



## HEATHER BUCH

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Lane County Commissioner  
East Lane District  
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September 23, 2002

House Interim Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery  
Representative Paul Evans, Chair  
Oregon Legislature  
900 Court St. NE, Room 453  
Salem OR 97301

Chair Evans and Members of the Special Committee:

In addition to my verbal remarks for today's hearing, I wanted you to be aware of a bit more detail on the overall fiscal end with respect to the Holiday Farm Fire recovery efforts. With the exception of commercial insurance pay-outs, for which Lane County does not have specific data, the total amount of dollars received into Lane County for recovery efforts from state, federal, philanthropy, and local investments is approximately \$53.5M to date. Of those total dollars, approximately \$19M is dedicated for watershed restoration, \$14M is for infrastructure, \$12M for individual assistance, \$6M for housing, \$2M for healthcare, and \$1M for recovery coordination.

Lane County is now working through recovery efforts with the following state agencies; OBDD, DLCDD, DCBS, ODOE, ODOT, OHCS, OEM/DEM, DAS, DEQ, DHS, the Governor's Office, and Oregon Solutions. That is over ten state agencies. Each agency does have its own culture and willingness to collaborate, and its own policies and procedures. Each seems genuinely wanting to help our communities recover, but my observation is that going forward, Oregon clearly has to decide who is in charge of recovery. Each agency has administrative overhead associated with each appropriation, and some are must faster at getting dollars delivered than others. For future recovery efforts, I hope we can figure out how to streamline recovery under one, or at most two agencies.

While \$53M is an enormous amount of money, we do anticipate at least that much need as we continue through future Holiday Farm recovery efforts. I have attached to this letter a separate document that outlines some of the priority projects and estimated costs (some yet to be determined), that we are committed to complete.

Sincerely,

Heather Buch  
Lane County Commissioner, East Lane District

**Holiday Farm Fire Program and Project Needs**

**DRAFT**

September 1, 2022

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project or Program Description</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Administrative overhead	Multiple	5% Administrative Overhead (off top of \$7.9M)	\$400,000
Disaster Relief Logistics Center	McKenzie Fire and Rescue	The Disaster Relief Logistics Center is designed to be used as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in a large-scale emergency event. The building will have logistical storage for items such as non-perishable food, water, hygiene items, sleeping bags for community members and items required for wildland firefighting, flooding, earthquakes, etc. It will have a back-up generator and/or solar power system in cases of power outages, pallet jack or small forklift for managing supplies delivered on pallets, commercial shelving to store heavy or multiple items, exterior enhancements to the building including oversized parking area for large apparatus, and security fencing and gate.	\$1.4 million
Fire Suppression Water Storage Tanks	McKenzie Fire and Rescue	McKenzie Fire and Rescue has relied primarily upon drafting water from sites in area canals, ponds, and the McKenzie River to support fire suppression and training. While this practice has been successful for many years, the District is no longer able to utilize the majority of the drafting sites. Strategically locating several 15,000-gallon water tanks in critical areas will provide water for engines and tenders during significant incidents. The tanks are designed for one-person operation, thereby allowing critical response units to remain on scene.	\$600,000
Blue River Fire Station & Equipment	Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District	The fire district received \$2.1M (GF) from the 2021 Legislature. Funding request here is to complete reconstruction and equip totally destroyed firehouse.	\$2M
Blue River Road Repair	Lane County	Lane County Public Works has identified 9 road projects within the fire-affected area of Blue River that require repair in order to serve the basic needs of residents.	\$10.5 M
County Road Repair	Lane County	Lane County Public Works has identified 20 county road related projects outside of Blue River that were impacted mostly by heavy equipment moves that now require repair.	\$8.5M
Economic Recovery Plan	Lane County	The Holiday Farm Fire destroyed more than 10 businesses that have yet to rebuild and damaged numerous other businesses. It has also significantly impacted businesses undamaged by the fire as workers who lost their homes have been unable to return to the area. The County proposes contracting with a skilled consultant to provide necessary, dedicated expertise to assessing all barriers to economic recovery and develop a comprehensive plan for economic recovery.	\$250,000

Behavioral Health Services	Lane County	Holiday Farm Fire survivors experienced a tremendous amount of trauma from the fire that went through their community. Although the fire happened in 2020, many in the community continue to struggle with their mental health and well-being. In 2022, the County completed a behavioral health assessment to better understand the needs of Holiday Farm Fire survivors. The County is seeking funding to begin enacting the recommendations laid forth in the assessment.	\$75,000/yr
PIER Administrative Support .5FTE	Lane County	The Holiday Farm Fire Recovery Program has limited County administrative staff available to help with administrative tasks, so they fall on the shoulders of the Recovery Manager and Recovery Grants Manager. We are seeking funds to hire a part-time Administrative Support staff who could support the program with a wide variety of administrative tasks	\$50,000/yr
Eagle Rock Park	Lane County Parks	All park amenities and features were destroyed during the Holiday Farm Fire. The National Park Service is providing Planning and Public Outreach for project identification and conceptualization. Identified potential improvements include non-motorized river access, volunteer host campsite with utilities, parking lot, vault restroom, changing area and lockers, small pavilion, park benches, trails, signage, and reconfigured entrance road. Parks requests funding for the final design, permitting, and construction of the identified improvements.	\$500,000
Forest Glen Park	Lane County Parks	All park amenities and features were destroyed during the Holiday Farm Fire. The Oregon State Marine Board is providing Archeological Survey & Wetland Delineation services. Identified potential improvements include upgrades/replacement of three existing boat ramps, site grading and stabilization, parking lot, double vault restroom, wayfinding and information signage, fire memorial signage, and accessibility improvements. Parks requests funding for the final design, permitting, and construction of the identified improvements.	\$1 million
Helfrich Landing	Lane County Parks	Only moderately affected by the Holiday Farm Fire, Helfrich Landing is significant as it is the first launch downstream of Marten Rapids. The landing therefore sees heavy use and the amenities are in need of improvement and expansion to the existing parking lot and boat ramps. Parks requests funding for the final design, permitting, and construction of the identified improvements.	\$300,000
Finn Rock Boat Ramp	McKenzie River Trust	Landscape restoration, accessibility, and safety improvements (including permitting)	\$250,000

Fiber Backbone and Blue River Conduit Project	EWEB	Loss of communications for emergency responders and residents during and after the Holiday Farm Fire posed immediate public safety risks and hampered recovery efforts. High speed fiber to the school would support on-line and remote learning, while fiber to downtown medical, library and potentially residences would improve the economic vitality of the area, allowing more remote work and telemedicine appointments which are critical to rural communities.	\$1.5M
Policy and Planning Position	Homes for Good	The future of McKenzie areas businesses and the school depend on affordable housing and affordable rental housing. Funding a FTE specifically dedicated to McKenzie area housing projects will expedite the process and support Holiday Farm Fire Recovery.	\$100,000
Blue River Municipal Water Line Replacements	Blue River Water and Sanitation District	The Oregon legislature allocated funds to support the reconstruction of the domestic water system in Blue River. Given recent inflationary pressures on construction, it is unclear whether the current allocation will be sufficient to complete the project as planned.	TBD
McKenzie River Discovery Center	MRDC	MRDC has been awarded \$3.5M in lottery backed bonds against a \$6.5M capital project to develop the site, repair the historic Leaburg Fish Hatchery, and create a central exhibition structure.	\$3M
Blue River Community Wastewater System	Blue River Water and Sanitation District	The Oregon legislature allocated funds to support the construction of a waste water treatment system in Blue River. Given recent inflationary pressures on construction, it is unclear whether the current allocation will be sufficient to complete the project as planned.	TBD
Electric Distribution Wildfire Mitigation	Lane Electric Co-op	Placeholder – Seeking details from Lane Electric regarding their plans to underground electric service to customers during the course of reconstructing homes	TBD
Quartz Creek Culvert replacement	Eugene Water and Electric Board	Placeholder-Seeking details from EWEB regarding plans to improve this culvert to address additional post-wildfire runoff expectations	TBD
Child Care Facility	Blue River School District	Remaining gap required to fund construction of a child care facility and food pantry in Blue River	\$250k
Lane County Staff	Lane County Land Management Staff	Referencing Table 12, Action Plan, the County continues to seek sustainable funding for Building Official, Plans Examiners, and Inspectors. Is this PIER or HOP/HARP	\$350K/year

Federal grant matching funds	TBD	Given the unique power of CDBG-DR to be used as “local match” for other federal grants, set aside some portion of the total to be used as leverage for other federal funding sources.	?
Recovery planning and permitting	DEQ	Funding set-aside for Oregon DEQ recovery-related planning and permitting processes	TBD
Recovery planning and zoning	DLCD	Funding set-aside for Oregon DLCD recovery-related planning efforts, re-zoning, and associated tasks	TBD

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