

Agenda Item No.:	Agenda Item B
Title of Issue:	Wildfire Risk Management Issue 7
	Objective 1 - National Fire Plan Implementation
Date Presented to Board:	November 2, 2007
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to present the Board with a final report on a process improvement initiative on National Fire Plan (NFP) implementation in Oregon. The Department recommends the Board accept the report and consider Objective 1 of the work plan completed.

BACKGROUND

On June 8, 2005, the Department presented the Board with a work plan to conduct a midcourse review of NFP implementation in Oregon. The purpose of the review was to improve the transparency in process and collaboration as envisioned by the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy.

Wildfire Risk Management, Objective 1: “Make optimum use of the opportunities presented by the National Fire Plan to enhance Oregon’s long term forest health and sustainability, through process improvement that: a) seeks to collaborate with, and clarify and define roles of local coordinating groups, and state and regional authorities; b) develops strategic direction for the prioritization of competing fuels reduction projects, community planning and education efforts; c) utilizes recently refined communities-at-risk priorities in decision-making; and d) provides fully transparent criteria and process, and involves appropriate partners in allocating limited grant monies to qualified applicants according to the priorities developed in b) above.”

On November 2, 2006, the Board received a progress report indicating the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group (PNWCG) had completed a facilitated review, made process and organizational improvements that clarified roles, allowed for improved collaboration both locally and regionally, and improved transparency in the grant award process. In the report, the Department recommended that the Board approve the continued implementation of the NFP in Oregon under the leadership of PNWCG.

The next and final step for completing Objective 1 by November 2006 was to use the improved processes through one complete grant cycle and report back to the Board.

ANALYSIS

The NFP Working Team, under a revised charter, reviewed and improved the FFY 07 Community Assistance/NFP grant process. This revision provided clarification of roles and responsibilities of state representatives (Ann Walker-Oregon; Mark Gray-Washington) involved in the federal grant process as well as improvements in the grant award process as indicated below.

- Community Wildfire Protection Plan partners and Local Coordination Groups were used to determine the most appropriate applicant, priority of projects, and provide a high level of review ensuring high quality proposals.
- Initial guidance (briefing paper) and discussions (conference calls) were set up geographically to improve transparency of the process.
- New 50% match requirement reflected collaborative commitment at local level.
- The revised process allowed for a significant workload reduction by applicants, all reviewers, and a reduction in costs associated with grant processing.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board accept this report and consider Objective 1 of the Wildfire Risk Management work plan accomplished.