



State of Oregon Advancing Wildfire Protection

Office of Governor Tina Kotek





State of Oregon
Wildfire Programs Director - Report 17
Advancing Wildfire Protection in Oregon

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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)
- Oregon Department of 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

The Wildfire Programs are guided by the 19-member citizen council: [Wildfire Programs Advisory Council](#) (WPAC). The WPAC is appointed by the Presiding Officers, and October 11, 2024 marks the first rotation to half of the membership on this Council. The Wildfire Programs Director is grateful to all the members who have served on the WPAC, volunteering their time to ensure Oregon continues to confront the mounting challenges that come with more complex wildfire conditions across the state.

Please note updates to the “Wildfire Programs Implementation Status” section of the report includes two new reports required by the 2024 legislature: HB 2016 report on home hardening and SB 5701 Budget Note # 5 report on options for sustainably funding wildfire.

The remaining portion of the executive summary will be dedicated to summarizing the 2024 fire season which has resulted in one of the most challenging fire seasons in Oregon’s history.

To-date, wildfires across Oregon have burned over 1.9 million acres. The state’s 10-year average acres burned, for the full fire season, is 640,000 acres. Details on today’s wildfires can be tracked at: [Wildfires Dashboard \(arcgis.com\)](#), including a weather warning, which currently (September 30, 2024) calls for increased fire potential in southwest Oregon due to high winds. The morning briefings report on the [Northwest Coordination Center](#)’s website has been as complex as we have seen in Oregon’s history. Oregon’s fire season typically ends by mid-October with the fall pattern of rains setting in.



To-date, Oregon has lost 42 primary residences and 132 additional structures. Seventeen conflagrations have been initiated by the Governor to support the fighting of fires immediately threatening our population centers. Forty-six separate wildfires have threatened structures, initiating evacuation notices for over 30,000 residences. FEMA has approved twelve Oregon fires as eligible for Fire Management Assistance Grants and the state is filing for a Major Disaster Declaration to assist with recovery. A state declaration of emergency was issued for wildfire, providing access to the National Guard firefighting resources and making available state-to-state agreements for additional fire protection resources. The State’s Emergency Coordination Center was stood up to include daily calls with all county and Tribal emergency managers, all state wildfire response and supporting agencies and other partners.

Our thoughts remain with the families of fire fighters and support staff who lost their lives in Oregon’s wildfire effort this year.

In summary, Oregon is once again experiencing a historic wildfire season with tremendous losses accumulating. Gross suppression costs from ODF and OSFM have exceeded \$300 million.

The WPAC’s annual report is due to the Legislature and the Governor in October, and will no doubt shed light on the important steps forward we must consider to prepare for these increasingly complex wildfire issues.

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 DLCDC'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
Aug. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees, the WPAC and the Wildfire Programs Director	(Complete) Visit existing reports at bottom of this page: Oregon State Fire Marshal
Sept 15	DCBS / OSFM	HB 4016 (2024) directed the agencies to develop a report outlining a proposal for a proactive home hardening grant program to mitigate damage from future wildfires.	(Complete) Building Codes Division: Wildfire hazard mitigation
Oct - Nov	OSU / ODF	Final Map announced with notification letters distributed to high hazard parcels in the Wildland Urban Interface. This also initiates a 60-day appeals process that is anticipated to run through the end of the year.	(On Track) Draft Map was released on July 18 th , 2024 with the Agencies accepting public comment through August 18. Adjustments to the map are in process, based on public comment received and Board of Forestry Rule Adoption: Oregon Statewide Wildfire Hazard Map
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor/relevant legislative committees	(On Track) WPAC Meets on October 11 to finalize their report.
Dec	OSFM / ODF	SB 5701 (2024) Budget Reconciliation Measure Budget Note # 5: Requires the agencies to convene a workgroup to identify options for sustainably funding wildfire mitigation, suppression and mobilizations, land classification, and managing the intersection between forest land protection districts and structural fire protection districts.	(On Track) ODF and DSFM shall jointly present a report on the workgroup's progress to the December 2024 meeting of the Emergency Board and to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2025 legislative session.

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	(Potential Adjustments) Counties, ODF and OSFM are considering proposals to adjust this section of the law given the modernization for fire protection since the passage of SB 762 (2021).
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