



State of Oregon Advancing Wildfire Protection

Office of Governor Tina Kotek





State of Oregon
Wildfire Programs Director - Report 18
Advancing Wildfire Protection in Oregon

Contents

Executive Summary	4
Duties of th Wildfire Programs Director	4
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)
- 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

1. The Wildfire Programs are guided by the 19-member citizen council: [Wildfire Programs Advisory Council](#). One of the WPAC's responsibilities is to submit an annual report to the Legislature and the Governor; please see the 2024 report here: [Wildfire Programs Advisory Council Annual Report | October 2024](#). The WPAC has once again done a nice job summarizing their work in a consumable executive summary. The body of the report is robust and focuses in three areas: 1) community risk reduction, 2) landscape resiliency, and 3) adequate funding for mitigation and response.

2. 2024 also marks the first rotation of the WPAC's membership. Following the submission of the annual report, the Presiding Officers appointed the first rotation of new members and those selected for a 2nd term [Joint Appointment - Wildfire Programs Advisory Council 2024](#). Four members are returning for a 2nd term, while five new members will be welcomed to the WPAC in January at the first quarterly meeting of the year.

3. The Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State Fire Marshal were tasked by the Legislature through House Bill 5701 (2024) to convene a workgroup to identify solutions for sustainable wildfire mitigation and suppression funding to address the growing wildfire crisis. The workgroup will continue to meet through January to inform a progress report for legislative consideration during the 2025 session. Highlighting the critical and urgent need for durable wildfire funding solutions for the state, Governor Kotek announced on November 26 that she is using her constitutional authority to call a special session of the Oregon Legislature to begin



on Thursday, December 12, for lawmakers to appropriate funds to pay for the 2024 wildfire season.

4. The hazard map remains the final significant milestone to complete the initial workload from the passage of SB 762 (2021). Due to the requirements in law to process appeals as "contested case hearings," we have delayed the release of the state's hazard map because of logistics needed for mass printings and certified mailings. The mailings to properties in high hazard and in the Wildland Urban Interface as identified in the map, will begin on January 1, 2025. The WPAC has reviewed the mailings, as required by law, and the agencies are completing their due diligence by providing the appropriate information for citizens regarding contested case hearings, along with educational materials on defensible space, home hardening, insurance and the map itself.

5. A few other Wildfire Program highlights for this biennium's implementation include: The State's 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan continues to focus on reducing catastrophic wildfire fuels across all lands. OSFM's Community Risk Reduction Program has made great strides completing 2600 defensible space assessments, which may include eligibility to receive a \$250 payment to protect homes [Oregon Defensible Space](#). The Oregon Conservation Corps continues to employ youth through workforce development partnerships to reduce hazardous fuels across 3,800 acres and over 500 homes and businesses, reducing the threat of wildfire in Oregon.

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
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
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor/relevant legislative committees	(Complete) Posted to site.
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
Jan 1	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. Oregon Statewide Wildfire Hazard Map	(Delayed) Draft Map was released on July 18 th , 2024 with the Agencies accepting public comment through August 18.
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 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