

GOVERNOR'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE COUNCIL

MARCH 8, 2021





DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Governor Brown Position on Wildfire Policy
2. Wildfire Council Recommendations
3. Evolution of SB 287



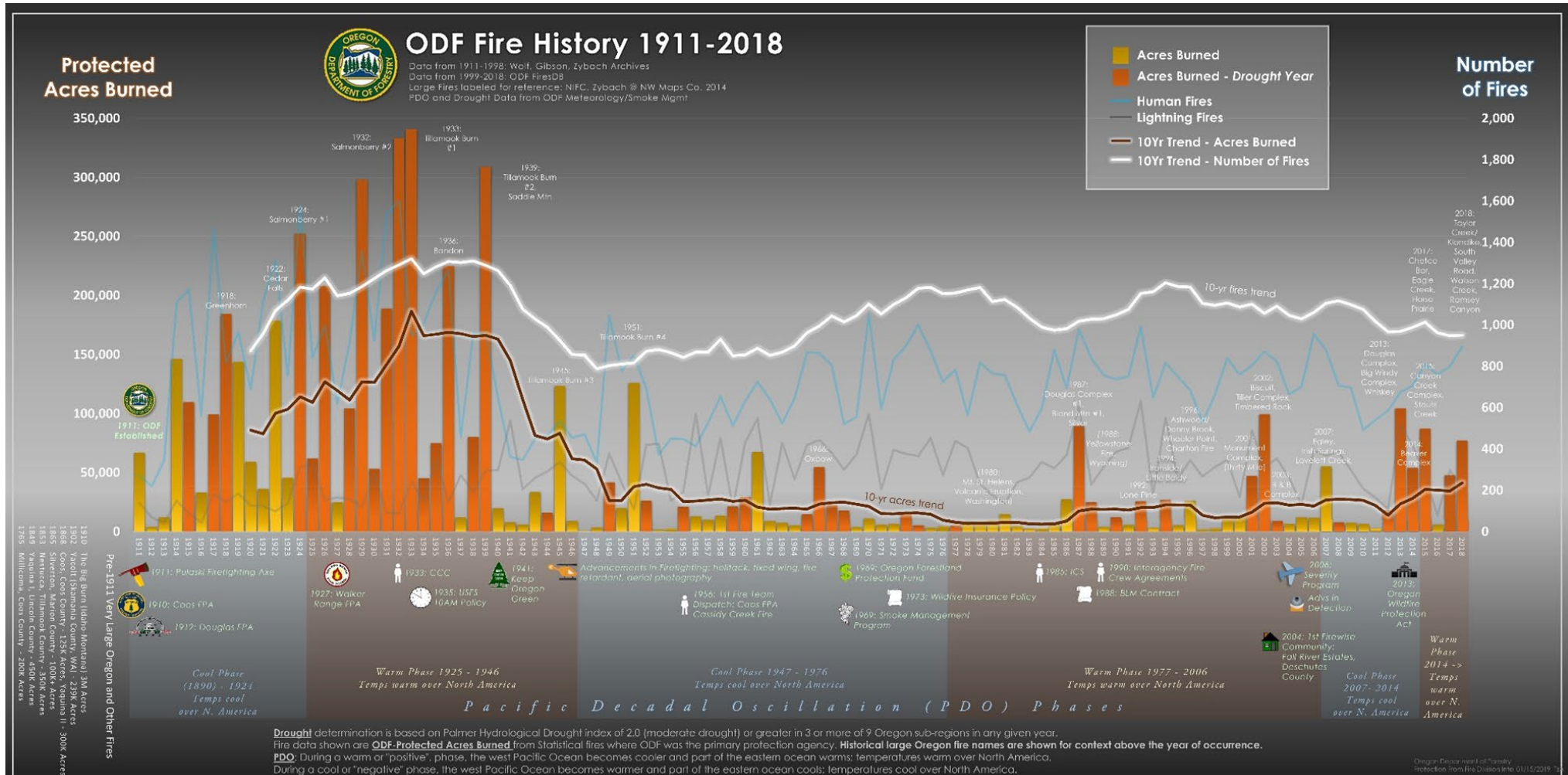
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GOVERNOR'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE COUNCIL



A CENTURY OF FIRE THROUGH 2018



GOVERNOR'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE COUNCIL



FIRST MEETING OF THE WILDFIRE COUNCIL (MARCH 18, 2019)



GOVERNOR'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE COUNCIL



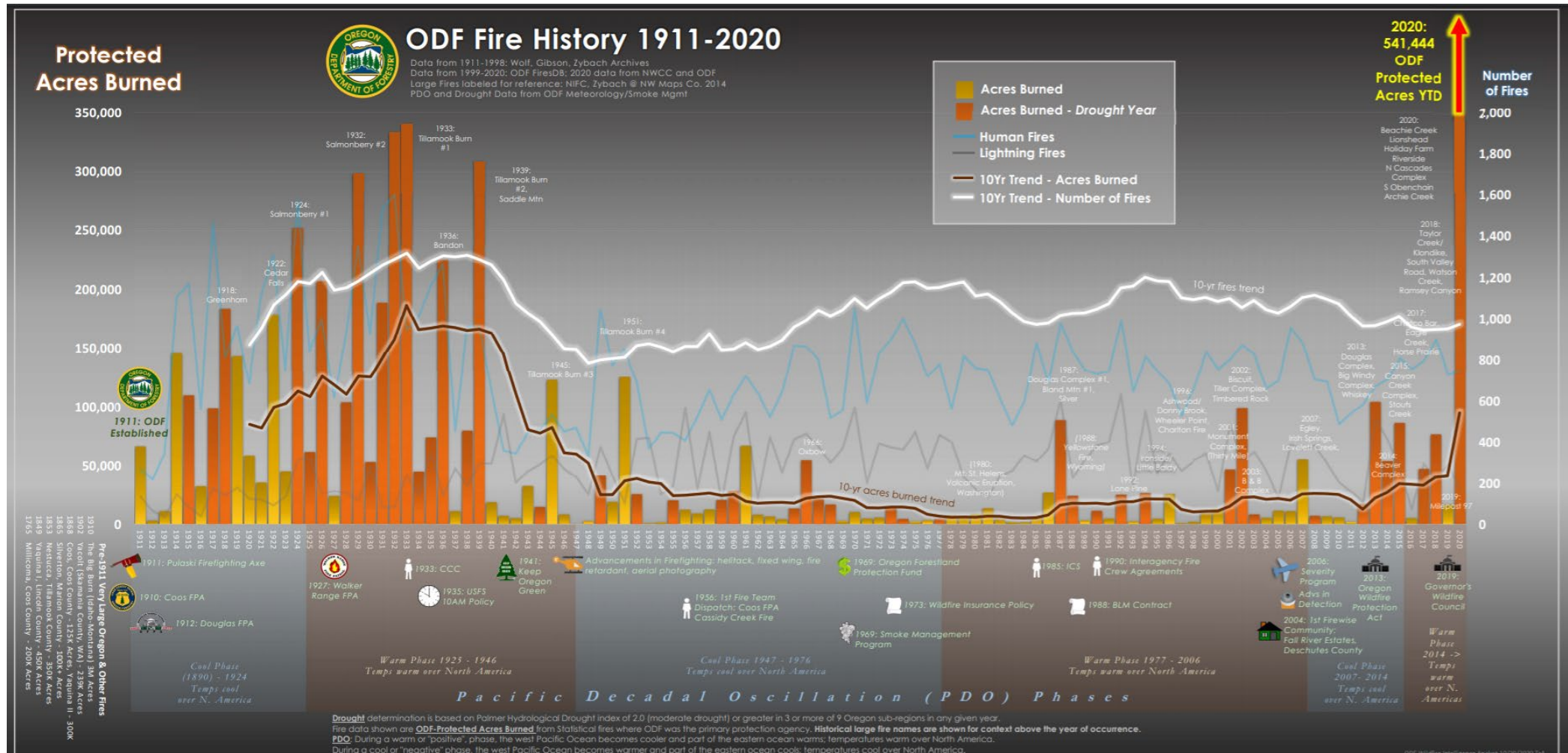
FIRST BILL OF THE 2020 SESSION (FEBRUARY 3, 2020)



GOVERNOR'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE COUNCIL



A CENTURY OF FIRE THROUGH 2020





DISCUSSION TOPICS

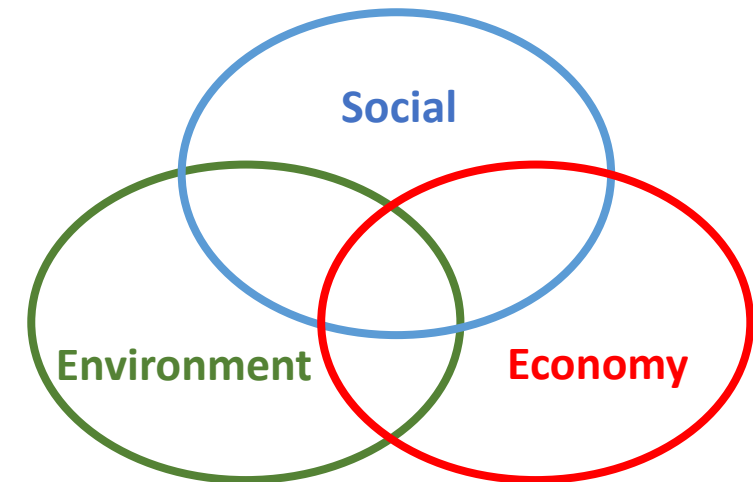
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IMPETUS: AN UNFOLDING CRISIS

Social Sustainability

- Social Justice – impact to most vulnerable communities
- Risks to Firefighters
- Human Tragedy – Oregon, California
- Escalating Health Risks, Smoke
- Urban & Rural

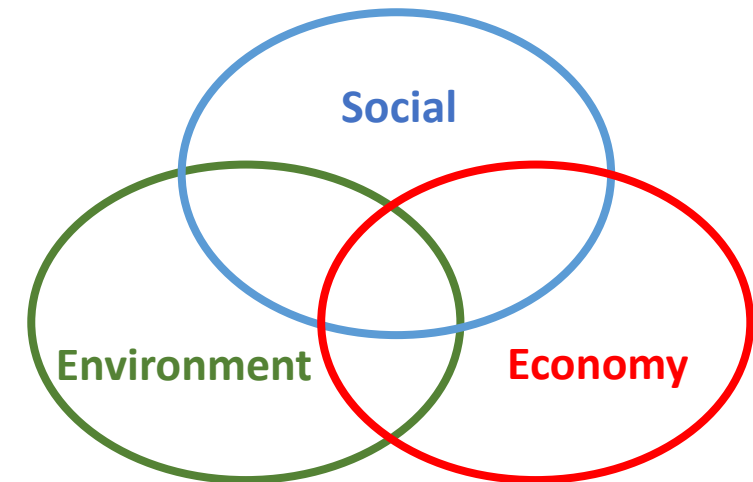




IMPETUS: AN UNFOLDING CRISIS

Environmental Sustainability

- Unnatural Fuel Loads
- Ecosystem Destruction, Conversion
- Endangered Species Habitat
- Water Systems

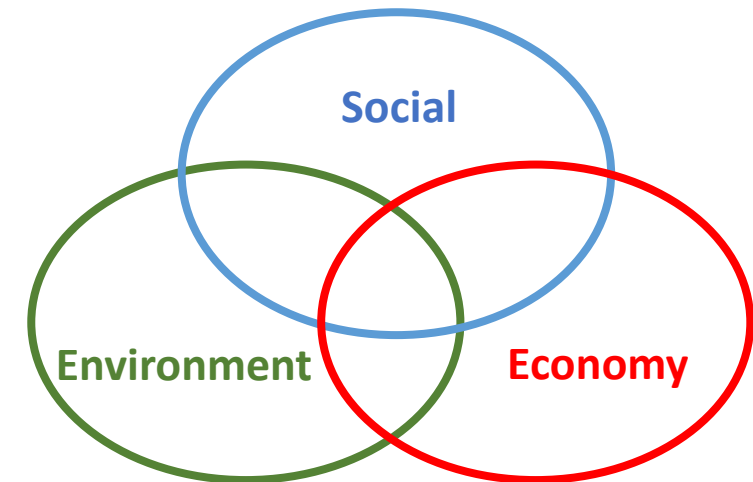




IMPETUS: AN UNFOLDING CRISIS

Economic Sustainability

- Firefighting Costs, Siphoning of Public Finances
- Comprehensive Costs 11x Short-term, Direct Costs
 - Tens of Billions of Dollars at Risk
 - California \$150 billion in 2018 Alone¹



¹ Wang, D. *et al.* (2020). *Nature: Sustainability* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-020-00646-7>



IMPETUS

SYSTEMS BUILT FOR ANOTHER ERA

ABSENCE OF COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

SOCIAL JUSTICE



DIVERSE CITIZEN COUNCIL

Main Council

- Firefighters
- Tribal Communities
- Tenants / Homeless
- Medicaid Recipients
- Roofers
- Small Business
- Cities of Ashland, Bend
- Baker County Commissioner
- Forestry
- Farming
- Property Insurance
- Timber Industry
- Land Use
- Utilities
- Port of Portland



DIVERSE EXPERTISE

Ex Officio

- State Legislators (4)
- Federal Delegation Offices
- State Forester
- State Fire Marshal
- Board of Forestry
- OSU Forestry
- US Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Oregon Health Authority
- Department of Transportation
- Travel Oregon
- Insurance Commissioner
- Outdoor Recreation
- Department of Agriculture
- DLCD



DIVERSE EXPERTISE

Committee Members

- Conservation NGOs
- Tribal
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Universities
- Agriculture
- Fire
- Health
- Forest Products
- Regional Solutions
- Land Use
- Homebuilders



DELIVERABLES

<i>Report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 37 Full Council Recommendations- Unanimous Approval
<i>Committee Reports</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2 Committee Reports- 4 Sub-Committee Reports
<i>Meetings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 10 Full Council- Dozens of Committee, Sub-Committee- 9-Month Initial Report Phase
<i>Source</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy



NATIONAL COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

<i>Leadership</i>	- Secretaries of US Departments of Interior, Agriculture
<i>Development Period</i>	- 2010-2014
<i>Contributors</i>	- Federal Agencies - States, Cities - Tribes - Academia - NGOs - Private Sector - Numerous Oregonians
<i>Scope</i>	- National, Regional



NATIONAL COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Vision

- Safely & effectively extinguish fire when needed;
- Use fire where allowable;
- Manage our natural resources; and
- As a nation, live with fire.

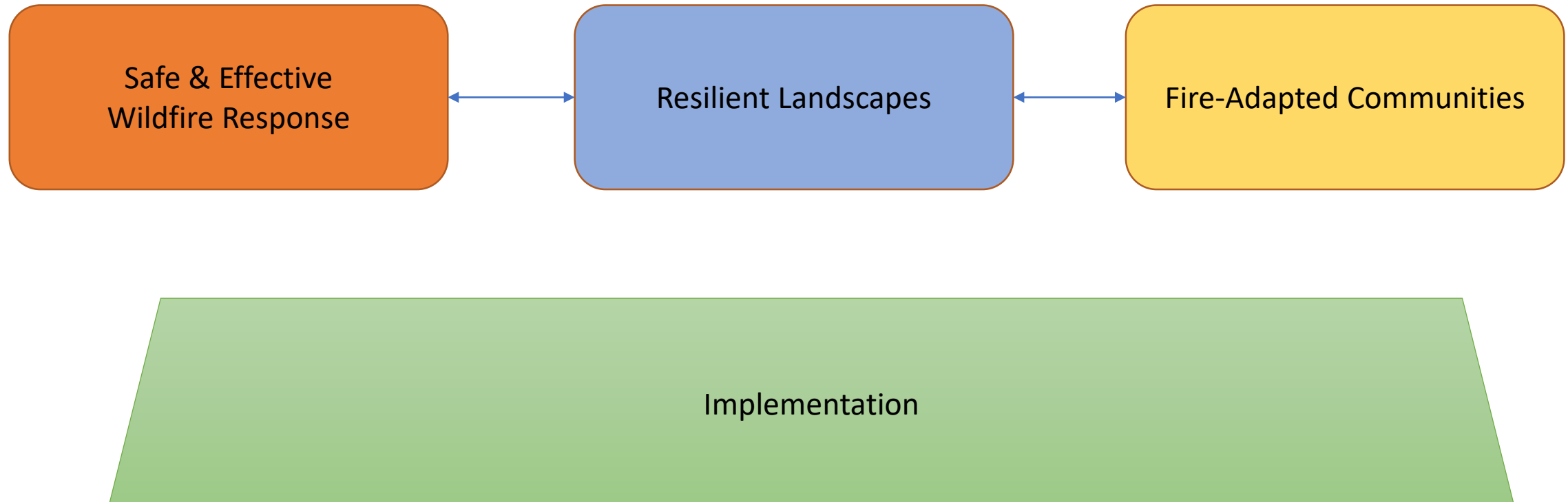


NATIONAL COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY





NATIONAL COHESIVE WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



GOVERNOR'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE COUNCIL



Safe & Effective
Wildfire Response

National Guidance

- #1 overall priority
- Maximize effectiveness of initial response

Oregon Strategy

- Modernize
- Expand coverage

Council Recommendations (HIGHEST)

- 21 – Financing Facility
- 22 – Expand Coverage
- 23 – Capacity



Resilient Landscapes

National Guidance

- #2 overall priority
- Tools: natural fire, prescribed fire, mechanical thinning

Oregon Strategy

- Treat 300k acres annually (increase 3-4x)
 - California 1 million acres (2021 policy)
 - Washington 200k acres (2017 policy)

Council Recommendations (HIGHEST)

13, 15 – Prioritization, Oversight

14, 16 – Immediate Treatments

17-19 – Program Expansion (VERY HIGH)

GOVERNOR'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE COUNCIL



Fire-Adapted Communities

National Guidance

- Proactive community design
- Prevent human-caused ignitions

Oregon Strategy

- Comprehensive modernization
 - Transmission safety #1 overall priority
 - “Wildland Urban Interface” package
 - Health systems

Council Recommendations (HIGHEST)

- 1 – Transmission
- 2-4 – WUI Package
- 6 – Air Filtration Systems

GOVERNOR'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE COUNCIL



Implementation

National Guidance

- Alignment & Collaboration
- Prioritization

Oregon Strategy

- Recognize as societal crisis
- Emphasize social justice

Council Recommendations (HIGHEST)

33 – Public Engagement

35 – Funding

34 – Organization and Governance (VERY HIGH)



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GOVERNOR'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE COUNCIL



SB 287: DIRECTLY ADAPTED FROM COUNCIL

SB 287 Heading	Council Recommendation
Transmission System Plans	Rec #1
Insurance	Rec #5
Defensible Space	Rec #2
Land Use	Rec #3
Health Systems for Smoke	Rec# 6,7,and 8
Emergency Response Planning	Rec # 9



SB 287: DIRECTLY ADAPTED FROM COUNCIL

SB 287 Heading	Council Recommendation
Public Engagement	Rec #33
Restoration Prioritization	Rec #15, 16
Restoration Capacity	Rec #13- Rec #20
Federal Partnership	Rec #28, 30
Resiliency Goal	Rec #20
Forest Financial Oversight	Rec #21

GOVERNOR'S WILDFIRE RESPONSE COUNCIL



SB 287: DIRECTLY ADAPTED FROM COUNCIL

SB 287 Heading	Council Recommendation
Protected Areas	Rec #22
Wildfire Response Capacity	Rec #23, 24, 25



DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Wildfire Preparedness and Response is a Highest Priority
2. Extensive, Inclusive Process Led to Wildfire Council Recommendations
3. SB 287 Is a Direct Adaptation of Recommendations
4. Thank you for your enduring leadership on this topic