

# Senate Committee on Natural Resources

## Wildfire Community Risk Reduction in Oregon



Oregon State Fire Marshal  
January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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# Today's Topics

Wildfire Community Risk Reduction  
Program Overview

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Oregon State Fire Marshal's work  
to date

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Future Vision of Community Risk  
Reduction

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Grant Program

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Online Public Outreach

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# Wildfire Community Risk Reduction in Oregon



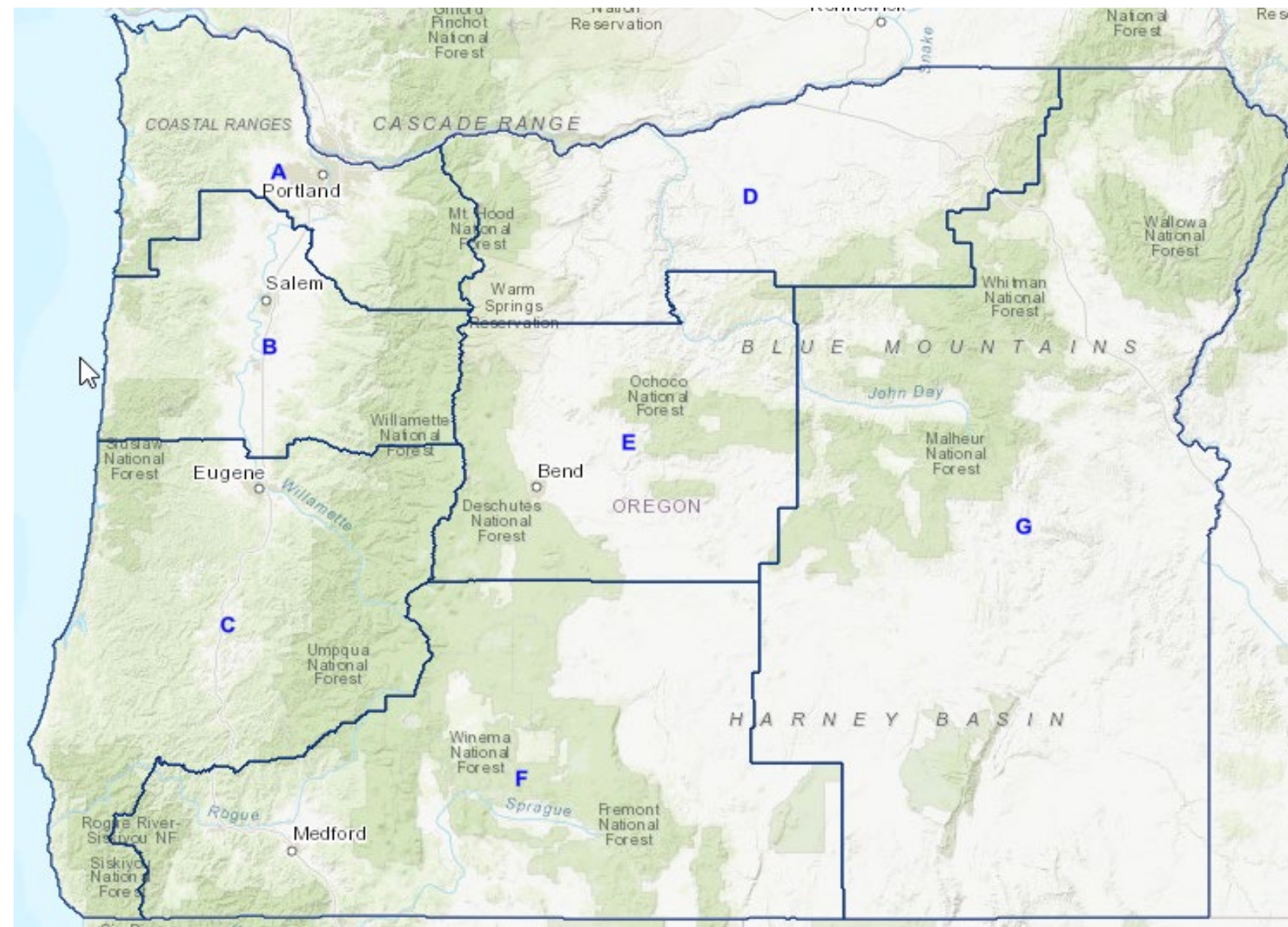
Claire McGrew  
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal

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# Wildfire Community Risk Reduction Overview

- Regional approach – using field staff to coordinate with local government, partners, and members of the public
- Provide local strategy, funding, education, and training to support community efforts
- Creating tailored, local solutions and investments







# Wildfire Community Risk Reduction Work Accomplished

- Hosted more than 550 educational events, partner meetings, or trainings
- Partnered with ODF to create the 1<sup>st</sup> Firewise Community in Hood River County
- Finalizing investments for communities based on Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- Defensible space incentive grant for schools and hospitals



# Oregon Defensible Space Program

- Defensible space guidelines – December 2022
- Property assessment tool – January 2023
- Assessment training – Spring 2023
- Consultative services – Spring 2023
- Public assistance – Spring 2023

## OREGON DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSESSMENT



### LIMBING TREES



### POWER LINES



Removing or trimming trees near powerlines is dangerous. Only use an experienced, licensed contractor to perform this work.

- 1 Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from powerlines.
- 2 Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from buildings and chimneys.
- 3 For trees and vegetation more than 18 feet tall, limb branches six feet from the ground.  
For trees and vegetation less than 18 feet tall, remove branches up to 1/3 the height of the tree.
- 4 Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from other trees.

## CHECKLIST DEFENSIBLE SPACE

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### DEFINITIONS

**DEFENSIBLE SPACE:** Any area where combustible materials are treated, cleared, or modified to slow and reduce intensity of wildfire and allow space for fire suppression operations to occur.

**FIRE RESISTIVE-PLANTS:** Plants that can be used to reduce the likelihood of fire spread. See OSU's guide on page 1 for characteristics of fire-resistant plants.

**LADDER FUEL:** Low-hanging branches, leaves, needles, and other combustible plant matter that may allow wildfire to spread from low-growing plants to high-growing plants.

**MEETS REC PROVIDED DEFENSIBLE SPACE** (100 ft out from the structure OR to property line, whichever is closer)

- Flammable vegetation is removed from growing directly under the eaves. A minimum of five feet from the structure is recommended.
- Leaves, conifer needles, deadwood, bark mulch, and other debris removed from the surface of, around, and below decks and fences.
- Trees spaced and pruned following the example on page 2.
- Leaves, conifer needles, deadwood, bark mulch, and other debris removed from within 100 feet of the structure or to the property line.
- Fire-resistant plants are spaced within the designated defensible space area. Grass mowed to under four inches.
- Firewood piles and lumber at least 30 feet from any structure.
- Combustible vegetation 10 feet away from permanent propane tanks.
- Small BBQ tanks, not in use, are stored at least 30 feet away or in an outbuilding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

## CHECKLIST DEFENSIBLE SPACE

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Roofs and gutters are clean from leaves, conifer needles, and other debris.
- Exterior attic vents, soffit vents, and areas below combustible decks are covered with 1/8" metal wire mesh.
- Siding and skirting are in good condition.
- Fence attachments have a non-combustible alternative such as a metal gate or fence, five feet away from the home.
- Debris taken to a recycling center or chipped/composted. Local regulations are followed if burning yard debris.
- The driveway is accessible to first responders (e.g., clear of debris and obstructions; meets local height and width requirements; clearly marked road signs, bridges, & culverts).
- The home has an address sign at the entrance to the property.

### IF MAKING HOME CHANGES OR UPGRADES, CONSIDER:

- Roof:** Install a fire-resistant or noncombustible roof made of materials such as asphalt, metal, clay tile, slate, or concrete products.
- Siding:** Install noncombustible or ignition-resistant siding such as brick, stone, fiber cement, plaster, or metal.
- Fencing:** Install a 5-foot fire-resistant buffer such as metal fencing or other non-flammable material when replacing fencing within five feet of a home or structure.

### ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY:

NAME OF ASSESSOR \_\_\_\_\_

AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTACT INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

LOGO



# Future of Wildfire Community Risk Reduction in Oregon

Mariana Ruiz-Temple  
State Fire Marshal

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# Wildfire Community Risk Reduction Future Work

- OSFM to pursue rulemaking to align and leverage state work
- Launch defensible space program
- Invest in technology to better assist communities
- Continued investments to incentivize work statewide





# OSFM Wildfire Community Risk Reduction Program

# Grant Opportunities

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Defensible Space Incentive Grant

Closed - \$271,000 awarded

Oregon Fire Service Capacity Program

Closed - \$12 million

Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant

Open for Applications - \$18 million

Tribal Investments

Winter 2022/2023

CWPP Investments

Winter 2022/2023

Defensible Space - Public Assistance

Spring 2023

Investments



# OSFM Wildfire Community Risk Reduction Website



## Wildfire in Oregon

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 762, a comprehensive wildfire preparedness and resiliency bill to help Oregon be better prepared to meet increased wildfire threat. This legislation provided funding and guidance to state agencies, including the Office of State Fire Marshal.

The law codified wildfire prevention, risk reduction, and emergency response programs for the OSFM. We launched two initiatives, a defensible space program, and grant funding opportunities to frame the office's work to change the wildfire paradigm in Oregon.

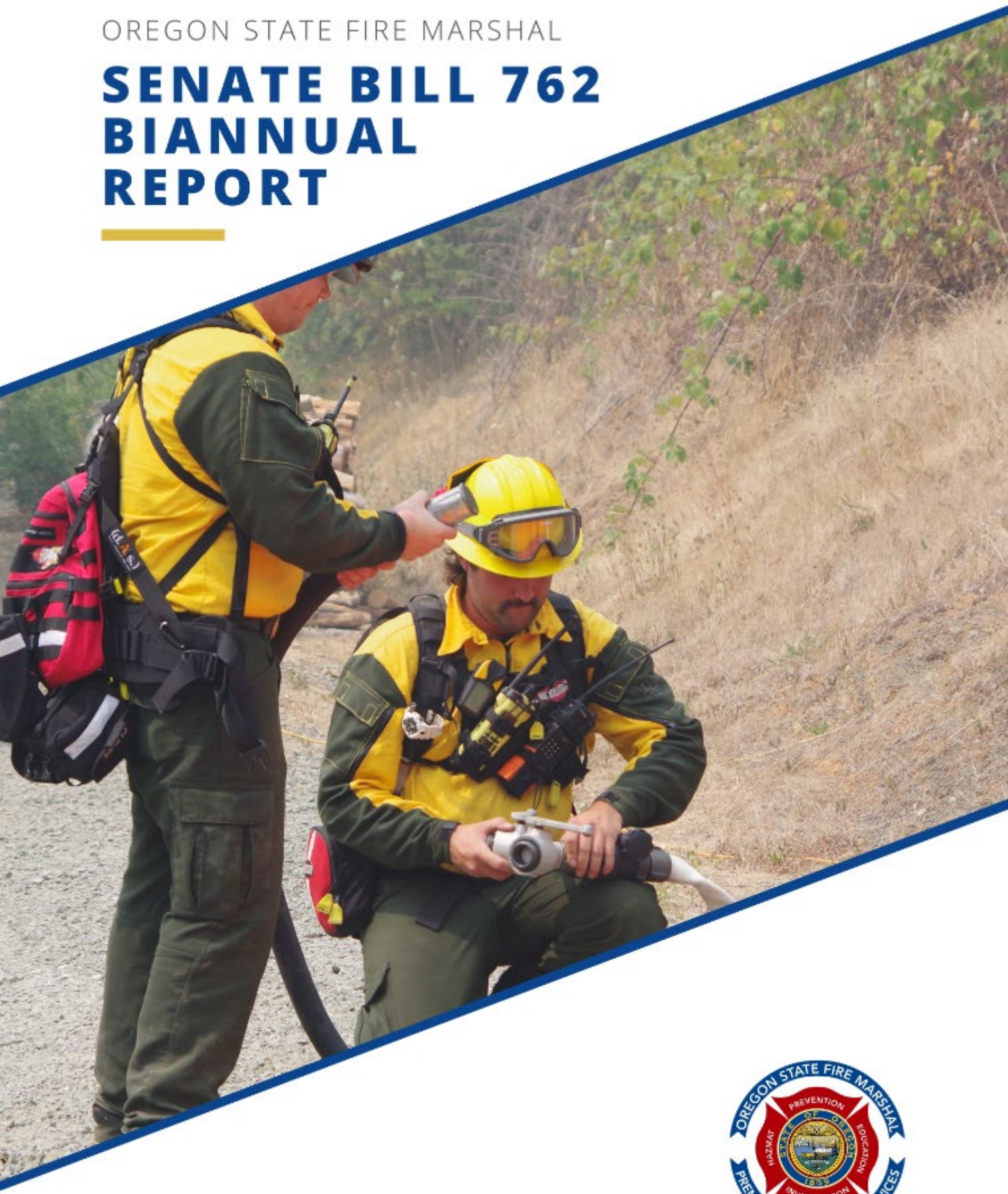
*Click the photos below to explore our initiatives and programs.*





OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

# SENATE BILL 762 BIANNUAL REPORT



# OSFM Wildfire Programs Report

- Senate Bill 762 requires OSFM to report biannually on our the wildfire programs
  - Progress
  - Financial investments
  - Future considerations
- Most recent was distributed January 2023



JANUARY 2023





A blue-tinted photograph of two men in a workshop. One man, wearing a cap and a dark shirt, is leaning over a large piece of machinery. The other man, in a dark t-shirt, is looking at the machine. The background shows a workshop environment with various tools and equipment.

Questions?