

OREGON WILDFIRE WORKFORCE FUND

@ OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

PURPOSE

The Oregon Wildfire Workforce Fund (Fund) will be established at the Oregon Community Foundation in coming months to advance two objectives: boosting the capacity of critical programs to reduce hazardous fuels and enhance forest resiliency in Oregon's most wildfire-prone areas, and fortifying the forest-based component of youth-centered workforce development programs. The Fund will provide a mechanism for receipt of private and public funds and disbursement of grants for targeted workforce enhancement. The concept originated from conversations and legislation considered during the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions of the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

"The catastrophic wildfire seasons of 2017, 2018, 2020 and other recent years, including grave impacts on public health and community economies, showcase a pre-eminent threat to Oregon's future. One critical need identified by the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response and forest scientists is reduction of hazardous fuels—the build-up of slash, brush, smaller understory trees and other woody debris—across Oregon's forest landscape. The Governor's Council estimated the cost of that task over the next twenty years to be \$4 Billion, an amount far in excess of what current funding sources could possibly support. Circumstances call for a creative, disciplined, and robust effort to develop additional funding sources to expand Oregon's non-commercial efforts to enhance forest health and resiliency. The Wildfire Workforce Fund addresses this challenge with a focus on a "youth conservation corps" model that has drawn significant support from private-sector organizations over the years."

- Senator Jeff Golden

GOVERNANCE

The Oregon Wildfire Workforce Fund will be guided by an Advisory Committee of diverse membership that works in partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation. The Advisory Committee will be responsible for marketing, fundraising, recommending strategy and direction for use of the Fund, recommending grant awards, and evaluating the effectiveness of the Fund in meeting its goals.

ADMINISTRATION

The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) provides the legal, financial, and administrative infrastructure for the Oregon Wildfire Workforce Fund. As the largest community foundation in Oregon, OCF has significant total assets and manages funds to maximize interest and return on investments. The foundation will partner with the Wildfire Workforce Fund Advisory Committee to support the facilitation of donations and grant awards.

CONTACT

For more information, please contact:

[Senator Jeff Golden, District 3](#)

(503) 986-1703

Sen.JeffGolden@oregonlegislature.gov

[Andrew Baker, Staff](#)

(503) 986-1703

Andrew.Baker@oregonlegislature.gov