



October 20, 2023

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The Museum at Warm Springs is in partnership with Deschutes County, Jefferson County, and The High Desert Museum to submit the ***Building Wildfire Resilient Landscapes for the Protection of Indigenous Cultures and Museums*** project for consideration under FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant in the 2024 program cycle.

Central Oregon continues to live under the constant threat of catastrophic wildland fire events. For example, the area has experienced upwards of 500 wildland fires which burn an average of 200,000 acres annually. The frequency and increasing severity of these events are of great concern to the emergency response community. The potential loss of the Museum at Warm Springs or the High Desert Museum coupled with the safe evacuation of irreplaceable artifacts, wildlife, and the general population continues to be a top priority for first responders and public safety agencies.

The proposed project features a wildland fire suppression system that offers remote, sensor activated water or retardant deployment around each Museum's campus. This new technology will not only enhance building codes for assets in the wildland urban interface but alleviate the improbability of successful evacuation strategies (and their costs) for the Museums under imminent threat of wildfire. In fact, the installation of this system would enable the Museums to "shelter in place" in the event of a wildfire while ensuring emergency responders may focus their efforts where the need is greatest.

Each museum has and continues to complete hazardous fuels reduction strategies across their landscape in defense of catastrophic wildfire events. Nevertheless, wildland fire professionals have witnessed the extreme fire behavior in Western United States and agree that the Museums are vulnerable to the ongoing threat of extended fire seasons. We urge ODEM and FEMA to recognize the critical need of this investment through the BRIC Grant Program.

You may call me at the number below or email [liz@museumatwarmsprings.org](mailto:liz@museumatwarmsprings.org) with concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

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The Confederated Tribes of the  
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon  
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