



LC 83 OMNIBUS BILL ON WILDFIRE RESPONSE

IMPLEMENTING THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
WILDFIRE COUNCIL

BACKGROUND: GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON WILDFIRE RESPONSE

On January 30, 2019, Governor Brown signed an executive order creating the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response.

The Council was tasked with review of Oregon's current model for wildfire prevention, preparedness and response, analyzing whether or not the current model is sustainable given our increasing wildfire risks.

Topics to be considered include, but are not limited to:

- Funding for wildfire response
- Response to fires on protected, under-protected, and unprotected lands
- Wildfire smoke
- Assisting communities affected by wildfires
- Prevention, treatment and cost containment of wildfires

The recommendations were presented to the Governor and to the Senate Committee on Wildfire Prevention and Response in November of 2019, and the full report is available on the [Council's website](#).

2019-2020 TIMELINE OF WORK

	Jan	Mar	Apr	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan	Feb
Council Work	<p>Executive Order Establishing Wildfire Council</p>	<p>Wildfire Council Meeting 1</p> <p>Council Purpose</p> <p>Wildfire Ecology</p> <p>Wildfire Implications: <i>Environment</i> <i>Society</i> <i>Economy</i></p>	<p>Meeting 2</p> <p>Council Strategy</p> <p>Background</p> <p>Committee Work Plans: <i>Suppression</i> <i>Mitigation</i></p> <p>Council Input: Outcomes & Priorities</p>	<p>Meeting 3</p> <p>Committee Work Plan: <i>Adaptation / Recovery</i></p> <p>Committee Updates: <i>Suppression</i> <i>Mitigation</i></p>	<p>Meeting 4</p> <p>Committee Draft: <i>Suppression</i></p> <p>Council Committee Updates: <i>Mitigation; Adaptation/R</i> <i>ecovery</i></p>	<p>Meeting 5</p> <p>Finalizing Report</p>	<p>Council Concludes workplan and releases Report in November</p>	<p>Omnibus Wildfire Response Bill Draft</p>	<p>2020 Session</p> <p>February 3rd Reconvening the Wildfire Council</p>
Senate Committee Presentations						<p><i>September 16th: Introductory Presentation to the Senate Committee on Wildfire Prevention and Response</i></p>	<p><i>November 20th: Presentation of Report to Senate Wildfire Prevention and Response</i></p>	<p><i>January 14th: Presentation to Senate Wildfire Prevention and Response</i></p>	

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Utilities

Utilities shall submit wildfire risk reduction plans to the Public Utility Commission based on the level of risk in their service area.

Land Use

DLCD shall provide technical assistance to local governments to facilitate wildfire risk planning and zoning. DLCD shall coordinate a statewide map of wildfire risk.

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Defensible Space

The State Fire Marshal shall establish minimum standards for defensible space on lands susceptible to wildfire, and local governments may adopt minimum standards for defensible space.

Building Code

DLCD and DCBS will assist local governments in identifying local building code requirements that are based on local risk conditions, provide greater wildfire protection.

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Health Effects

Establishes a Task Force on Wildfire Smoke Health Effects, and directs investments in smoke filtration systems, prioritizing the most vulnerable communities, to prevent the negative health effects of particulate pollution related to wildfire.

Emergency Management

Modernizes the state's approach to wildfire, establishing six positions within OEM to respond to wildfire emergencies.

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Treatment Program

Sets a target of fuel reduction projects on 300,000 acres through thinning and controlled burning, in collaboration with federal and private landowners, through programs such as Good Neighbor Authority and the Shared Stewardship Agreement.

Protection of Land

Sets a target of eliminating jurisdictionally unprotected land by 2025 through investment in fire-fighting capacity, positions and equipment, at ODF and OSFM.

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Funding Study

Funds a third-party independent study of how the costs of fire, including large fire, are paid for in Oregon, the value and distribution of assets protected, and how other states pay for fire costs.

Joint Partnerships

Authorizes joint partnerships with federal agencies to implement recommendations.

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Council

Authorizes the continuation of the Wildfire Council to monitor progress on implementation of the Council report.

Emergency

Emergency clause declares an emergency and allows immediate action.

A New Study Warns of Increased Health Costs From Oregon Wildfires as the Climate Crisis Progresses

“Because climate change is fueling more damaging wildfires,” the study read, “these costs are poised to rise in the future if we fail to urgently respond to our climate problem.”



Wildfires Are Getting Worse, And More Costly, Every Year

A combination of climate change, federal policy and residential patterns have sent the costs of fighting wildfires soaring.



By Gabrielle Levy, Political Reporter Aug. 1, 2018, at 5:17 p.m.



Taylor Creek and Klondike Fires in the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon, August 2018. (U.S. Forest Service)

ScienceDaily

Science News

from research organizations

Wildfires in Oregon's blue mountains to become more frequent, severe due to climate change

Date: November 21, 2019

Source: Portland State University

Summary: Under a warming climate, wildfires in Oregon's southern Blue Mountains will become more frequent, more extensive and more severe, according to a new study.

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Franz, Legislators Propose Historic Investment to Protect Washington from Wildfire, Save Our Forests

News Date:
DECEMBER 2, 2019



Legislation, endorsed by Washington Fire Chiefs and American Lung Association, generates \$63 million each year to reduce state's wildfire danger



A burning question

Why was Australia's government so ill-prepared for the bushfires?

The hot dry season is getting longer and hotter than before

NEWS > BUSINESS

More than 600 new firefighter jobs proposed for California

677 new Cal Fire employees, new fire warning center, part of Newsom's budget



Firefighters confer while battling the Kincaid Fire near Geyserville, Calif., on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019. Portions of Northern California remain in the dark after Pacific Gas & Electric Co. cut power to prevent wildfires from sparking during dry and windy conditions. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)

By PAUL ROGERS | Bay Area News Group
PUBLISHED: January 13, 2020 at 9:10 am | UPDATED: January 13, 2020 at 9:13 am

The past three years — with massive wildfires setting records across California — have been rough on firefighters.

SUMMARY

Strong Report

- Diverse council, expert contributors, best practices
- Unanimous approval of 37 recommendations

Costs of Inaction > Costs of Action

- Human life and wellness, tens of billions of dollars at risk
- Action creates jobs

Oregon Not Alone

- Other western states are modernizing their approaches to wildfire

GOALS

3-Year Goals

1. Systems modernized
 - Health, Emergency, Transmission Safety, Firefighting, Land use
2. Treating 300k acres annually (20-year plan)

2020 Goals

1. Start modernization process
 - Health, Emergency, Transmission Safety, Firefighting, Land use
2. Start fuel treatment expansion
 - Maximize 2020 fuel treatments
 - Build agency capacity (suppression, mitigation) for 2021 and beyond
3. Respond to public demand for action