



# House Environment and Natural Resources

## “Advancing Fire Protection in Oregon”

February 21, 2022

Doug Grafe, Wildfire Programs Director

Mark Bennett, Chair - Wildfire Programs Advisory Council





# Wildfire Trends in Oregon

Three decades of wildfire – Acres Burned

- 1992-2001: 169,000 acres
- 2002-2011: 327,000 acres
- 2012-2021: 662,000 acres



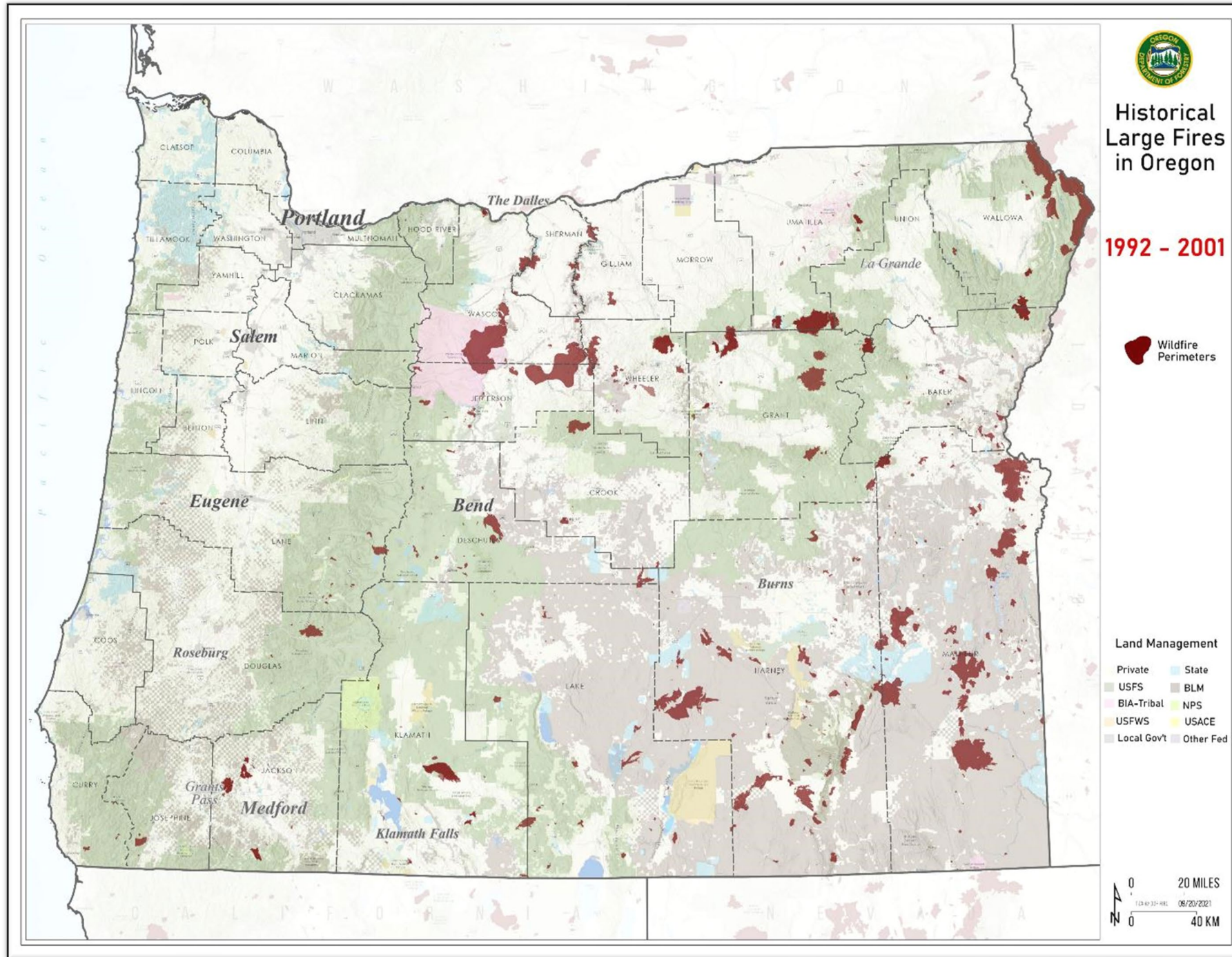
# Historical Large Fires in Oregon

1992 - 2001



## Land Management

- Private
- USFS
- BIA-Tribal
- USFWS
- Local Gov't
- State
- BLM
- NPS
- USACE
- Other Fed





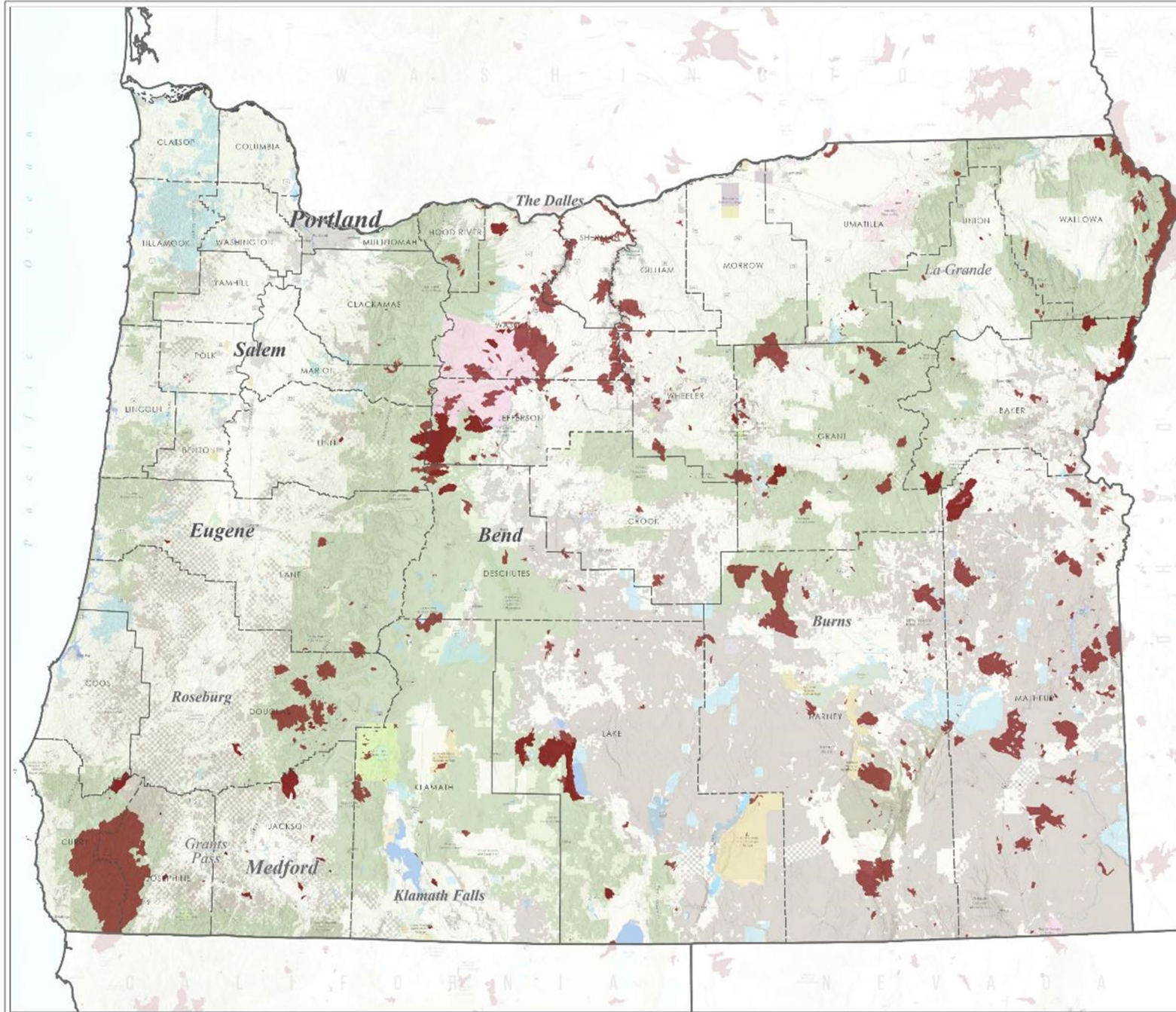
# Historical Large Fires in Oregon

2002 - 2011



## Land Management

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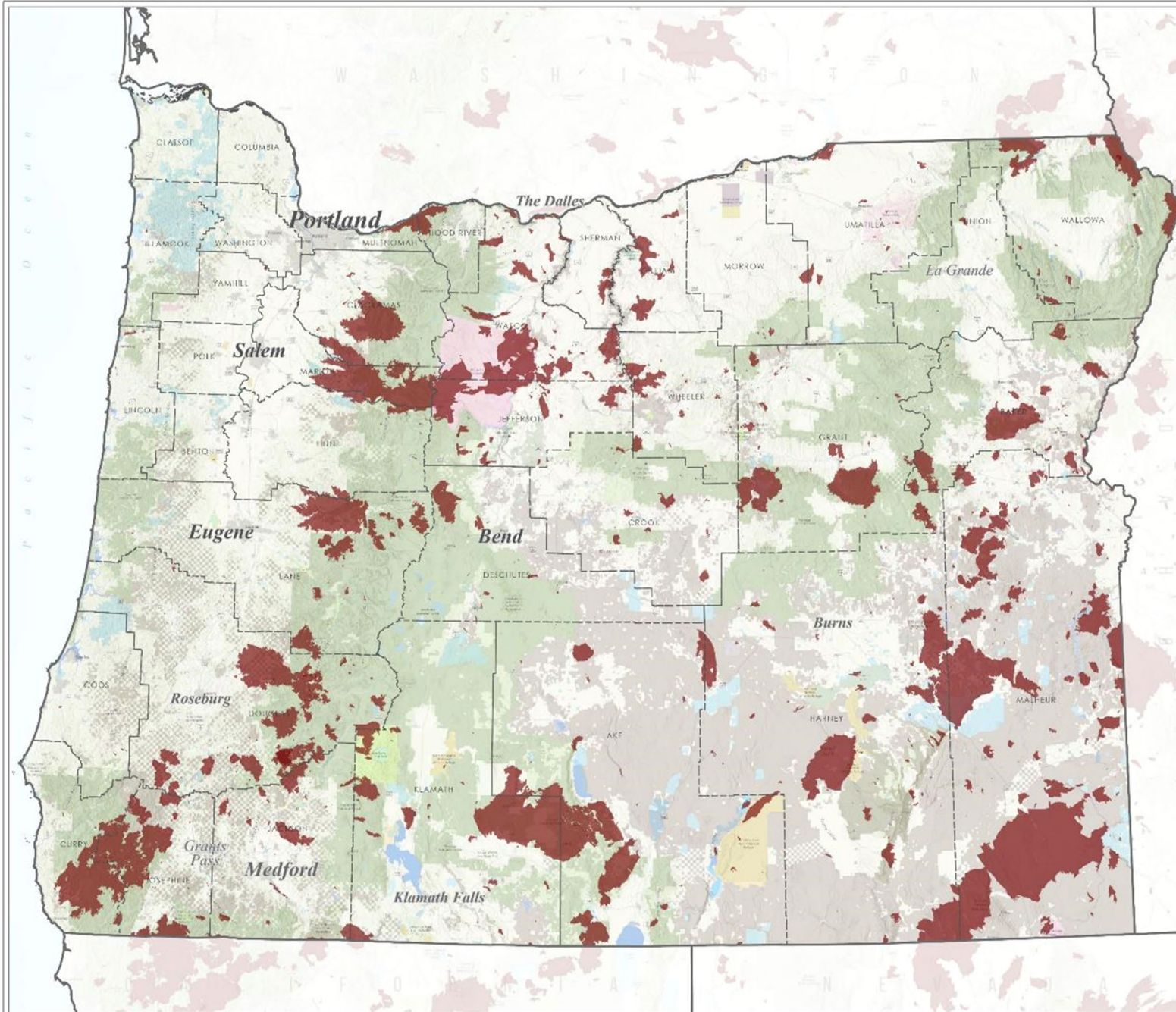
# Historical Large Fires in Oregon

2012 - 2021



## Land Management

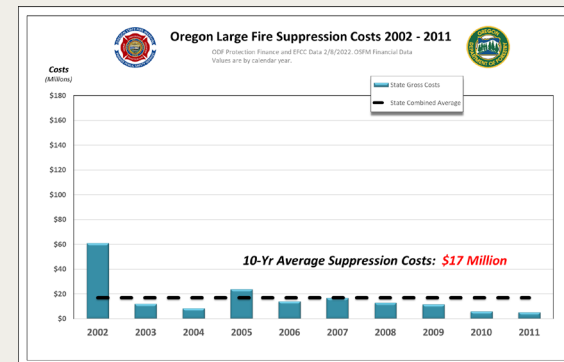
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# The True Cost of Wildfire

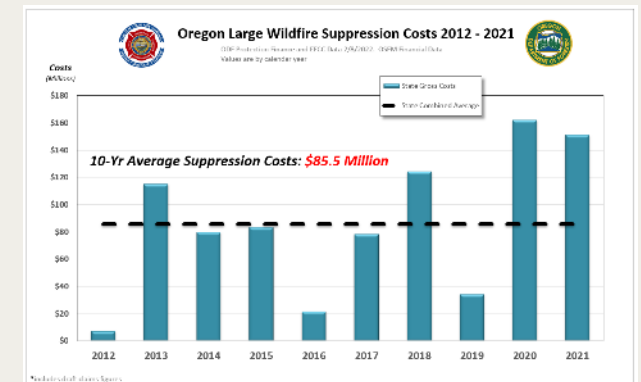
- Significant social, economic, and environmental implications:
  - Losses: Infrastructure, Cultural Resources, Tourism, Smoke and Health Impacts, Transportation & Power Interruptions, Watersheds, Wildlife Habitat, Timber, Agriculture, Recreation .....
  - Recovery: Following the 2020 Labor Day Fires: Oregon Legislature passes HB 5006 - \$480 million
- Studies showing over 10X the costs of suppression
  - Headwater Economics: Suppression at 9% of total
  - Western Forestry Leadership Coalition: 2-30X
  - National Institute of Standards & Technology: 2-50X

Suppression Costs increase - 5x



**\$17 Million Avg.  
2002-2011**

**\$85 Million Avg.  
2012-2021**

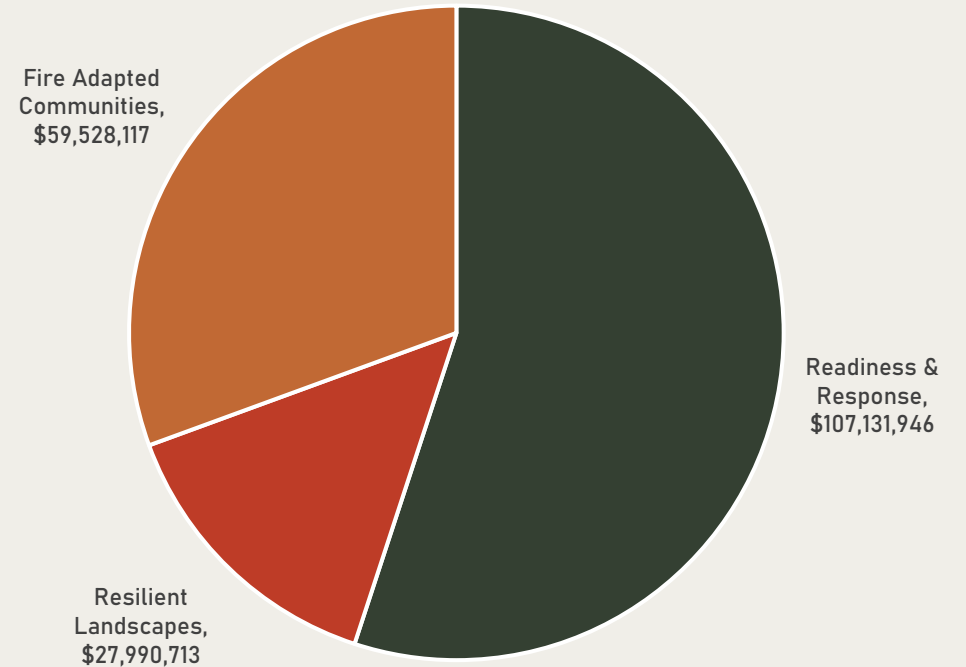




# Oregon Takes Action

- 2019: Governor's Council on Wildfire Response
  - Over 100 Volunteers produce 37 recommendations
  - Anchored in the National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy:
    - Adequate Response
    - Resilient Landscapes
    - Fire Adapted Communities
- 2021: Oregon Legislature passes Senate Bill 762
  - \$195 million investment
  - Creates the Wildfire Programs Director and Advisory Council

SB 762 Investment Distribution (\$195 Million)  
National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy - Tenants





# Advancing Wildfire Protection in Oregon

## *Implementation Oversight*

- **State Wildfire Programs Director**

(Oversees Implementation & Recommends Future Advances)

- Department of Consumer and Business Services
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Higher Education Coordinating Commission
- Office of the Oregon State Fire Marshal
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Emergency Management
- Oregon Health Authority
- Oregon State University
- Public Utility Commission

- **Wildfire Programs Advisory Council**

[Web Link: State of Oregon: Policy Offices - Wildfire Programs Advisory Council](#)

- 19 members appointed by Presiding Officers
- Advise Wildfire Programs Director
- Quarterly Public Meetings
- Monitor & Assess Implementation Activities
- Annual Report to Legislature and Governor
  - Progress on defensible space, building codes, land use and community emergency preparedness
  - Recommends improvements





# Advancing Wildfire Protection in Oregon

## *Program Development and Implementation*

- **Readiness & Response (\$107 million)**

- ODF - Suppression Capacity: Aviation, Engines, Equipment & Personnel
- OSFM - Personnel & Suppression Capacity pass through to Local Fire Service (Engines, Equipment)
- PUC - Electrical Power Utilities
- OEM - Emergency Planning
- ODF - Baseline Protection Standards
- ODF, OSU - Wildfire Risk Mapping
- ODF - Wildfire Detection Camera System

- **Fire Adapted Communities (\$60 million)**

- OSFM - Defensible Space Standards
- OSFM - Community Risk Reduction Program
- DCBS - Hardening of Homes
- DLCD - Land Use Recommendations
- DEQ - Community Smoke Response Plans
- DEQ - Advanced Smoke Monitoring
- DHS - Public Smoke Sheltering
- OHA - Residential Smoke Filtration
- HECC - Conservation Corps Program & Grants

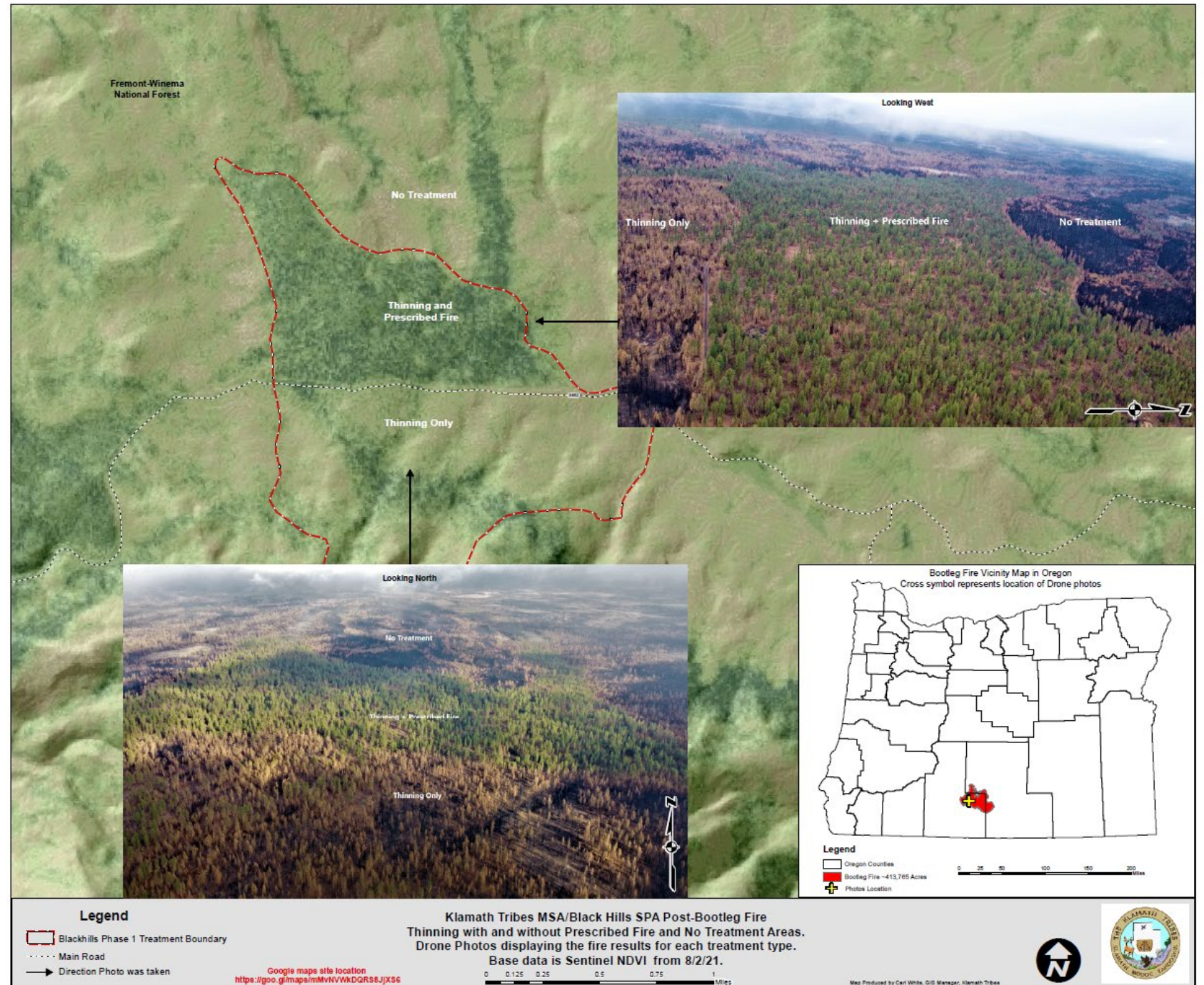
- **Resilient Landscapes (\$28 million)**

- ODF - Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program
- ODF - Small Woodlands Grant Program
- ODF - Prescribed Fire Program

# Federal Infrastructure Investments

## “Landscape Resiliency”

- Treatments Mitigate Catastrophic Wildfire Risk
- Provides for Fire Fighter Safety & Community Safety
- Restores Ecological Function
- Requires:
  - Sustained Funding and continued Maintenance
  - Prescribed Burning
  - Cross-boundary Collaboration



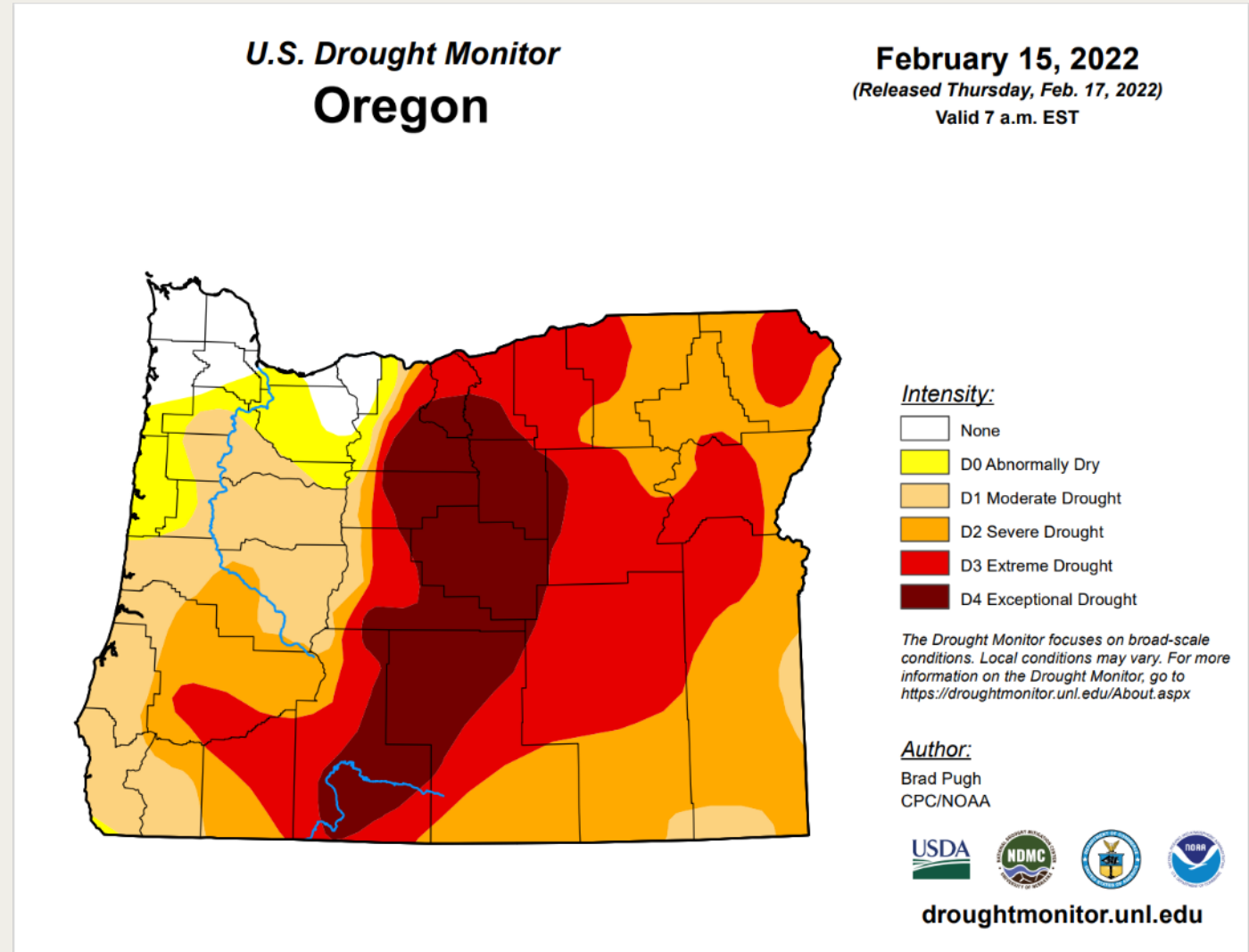


## Emerging Themes for Future Advancements 2023-2025 Biennial Budget, 2023 Regular Session

- Sustained Program Funding
- Emergency Fire Funding Fix
- Prescribed Fire Liability
- Wildfire Prevention Laws
- Property Insurance Affordability
- Durable Recovery Programs
- Leveraging Partnerships
  - Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

# 2022 Fire Season Readiness

- Exceptional drought driving current fire risk
- January 2021 Eboard
  - Special Purpose Appropriation for ODF Severity Program \$5 million – “not” carried forward
  - Landscape Resiliency and Community Risk Reduction Investments – carried forward.





# Thank you

Mark Bennett, Chair - Wildfire Programs Advisory Council

&

Doug Grafe, Wildfire Programs Director

Office of Governor Kate Brown

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