



**FORESTRY & NATURAL
RESOURCES EXTENSION'S
FIRE PROGRAM**

IMPACT REPORT 2021



**Oregon State
University**



We use education, outreach, and boundary spanning partnerships to foster the resiliency of communities and landscapes to wildfire at scale.

FIRE PROGRAM MISSION

The Extension Fire Program empowers people to live well with fire.

ABOUT THE OSU EXTENSION FIRE PROGRAM

The Extension Fire Program is part of the broader Forestry & Natural Resources (FNR) Extension Program at Oregon State University (OSU). Working with FNR and the College of Forestry (and beyond), we use education, outreach, and boundary spanning partnerships to foster the resiliency of communities and landscapes to wildfire at scale. Our approach centers on a team of six wildland fire specialists who help to seek regionally relevant solutions in the diverse ecological and social contexts of their service areas. This report summarizes the activities and outcomes of the Extension Fire Program in 2021.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Let it be known that all Extension programming throughout the state of Oregon happens on traditional homelands. We acknowledge that Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, is located within the traditional homelands of the Mary's River or Ampinefu Band of Kalapuya. Following the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855, Kalapuya people were forcibly removed to reservations in Western Oregon. Today, living descendants of these people are a part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. To learn more, <https://diversity.oregonstate.edu/feature-story/land-acknowledgement>.



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Fire Program

Cover: OSU Extension Fire Program team, photo by Victor Villegas. This page: Rogue Valley Prescribed Burn Association burn day, by Chris Adlam

2020 Year in Brief

The first year of the Extension Fire Program was focused on hiring a team of eight including a program manager, state fire specialist, and six regional fire specialists. Tremendous work went into the strategic placement of the regional specialists in six service areas across the state. These service areas were created using fire and GIS expertise from multiple Colleges across OSU and based on similarities in fire behavior attributes. Service area boundary lines were adjusted based on constraints such as topographic boundaries (i.e., extent of built-up areas near towns) and administrative limits (i.e., county lines) however, service area boundary lines do not always align with county lines. As a result, regional specialists often collaborate to serve counties that they share.

Once onboarded, the team hit the ground running responding to post-fire education needs following the 2020 Labor Day fires. We provided the people of Oregon with a listening session and a webinar series on a variety of post-fire topics. The objective of this series was to first listen, then provide people a pathway to recovery with resources and tools necessary to make informed decisions on how to care for their land after a fire. Webinar recordings are made available on the [Extension website](#) and [YouTube channel](#) and include resources specific to each topic.

Recognizing that some communities don't have access to broadband, the team organized webinar materials into short digestible and downloadable resource 'packets' of 1-pagers for each post-fire topic. We distributed the [packets](#) through postal mailings and site visits, as well as online.



6
webinars offered

4,378
webinar views

3,140
reached on social media

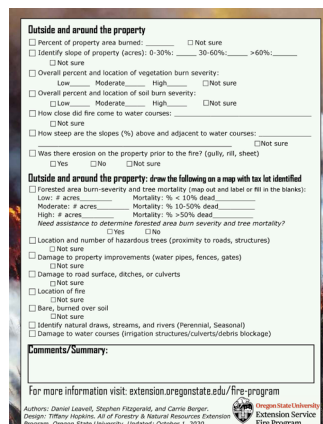


“Thank you for having this forum and opening the doors for collaboration, support, and encouragement!”

-Webinar participant



After the Fire Checklist is the resource packet, created by Tiffany Hopkin



Administrative Updates

The Extension Fire Program is advised by a State Advisory Committee with representation from key groups. The Committee meets virtually on a quarterly basis. Their feedback and insight have been instrumental to the direction of the Program. Additionally, each fire specialist has formed their own regional advisory committee(s).

Organization Name	Type
Bureau of Land Management, OR/WA office	Federal agency
Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon	Federal agency
Oregon Department of Forestry	State agency
Oregon Forest Resources Institute	State agency
Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal	State agency
Oregon Prescribed Fire Council	Nonprofit organization
Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association/Tree Farm	Nonprofit organization/member association
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	State agency
Sustainable Northwest	Nonprofit organization
The Nature Conservancy	Nonprofit organization
USDA Forest Service, Region 6	Federal agency
University of Oregon, Ecosystem Workforce Program	University

EXTENSION FIRE PROGRAM STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, *member organizations*

As with any new program, the Extension Fire Program has grown and adapted as wildfire-related needs in Oregon have expanded. To better align with these needs the Program went through a restructuring in 2021. The Extension state fire specialist position was shifted from the Program to the College of Forestry (COF) to develop a wildland fire education and experience program focused on for-credit opportunities. The Program also hired an interim director, currently Emily Jane Davis, to provide additional support and vision. Emily Jane comes to the Program with an extensive amount of experience related to wildfire, and natural resource social science, environmental governance, collaboration, community organization and development, science delivery, and social learning. Emily Jane is also an associate professor with OSU's Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society. Her expertise helps the Program to navigate and assist with landscape-scale, cross-boundary work, and evolving state fire policy.

In February (2022), Amanda Rau, regional fire specialist for the Willamette Valley/North Cascade service area, left OSU after accepting a position as the Oregon Department of Forestry's new Statewide Prescribed Fire Coordinator. Amanda tweeted that "I look forward to working with partners to implement the certified burn manager program, help ODF firefighters engage in prescribed burning, and work on policy to get more #rxfire on the ground!" An open national search to refill this position should be completed by summer 2022.

Growing

ADAPTING TO COVID-19

Like others, the fire team worked to adjust and adapt to the ever-changing pandemic landscape. Much of our education and outreach occurred virtually. This increased access for many, but also brought challenges including issues for those without broadband or reliable service, loss of personal connection through face-to-face interactions, and meeting/webinar fatigue. Remote work environments and isolation affected relationship building and for some, exacerbated mental health stressors coupled with ongoing environmental, political, and social complexities.

To respond effectively in this environment and offer inclusive programming, we:

- Used closed captioning and colorful photos and infographics in virtual presentations
- Used trauma-informed care approaches when speaking and listening to other's stories
- Recorded webinars so people could watch on their own timeline
- Created resource packets and distributed them through postal mailings and site visits
- Focused on safe relationship building opportunities with local communities and partners where possible

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

It takes collective action from many hands to advance wildfire preparedness and adaptation. The Extension Fire Program fundamentally focuses on working with partners to seek shared goals, and all our efforts are only possible with these partners. For example, our State Advisory Committee allows us to draw on the expertise and ideas of multiple agencies and organizations to regularly inform our program direction. Specific initiatives such as our webinar series and prescribed fire training have been conceptualized and implemented with the skills of other Extension faculty and state and federal agencies. Our regional specialists have emphasized building trust and relationships with partners and community members

in their service areas as an essential foundation. We recognize and offer gratitude to the countless people and organizations who make this work possible.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITMENTS AND WORK IN 2021

The OSU Extension Service is committed to equal access and opportunity, and to ensuring all reasonable effort is made to deliver and to provide access to Extension programs and services for all individuals.

A core value of OSU Extension is that *we exhibit respect, value differing perceptions and world views, and encourage diversity.*

Putting these principles into action as a new program to date has largely meant listening, learning, and seeking to build authentic relationships with diverse communities around the state. Fostering these relationships takes time, care, and humility. We particularly recognize that wildfire disproportionately affects the security and livelihoods of populations including non-English speakers, people of color, Tribal, and low-income communities; and that access to resources to prepare, respond, and recover is often unevenly distributed. As we continue to grow our understanding of community needs and interests, we will develop:

- A guiding framework for our program's values and approach to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Locally and culturally appropriate programming and partnerships that involve disproportionately affected communities and accounts for disparities in power and social status
- Processes for prioritizing the needs of vulnerable populations in landscape resiliency projects and plans
- Opportunities to elevate underrepresented voices in wildfire-related management and policy decisions
- Collaborations with partners to elevate collective impact

2021 Activities and Impacts

FIRE AWARE. FIRE PREPARED. WEBINAR SERIES

Ever-greater numbers of people are living within areas mixed with forests and wildlands and urban areas: the wildland-urban interface (WUI). In addition to changes in climate and a century of vegetative fuel buildup, human-caused wildfires are increasing, and wildfire events are growing in size and impact. Oregon's 2020 wildfires west of the Cascade Mountains were no exception and served as a reminder that everyone needs to be prepared for a wildfire emergency or smoke event.

To address this broad and growing educational need, the Extension Fire Program and our Forestry and Natural Resources Extension colleagues provided a series of 11 "Wildfire Wednesdays" webinars to proactively address wildfire preparedness at three levels: individual, community, and the landscape. This statewide program, through a wide range of topics presented by guest speakers and panels, such as fire and fuels experts, forest and land managers, agency and organizational representatives, academics, and many others, offered participants and viewers information on and a skillset for preparing for the reality of wildfire through greater personal awareness and actions. Extension foresters and our fire specialists also provided this information to communities at the local level in their respective service areas where local context was highlighted.

Webinar recordings were made available on the [Extension website](#) and [YouTube channel](#) and included resources specific to each topic. As with our post-fire response work in 2020, we recognized that some communities don't have access to reliable Internet, and similarly developed and distributed [resource packets](#) through postal mailings and site visits.

IMPACT

The Fire Aware. Fire Prepared. webinars reached people in all 36 counties in Oregon, with over 10,000 attending the live webinars and watching the recordings. That reach extended also to 30 states and six countries. Follow-up

surveys showed that over 90% of participants felt more prepared for wildfire after watching the webinars.

CALL TO ACTION

Many participants also responded to our "call to action" at the end of each webinar by taking actions that included:

- Registering for the emergency alert system
- Talking with their neighbor(s) about wildfire preparedness
- Doing at least one action from the Firewise checklist
- Reviewing evacuation levels
- Making an evacuation plan



Fire Aware. Fire Prepared. "Wildfire Wednesdays", by Carrie Berger

2021 Activities and Impacts

PRESCRIBED FIRE

The health and function of many of Oregon's ecosystems have historically been driven by and supported with fire. The warming and drying climate conditions observed in recent years are adding to the likelihood of severe, large-scale disturbances. Research suggests that wildfires, along with insect and disease issues, are altering the landscape at an accelerated rate. After nearly two centuries of decreased fire frequency, accumulated fuel loads contribute to large fire events and fire effects may become more severe. Prescribed fire, an important tool for reinstating fire's beneficial role in many ecosystems, is challenging to implement. Our program seeks to address some of these barriers to prescribed fire use through new educational and outreach approaches.

Prescribed fire basics modules

The team developed a six module Prescribed Fire Basics Collection which was published in March 2022. The goal of this series is to provide introductory-level information to increase understanding of the importance and mechanics of prescribed burns. The intended audience is landowners and others looking to better understand what prescribed fire is, the role prescribed fire plays across the state of Oregon, and a basic outline of the steps that go into planning and implementing a prescribed burn. These modules will also help guide and inform future education and training events.



Check out each prescribed fire module on the Extension Fire Program website: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/prescribed-fire-basics>

Prescribed fire education and training event

The Extension Fire Program helps facilitate partnerships working to make landscapes more resilient to wildfire. As we built these relationships, we heard from our partners that there is a crucial need for more educational opportunities focused on prescribed fire. Specifically, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was lacking regional training opportunities that would enable

their personnel to work with landowners to promote the safe and effective use of prescribed fire across Oregon. In response to this need, we partnered with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to develop a foundational prescribed fire awareness training for these conservation professionals.

The goal of the awareness training was to help NRCS planners determine when to recommend prescribed fire as a conservation practice that addresses specific resource concerns, and to provide them with the tools to do so. This then enables planners to better plan agreements involving prescribed fire that are eligible for NRCS funding. The result was a three-day event in late October that covered key topics such as reasons for prescribed burning, ecological effects of fire, fuels, fire behavior, weather and fire, ignition and combustion, and smoke management. Fifteen NRCS attendees representing diverse ecological and social settings from Oregon's northeastern Blue Mountains to the agricultural Willamette Valley participated. In addition to its educational aspects, the training was a venue to build relationships and share knowledge about working with private landowners, developing all-lands partnerships, and more.



Prescribed fire classroom portion of the education and training event, by Carrie Berger

2021 Activities and Impacts

IMPACT

As a result of these educational materials and training, landowners and managers now have additional tools to implement diverse conservation practices that will help native systems be more resilient to wildfire and future changes in climate. The awareness training also helped set the foundation for future opportunities to collectively promote prescribed fire implementation. This was more than just an opportunity to teach; it was an opportunity to learn about how we can best meet educational needs while also overcoming broader barriers to ensuring our landscapes are healthy and adaptable to the future wildfires.

After the training, a large majority of participants indicated the training was very or extremely useful to their work. Their responses included: “This training has helped me get past the fear of the unknown I had in regard to Rx burns”, and “I will have a more involved discussion regarding the benefits of Rx fire.” In a few short months following the training, the number of new NRCS prescribed burn plans has increased, and the number of acres slated for prescribed fire has also increased from a few hundred to nearly 10,000 acres.



Check out the video from the training event, Prescribed Fire Training Brings Benefits to Communities and Landscape, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/video/prescribed-fire-trainings-benefit-communities-landscapes>



Top right: John Rizza conducting a test burn; Bottom left: Emily Jane Davis and Amanda Rau monitoring the burn; Bottom right: class instruction on equipment, all by Carrie Berger



2021 Activities and Impacts



SMOKE READY COMMUNITIES

Oregon communities need to be both fire and smoke ready. The Smoke Ready Communities working group was convened by OSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources faculty members in January 2021 to identify how people living in Oregon access information about smoke, what educational information and resources exist and how well they meet needs, and what mechanisms/media work best for people impacted by smoke (including when they are displaced by fire evacuations). The group soon expanded to include colleagues from OSU’s College of Public Health and Human Sciences, University of Oregon’s Institute for a Sustainable Environment and its Ecosystem Workforce Program, Portland State University, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Health Authority, Sustainable Northwest, county emergency management professionals, and other smoke risk mitigation practitioners.

This group serves as a community of interest where public health and environmental quality researchers and outreach educators connect to explore shared needs and opportunities. The Ecosystem Workforce Program and the Oregon Health Authority recently completed surveys

(in English and Spanish) examining how people living in Oregon accessed smoke-related information during the 2020 Labor Day fires, and what communication mechanisms they found most useful and effective. In 2022, we will focus on review of existing educational materials, development of new materials to fill any identified information/education gaps, and creation of new media and outreach approaches to better address smoke related education needs and communication preferences.

IMPACT

The Smoke Ready Communities working group has brought together multiple institutions, organizations, and agencies and has provided a space for collaboration, partnership, and relationship building. Importantly, we are all working together to align messaging backed in sound science to serve the health and readiness of the people living in Oregon.

Wildfire smoke, by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

2021 Activities and Impacts

POLICY EFFORTS

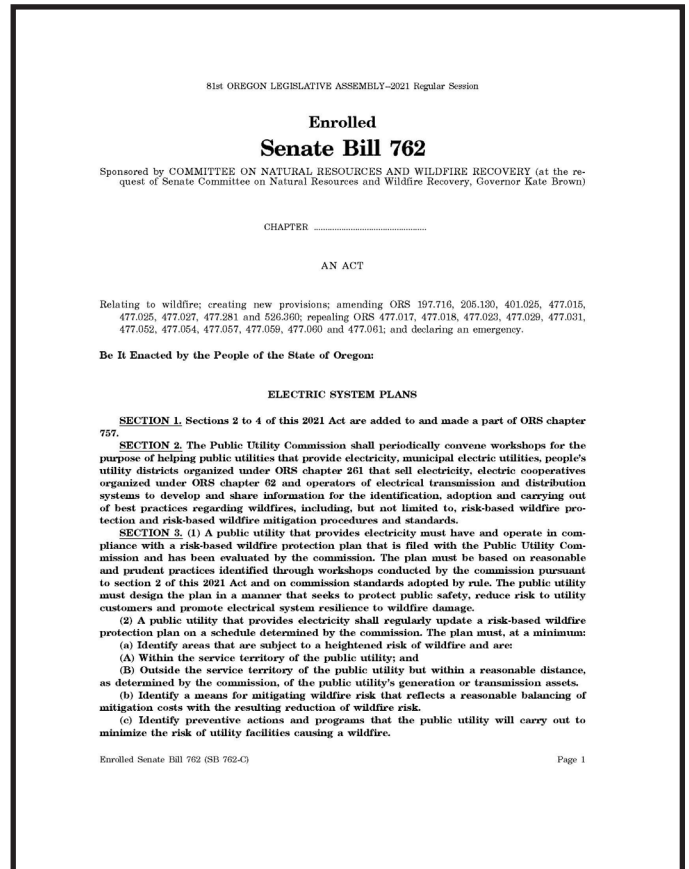
In 2021, the Oregon legislature passed Senate Bill 762, which invests \$195 million in new activities to map wildfire risk, implement risk reduction at larger scales, more effectively respond to fires, and ultimately live with fire as best as possible.

This is an unprecedented level of investment and collective action that requires 11 agencies, and OSU, to each play a part while coordinating for shared goals. It also invests in the Oregon Conservation Corps to help get all the work accomplished on the ground while building skills and workforce capacity. SB 762 also brings a new environment for Extension and our partners, as the pending state map of wildfire risk will classify properties to inform new defensible space requirements, building codes, and land use rules and regulations.

To date, our regional specialists are serving as partners in risk reduction projects in their areas, helping track lessons learned, seeking equitable access to resources, and supporting landscape resiliency and small private forestland program projects. We also provide key advisory and support roles for a rulemaking advisory committee for new prescribed burning efforts, a new study of prescribed fire liability and insurance (HB 2571), the Governor's Wildfire Programs Advisory Council, and the development of ODF's new 20-year strategic plan for wildfire risk reduction.

IMPACT

Working together with partners on specific risk reduction projects helps achieve more outcomes on the ground. Engaging in advisory and strategic efforts allows us to contribute to blueprints for living with fire and equitably investing in landscape resiliency for decades to come. Extension's role as a non-governmental, non-regulatory entity will also be important in helping Oregonians be aware of and adapt to changes to come from SB 762.



SB 762 approved in 2021, <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB762/Enrolled>

COUNTIES SERVED:

- Clatsop
- Columbia
- Tillamook
- Washington
- Yamhill
- Polk
- Lincoln
- Benton
- Lane
- Douglas

EXTENSION FIRE PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES:

- Scholarship
- Presentations/lectures
- Webinars
- Field tours
- Workshops (in English & Spanish)
- Prescribed fire training
- Partnership building
- Ask an Expert
- Media contributions



COAST Regional Fire Specialist

AARON GROTH



Learn more about Aaron Groth,
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/people/aaron-groth>



Aaron joined the Extension Fire Program team in January 2021 and brings experience in environmental geography, spatial analysis, and participatory mapping; and is fluent in Spanish. Aaron focused efforts on building collaborations and partnerships and tailoring educational fire programming to identified needs through a variety of mechanisms and tools. For example, Aaron was able to engage with Listos, a group of Spanish speaking immigrant volunteers previously trained in disasters/tsunami preparedness by the Newport Fire Department, and deliver programming in Spanish related to wildfire preparedness and prevention.

Aaron also designed and delivered four radio programs related to wildfire, including one airing in Spanish. All his efforts aim to raise public awareness around the historic role of fire in the landscape, use of prescribed fire on the Coast, the home ignition zone, defensible space, and importance of preparedness at the individual, community, and landscape scales.

Photo left: Stakeholder visit at Barney Reservoir, by Aaron Groth

COUNTIES SERVED:

Coos
Douglas
Curry
Josephine
Jackson
Klamath

EXTENSION FIRE PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES:

Scholarship
Presentations/lectures
Webinars
Field tours
Workshops
Prescribed fire training
Partnership building
Ask an Expert
Media contributions

Southwest Regional Fire Specialist

CHRIS ADLAM



Learn more about Chris Adlam, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/people/christopher-adlam>



Chris joined the Extension Fire Program team in October 2020 and brings experience in fire ecology, prescribed fire, and partnerships for Indigenous fire management. In his first year with the Program, he focused efforts on prescribed burning capacity, Indigenous fire management, program development, and science delivery. Chris helps increase prescribed fire capacity by supporting the Rogue Valley Prescribed Burn Association (PBA), a first of its kind in Oregon. PBAs provide training, equipment, and labor to apply fire safely; and help build networks and social capital among landowners who are interested in

using fire. Chris has also supported several initiatives aimed at restoring Indigenous cultural burning including participating on the OSU-based Cultural Fire Working Group that supports intercultural research and opportunities around cultural fire, as well as culturally informed opportunities for Indigenous students at OSU interested in ecology and natural resources and Indigenous fire practitioner trainings. Chris is often sought out by the media as a resource for prescribed fire and fire ecology topics in SW Oregon.

Photo left: Little Applegate, by Chris Adlam

COUNTIES SERVED:

- Multnomah
- Washington
- Clackamas
- Yamhill
- Polk
- Benton
- Marion
- Linn
- Hood River
- Wasco
- Lane

WILLAMETTE VALLEY/NORTH CASCADES
Regional Fire Specialist - VACANT



OSU Extension Fire Program team, by Victor Villegas. Learn more about the team, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/program/all/fire-program/people>

EXTENSION FIRE PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES:

- Scholarship
- Presentations/lectures
- Webinars
- Field tours
- Workshops
- Prescribed fire training
- Partnership building
- Ask an Expert
- Media contributions



In February 2022, Amanda Rau, regional fire specialist for the Willamette Valley/ North Cascade left OSU after accepting a position as the Oregon Department of Forestry’s new Statewide Prescribed Fire Coordinator. The COF along with the Extension Service has announced an open national search to fill this position. Amanda made many valuable contributions during her time with the Program including responding to extensive post-fire community needs; providing expert knowledge through multiple trainings, presentations, lectures, webinars, and media outlets; delivering

testimony during the 2020-2021 Legislative Session for prescribed fire; and championing prescribed fire use and Indigenous fire management.

Photo left: Oak-prairie prescribed burn, by Amanda Rau

COUNTIES SERVED:

Jefferson
Wheeler
Grant
Crook
Deschutes
Klamath
Lake

EXTENSION FIRE PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES:

Scholarship
Presentations/lectures
Webinars
Field tours
Workshops
Prescribed fire training
Partnership building
Ask an Expert
Media contributions

CENTRAL Regional Fire Specialist

ARIEL COWAN



Learn more about Ariel Cowan, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/people/ariel-cowan>



Ariel (“Ari”) Cowan joined the Extension Fire Program team in November 2020 and brings experience in community preparedness, forest health, and soil ecology. Ariel focused her 2021 efforts on learning about her fire service area, initiating relationships with key partners, and responding to post fire needs. She identified many local collaborations and acted on the fast-moving developments of SB 762. Many of her major accomplishments were in the initiation of programming, events, and grants that will come to fruition in 2022. Ariel is part of several collaborative efforts throughout her area including Wasco County Forest

Collaborative, Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project, Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership, and Central Oregon Shared Stewardship Alliance. Her role in these collaborative efforts is diverse and has included such efforts as assisting in the application process for the SB 762 Landscape Resiliency Program. Like many on the team, Ariel is committed to fostering a prescribed fire practitioner network and is developing relationships with members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Klamath Tribes in her area.

Photo left: Ariel Cowan joined a tour of tribal lands in the Black Hills unit where the Bootleg Fire burned through an area that had been treated with prescribed fire earlier that year, by Ariel Cowan

COUNTIES SERVED:

Sherman
Gilliam
Umatilla
Wallowa
Union
Wheeler
Grant
Baker
Malheur

NORTHEAST Regional Fire Specialist

JOHN RIZZA



Learn more about John Rizza, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/people/john-rizza>

EXTENSION FIRE PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES:

Scholarship
Presentations/lectures
Webinars
Field tours
Workshops
Prescribed fire training
Partnership building
Ask an Expert
Media contributions



John Rizza joined the Extension Fire Program team in January 2021 and brings experience in Extension education, outreach, and program delivery; home hardening, and forest and rangeland management. John has focused his first year on building trust and relationships with community members, agencies, organizations, and Tribes; assisting collaborative efforts; and providing broad state and local-level programming. John has been working closely with multiple partnerships in his area including the Northern Blues Forest Collaborative and all lands efforts, the My Blue Mountains

Woodlands partnership, Firewise® community development, and the Southern Blues Restoration Partnership. He is helping encourage more connection and potential collaboration across the entire Blue Mountains region. John was also instrumental in developing the Extension Fire Program’s Prescribed Fire Basics Series containing six modules related to the very basics of prescribed fire for any non-fire professional interested in learning about this valuable land management tool. Additionally, he designed and facilitated a prescribed fire education and training opportunity for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a highly valued partner. John is often called on for his expertise in home hardening and defensible space principles and has given more than a dozen presentations on fire preparedness to thousands of viewers. John is also helping navigate SB762 grant funding opportunities in the region on several projects that will incentivize landowner action to reduce wildfire risk in several communities.

Photo left: Connecting private landowners together, and coordinating with public land treatment projects, our collective ability to plan and implement projects will ensure resilience of our landscape for the future, by John Rizza

COUNTIES SERVED:

Malheur
Harney

EXTENSION FIRE PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES:

Scholarship
Presentations/lectures
Webinars
Field tours
Workshops
Prescribed fire training
Partnership building
Ask an Expert
Media contributions

SOUTHEAST Rangeland Fire Specialist

KATIE WOLLSTEIN



Learn more about Katie Wollstein,
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/people/katherine-wollstein>



Katie joined the Extension Fire Program team in November 2020 with experience in rangeland policy and governance, and applied social science. Katie has focused on how to foster fire-adapted rangeland communities. In sparsely-populated counties where livelihoods are largely dependent upon natural resources, this has included clientele understanding factors that contribute to fire risk and engaging in collective actions to mitigate those risks. She has provided education and outreach on topics related to fire risk, managing rangeland fuels, and ecosystem resilience to fire. Katie has also focused on the conditions that improve landowner-agency

coordination, so their activities are synergistic and collectively translate to improved fire outcomes and ecosystem resilience. A central piece of this is managing invasive annual grasses, a collective action problem that crosses boundaries and elevates community risk of wildfire. Katie assisted High Desert Partnership in coordinating and producing a special issue of *Rangelands* featuring 11 articles (with 33 different authors) that advance a coordinated strategy to address invasive annual grasses in the northern Great Basin. Along with all this work, Katie has received \$64,000 in new grant funding to support research and Extension activities.

Photo left: Rangeland stakeholders discussing how large, frequent wildfires have affected greater sage-grouse habitat in Harney County, by Katie Wollstein

2022 Focus Areas

Guided by feedback and insight from the Extension Fire Program’s State Advisory Committee, the Program is prioritizing three main areas:

- Science translation & application
- Landscape scale projects
- State fire policy involvement

SCIENCE TRANSLATION & APPLICATION

Understanding and helping to apply current science and offering science-based outreach and education. Example activities include working with other boundary spanning organizations like the Northwest Fire Science Consortium, identifying fire science needs regionally and statewide, designing or updating Extension programming to address needs, and emphasizing the role of science in decision making.

LANDSCAPE SCALE PROJECTS

Supporting planning, implementation, and adaptation of specific landscape projects. Example activities include prioritization processes and tools; partnerships; private landowner engagement, inventory, and assistance; and monitoring outcomes and impacts.

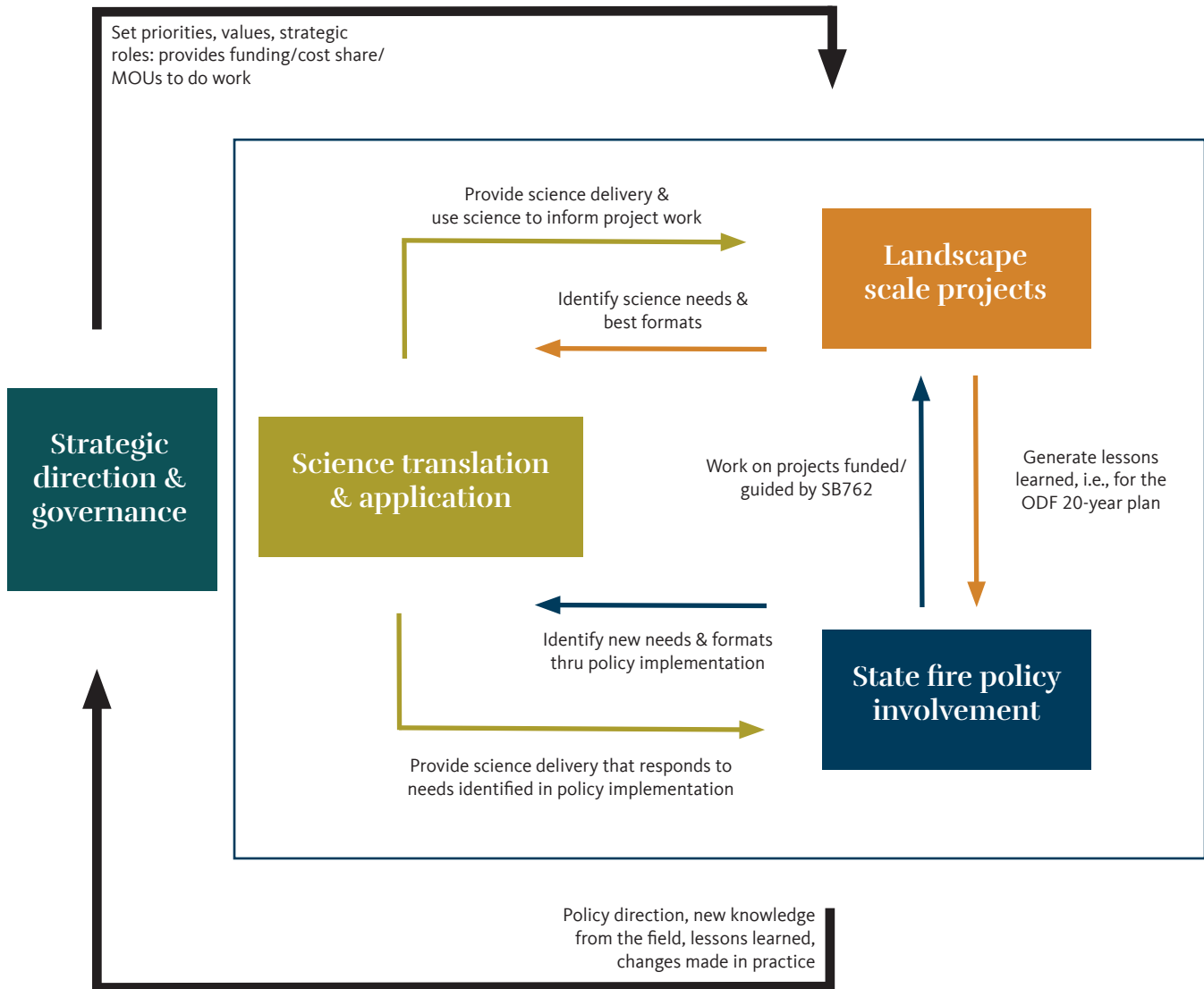
STATE FIRE POLICY INVOLVEMENT

Engaging in, supporting, and learning from Oregon SB 762 and HB 2571 implementation. Example activities include wildfire risk reduction, specifically Section (18) grants and the 20-year Oregon Department of Forestry strategic plan, Certified Burn Manager Program and prescribed fire insurance and liability, the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council, and potential other areas of the Bills as opportunities arise.

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In addition to these three priority areas, it is also crucial that the Program work on strategic direction and governance by focusing on clarifying and building out what we do and how we do it. Examples of this include clarifying our values, purpose, and priorities; goals and workplans; regional and state advisory committees; and continue to establish how we operate and how we are administered.

2022 Focus Areas



Demonstration of how the four Extension Fire Program focus areas work together, by Emily Jane Davis



Ariel Cowan and Aaron Groth participating in a prescribed burn at the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest

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**Extension Service
Fire Program**

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