



State of Oregon Advancing Wildfire Protection

Office of Governor Tina Kotek





State of Oregon
Wildfire Programs Director - Report 12
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.

Only one milestone was required during this report period. The WPAC's annual report which was broadly distributed in October. [WPAC 2023 Report](#)

The WPAC report recognized the continued effort of the Legislature to modernize fire protection in Oregon, with the passage of SB 80 [SB0080 \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](#) and SB 82 [SB0082 \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](#) during the 2023 session.

Primarily, the WPAC report is an excellent overview of the current wildfire programs implementation status and offers recommendations to both wildfire program implementation Agencies and to the Legislature for consideration during the 2024 short session.

There has been invaluable engagement between the WPAC and the implementation Agencies. As can be seen in the WPAC report, most of the recommendations are directed to the Agencies. The WPAC has proven to be a strong partnership and valued source of guidance as Agencies implement complex wildfire programs across the state. Ultimately, the Council's diverse perspectives and guidance is helping with the efficacy of overall wildfire program implementation.

Regarding legislative recommendations from the WPAC, they are consistent with previous Director reports that have identified the funding gap in wildfire programs from last biennium to the current biennium. The WPAC recommends re-investing in public health smoke mitigations, community risk reduction, landscape resiliency and durable capacity to respond to fires, along with new considerations to support electrical grid resiliency against wildfires.



The WPAC also identified a variety of policy considerations, including the expansion of the home hardening program and multiple rule advancements within the authorities of implementation Agencies.

A related key milestone during this report period was the completion of the [National Commission Report \(usda.gov\)](#). The passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law led to the creation of a Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission to evaluate the national investments in wildfire protection and report back to Congress. Oregon was fortunate to have three Oregonians represented on the Commission: John O'Keefe (WPAC Member), Mariana Ruiz-Temple (Oregon State Fire Marshal) and Gary Jackson (Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians).

The Commission's report aligns well with Oregon's sense of urgency and efforts prioritizing community and landscape resiliency mitigation measures. The Commission identified seven overarching themes that underpin and unite this body's recommendations: Investing in Resilience; Urgent and New Approaches; Collaboration; Proactive Action; Enabling Beneficial Fire; Workforce; and Modernized Tools for Decision-Making.

I expect the report will influence the continued national support to states who are prioritizing the advancements of fire protection, like Oregon has been doing.

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

2023

○ Rulemaking requirement ○ 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	(Completed) oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/Pages/Wildfire-Initiatives.aspx
June 30	ODF	Complete wildfire risk reduction projects	(Completed) \$25 million in ODF grants have been selected by diverse review committees and have treated over 150,000 acres for hazardous fuels reduction.
June 30	ODHS	Report to appropriate legislative committees/Director/Council on the status of the Clean Air Space Grant Program	(Completed) ODHS made great strides in fulfilling their mass care responsibilities during emergencies and broadening their support to communities when smoke is in the air. This effort was done in close collaboration with OHA and community care organizations across the state. 2023-sb-762-1536-report.pdf (oregon.gov)
July 15	ODF	Final report on wildfire risk reduction program to natural resources legislative committees/Director/Council/Governor	(Completed) ODF completed the 20-year landscape resiliency strategy through a collaborative process with interagency partners and a wide range of stakeholders olrs-progress-report.pdf (oregon.gov)
Aug. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(Completed) oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/Pages/Wildfire-Initiatives.aspx
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor/relevant legislative committees	(Completed) WPAC 2023 Report

2024

Rulemaking requirement
 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)
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

Rulemaking requirement
 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

Rulemaking requirement
 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