

WILDFIRE FUNDING WORKGROUP

Emergency Board – Public Safety Subcommittee

Mariana Ruiz-Temple
State Fire Marshal

Doug Grafe
Wildfire Programs Director

Kyle Williams
Deputy Director



OREGON'S WILDFIRE EFFORTS

2013

Wildfire
Protection
Act

2015-2016

Funding
Working
Group

2019

Brown's
Wildfire
Council

2021

Senate Bill
762

2022

ODF Fire
Funding Task
Force

2023

HB 2522
SB 80
HB 4133

2024

Budget
Note 5



WILDFIRE FUNDING WORKGROUP

- The Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon 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.
- Workgroup members represent a wide range of partners and work closely with the Governor's Wildfire Programs Advisory Council.



MEMBERSHIP

Oregon Wildfire Funding Workgroup



Alan von Borstel, **Oregon Wheat Growers League**
Anne-Marie Storms, **Oregon Fire Marshals Association**
Armando Martinez, **Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw**
Barry Bushue, **Bureau of Land Management**
Bill Boos, **Special Districts Association of Oregon**
Bill Terry, **Consumers Power Inc.**



Branden Pursinger, **Association of Oregon Counties**
Brennan Garrelts, **ODF's Emergency Fire Cost Committee**



Brian Stewart, **Oregon Fire Chiefs Association**
Carrie Nyssen, **American Lung Association**
Casey Kulla, **Oregon Wild**
Chris Edwards, **Oregon Forest Industries Council**
Dylan Kruse, **Sustainable Northwest**
Eric Kranzush, **Giustina Land & Timber Co.**
Frank Day, **Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association**
Genoa Ingram, **Oregon Fire District Directors Association**
Lauren Poor, **Oregon Farm Bureau**

James Hall, **Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**

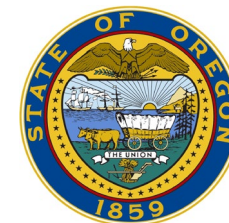
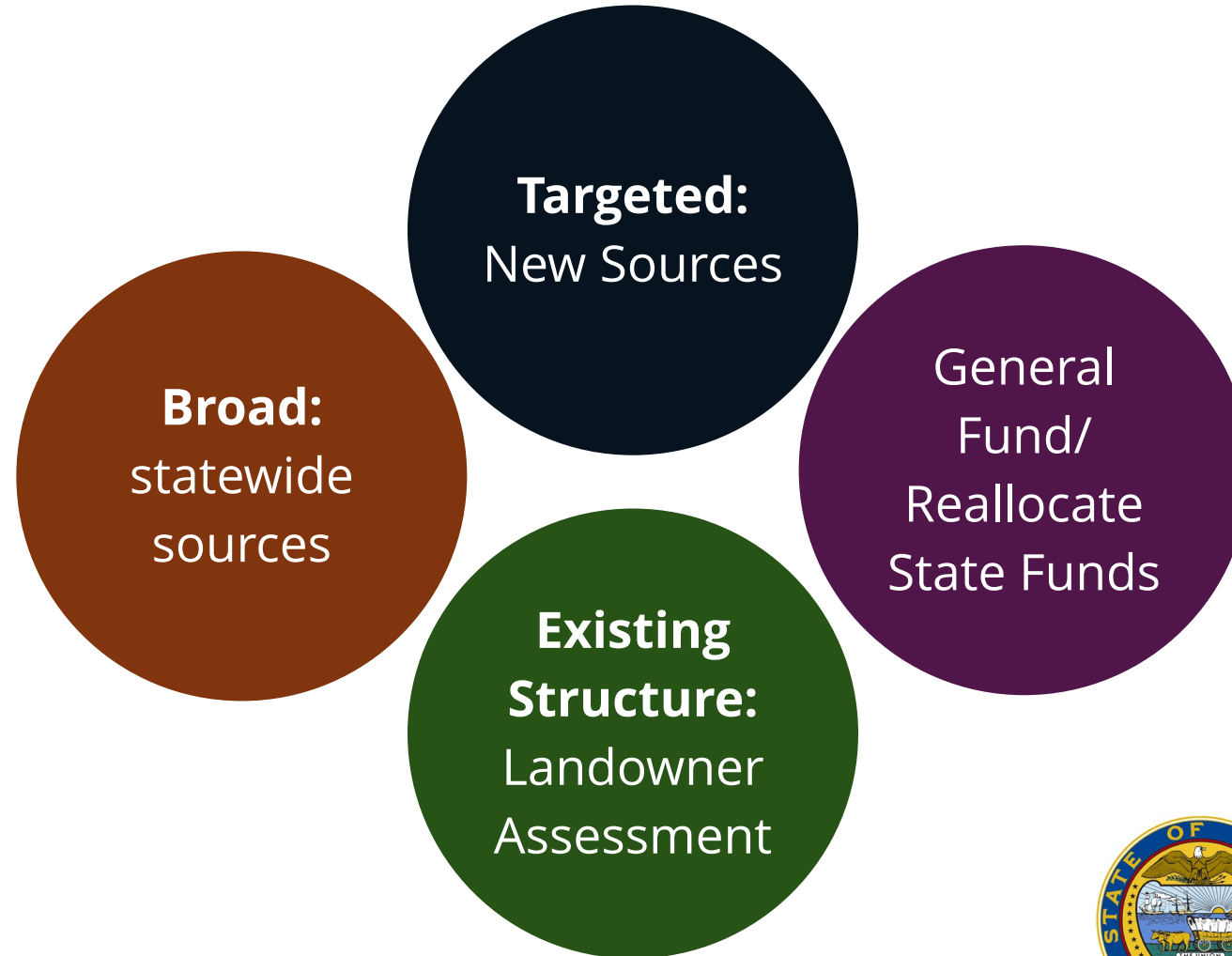
Jim McCauley, **League of Oregon Cities**
John Davis, **Green Diamond**
Jonathan Fink, **Portland State University**
Karl Koenig, **Oregon State Fire Fighters Council**
Kenton Brine, **NW Insurance**
Kyle Smith, **The Nature Conservancy of Oregon**
Lon Matheny, **Coquille Indian Tribe**
Mari Kramer, **Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians**
Mark Bennett, **Wildfire Programs Advisory Council**
Matt McElligott, **Cattlemen's Association**
Monte Bryan, **Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians**
Pat Skrip, **Operating Forest Protective Association**
Roger Beyer, **Oregon Small Woodlands Association**
Scott Spaulding, **Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation**
Steve Warden, **Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**
Suzanne Seattle, **Burns Paiute Tribe**
Tim Sexton, **Klamath Tribes**

WORKGROUP SHARED PRINCIPLES

- 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



WORKGROUP PROGRESS

Alternative funding strategies—Started with nearly 70 ideas, narrowed down to about 20

Barriers to implementation

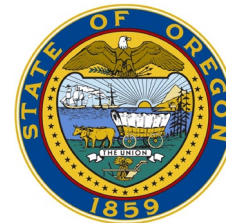
- Financial burden to and equitable contributions from payers
 - Political considerations
- Difficulty of adoption & implementation
- Size of financial contributions
- Avoiding double taxation and more

Sustainability risks—One-time infusions vs. ongoing funding



THEMES

- This is a priority, complex topic that needs comprehensive solutions
- Sustainability and affordability are critical
- Agency solvency required
- Modernizing Oregon wildfire funding
- Must be proactive and invest in prevention, community risk reduction, and landscape resilience



NEXT STEPS

- Workgroup continue to refine strategies in January
- Work to gain alignment where possible on strategies and options
- Work with legislators, workgroup, and the executive branch during the 2025 session on strategies

