



OREGON WILDFIRE FUNDING WORKGROUP

Senate Interim Committee on Natural Resources & Wildfire



The Oregon Department of Forestry and Department of the State Fire Marshal were tasked by the Legislature through House Bill 5701 (2024) to convene a workgroup to identify solutions for sustainable wildfire mitigation and suppression funding to address the growing wildfire crisis.

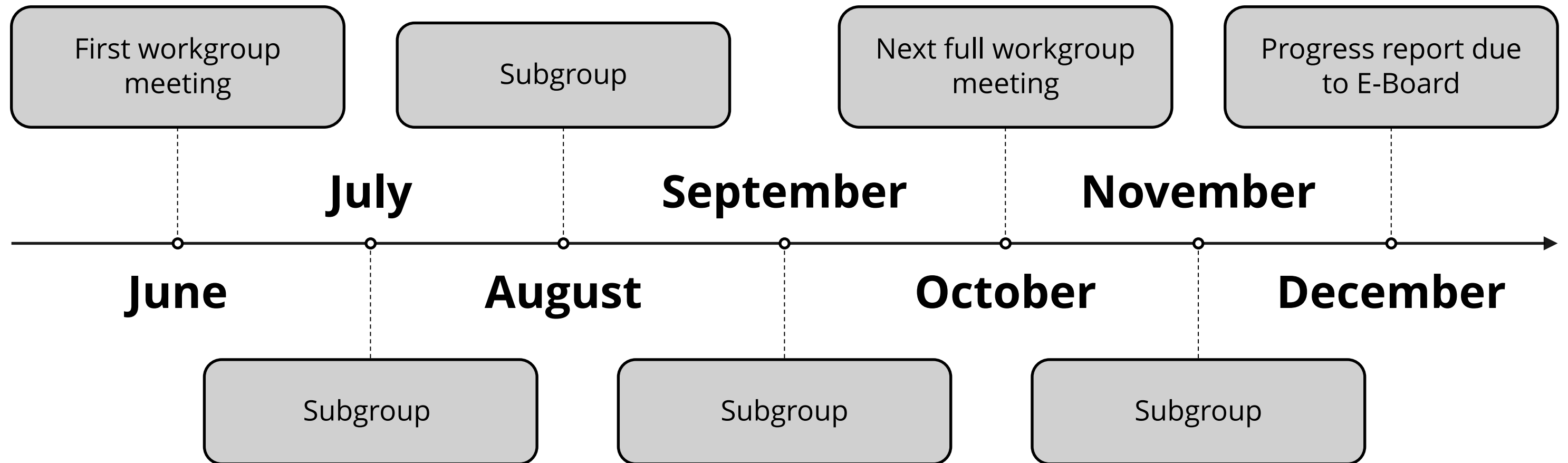


The need for a sustainable and equitable funding structure for wildfire response and mitigation has never been more urgent. The way response and mitigation are currently funded is inadequate to address the growing complexity and cost of wildfires Oregon faces today, which impacts public health and safety, community well-being, and the state's economy.

Workgroup members represent a wide range of partners and will work closely with the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council. The agencies will report on the group's progress to the Emergency Board in December and during the 2025 Legislative Session.

TIMELINE

Oregon Wildfire Funding Workgroup



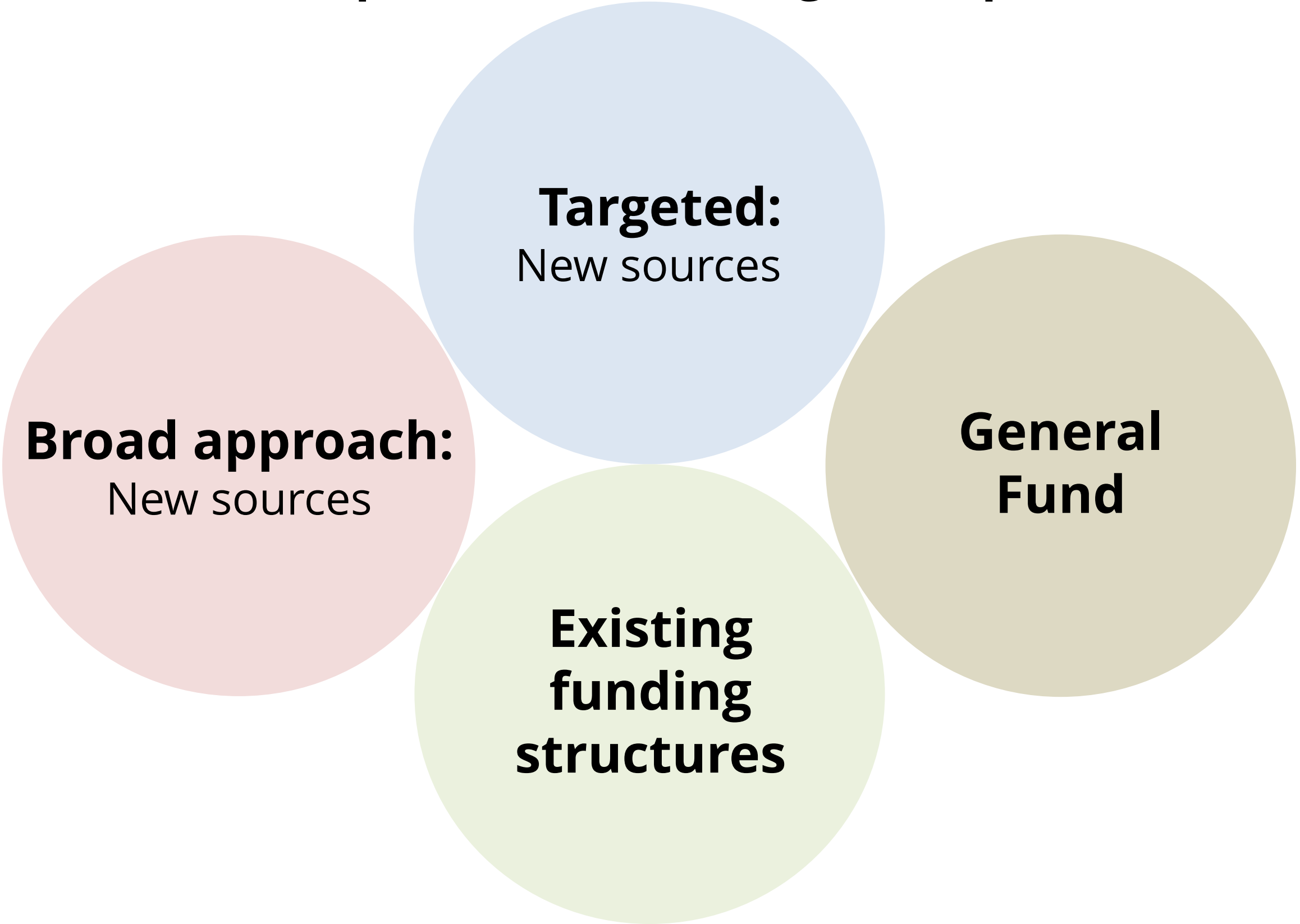
PRINCIPLES

Oregon Wildfire Funding Workgroup



- **Long-term and durable** funding for wildfire response and mitigation should be a priority investment for the state.
- Funding solutions should ensure **financial solvency of agencies' wildfire programs**.
- **Mitigation and response are interdependent** functions of the cohesive wildfire strategy, and both need to be adequately funded.
- Funding solutions should align with response and mitigation costs and reflect **shared responsibility and benefits among all Oregonians and visitors** to the state.
- Wildfire response and mitigation strategies should consider **equitable, affordable and sustainable contributions** from payees into the system, including in-kind contributions.
- Funding strategies should aim to **maintain high standards of service** (meeting missions for protecting life, property, and natural resources).

Comprehensive Funding Concept





October, November, and December:

- Group will review potential solutions
- Examine opportunities from the four source buckets
- Cross-walking over to the agencies' stated needs
- Articulate the group's findings and recommendations
- Draft Report to:
 - Capture the process and ideas
 - Group's recommendations
 - Items that need further analysis
- Legislators will be invited to offer feedback to the group