



OREGON LIVING WITH FIRE

Spring 2024
Prescribed Burn



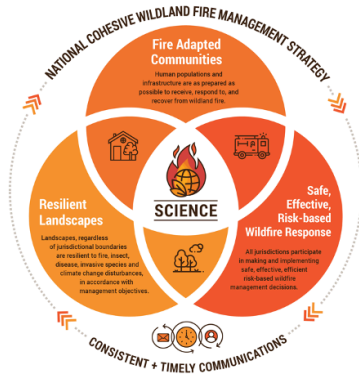
2024 ANNUAL REPORT

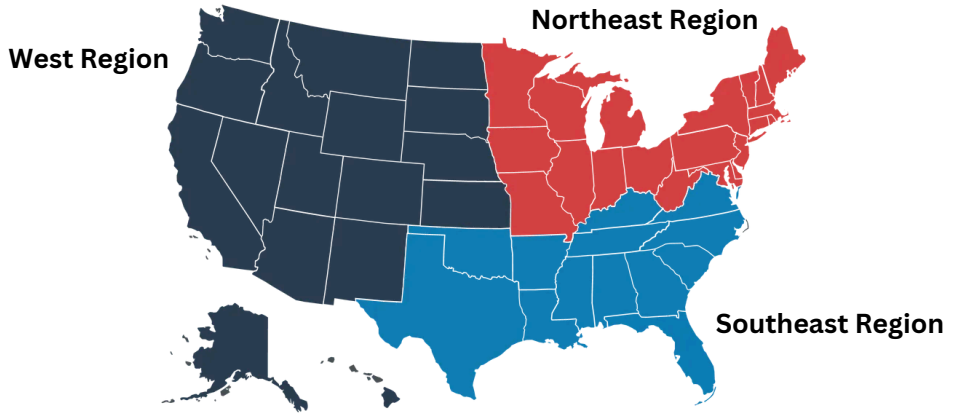


MISSION STATEMENT: Guided by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy’s framework and vision: To safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and collectively learn to live with wildland fire.

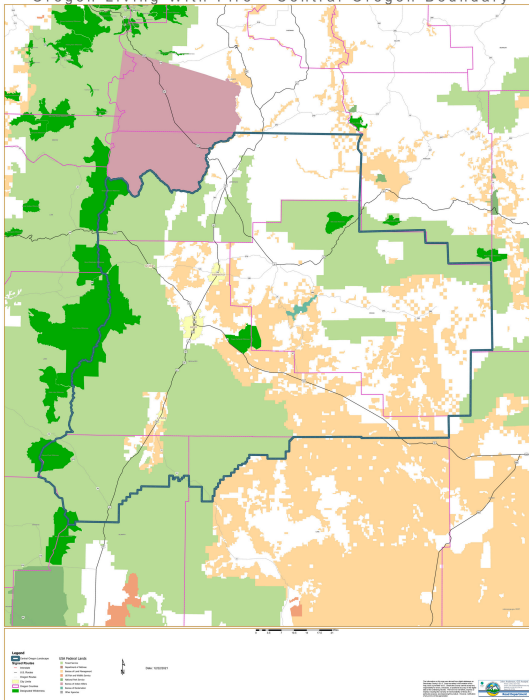
There are three primary goals that are necessary to achieving the vision.

1. **Resilient landscapes:** Landscapes, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries, are resilient to fire, insect, disease, invasive species and climate change disturbances, in accordance with management objectives.
2. **Fire-adapted communities:** Human populations and infrastructure are as prepared as possible to receive, respond to and recover from wildland fire (that impacts communities).
3. **Safe and effective risk-based wildfire response:** All jurisdictions, responding in all land types, participate in making and implementing safe, effective and efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.





Oregon Living With Fire - Central Oregon Boundary

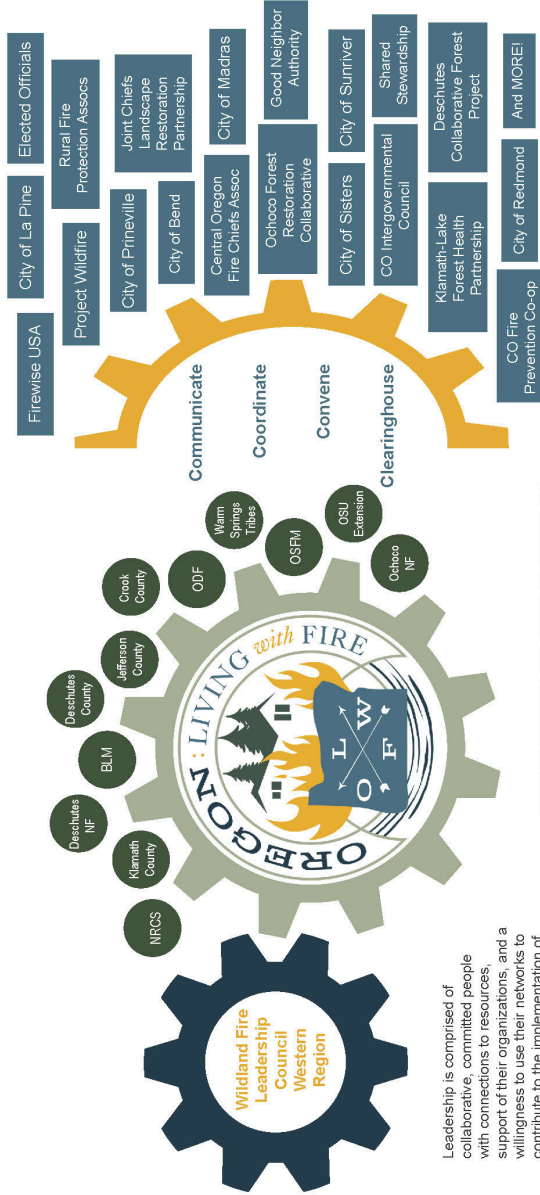


Nested under the Wildland Fire Leadership Council Western Region, Oregon Living With Fire covers Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, and the northern part of Klamath Counties. It is the local level facilitator helping to implement and track the Cohesive Strategy.

Oregon Living with Fire

OLWF facilitates and shares best practices that lead to advancements in community fire adaptation, resilient landscape creation and maintenance, and a more integrated wildland fire response in Central Oregon.

OLWF is guided by the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.



Leadership is comprised of collaborative, committed people with connections to resources, support of their organizations, and a willingness to use their networks to contribute to the implementation of top priorities.

OLWF utilizes these existing systems and networks to implement the Cohesive Strategy.

Communications and engagement are strategic and aimed organization-wide, aligned with the year's Program of Work and goals. Communications and engagement have a role within partner and stakeholder relationships and activities, as well as between all leadership and stakeholders.

Engagement with partners, stakeholders and programs in alignment with the Cohesive Strategy are specific to the Program of Work, and will continue to grow through networks to help accomplish the year's prioritized objectives.



IMPLEMENTING THE COHESIVE STRATEGY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

2024 Little Lava Fire

Oregon Living With Fire meets the national goals through a Program of Work, approved by its Steering Committee, engaging in objectives like strengthening partnerships, expanding communications, attending conferences and giving presentations. In 2024, we:

- Added capacity to the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project, Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative, and Central Oregon Fire Prevention Cooperative.
- Partnered with The Nature Conservancy, Deschutes National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry and others to host the 2024 Central Oregon TRES program at Rock Springs Ranch. This two week prescribed fire training exchange was instrumental in treating acres locally in a peer-to-peer learning environment.
- Assisted with updating Community Wildfire Protection Plans in Crook and Deschutes Counties.
- Researched and explored funding opportunities.
- Collaborated on and participated at Wildfire Preparedness Fairs in Sisters, Bend, Prineville, Madras and La Pine.
- Presented at the 2024 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Conference in Reno, Nevada, using the 10 & 18 framework to engage participants in thinking about how to effectively coordinate with individuals, stakeholders and agencies in their areas to meet the Cohesive Strategy goals.
- Helped facilitate a prescribed fire tour with the Deschutes National Forest.
- Hosted the annual Central Oregon Fire Year Briefing for partners to prepare for wildfire activity.
- Continued building partnerships to advance green debris disposal in Central Oregon.
- Created regular newsletter and blog content relevant to the Cohesive Strategy to share with stakeholders.
- Participated in meetings to learn about the latest science and collaborate on best practices that can be applied in the Central Oregon region.



Wildfires are a persistent risk to Oregon's communities and resources. For example, The High Desert Museum and The Museum at Warm Springs house thousands of years of cultural artifacts and, in the case of the High Desert Museum, live animals. These institutions play a critical role in preserving the region's heritage, but their unique needs make evacuation plans complex and challenging.

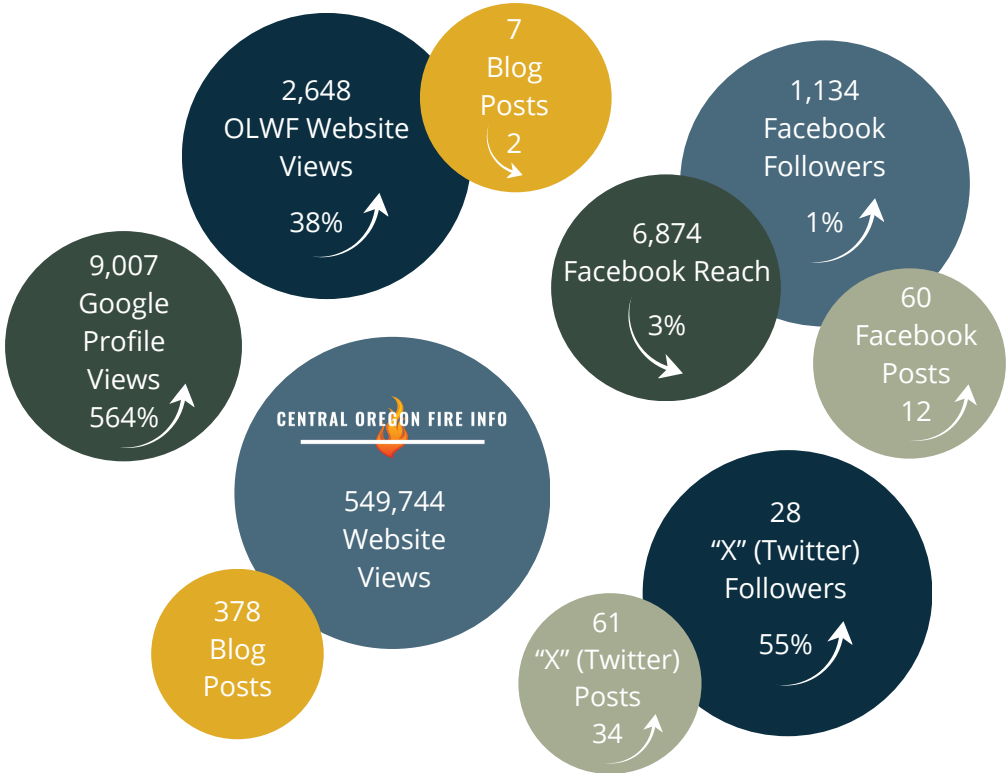
To address these risks, Oregon Living With Fire submitted a grant application under FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program for the installation of the Wildfire Infrastructure Resilience and Emergency Suppression (WIRES) system. This system would allow the museums to shelter in place during wildfires and may provide a safe evacuation option for local residents when other facilities are unavailable.

Although the application met or exceeded expectations, it was not selected for award due to limited funding. Oregon Living With Fire is exploring additional funding opportunities, including the potential to resubmit the application in a future BRIC funding cycle.

Additional Grant Opportunities

Oregon Living With Fire also connects communities with other resources to help reduce wildfire risks and improve preparedness. Here are several programs currently available:

- **Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG):** Provides funding for the creation or updating of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and implementation of projects that reduce wildfire risks.
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):** Supports long-term risk reduction projects following major disaster declarations.
- **Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program:** Focuses on proactive hazard planning and projects to lessen disaster impacts before they occur.
- **Rural Fire Capacity (RFC) Grant Program:** Offers financial assistance to rural fire departments for training, equipment purchases, and fire prevention initiatives.



OREGON LIVING *with* FIRE



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Fire Program

Steering Committee

Tim Deboodt, Crook County Natural Resources
Tony DeBone, Deschutes County Commissioner
Mark Wunsch, Jefferson County Commissioner
Ian Thigpen, Klamath County Emergency Manager
Holly Jewkes, Deschutes Nat'l Forest Supervisor
Shane Jeffries, Ochoco Nat'l Forest Supervisor
Amanda Roberts, BLM District Manager
Rob Pentzer, ODF District Forester
Damon Brosnan, NRCS Team Leader
Bobby Brunoe, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Ariel Cowan, OSU Extension Regional Fire Specialist
Heather Miller, OSFM Fire Risk Reduction Specialist
Echo Murray, Walker Range FPA Dispatch Coordinator

Staff

Jodie Barram, Co-Coordinator
Dr. Jennifer Fenton, Co-Coordinator
Erik Kropp, Contract Administrator



www.oregonlivingwithfire.org



coordinator@oregonlivingwithfire.org



<https://www.facebook.com/OregonLivingwithFire>



<https://x.com/OregonLWFire>