

1000 Friends of Oregon Releases A New Vision for Wildfire Planning: A Report on Land Use and Wildfires



The report offers detailed policy recommendations to keep Oregonians safe

In recent years, Oregonians have experienced increased risks to their health and lives, damage to natural resources, and destruction of homes from longer and more severe wildfire seasons. This past year, Oregonians watched in despair as the Columbia River Gorge burned, and mourned the loss of life of those fighting and fleeing fires here. All Oregonians have felt the impacts of wildfire in their daily lives, activities and businesses due to air filled with smoke from fires ranging from British Columbia to northern California.

1000 Friends of Oregon aims to create a brighter future. More than 107,000 homes in Oregon, worth \$12.7 billion and representing 8% of the state's housing supply, face high or very high risk of wildfire according to 1000 Friends of Oregon's recently released report, *A New Vision for Wildfire Planning: A Report on Land Use and Wildfires*. Download the full report by visiting [friends.org/WildfireReport](https://www.friends.org/WildfireReport).

"In recent years, every wildfire season seems to break records," says Russ Hoeflich, 1000 Friends of Oregon's Executive Director. "We decided to delve into that. It will come as no surprise that there two main culprits: climate change and increasing development in wildfire-prone areas."

The comprehensive 70-page report offers specific policy recommendations that 1000 Friends of Oregon hopes to see implemented during the 2019 legislative session, including:

- Mapping wildfire risk across Oregon
- Avoiding development in high risk areas
- Minimizing structures in high risk areas to those necessary for farm and forest use
- Mitigating risks to existing and future developments where development cannot be avoided altogether
- Enforcing current laws and standards

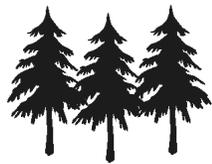
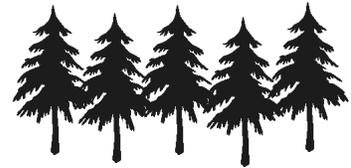
Lawmakers are already beginning to take action, with Governor Kate Brown set to soon release an executive order for a wildfire study.

"We hope to guide policymakers and the Land Conservation and Development Commission as they endeavor to keep Oregonians safe and address growing concerns about wildfires in Oregon," says Hoeflich. "Federal, state, local budgets have been woefully inadequate to cover fire-fighting costs, not to mention the costs of lost lives, homes, and businesses. We hope to see that change in 2019."

Since 1974, 1000 Friends of Oregon has worked with Oregonians to enhance our quality of life by building livable urban and rural communities, protecting family farms and forests, and conserving natural areas. Learn more by visiting [friends.org](https://www.friends.org).

A New Vision for Wildfire Planning: Policy Recommendations

Map wildfire risk across Oregon.



Avoid development in high risk areas.

Minimize structures in high risk areas to those necessary for farm and forest use.



Mitigate risks to existing and future developments where development cannot be altogether avoided.

Enforce current laws and standards.



Don't delay in search of perfect information.

Contact:

Meriel Darzen
meriel@friends.org
503-497-1000



Learn more:

friends.org/WildfireReport
info@friends.org
503-497-1000