

## 3/8/21 House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery

### RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM CHAIR CLEM

The Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force (NCRRTF), representing State Recovery Function 7, is pleased to provide the following responses to Chair Clem's at the 3/8/21 House Committee presentation. Chair Clem posed the following questions:

- 1) What land ownerships need help with stabilization, restoration, and reforestation, taking into consideration replanting requirements such as those under the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA)?
- 2) What subset of these needs are included in the estimated \$57 million cost estimate for stabilization, restoration, and reforestation activities described in the presentation to the committee?
- 3) What additional, detailed information is available about the cost estimates?
- 4) Do opportunities exist for salvaged wood from state owned lands and/or private lands to be utilized to assist with rebuilding, given the high lumber cost facing survivors who are rebuilding home?

Answers to questions 1-3 were submitted earlier. The following answer to question 4.

#### **Response to Question 4**

The relative benefit of directing salvaged logs from state owned and or private lands explicitly for survivors who are rebuilding is limited. This is due to several factors most notably the additional cost and logistical challenges of directing and tracking salvaged logs through processing and subsequent allocation. Alternatively, it would be more efficient in terms of cost and expediency to provide direct subsidies to homeowners seeking to rebuild. This benefit could be indexed according to need (e.g., income, loss, insurance, etc.). An additional factor to consider is the diversity of need relative to rebuilding specifically in terms of specification and the differential materials that will be utilized across the spectrum of Oregon rebuilding. The lack of uniformity challenges the relative capacity of targeted materials produced in the processing salvage materials.

There is a project underway that has received support from several Oregon agencies and organizations that is evaluating the capacity of utilizing mass plywood in the development of low cost, high value modular housing. This pilot project has a near term focus in serving as a carbon smart and preferred alternative to FEMA emergency housing with a long-term interest in serving broader housing cost and availability needs. However, this work is still in the early stages of development and by nature is presently narrow in terms of market focus and product specifications. Within this work there is discussion of utilizing salvage material, but it remains uncertain whether the project timeline will sufficiently correlate with available salvage materials.

As Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) works to remove hazard trees this question has come up. There have been a lot of ongoing conversations about how hazard trees can be donated to be made into building materials for those working to rebuild. The concept has potential, but all the pieces have not come together yet. The biggest hurdle being who can help administer the process, make the connections with the lumber mills, and more importantly who will manage the distribution of the building supplies to those that need it most.