

Proposed Amendments to LC 225

January 14, 2020

- Clarification that projects are eligible to be located on both public and private land.
- Added prioritization for projects that focus on protecting public values, including human life, property, and critical infrastructure.
- Added preference for projects to involve existing forest-based contracting entities.
- ODF shall provide an opportunity for public notification and input prior to final project selection.
- Increased specificity in the monitoring and reporting subsection:
 - An interim progress report shall be submitted by ODF to the Governor and Legislature not later than December 1, 2020. The update shall summarize project selection, initial implementation outcomes, anticipated completion timeframe for selected projects, and lessons learned to date.
 - A final report summarizing project results for selected landscape(s) shall be submitted to the Legislature and Governor not later than September 2021. The report shall include a quantitative and qualitative summary of project outcomes, including acres treated, treatment actions, value of commercial timber contracted or harvested on the landscape (as publicly available), and anticipated change in landscape condition to enhance resiliency to wildfire and mitigate risk to public values. The report shall also include identification of barriers to more efficient implementation and achievement of goals for future policy recommendations, as well as recommendations for investment in future project(s) selection if approved by the legislature.
 - In development of the final report to the legislature, ODF shall work in coordination with federal land management agencies, universities, and third parties to develop consistent performance measures and condition-based metrics for monitoring and communicating the effectiveness of state investments and project actions in mitigating the risk of wildfire.
- Restriction that commercial thinning projects conducted as part of this demonstration shall not take place in the following places:
 - Inventoried roadless areas;
 - Riparian reserves and late successional (old-growth) reserves identified in the Northwest Forest Plan and BLM RMPs;
 - Wild & Scenic River corridors, National Recreation Areas, and National Monuments;
 - Critical Habitat for threatened and endangered species; and
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Wilderness Study Areas.
- Increased specificity regarding removal of barriers to use of prescribed fire and a new section requiring ODF to:
 - Review existing Standard of Care regulations for prescribed fire in Oregon and consider the implications, impacts, and potential benefits of moving Oregon's prescribed fire Standard of Care from Simple Negligence to Gross Negligence.
 - Work with relevant agencies, natural resource specialists, OSU Extension, and third parties to propose an operating framework for a voluntary statewide Prescribed Burn Manager Certification standard and program.
- Added emphasis that nothing in this legislation shall change or affect existing laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to management of private lands in Oregon.
- Appropriated funding to ODF in the amount of \$5 million to conduct demonstration projects.