



Date: DRAFT – December 11, 2023

To: Les Perkins, Co-Chair of AOC Natural Resources Committee
Graig Pope, Co-Chair of AOC Natural Resources Committee

Re: Input on Sustainable Wildfire Funding Proposal

Thank you for serving on the workgroup established to look at alternative methods to fund wildfire costs in Oregon. On November 30, 2023, we received a copy of the proposal called “Sustainable Wildfire Funding.” We discussed the proposal at our Board meeting on December 6, 2023, and again on December 20, 2023. As requested, below is feedback and input from Deschutes County:

1. The Board may have an issue with the \$10 flat fee for all property accounts since all residents who pay taxes into the State’s general fund are already paying for statewide fire suppression (through the General Fund portion of the ODF budget).

In addition to the feedback listed above, we respectfully request the following additional information:

1. Could you please provide a chart showing a chart of ODF protected acreage for each Oregon county?
2. Could you please explain how much federal funds are part of the ODF wildfire funding since the ODF fire suppression costs, in certain cases, are eligible for reimbursement through the Emergency Conflagration Act?
 - a. Historically, how much of ODF fire suppression costs been paid by the federal government?
3. Could you please explain how mutual aid agreements work with ODF?
 - a. Over the past several years, how much has fire suppression value has ODF received from mutual aid agreements?
 - b. Over the past several years, how much fire suppression costs has ODF incurred as a result of mutual aid agreements?

4. ODF's mission is "To serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forests to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability." If the ODF funding methodology changed, would ODF's mission change? Also, if the ODF funding methodology changed, would ODF's approach to protecting structures change?

Deschutes County Commissioners

c: Branden Pursinger, AOC Legislative Affairs Manager