



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 80 – Wildfire Hazard Risk Mapping Discussion

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Staff seeks direction from the Board with respect to preparing and offering technical input for the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) September 21, 2023, Wildfire Hazard Map meeting. Staff last discussed these items during a work session on August 21, 2023.

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. The initial draft of the wildfire risk map was released on June 30, 2022. However, on August 4, 2022, the draft wildfire risk map was temporarily withdrawn for further refinement.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. Draft copies of these maps have been provided to staff to identify areas and issues for discussion. It is also expected ODF will also come ready to discuss any comments raised previously by affected counties.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

None

ATTENDANCE:

Will Groves, Planning Manager
Peter Gutowsky, AICP, Director
Kevin Moriarty, Deschutes County Forester