

## **WILDFIRES IN OREGON – THE NEED FOR ACTION**

- Since 2015, nearly \$1.5 billion has been spent fighting fires in Oregon.
- In 2020, Oregon's wildfires burned more than 1 million acres. More than 4 thousand homes were destroyed, Oregonians were displaced, and lives were lost.
- Senate Bill 762B takes a comprehensive approach to improve **resiliency** of our lands and communities and to improve Oregon's ability to **prevent, mitigate and respond** to wildfires.

## **SENATE BILL 762B - PROACTIVE POLICY**

With ongoing input from a broad range of local government, private sector and other key stakeholders, the program established by SB 762 will *customize for Oregon* the general elements of the International Wildland Urban Interface (IWUI) Code, the foundation of most wildfire management programs around the world.

## **IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH ONGOING STATEWIDE COLLABORATION**

Throughout rulemaking and implementation, stakeholder involvement will be substantial and thorough, both requiring and inviting broad participation.

ODF will utilize a Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC) to develop the **Statewide Map of Wildfire Risk**. The RAC will consist of experts at risk assessment, on-the-ground-local protection plan groups, agency representatives, and other stakeholders and interested parties.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OFSM) will convene a thorough vetting process to develop and implement minimum **defensible space** standards. Throughout the process stakeholder groups will propose code and implementation plans which will then be considered through an administrative rulemaking process.

The Building Codes Division will utilize the Residential and Manufactured Structures Board as the RAC and will seek public input to adopt wildfire **hazard mitigation building code standards**.

To create **local comprehensive plans and zoning codes** to incorporate the statewide map of wildfire risk the Department of Land Conservation and Development will see state agency and local government input.

The **Wildfire Programs Advisory Council** created by Senate Bill 762 will be an 18-member stakeholder group charged with oversight and implementation and can make additional recommendations on future land use application policies.

Five members of the Council will be appointed by the Governor and 13 will represent 13 stakeholder groups (with local government input) to monitor policy implementation, provide advice on modifications and regional applications and ensure successful programs to prevent, mitigate and respond to wildfires.

## **OVERVIEW**

- The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) will create state-wide, publicly available, map of wildfire risk; incorporating information such as risk classes, wildland urban interface (WUI) interaction;
- The bill creates wildfire prevention policies, including community driven restoration of forests and rangelands, ignition resistant materials requirements for new construction within high-risk zones;
- New defensible space standards, and financial resources to enact those policies, will be created;
- Electric utility systems will be established for use prior to and during wildfire events;
- Wildfire smoke protections will be provided for vulnerable communities;
- Firefighter capacity, including air defense resources, will be increased to improve response and safety;
- Youth and workforce training programs will invest in future firefighters and land managers.
- Agency business systems and oversight ensuring appropriate cost controls, prudent financial management, oversight and reporting.