

## Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force

The Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force (NCRRTF) is designed to provide coordination and implementation for the State recovery response to catastrophic wildfires in September 2020. The NCRRTF also serves as the coordination and implementation mechanism for State Recovery Function (SRF) 7 from the March 2018 Oregon Disaster Recovery Plan. The mission of SRF 7 is “to integrate state assets and capabilities to help local governments, tribal governments, and impacted communities address long-term environmental and cultural resource recovery needs after large-scale and catastrophic incidents.” The scope of SRF 7 is to provide “guidance to state departments in aiding local and tribal partners in preserving, protecting, conserving, rehabilitating, and restoring natural and cultural resources.”

### SRF 7 objectives are to:

- Implement measures to protect and stabilize records and culturally significant documents, objects, and structures.
- Assess impacts to natural and cultural resources and identify needed protections during stabilization through recovery.
- Complete an assessment of affected natural and cultural resources and develop a timeline for addressing these impacts in a sustainable and resilient manner.
- Preserve natural and cultural resources as part of an overall community recovery.

The SRF 7 mission and guidance comprise the purpose for which the NCRRTF was created, and the task force’s objectives mirror those of SRF 7.

### **Creation of the NCRRTF**

The NCRRTF was convened by the Governor’s Natural Resources Office, and natural resources agency directors in coordination with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The task force will focus on near and long-term post-fire recovery needs, serving as the staff-level coordination and implementing entity for the recovery work in the coming months and years.

Because of the broad scope of the NCRRTF, representation includes state and federal natural resources agencies, along with cultural resources expertise. In addition, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) is engaged in the process. The task force will work with LCIS and others to determine the most appropriate and effective ways to engage the tribes in this work. Early coordination and communication will focus on assessments and stabilization, while continuing to plan for long-term natural

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resources recovery in the coming years. The NCRRTF is co-convened by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Co-conveners are Kyle Abraham (ODF), Renee Davis (OWEB), and Keith Andersen (DEQ).

### Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force Representation

Agency / Role	Lead, Staff	Others Engaged
OWEB / Co-Lead	Renee Davis, Eric Williams	
ODF / Co-Lead	Kyle Abraham, Eric Hartstein	
ODA	Stephanie Page	
ODFW	Davia Palmeri, Shaun Clements	
DEQ	Keith Andersen, Justin Green, Valerie Thompson	
OPRD	Trevor Taylor, Eric Timmons	
OPRD-SHPO	Chrissy Curran, Ian Johnson	
WRD	Racquel Rancier, Bryn Hudson	
Regional Solutions Liaison	Alex Campbell	
Equity Advisor	TBD	
LCIS Tribal Liaison	Danny Santos	
Communications Support	Chris Havel/Jo Niehaus (OPRD)	
OHA	Andre Ourso, Curtis Cude	
ODOT	John Raasch, Susan Haupt	Patti Caswell, William Lackey
OSU Extension	Carrie Berger, Daniel Leavell	
Recreation Liaison	Cailin O'Brien-Feeney (Office of Outdoor Recreation)	
NRCS	Jason Jeans, Amanda Moore, Cory Owens	
USFS	Lynn Burditt, Chad Davis	
BLM	Tony Selle, Scott Lightcap, John Wilson	
BIA	TBD	
FEMA	Anna Daggett, Kelsey Madsen	
EPA	Krista Mendelman (?)	Tony Barber

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The NCRRTF will utilize sub-groups for focused work to advance key components of the scope (e.g., cultural resources), and to develop the necessary coordination structures (e.g., task force coordination with basin-level work groups). These subgroups will be further described in future versions of this document.

### **Three Phases of Fire recovery:**

1. Suppression Repair – conducted by Fire Teams (ongoing short-term) – Outside of the scope of NCRRTF
2. Assessment and emergency stabilization (ongoing short- and mid-term) – Within NCRRTF scope
3. Longer term post recovery – all lands approach (long-term 3-5 years) – Within NCRRTF scope

Note: Cultural Resources coordination is needed in all phases, including close coordination with tribes.

### **Initial Priorities**

- Compile assessment of recovery needs by fire/ownership and statewide.
- Identify potential debris torrent and other public safety risks.
- Identify priority drinking water source areas, areas for soil stabilization and slope stability based on erosion potential, and areas of potential risk to cultural resources.
- Align and leverage funding sources.

### Short-term (within 3 months)

- In coordination with BAER, ESR, and ETART processes, compile assessment of recovery needs by fire/ownership and statewide; examples include:
  - Burned acres/burn severity,
  - Burned riparian areas,
  - Burned protected resources, and
  - Cultural resources at risk.
- In coordination with BAER, ESR, and ETART processes,
  - Identify and prioritize areas to reduce sediment delivery risks to water quality/infrastructure.
  - Identify priority areas for natural resource restoration, e.g., riparian areas and aquatic resources.
  - Identify potential debris torrent, public safety risks.
  - Identify priority watersheds for drinking water source areas.

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- Identify areas with high concentration of cultural resources at risk.
- In coordination with Interagency Leadership, identify appropriate local structure and interconnection with task force to develop local priorities.
- Articulate sideboards for cost-share programs (e.g., eligibility, practices, duration) and identify opportunities to leverage these programs.
- Develop communications plan for task force.
- Integrate task force communications plan with broader interagency communication structures.
- Establish regular communication and coordination with the Debris Management and Disaster Housing Task Forces to ensure complementarity and avoid redundancy.
- Establish regular communication and coordination with the Office of Outdoor Recreation to ensure complementarity and avoid redundancy.

### Mid-term (3 months to 1 year)

- Complete recovery action plan for natural and cultural resources by fire/ownership and statewide.
- Coordinate with Office of Outdoor Recreation's interagency group about recreational infrastructure recovery planning in high-use areas (e.g., Santiam Canyon, McKenzie, North Umpqua).
- Identify opportunities to develop restoration/reforestation nursery capacity.
- Identify priority locations for engineered structures to minimize erosion/debris torrents, in lieu of immediate reforestation or possibly in parallel with reforestation.
- Coordinate with other interested parties.

### Longer-term (1 to 5 years)

- Coordinate implementation of recovery action plan for natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
- Complete a review of NCRRTF process.
- Coordinate with interagency fire recovery monitoring and research team.

### Other (Across all timeframes)

- Develop capacity (i.e., people and funding) to help support this work in the short and long term. (Note: FEMA currently is convening a funding subgroup of FEMA, OWEB, NRCS, ODF, FHWA, and USACE.)
- Develop legislative concepts.
- Identify opportunities to secure restoration materials.