



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Wildfire Recovery Update

September 15, 2021

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.

Center for Community Resilience launches in Jackson County

ACCESS, the Community Action Agency of Jackson County, is launching a Center for Community Resilience this fall. Serving as a collaborative space to provide housing case management, the center will support the ongoing transition of hundreds of Jackson County wildfire survivors still living in temporary housing situations - hotels, RVs, etc. - into quality, affordable and permanent housing.

Flexible resources are available now for move-in costs, rental assistance or other funds needed to help renters and homeowners. Dedicated staff is helping individuals and families find permanent housing solutions as well as providing housing counseling and case management.

The Center for Community Resilience is made possible by a grant from the Department of Oregon Housing & Community Services. Donations from individuals and grantors will also be used to support disaster survivors. To learn more, visit accesshelps.org/ccr.

BY THE NUMBERS

Sheltered Persons: **821**
Source: Oregon Department of Human Services

Individuals in Direct Housing: **562**
Source: FEMA Direct Temporary Housing Program

Hazardous Trees Removed: **64,781**
(64.2% of total hazard trees)
Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

Home Sites Cleared: **2,635**
(86.7% of total home sites)
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

Our Path to Recovery: A virtual presentation

Oregon Housing & Community Services Deputy Director Caleb Yant joined elected leaders and stakeholders on September 14 for a virtual presentation and discussion of the status of wildfire recovery from the Almeda Fire in Southern Oregon. [Our Path to Recovery](#), hosted by State Representative Pam Marsh, provided housing information, reflections and status updates on housing projects throughout the community over the past year, along with information about recovery plans ahead and updates on manufactured housing. View a full recording of the event on [Zoom](#).

wildfire.oregon.gov

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Safety risk letters to be distributed in coming weeks

County officials in fire-impacted communities will begin sending safety risk letters to some property owners in the coming weeks. These letters will address debris and hazard trees along roadways or on properties that require removal.

Property owners who are already participating in the state cleanup program may call the Debris Management Task Force hotline at 503-934-1700 to see if the task force can help. Each county has different code requirements, however, and community members are encouraged to call county officials first to become familiar with local nuisance ordinances.

Equity in Oregon-based workforce

Oregon's workforce, including many underserved and disadvantaged Oregon businesses, are part of the communities devastated by the 2020 wildfires. The Debris Management Task Force has required prime contractors to demonstrate how they will support local community needs and workforces and how they will contribute to small business growth through diversity plans and regular status reports due each month.

Diversity plans include commitments to utilizing local businesses; developing and mentoring small, certified firms; utilizing local office space and services; and giving back to the communities in which they are working. Currently, 51% of the overall contracted workforce on all task force operations are minority, woman, or small business-owned contractors and 95% are Oregon-based businesses. As cleanup continues, partnering with Oregon-based companies helps with the physical rebuilding while ensuring these businesses can continue to thrive.

Repurposed trees restore fish habitat

In September 2020, more than 2,400 Oregonians lost their homes and 173 commercial structures were destroyed in the Almeda Fire. A year later, the Oregon Debris Management Task Force has cleared most of these sites as part of the state-led cleanup program, removing ash and debris and hazard trees for property owners to begin rebuilding. In some cases, the task force donates those hazard trees to local agencies and environmental groups for habitat restoration projects.

In coordination with the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Dept. of Transportation donated about 30 cut hazard trees from fire-destroyed Horizon Mobile Home Park in Phoenix to restore Coho fish habitat along the lower Whetstone Creek in the Rogue Valley. Large logs help to slow down water, accumulate gravel upstream where fish can spawn, and serve as a tool to help the recovery of the whole species. Watch the full story on [YouTube](#).

The 2020 wildfires left the Rogue Valley in a deep need of healing. As survivors come together to rebuild their homes and communities, good things are happening for fish and wildlife, too.



This publication is released bi-weekly on Wednesdays. Follow wildfire.oregon.gov or visit our [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) pages for additional updates.

This publication is available in Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese on the [Oregon Wildfire Recovery website](#). It is also available in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. For assistance, call 971-719-1183 or email language@oem.state.or.us. We accept all relay calls, or you can dial 711.



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