



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** February 12, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 762 –Statewide Wildfire Hazard Map Discussion / Information Item

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

None—information only at this time although this discussion may inform future Board action on this issue.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

In 2022, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon State University (OSU) developed administrative rules and a statewide Wildfire Risk Map required under Senate Bill (SB) 762. The rules, adopted by the Board of Forestry, established the criteria by which the map was developed, updated, and maintained. The map is intended to inform the following issues:

- Educate Oregon residents and property owners about the level of hazard where they live.
- Assist in prioritizing fire adaptation and mitigation resources for the most vulnerable locations.
- Identify where defensible space standards and home hardening codes will apply.

The initial draft of the map (now termed the Wildfire Hazard Map) was released in June of 2022 and soon thereafter temporarily withdrawn for further refinement.

The newest draft version of the hazard map was made public last July and a final version was released on January 7, 2025.

The release of the Hazard Map has formally started an appeals process for property owners who will be subject to additional regulations in the future. Those potentially affected property owners have received a formal packet from ODF regarding the appeals process.

Additionally, until such time that ODF undertakes formal rulemaking to codify new defensible space standards and home hardening codes, the map will not affect most development proposals, regardless of the wildfire hazard status on a particular property. There are noteworthy exceptions to this process for dwelling units within designated

resource zones (farm and forest zones) and rural accessory dwelling units (ADUs). It is unclear at this time when the rulemaking process will occur and new regulatory standards will be introduced which apply to residential development more broadly. After rulemaking has been conducted, properties with both of the following characteristics will be subject to new regulatory standards:

1. The property is located within a designated High Hazard area; and
2. The property is located with a designated Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Properties meeting standards will be subject to the following requirements:

1. Fire Hardening: New dwellings, additions to existing dwellings, and certain exterior alterations to existing dwellings must meet the standards set forth in section R327 of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code; and
2. Defensible Space: currently unreleased standards for defensible space established by the State Fire Marshal

In the current Legislative session, SB 678 has been introduced to amend SB 762 by replacing the existing requirement of a Wildfire Hazard Map and directing the State Board of Forestry to 1) provide a definition of wildland urban interface and 2) recognize differences across the state in fire hazard, fire risk and structural differences within the interface. The bill would also require that the State Board of Forestry establish minimum standards for minimizing or mitigating fire risk.

Property owners should be aware that in 2023, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 82 which explicitly prohibits any insurance company from using a map published by the State to identify areas of wildfire risk or exposure as a basis for increasing insurance premiums, canceling a policy, or refusing to renew a homeowners policy.

To assist with questions about hazard map designations and what these mean to property owners, ODF has opened a call center to answer commonly asked questions. This support line is only for questions on the hazard map and will be staffed Monday through Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST from Jan. 7 until mid-March. Interested parties can call 1-844-996-2259 for assistance or email questions to [hazardmap@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:hazardmap@odf.oregon.gov).

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

None

**ATTENDANCE:**

Kevin Moriarty, Deschutes County Forester  
Kyle Collins, Associate Planner