



## **Senator Jeff Golden**

Senate District 3  
Oregon State Legislature

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Golden Recommits to Statewide Wildfire Prevention Strategy**

*Southern Oregon legislator applauds Oregon firefighters, citing strengthened wildfire defense*

ASHLAND – August is right in the middle of Oregon’s fire season, and Senator Jeff Golden (D-Ashland) is taking note of how Oregon’s wildfire response has been strengthened by major investments made during the 2021 Legislative Session.

According to the [Oregon Department of Forestry](#) (ODF), ODF Protection Districts have suppressed 418 fires, and held them to 582 acres total. The 10-year average for this point in the fire season is 590 fires and 56,121 acres burned.

“From improved early detection and containment, to increased boots on the ground and eyes in the skies, 2021 investments are making real changes in our fire season,” said Senator Golden, who is chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery. “The increase in resources we put towards fire prevention and suppression will pay dividends back into our communities.”

Wildfire funding from the 2021 Session has provided significant support to the Department of Forestry in their efforts to prevent and contain wildfires this fire season. Funding from that Session doubled ODF’s annual aircraft budget and increased wildland firefighter presence, strengthening the Department’s response to fires in early stages. Other budget improvements, such as increased resources for wildfire detection cameras, have allowed for ODF to detect fires in early stages. These new resources have helped the Department to better control fires before they spread.

“There’s a lot of results to feel good about here, but let’s remember there are a couple months of fire season yet to go,” said Senator Golden. “The wildfire crisis is plainly too massive for government to solve on its own. In the end, and with help from state investments, we who live in Southern Oregon will be the ones who keep it safe with awareness, collaboration and fire-wise maintenance of our own properties. We can do this.”

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