

SB 762

Oregon's Proactive Approach to Wildfire

FACTS & FIGURES

1m+

ACRES

burned and 4000 homes destroyed in Oregon in 2020

650k

ACRES PER YEAR

burned on avg. by Oregon wildfires from 2012-2020, compared to an avg. 198k acres/year from 1992-2001

5.6m

ACRES

in Oregon in need of treatment

\$1.4b

SPENT FIGHTING

FIRES

in Oregon since 2017

\$1.45

SAVED IN

FIREFIGHTING COSTS

and \$5.70 in economic activity spurred for every \$1 spent on forest restoration

13

JOBS CREATED & MAINTAINED

for every \$1m spent on forest restoration



Photo Credits: Left: Jasman Mander /TNC Photo Contest 2019; Right: Jason Houston

Oregon has experienced year after year of record-breaking wildfires that have threatened communities, businesses, and harmed ecosystems. We must relearn to live safely with fire, and restore landscape resiliency while we invest in preparing our communities, develop capacity to manage future wildfires, and dedicate adequate resources to help people and nature.

Unfortunately, Oregon's wildfire mitigation and response systems are severely strained and desperately in need of upgrades and increased investments. In response, SB 762 proposes a comprehensive approach to make communities safer and better prepare for and respond to future wildfire events. This proactive approach will enhance wildfire readiness, resilience and response, protect the public from health impacts of wildfire smoke, save money through strategic prevention, and support community and landscape resilience.

SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

- 1000 Friends of Oregon
- Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District #9
- Ashland City Councilor Tonya Graham
- Aurora Fire District
- Bend Fire & Rescue
- City of Bend
- City of Dallas Fire & EMS
- Deschutes County Commissioner Phil Chang
- Douglas County Fire District #2
- Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology
- Harrisburg Fire & Rescue
- Huntington Fire Department
- Lake County Resources Initiative
- League of Women Voters of Oregon
- Lorane Rural Fire Protection District
- Marion County Fire District #1
- Nehalem Bay Fire & Rescue
- Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District
- North Bay Fire District
- Northwest Youth Corps
- Oregon Conservation Network
- Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
- Oregon Fire District Directors
- Oregon League of Conservation Voters
- Pilot Rock Fire Protection District
- Redmond Fire & Rescue
- Rockaway Beach Fire & Rescue
- Rogue Action Center
- Sisters Camp Sherman Fire District
- Sisters City Councilor Jennifer Letz
- Sustainable Northwest
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
- Umatilla County Fire District #1
- Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District
- Western Environmental Law Center
- Western Fire Chiefs Association

SB 762: Oregon's Proactive Approach to Wildfire

SB 762 Takes Active Steps to Build Wildfire Resilience and Response

- Develops a statewide map of wildfire risk to inform decision-making and investment.
- Ensures safe and reliable electric utility systems before and during wildfire events.
- Establishes defensible space standards and provides financial resources to protect communities and critical infrastructure from wildfire.
- Provides resources to protect vulnerable communities from wildfire smoke.
- Invests in community driven restoration of forests and rangelands to reduce wildfire risk, protect lives and property, and increase landscape resiliency.
- Requires new construction in high hazard areas be built with ignition resistant materials.
- Adds firefighter capacity and air defense resources to provide improved wildfire response and ensure firefighter safety.
- Establishes the Oregon Wildfire Workforce Corps Program to reduce wildfire risk to communities and provide workforce training to the next generation of land managers.
- Provides upgraded agency business systems and oversight for expedient financial management, cost-controls, and reporting.

SB 762 Ensures Public Engagement and Oversight

- Appoints a Wildfire Programs Advisory Council composed of local governments and members of the public to advise a new State Wildfire Programs Director, monitor and provide recommendations for program implementation, and engage with communities.
- Requires Council consultation and public engagement to customize the International Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Code to fit the needs of Oregon communities. This framework has been adopted in whole or part by every other state in the Western U.S.
- Requires stakeholder engagement and input from public boards and advisory committees in development and review of the statewide wildfire map, defensible space standards, building codes, and land use recommendations.