

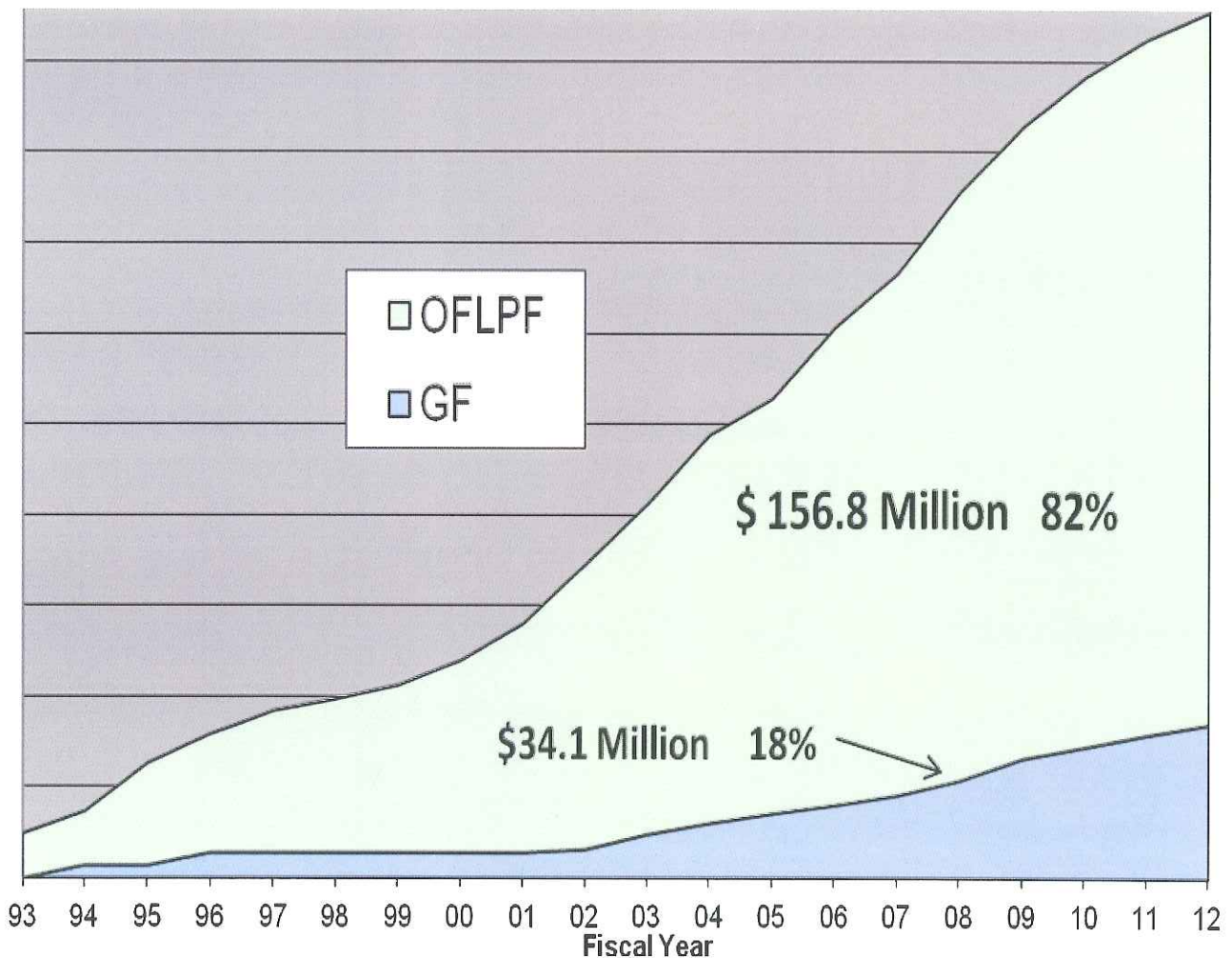


SUPPORT for HB 2050

The Wildfire Protection Act

In Oregon, basic fire protection funding at the district level is evenly shared between Landowners and the General Fund. However, actual fire suppression costs are unequally carried by the landowner through charges collected in the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF).

Since 1993, landowners have paid 82% (\$156.8 million) of the actual costs, with the GF "match" contributing 18% (\$34.1 million) of the costs. These are fire suppression costs, only, and do not include the resources destroyed by fire.



HB 2050 would move toward achieving the elusive “50-50” funding model of forest fire protection over six years, and include four components:

- Increases the expenditure limitation and purposes of the Forest Land Protection Fund from \$10 million up to \$13.5 million, enhancing Special Purpose Appropriation (SPA) resources with landowner funds for additional pre-positioning and availability of aviation and ground resources;
- Achieves GF match, in incremental increases through three biennia, to equally share actual suppression costs between landowners and the state;
- Allocates \$1.6 million GF to mitigate increasing protection costs for landowners in high-fire districts with the lowest productivity lands; and
- Reduces exposure to the GF by \$5 million through increased early-attack capabilities, enabling Oregon to lower the deductible of its unique fire insurance policy from \$25 million to \$20 million.

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