber, the primary material produced by purchasers of timber from State Forest Lands, is driven by home building, repair, and remodeling (Figures 1 and 2). As we hear about the housing shortage facing this country, including right here in Oregon, and ever escalating housing prices, it is clear that more homes will be needed. Since the Great Recession housing starts are down. Analysis by Freddie Mac shows that the housing deficit has grown to over three million homes as of 2020¹, the number is certainly larger now. Over the decades, domestic lumber production has come to meet only a portion of our collective demand even as mills have become more efficient and able to manufacture more lumber per board foot of timber. Imports make up the difference. Looking regionally, West Coast lumber production has been generally stable, again, even as efficiency has improved, while production in the US South and imports have surged (Figure 3).

I do not have to tell you that the South and foreign countries do not have the same rigorous environmental standards we have here in Oregon. Nor should I have to tell you that increased home building will only lead to more imports unless we can sustainably source timber locally.

With all this in mind, I will turn to the decisions ahead of you for the proposed HCP and proposed FMP.

We recently learned that ODF has no financial plan to support the HCP even as all budget projections show ODF not generating enough revenue to support the department in the long run. I am stunned by this. ODF says it is pursuing an HCP to ensure management certainty. There is no certainty if there is no financial plan. Without a financial plan, ODF cannot ensure that it can continue to manage state forest lands as required by state law (ORS 530.050), it cannot provide vital revenue to Counties and Taxing Districts, and it cannot fund implementation of the HCP. I must note here that the Federal Services' HCP handbook states, "the HCP and permit... should contain a clear commitment on the part of the applicant to fund the plan...."² ODF clearly cannot make this commitment without a long-term financial plan.

Inability to fund management under the HCP is an existential threat to the department, and to rural communities in our Counties. The Counties depend on the revenue from State Forest Lands to fund essential public services. Our communities also depend on the family wage fully benefited jobs provided by timber harvest and manufacturing, and associated support services. I believe that we are reaching a tipping point in harvest levels in Oregon, below which we will not be able to sustain the skilled workforce and manufacturing infrastructure needed to maintain the sustainable production of timber in Oregon.

¹ Freddie Mac. 2020. The housing supply shortage: state of the states.

<https://www.freddiemac.com/research/insight/20200227-the-housing-supply-shortage>

² USFWS and NOAA. 2016. Habitat Conservation Planning and Incidental Take Permit Processing Handbook. Page 16-5.

In September, ODF will ask you to provide direction on the HCP. ODF will also provide you with a summary of public comments submitted as part of the NEPA process. A summary of public comments sent to the Federal Services is inadequate for you to provide direction. In addition to the public comments, you need to see the comment responses. More importantly, you need to understand why the proposed HCP is appropriate, something ODF has not been able to show.

Why the proposed HCP is appropriate is FTLAC's overarching question behind the numerous questions we have asked of ODF here in our testimony, in writing, and at FTLAC meetings with staff. ODF continues to be unable to show quantitatively that the HCP protects the economic interests of the Counties, mitigates the impacts of take under the HCP, or even what the expected take is under the HCP. ODF describes the development of the HCP only as a collaborative effort with partners – USFWS, NOAA, ODFW – notably, this list does not include the Counties. ODF has not described how science informed the development of the HCP, how impacts are quantified, or how mitigation is quantified. We have not even seen a map of where current and projected habitat is located! When we ask for this information, ODF states that it is NOAA or USFWS that does this analysis, or that there is no time for analysis due to an artificial NEPA timeline. Meanwhile NOAA and USFWS tell us this is an applicant driven process. Excuse me as I must exclaim: What a bureaucratic runaround! If ODF cannot articulate how the proposed HCP meets ESA requirements, provides management certainty, and protects the Counties' interests, I must recommend that you not support the HCP.

Board, you have the opportunity, and the duty, to consider impacts of management decisions broadly and to understand how the decisions you make ripple through the economy. State Forester Mukumoto, you have a duty under law to ensure management practices are “based on the best science available” (ORS 629-0350-0020 (3)(e)). I implore you to use this opportunity to ask what is right for the Counties and Oregon's rural communities. Ask questions that probe at why the HCP is appropriate in scale and scope. Ask, what are the scientific foundations of the proposed HCP and what analyses justify the extent of the plan. Further, ask whether a Forest Management Plan with 21 widely varying goals, some seemingly in conflict with others, with dozens of implementation strategies is appropriate for ODF.

Finally, ask yourself what is your vision for State Forest Lands?

Respectfully submitted,

David Yamamoto
Tillamook County Commission, Chair
Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee, Chair

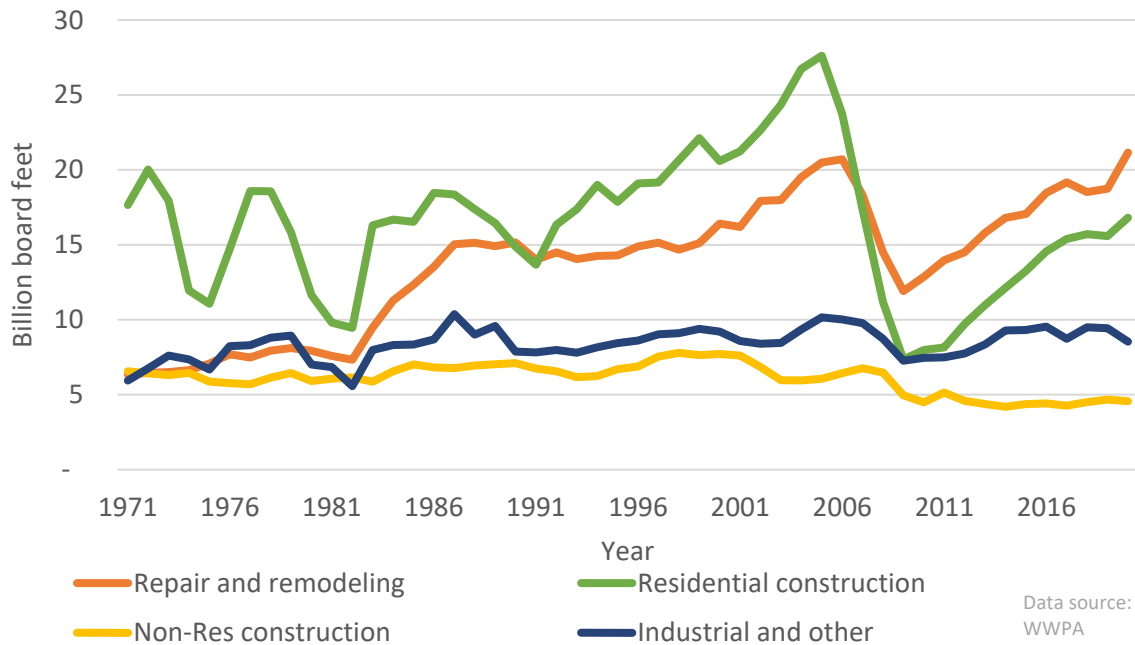


Figure 1. US softwood lumber use by sector, 1971-2020.

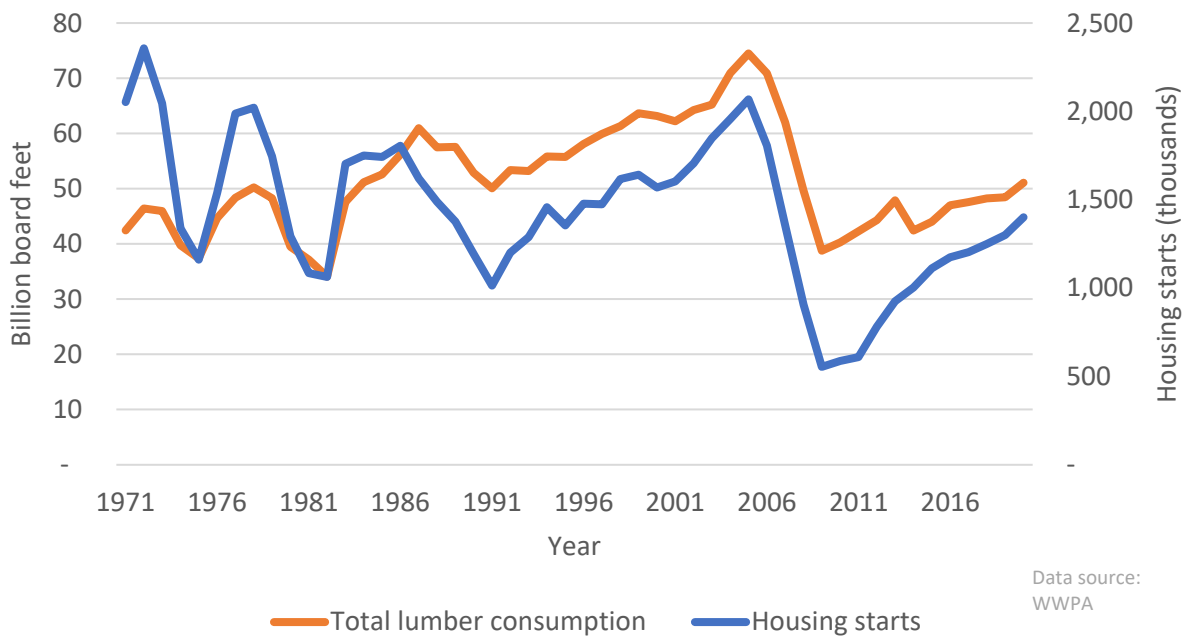


Figure 2. US softwood lumber consumption and housing starts 1971 – 2020.

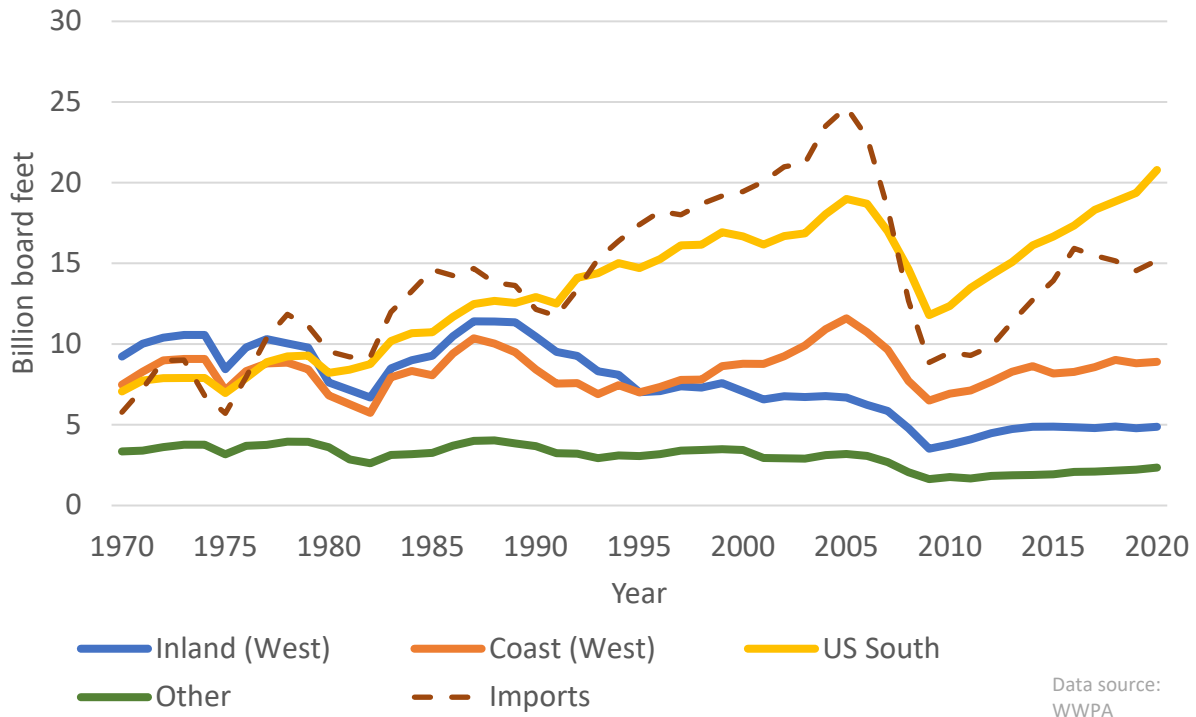


Figure 3. US softwood lumber production by region, and US softwood imports, 1970-2020.

Maintaining mills and a skilled labor force is vital to the Counties and the environment.

Decades of declining timber harvest in Oregon has put pressure on wood products manufacturers. Many communities have seen mills close, and jobs lost. Continued reductions in harvest, as projected under the proposed HCP, will only harm investment in critical manufacturing infrastructure and job training. We are reaching a tipping point where, once lost, the industry cannot recover. This will lead to the loss of not just mills, but many businesses that support these mills and provide services to mill workers. Rural communities will suffer. We have already seen this in parts of eastern Oregon and in Washington State, where the lack of mills and skilled workers results in the inability to implement needed forest management to the detriment of workers, communities, and the environment.

These losses are occurring at the same time as ODF is actively engaged in developing new uses for timber, including mass timber for modular housing. Maintaining a skilled timber management, milling, and mill services work force is necessary for innovative, environmentally sustainable projects like this to succeed. The BOF must consider the impact continued reductions in timber harvest have on the workers, and on ability of Oregon to become a world leader in sustainable building.

State Forest Lands provide vital revenue for essential services that cannot be replaced

Revenue from State Forest Lands is vital for the delivery of essential public services to Counties. Without this revenue public education, public safety, health services, and community services would suffer. Most counties that receive funds from State Forest Lands are rural and, as a result, have small tax bases.

These rural counties cannot replace revenue generated on State Forest Lands through tax increases. The impact on residents would be substantial. As a result, reduced funding will directly result in cuts to services.

Timber production on State Forest Lands provides fully benefited, family wage jobs that cannot be replaced

Timber-related jobs, from harvesting to milling, provide thousands of workers across Oregon with fully benefited family wage jobs in rural communities. Wages for these jobs exceed the average pay of private sector jobs in rural counties, according to the Oregon Employment Department. Opponents of timber harvest point to tourism jobs as a replacement for timber jobs. Jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector pay on average 60% less than that of wood products manufacturing jobs. In addition, leisure and hospitality jobs tend to be seasonal and lack benefits. While tourism can add to rural economies, it is no substitute from timber-related jobs.

The CFTLC proposed alternative has been ignored by both ODF and the Federal Services, even as both ODF and USFWS continue to support elements of the CFTLC alternative

The Counties developed an HCP proposal based on removal of barred owls and corvids (crows and ravens) to protect endangered northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets, respectively. The Counties based this proposal on scientific studies that show that removal of these threats could do more to recover these species than habitat protection alone. ODF has reported it would participate in future barred owl management and US Fish and Wildlife Service scientists have released peer-reviewed scientific papers that state northern spotted owls “face extirpation if the negative effects of barred owls are not ameliorated.”³ Nonetheless, ODF has largely ignored the Counties’ proposal and in the DEIS NOAA rejected the alternative calling barred owl removal “experimental.”

We believe the following analyses should be conducted by ODF or NOAA to determine if the CFTLC proposed alternative is appropriate for State Forest Lands:

1. Endangered species population modeling
2. An assessment of take and mitigation
3. Harvest level modeling

Unfortunately, both ODF and NOAA have not released to the public any quantitative analysis of the CFTLC proposed alternative leaving the BOF and the public uninformed of the potential benefits of the CFTLC alternative.

Thorough, transparent analysis is needed

³ Franklin, Alan B et al. 2021. Range-wide declines of northern spotted owl populations in the Pacific Northwest: A meta-analysis. *Biological Conservation* 259. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2021.109168>.

ODF should produce for the BOF and the public thorough, transparent analyses showing how scientific literature informs the conservation measures in the HCP. For example, analyses should explain how ODF justifies:

- 1) The size of HCAs
- 2) Allowing thinning for only the first 30 decades of the HCP and not providing for more flexible long-term management
- 3) Limiting salvage after disturbance even when the resulting conditions no longer provide endangered species habitat
- 4) Restricting treatment of stands affected by Swiss Needle Cast
- 5) Restricting treatment of senescing alder stands

Without these analyses and an explanation of how the proposed HCP provides management certainty and protects the Counties' interests, FTLAC cannot recommend supporting the proposed HCP.