

EPA REGION 10 SMOKE MANAGEMENT UPDATES

**for the Oregon Smoke Management Advisory
Committee**

Erin McTigue,
Smoke Management Coordinator

7/17/2024

UPDATES

1. **Regulatory updates**
2. **2024 Smoke Management conference**
3. **Deepening coordination on prescribed fire and smoke – new Task Force, pilots**
4. **EPA Resources**

Regulatory Updates

- NAAQS PM2.5 revisions
 - EPA is required to review the air quality standards every 5 years.
 - Based on health studies, air quality levels measured on a yearly basis were tightened from 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- Air Curtain Incinerators
 - April 2024: EPA removed Title V permit requirement for ACIs that burn wood waste, clean lumber, and/or yard waste.
 - Opacity limits still apply.

Annual Smoke Management in the Northwest Conference

June 11-13, 2024

Seattle and virtual

15+ years strong

Interagency planning team

Focus on the Fundamentals: Basic Smoke
Management Practices

350 registrants

Sampling of Session Topics

1. **Sharing the Airshed** - challenges and opportunities
2. **Air Curtain Incinerators** - pros, cons, barriers, benefits
3. **Communicating with the public about Rx fire and smoke**
4. **Air sensors** – unique and new approaches
5. **Learnings from an Rx burn pilot** in Bend, Oregon
6. New research on **low-cost interventions during smoke events**
7. New research on **long term exposure to PM2.5** from wildfires
8. New **forecasting** tools

Deepening Collaboration on Prescribed Fire & Smoke

2023:
U.S. Government
Accountability Office
Directs EPA to Lead
Improved Coordination
on Wildfire Smoke



The screenshot shows the GAO website header with the logo and the text 'U.S. Government Accountability Office'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for 'REPORTS & TESTIMONIES', 'VIEW TOPICS', 'VIEW AGENCIES', 'BID PROTESTS & APPROPRIATIONS LAW', and 'ABC'. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Reports & Testimonies > Wildfire Smoke: Opportunities To Strengthen Federal Efforts To Manage Growing Risks'. The title of the report is 'Wildfire Smoke: Opportunities to Strengthen Federal Efforts to Manage Growing Risks'. Below the title is the report number 'GAO-23-104723' and the publication information 'Published: Mar 13, 2023. Publicly Released: Mar 13, 2023.'. At the bottom of the page, there are four social media icons: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email.



U.S. Agencies Sign an MOU to Work Together to

- **Protect public health** from the impacts of smoke
- **Enable land management practices** that reduce risk of large, high severity fire events and restore natural fire return intervals

[2023]

PNW Leaders Agree to Collaborate

Principles

- Act with urgency.
- Protect public health, safety, property.
- Identify and overcome limiting factors to achieving implementation of prescribed fire at scale.
- Be innovative and comprehensive and apply best practices.
- Try new approaches, learn, adapt based on experience.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



Joint Statement of Intent to Cooperate on Prescribed Fire and Smoke Management

Over the past decade, wildfires have grown dramatically in size, duration, and intensity. Human populations are increasingly at risk from these wildfires and wildfire smoke, with impacts disproportionately affecting people with low incomes and communities of color, as well as sensitive populations such as children and seniors. These risks are acute in the Pacific Northwest, where many communities are proximate to landscapes where wildfire occurs and threatens public health and safety. While accumulating fuels, a warming climate, and expanding human development exacerbate these risk historic investments through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have provided unprecedented resources for federal, state, and local agencies to collaborate at the scale needed to address the risks posed by undesirable wildfire.

In a March 2023 report to Congress *Wildfire Smoke – Opportunities to Strengthen Federal Efforts to Manage Growing Risks*, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) called upon the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Secretaries of the U.S. Departments of

NORTHWEST PRESCRIBED FIRE & SMOKE MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE

Established June 2024

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS

**Deschutes National
Forest Pilot**

**Okanogan-Wenatchee
National Forest Pilot**

**Future project
TBD**

**Future project
TBD**

Pilot Projects to Increase Scale of Burns *and* Public Health Protections

- Deschutes National Forest, Oregon (2024)
- Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Washington (2025)

Deschutes Natl. Forest west of Bend chosen as pilot project for federal-state collaboration to increase prescribed burns





Forest Service

Caring For the Land and Serving People

Pacific Northwest Region

[Forest Service Home](#)

[About the Agency](#)

[Contact the National Office](#)

[Inside the FS](#)

[Home](#)

[Visit Us](#)

[Managing the Land](#)

[Learn](#)

[Working With Us](#)

[About Us](#)

Keyword Search

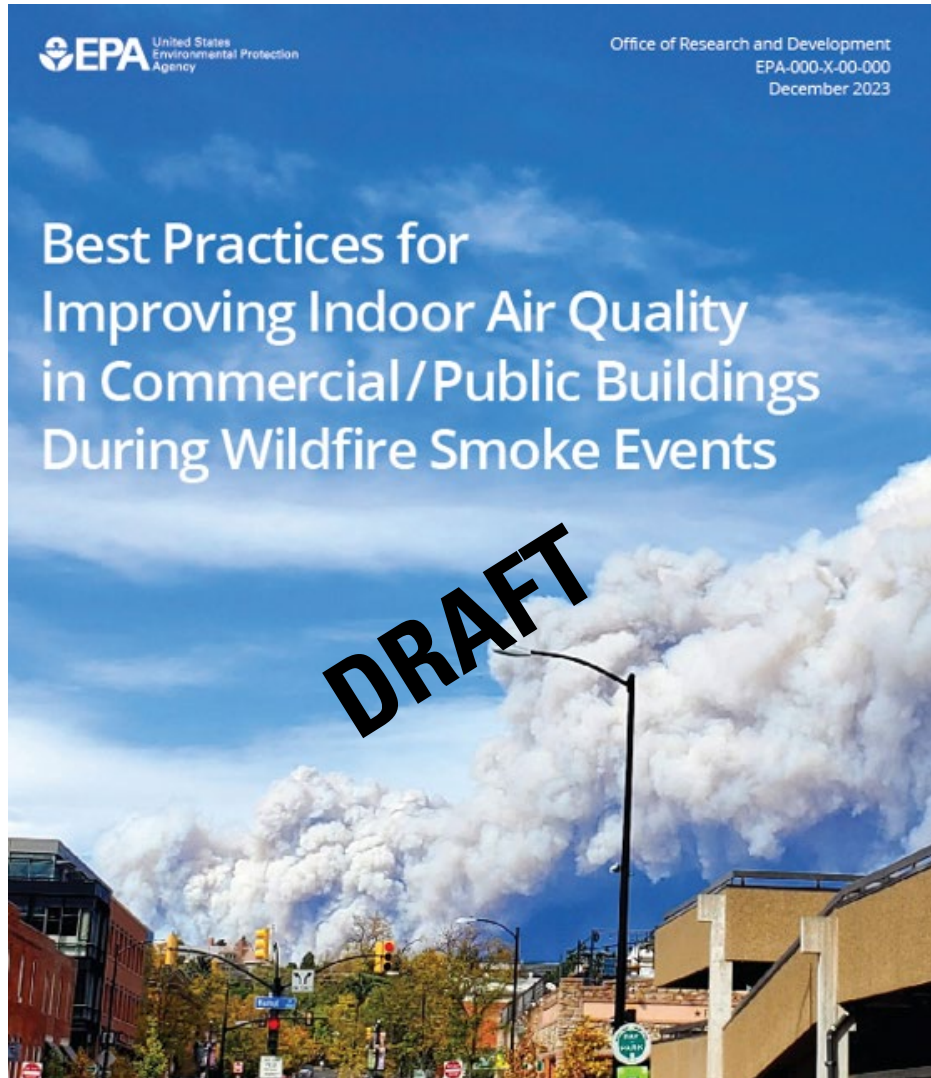


Prescribed Fire & Smoke Collaborative Management



**NEW USFS WEBSITE DETAILING
THE COLLABORATION**

Other EPA Resources



COMING SOON: **BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR INDOOR AIR IN COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

- Plain-language resource to complement ASHRAE draft guidelines
- Lessons learned from recent field studies
- Summarizes structural and operational factors that affect indoor air
- Actionable steps to improve indoor air
 - HVAC systems – improvements and recommended settings
 - Building usage and weatherization adjustments
 - Portable air cleaners
 - Air sensors

Refresh on other EPA Resources

Information Clearinghouse: [Smoke Ready Toolbox](#)

Public health outreach

- [AirNow](#) – fact sheet on heat and smoke coming soon
- [Fire and Smoke Map](#) – version 4.0 coming soon
- [Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials](#) – expansion to Rx fire topics
- [Smoke Sense App](#)
- [Smoke Ready Communities](#)

Preparedness resources

- [Clean Air Spaces](#)
- [Respirator Use](#)
- DIY Air Cleaners: [safety evaluations](#); [smoke reduction evaluation](#)

Continuing Medical Education Courses

- [Particle Pollution and Your Patients' Health](#)
- [Wildfire Smoke and Your Patients' Health](#)



Thank You

mctigue.erin@epa.gov

Email to join
R10 'Smoke and Air Updates' email
list