

WILDFIRE FUNDING WORKGROUP

Ways & Means Subcommittee
on Natural Resources

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Wildfire Programs Director

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OREGON'S WILDFIRE EFFORTS

2013

Wildfire
Protection
Act

2015-2016

Funding
Working
Group

2019

Brown's
Wildfire
Council

2021

Senate Bill
762

2022

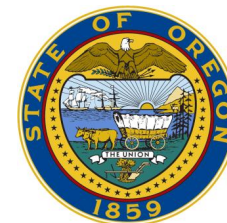
ODF Fire
Funding Task
Force

2023

HB 2522
SB 80
HB 4133

2024

Budget
Note 5





WILDFIRE FUNDING WORKGROUP

- The Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State Fire Marshal were tasked by the legislature through **Senate Bill 5701** (2024) to convene a workgroup to identify solutions for sustainable wildfire mitigation and suppression funding to address the growing wildfire crisis.
- Workgroup members represent a wide range of partners and work closely with the Governor's Wildfire Programs Advisory Council.



MEMBERSHIP

Oregon Wildfire Funding Workgroup



Alan von Borstel, **Oregon Wheat Growers League**
Anne-Marie Storms, **Oregon Fire Marshals Association**
Armando Martinez, **Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw**
Barry Bushue, **Bureau of Land Management**
Bill Boos, **Special Districts Association of Oregon**
Bill Terry, **Consumers Power Inc.**
Branden Pursinger, **Association of Oregon Counties**
Brennan Garrelts, **ODF's Emergency Fire Cost Committee**
Brian Stewart, **Oregon Fire Chiefs Association**
Carrie Nyssen, **American Lung Association**
Casey Kulla, **Oregon Wild**
Chris Edwards, **Oregon Forest Industries Council**
Dylan Kruse, **Sustainable Northwest**
Eric Kranzush, **Giustina Land & Timber Co.**
Frank Day, **Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association**
Genoa Ingram, **Oregon Fire District Directors Association**
Lauren Poor, **Oregon Farm Bureau**



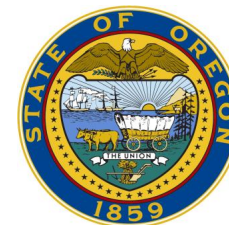
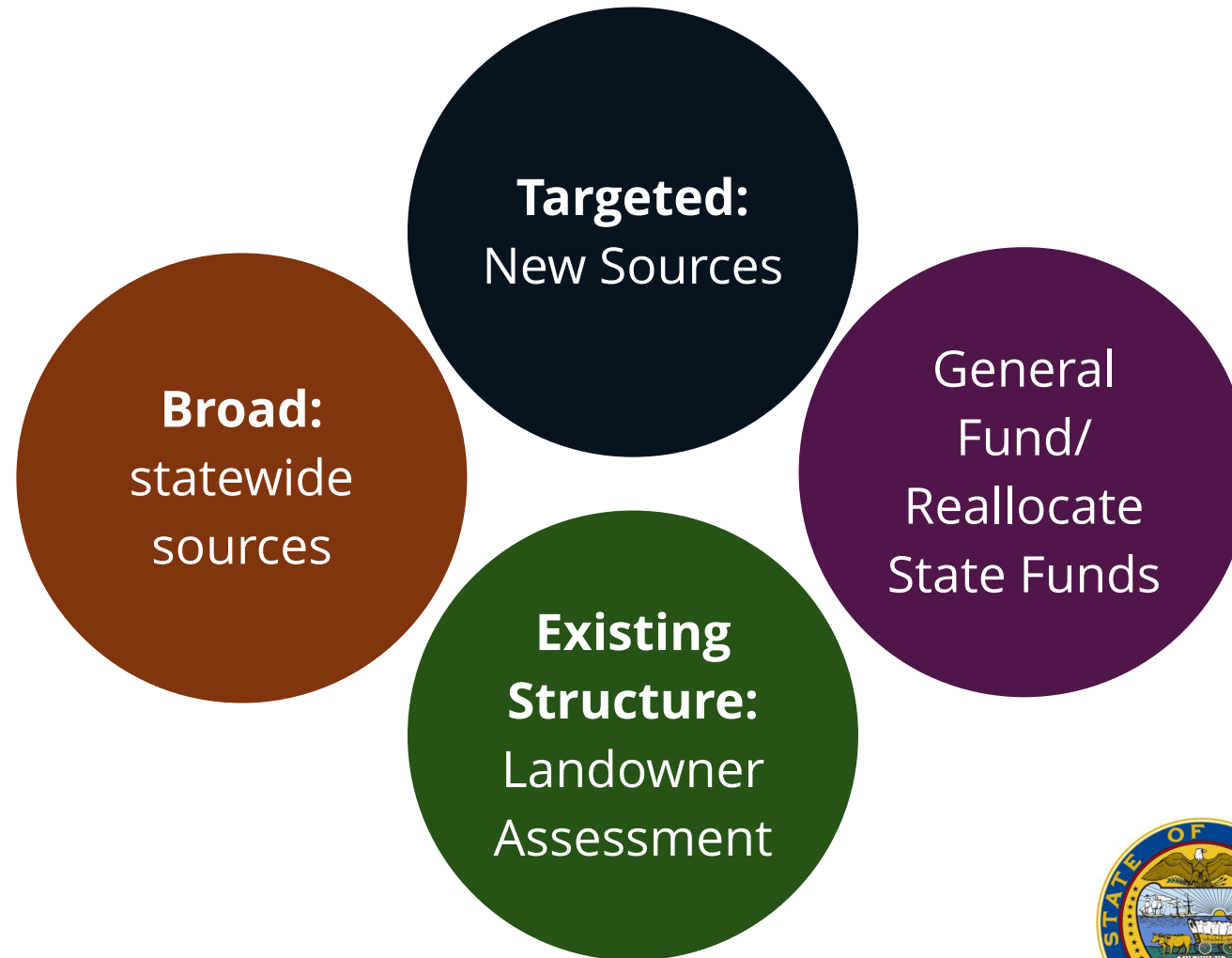
James Hall, **Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**
Jim McCauley, **League of Oregon Cities**
John Davis, **Green Diamond**
Jonathan Fink, **Portland State University**
Karl Koenig, **Oregon State Fire Fighters Council**
Kenton Brine, **NW Insurance**
Kyle Smith, **The Nature Conservancy of Oregon**
Lon Matheny, **Coquille Indian Tribe**
Mari Kramer, **Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians**
Mark Bennett, **Wildfire Programs Advisory Council**
Matt McElligott, **Cattlemen's Association**
Monte Bryan, **Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians**
Pat Skrip, **Operating Forest Protective Association**
Roger Beyer, **Oregon Small Woodlands Association**
Scott Spaulding, **Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation**
Steve Warden, **Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**
Suzanne Seattle, **Burns Paiute Tribe**
Tim Sexton, **Klamath Tribes**

WORKGROUP SHARED PRINCIPLES

- Long-term and durable funding for wildfire response and mitigation should be a priority investment for the state.
- Funding solutions should ensure financial solvency of agencies' wildfire programs.
- Mitigation and response are interdependent functions of the cohesive wildfire strategy, and both need to be adequately funded.
- Funding solutions should: align with response and mitigation costs and reflect shared responsibility and benefits among all Oregonians and visitors to the state.
- Wildfire response and mitigation strategies should consider equitable, affordable and sustainable contributions from payees into the system, including in-kind contributions.
- Funding strategies should aim to maintain high standards of service (meeting missions for protecting life, property and natural resources).



COMPREHENSIVE FUNDING CONCEPT



ALTERNATIVE FUNDING STRATEGIES

Funding Type	Funding strategy description	Revenue Potential for 2025-27	Barriers to Implementation and Level of Work Group (WG) Alignment
Broad – New	Kicker <i>One-time use to "jump-start" wildfire funding</i>	\$1.8 billion estimated if all the kicker is used (one time, not per biennium) If put into a fund and use 4% interest - \$144 million per biennium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a kick start to long-term and durable funding into the future All-Oregon solution
Broad – New	Bottle Bill adjustment <i>Increase the bottle deposit to include a non-refundable portion for wildfire funding</i>	1 cent per bottle – \$40 million 5 cents per bottle – \$200 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term and durable All-Oregon solution that also provides for contributions from out-of-state visitors
GF/ Reallocation	Insurance retaliatory tax <i>Dedicate a portion of existing retaliatory taxes paid by out-of-state insurers to the state</i>	Estimate of revenue generated by the retaliatory tax is roughly \$140 million per biennium.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term and durable Has a direct nexus to wildfire, particularly the P&C portion of retaliatory tax Draws from out-of-state funds
GF/ Reallocation	Ending balance <i>Dedicate 0.5% of previous biennium's appropriations (if there is an ending balance) to a wildfire fund</i>	\$164 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not be a durable funding source since the ending balance amount is different each year unless replenishing of a wildfire fund using ending balance could be legislated. All-Oregon solution
GF/ Reallocation	Rainy Day Fund <i>One-time transfer to a wildfire fund</i>	\$323 million (50% of the projected total 2025-27 Rainy Day Fund transfer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not long-term or durable. One-time option with limited revenue capacity into the future All-Oregon solution
GF/ Reallocation	Lottery Funds <i>Constitutionally dedicate a portion for wildfire</i>	1% of lottery resources – \$19 million 5% of lottery resources – \$97 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term and durable All-Oregon solution that also provides for contributions from out-of-state visitors
Existing Funding Structure	Landowner assessment rates and existing structure will be part of the solution. A small group continues to work on this piece.		



NEXT STEPS

- Continue work with the Legislature to build support for durable, sustained, and long-term funding identified in the Governor's 2025-27 budget
- Identify options to manage the intersection between forestland classification of ODF protection districts and structural fire protection districts as identified in the 2024 budget note
- Support the coalition of workgroup members – Fire 35



THANK YOU

