



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Upcoming Oregon Department of Forestry Wildfire Hazard Map Meeting / SB 80

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

N/A

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Staff seeks Board of County Commissioners (Board) direction as it pertains to preparing and offering technical input for the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) September 21, 2023, Wildfire Hazard Map meeting. Draft maps are expected to be released two weeks prior for review. A follow-up meeting with the Board on September 13 or 18 may be appropriate.

In 2022, 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 also showed what properties in Oregon fall within the wildland-urban interface (WUI), as defined by the Board of Forestry in rule in 2021. On August 4, 2022, the wildfire risk map released two months earlier, was temporarily withdrawn for further refinement. SB 80, passed in the 2023 Oregon legislative session, outlines changes that ODF is required to make to the map before it goes public again. ODF and the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) will be hosting a Wildfire Hazard Map meeting for District 2 which includes Deschutes County, immediately following the AOC Fall District Meeting at 2:00pm on Thursday, September 21 in Klamath Falls.

ODF plans on bringing maps to serve as a starting place for the September 21 meeting. It is anticipated they will provide the County with copies two weeks prior for review and to identify areas of concern. It is also expected ODF will also come ready to discuss any comments raised previously by affected counties.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

N/A

ATTENDANCE:

Will Groves, Planning Manager

Peter Gutowsky, AICP, Director

Kevin Moriarty, Deschutes County Forester

Kyle Collins, Associate Planner