

HB 3160: Fixing Fire

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: Mitch Maxson/TNC; Top right: John Marshall; Bottom right: John Marshall

Across the Pacific Northwest, we are experiencing longer and more intense fire seasons driven by increasingly warmer and drier conditions in our forests. As temperatures increase, our forests—and the communities near them—are becoming more vulnerable to high-intensity fires.

But fire is essential to our fire-adapted landscapes and, paradoxically, reducing wildfire risk to communities. As an ecological and cultural process, fire has shaped the diversity of life on this planet for millennia.

In Oregon, we must relearn to live safely with fire and put it back to work for both people and nature, restore forest health and water quality and set the forest back into a rhythm where smaller, low-intensity, lower-smoke fires that can be managed burn through periodically.

Meanwhile, we must invest to prepare our communities, develop capacity to manage future wildfires, and dedicate adequate resources to help restore our landscapes as they recover. However, Oregon has faced a worsening wildfire funding crisis for years – forced to use scarce General Fund dollars on costly wildfire suppression and recovery instead of investing in proactive work to mitigate and prepare for wildfires. HB 3160 aims to generate a new, ongoing funding source to do just that – look forward to make our communities and landscapes safer and more resilient when extreme fire seasons hit.

SUPPORT DEDICATED FUNDING

HB 3160 proposes a simple, affordable, and common-sense approach to funding solutions to Oregon's wildfire crisis. This bill will reduce wildfire damage and cost by investing in proven wildfire mitigation and preparedness strategies and help communities and our natural resources recover from wildfire.

A simple annual fee of \$10-25 for homeowners and \$25-50 for businesses on property insurance policies will generate a stable, ongoing funding source. The bill will also require extensive accountability and reporting for use of funds and allows for other public/private dollars to be invested into the fund.

Funds will provide support for firefighters to ensure public health and safety; planning and preparedness to protect homes and communities from wildfire; science-based fuels reduction and forest health treatments to reduce wildfire risk; and wildfire recovery, reforestation, and drinking watershed protection.

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