



State of Oregon Advancing Wildfire Protection

Office of Governor Tina Kotek





State of Oregon
Wildfire Programs Director - Report 15
Advancing Wildfire Protection in Oregon

Contents

Executive Summary.....	4
Duties of th Wildfire Programs Director	5
Roles of the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council	5
Wildfire Programs Implementation Status	6

Implementation Agencies

- Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS)
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)
- Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
- Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)
- Office of Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM)
- Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
- Oregon State University (OSU)
- Public Utility Commission (PUC)
- Wildfire Programs Advisory Council (WPAC)

Executive Summary

As required by law, this implementation status report is produced by the Wildfire Programs Director every two months for the Governor, the Presiding Officers of the Oregon Legislature, and the chairs of relevant legislative committees.

Wildfire Program Highlights:

1. Oregon's Fire Adapted Community Programs: [OSFM: Wildfire in Oregon](#). The implementation of SB 82 (2023) is a pathway to partner with Oregon's insurance industry to seek long-term solutions on this challenging issue. Over 1500 Oregonians have requested on-site visits to assess their home's defensible space. Homeowners can then share these assessments with insurers, showcasing that Oregonians are taking action to reduce wildfire risk around their homes.

2. Electric Utility Wildfire Readiness: As we prepare for the 2024 wildfire season, the PUC continues to convene workshops to help utilities and first responders share best practices regarding risk-based wildfire protection and mitigation. Annual Wildfire Mitigation Plans continue to be filed with the PUC. Where the utility uses public safety power shutoffs, those plans include implementation details. [Wildfire Mitigation Plans](#). Many of the utilities are expanding their use of situational awareness tools and, in many cases, making that information available to the public. This includes weather monitoring functions such as interactive maps, as well as investing and collaborating on Oregon's wildfire camera detection system.

3. Wildfire Hazard Mapping: The next iteration of the State's Wildfire Hazard Map is underway. Town hall meetings are scheduled around the state to view draft maps, from June 3 through July 1. The WPAC and all agencies involved in community risk reduction measures will be present to answer questions from the public. The map will be complete by December 1, with adjustments directed in SB 80 (2023).



4. 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy: This effort is critical to mitigating the catastrophic risk of wildfire across our landscapes: [ODF: 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy](#). Key federal partners from the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will continue to engage with the WPAC on this effort. In support of reducing wildfire risk across Oregon's landscape and protecting public health, the Environmental Protection Agency has supported Oregon's pilot project in Deschutes County (west of Bend) to increase the use of prescribed fire.

5. Durable Wildfire Funding Questions: Strategies that preserve Oregon's adequate wildfire response capacity and advance wildfire mitigation to address the increasing threat of wildfire remain unresolved. This durable and equitable wildfire funding question has been tasked to ODF and OSFM, through SB 5701 Budget Reconciliation Measure Budget Note # 5. The first workgroup meeting is scheduled for June 3 and includes four legislators: Senators Girod and Golden, and Representatives B. Levy and Lively. This effort will be a modern look at recommendation #37 (p.102-107) of the 2019 Governor's Council on Wildfire Response Report: [Governors Wildfire Council Report](#)

6. WPAC Transitions: The Wildfire Programs are guided by the 19-member WPAC: [Wildfire Programs Advisory Council](#). The WPAC is appointed by the Presiding Officers and 2024 marks the first rotation to half of the membership on this Council. The Wildfire Programs Director will work with Presiding Officers to assist in these transitions, which are slated for September 2024.

Duties of the Wildfire Programs Director

- Oversee implementation of the Wildfire Programs.
- Coordinate activities across all wildfire implementation agencies.
- Ensure compliance with deadlines.
- Monitor and assess the equity of any financial impacts from implementation activities on local jurisdictions.
- Supervise council staff and develop director reports every two months.
- Explore current and future opportunities to reduce wildfire risk.



Roles of the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council

- Advise and assist the Wildfire Programs Director.
- Monitor Wildfire Programs implementation and evaluate agency reports.
- Advise on changes necessary to dramatically reduce wildfire risk and ensure regional defensible space, building codes and land use applications are appropriate.
- Strengthen intergovernmental and multiparty collaboration including government, stakeholders and the public.
- Assess how Oregon's wildfire risk map may inform building codes and land use laws, rules and decisions in a regionally appropriate manner.
- Assess the application of defensible space requirements to vineyards, crops and other cultivated vegetation.
- Review the findings and recommendations in the DLCD's October 2022 report and make additional recommendations to land use planning, local comprehensive plans, and zoning codes to minimize wildfire risk.
- Report every October to the Governor and appropriate committees or interim committees of the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

Wildfire Programs Implementation Status

2024

Reporting requirement Other implementation requirements.

Date	Responsible Party	Required Action	Implementation Status
Feb. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(Complete)
Aug. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(On Track)
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor/relevant legislative committees	(On Track)
Oct. 1 (at the latest)	DCBS	Must update R327 to ensure the code incorporates the standards and to make any necessary adjustments to the applicability of the standards and permitting requirements in the code	(On Track)

2025

Reporting requirement Other implementation requirements.

Date	Responsible Party	Required Action	Implementation Status
Feb. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(On Track)
Aug. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(On Track)
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor/relevant legislative committees	(On Track)

2026

Reporting requirement
 Other implementation requirements.

Date	Responsible Party	Required Action	Implementation Status
Jan. 1	Counties	Required to ensure that all lands within the county that are outside of forest protection districts and susceptible to wildfire have baseline level or higher of wildfire protection	(On Track) ODF & OSFM plan to start organizing this effort during the 2023/24 winter.
Feb. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(On Track)
Aug. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(On Track)
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor/relevant legislative committees	(On Track)

Note: OSFM biannual defensible space reporting requirement and WPAC reporting requirements do not sunset.

Thank you.

The Wildfire Programs Director's Report is made possible by the dogged leadership of Oregonians across the state, the Legislature, and the Governor's office, working together to address the rising risk of catastrophic wildfire in Oregon.



Governor Tina Kotek Wildfire Program

900 Court St NE, Suite 254

Salem, Oregon 97301