

OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Wildfire Recovery Update

January 12, 2022

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management, in coordination with state and federal partners, distributes this update of collated and verified information on Oregon's wildfire recovery efforts.

LTRGs connect 2020 wildfire survivors with resources to empower & support

In response to the 2020 wildfires that affected many Oregon communities, seven Long Term Recovery Groups were formed to fill gaps and connect recovery resources for disaster-caused unmet needs for impacted individuals and families. Sixteen months after the fires, these committed LTRGs have done amazing work and remain committed to helping survivors rebuild their lives while establishing their new normal.

Each LTRG has seen successes and wins along the way — in Lane County, the LTRG established the Camp Noah day camp for kids impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire, offering a place where children can explore activities, sports and more. In Clackamas County, the LTRG served as the driving force for rebuilding a home for a couple who lost all their possessions in the Riverside Fire; the group has another two homes in progress.

All seven LTRGs have had a significant impact on uniting recovery resources with community needs to ensure that even the most vulnerable in the community are supported in recovering from the disaster. There is still a lot left to be done and a need for help to advance the work of rebuilding and longterm resilience in these communities. Click the LTRG county contact links below to connect with these incredible organizations and find out how to donate or volunteer to help.

- <u>Clackamas County LTRG</u>
- Santiam Canyon LTRG (Marion & Linn)
- Lincoln County LTRG
- McKenzie Valley LTRG (Lane)
- Jackson County Community LTRG
- Archie Creek Fire LTRG (Douglas)
- Klamath-Lake LTRG (no website)

BY THE NUMBERS

Sheltered Persons: 562 Source: Oregon Department of Human Services

Individuals in Direct Housing: 556 Source: FEMA Direct Temporary Housing Program

Hazardous Trees Removed: 85,990 (90.7%) Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

Home Sites Cleared: 3,007 (99.6%) Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

Individual Assistance Registrants: 25,251 Source: FEMA Direct Temporary Housing Program

IA Amount Approved: \$37.4 million Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency



Campers at Camp Noah, a day camp for kids impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire, established by the McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group. (Credit: McKenzie Recovery)

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Debris Management Task Force continues to keep highways safe

Late last month, a snow-heavy tree nearly crushed an Oregon Dept. of Transportation incident responder traveling on Interstate-5. The ODOT comms team <u>captured and shared a harrowing video</u> that illustrates the need to be alert when traveling, especially during winter. While the video serves as a grave reminder of the extreme risks that exist during winter conditions and how ODOT crews immediately launch into action to keep highways open, it is also a testament to the amazing and critically necessary work that Task Force hazard tree crews continue to deliver to keep highways, communities and wildfire survivors safe as the state looks forward.



FEMA Direct Housing program extension

FEMA has granted a six-month extension for the Direct Housing Program for Jackson, Lane, Lincoln, Linn and Marion Counties, extending the mission to Sept. 15. Occupants will be notified in writing that the current Direct Housing program is being extended via letters that will be sent out by FEMA on Jan. 15. Direct Housing occupants will be required to pay rent at fair market value; however, they can request a rent adjustment from FEMA based on hardships unique to their circumstances.

Survivors looking to understand what assistance may be available or who would like help exploring their options, paying required rent or filing appeals should call 833-669-0554 (toll-free) to connect with a disaster case manager or local housing navigator.

Jackson County to offer welcome stability to hundreds of wildfire survivors

The Housing Authority of Jackson County, in collaboration with Oregon Housing and Community Services, has recently acquired the site of the former Royal Oaks Manufactured Home Park just outside of Phoenix, where about 120 modular homes will be placed as part of OHCS' effort to replace manufactured homes lost in the 2020 wildfires.

The 21-acre site, which was almost completely destroyed in the Almeda Fires, is being restored, and modular homes currently under construction will be available to low-income fire survivors who lost their manufactured homes to the fires. This permanent housing will offer welcome stability for hundreds of displaced survivors. The Housing Authority is working quickly to obtain site plan approval, which is needed to begin construction at the site. The park's operating budget is designed to offer residents a long-term, affordable space to rent.

The Housing Authority will work with the ACCESS Center for Community Resilience to provide marketing, outreach, homebuyer assistance and referral services to potential homeowners. These efforts will be coordinated and bolstered by the long-term recovery group and culturally specific community service organizations to ensure outreach and services to the Latinx community with an emphasis on equity.



A double rainbow arches over the location of the former Royal Oaks Manufactured Home Park just outside of Phoenix in Jackson County, where 120 modular homes that are being built right now will be placed. (Credit: Kim Travis, OHCS)

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