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Reducing Wildfire Risk

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April 28, 2025

Agenda

- Joint communication and preparedness efforts.
- Update on alert programs, property and neighborhood assessments and programs
- Future actions in the coming year, fuel reduction, evacuation planning and other updates

“Each year, over 70% of Oregon’s wildfires are started by people.”
– Oregon Department of Forestry



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Communication & Preparedness

- Coordinated Planning
 - Mitigation
 - Continuity
 - Evacuation
- Exercises
 - Engage Partners
- Community Education/Outreach
 - Wildfire Preparedness Fair - 4/30
 - Business Continuity - 5/6
 - Summitt West Event - 6/4



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Deschutes Alerts

- March – Additional Needs Test
 - 2,227 Alerted
- May 7 – All County Test
- Number of Profiles:
 - Deschutes County – 60,785
 - Bend – 26,106
- Next steps
 - Continued engagement
 - Expanded outreach

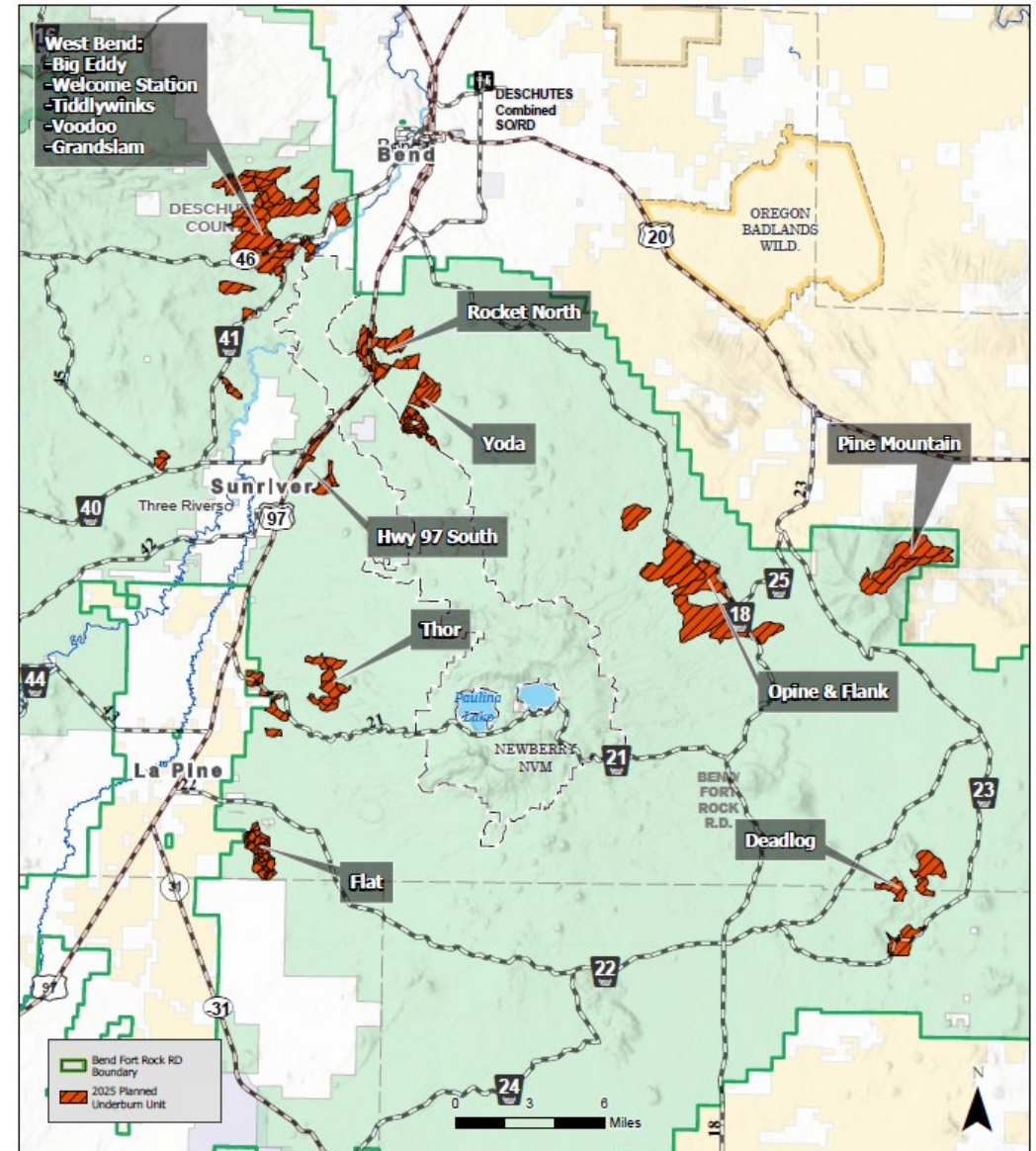


Prescribed Burning 2025

- Reduce severity and intensity of future wildfire.
- Planned for forests surrounding communities, highly-used recreation areas, and boundaries with private property.
- Implemented in areas where forest restoration is needed, and wildfire risk is greatest.
- Conducted under specific conditions temperature, wind, and humidity.
- [Prescribed Fire Plans | Central Oregon Fire Information](#)



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Wildfire Risk Reduction

- Fire Free – firefree.org
 - 6 Events: Bend, La Pine, Redmond, Sunriver, Sisters, and Jefferson County
 - **May 2025**, Check website for specific locations and dates.
- Central Oregon Fire Info – centraloregonfire.org
 - Prescribed fire and air quality information.
- Project Wildfire – projectwildfire.org
 - Prevent deaths, injuries, property loss and environmental damage.
- Oregon State Fire Marshal – oregondefensiblespace.org
 - Plan today, protect tomorrow.
- Firewise® USA – projectwildfire.org/firewise-usa/
- Own Your Zone/Risk Assessments– bendoregon.gov/own-your-zone / 541-322-6300



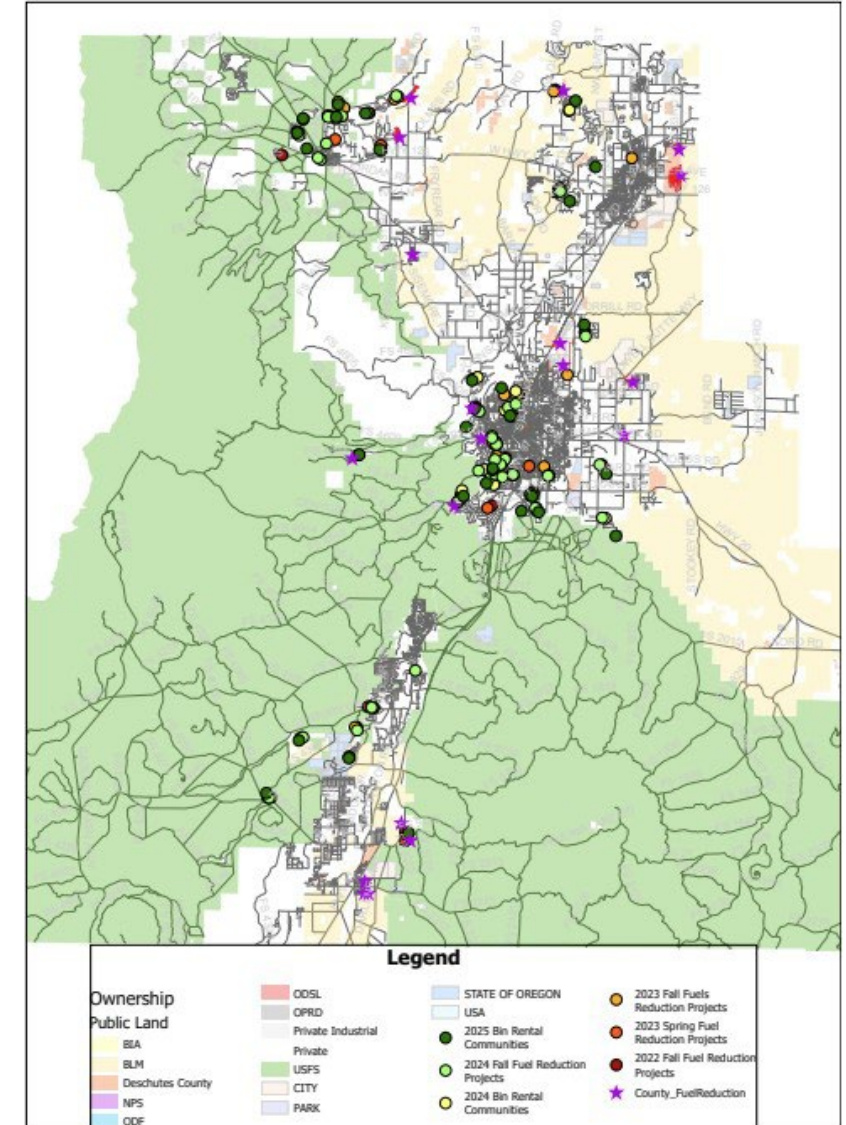
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Deschutes County Fuel Reduction Projects

2022 – Present

- 2022 Fall Fuel Reduction Projects
- 2023 Spring Fuel Reduction Projects
- 2023 Fall Fuels Reduction Projects
- 2024 Bin Rental Communities
- 2024 Fall Fuel Reduction Projects
- 2025 Bin Rental Communities



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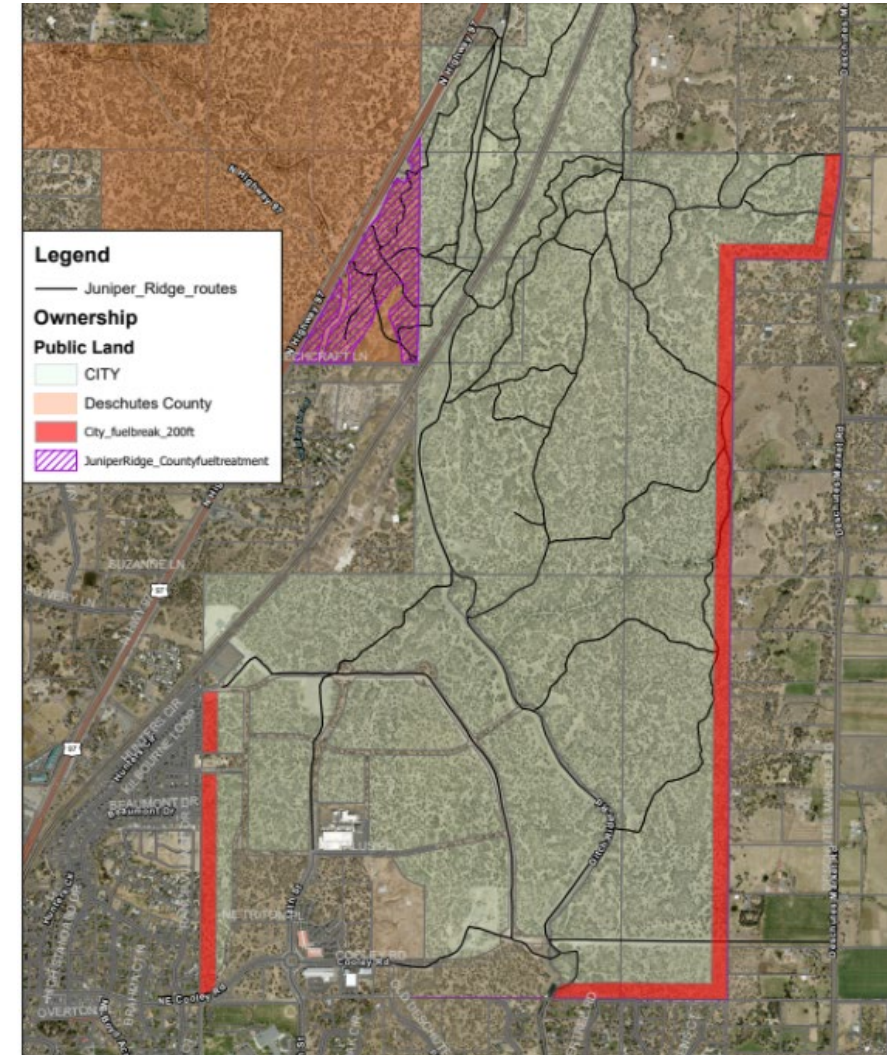
Fuels Reduction – Deschutes River Woods

- Expected date of completion is May 2.
- 136 of the 156 acres have been treated.
- Community Response is very positive, they are very satisfied with the added layer of fire protection.



Fuels Reduction – Juniper Ridge

- Plan is for a 200-foot fuel break (red line).
- Fuel Break:
 - Is a strip of land where vegetation has been reduced to control the spread of fire.
 - Can include a mix of live and low-flammability trees and thinned material.
 - Interrupts the continuity of fuel or the fire path.
- Work to scheduled to begin the week of May 5.



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Wildfire Risk Assessments

- Staff and volunteers give professional advice on creating defensible space around homes and on placement of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- *Bend Fire & Rescue by the Numbers:*
 - January – December 2024
 - **115 assessments**
 - January – April 2025:
 - **350 assessments**
 - **100** more scheduled
- Deschutes County

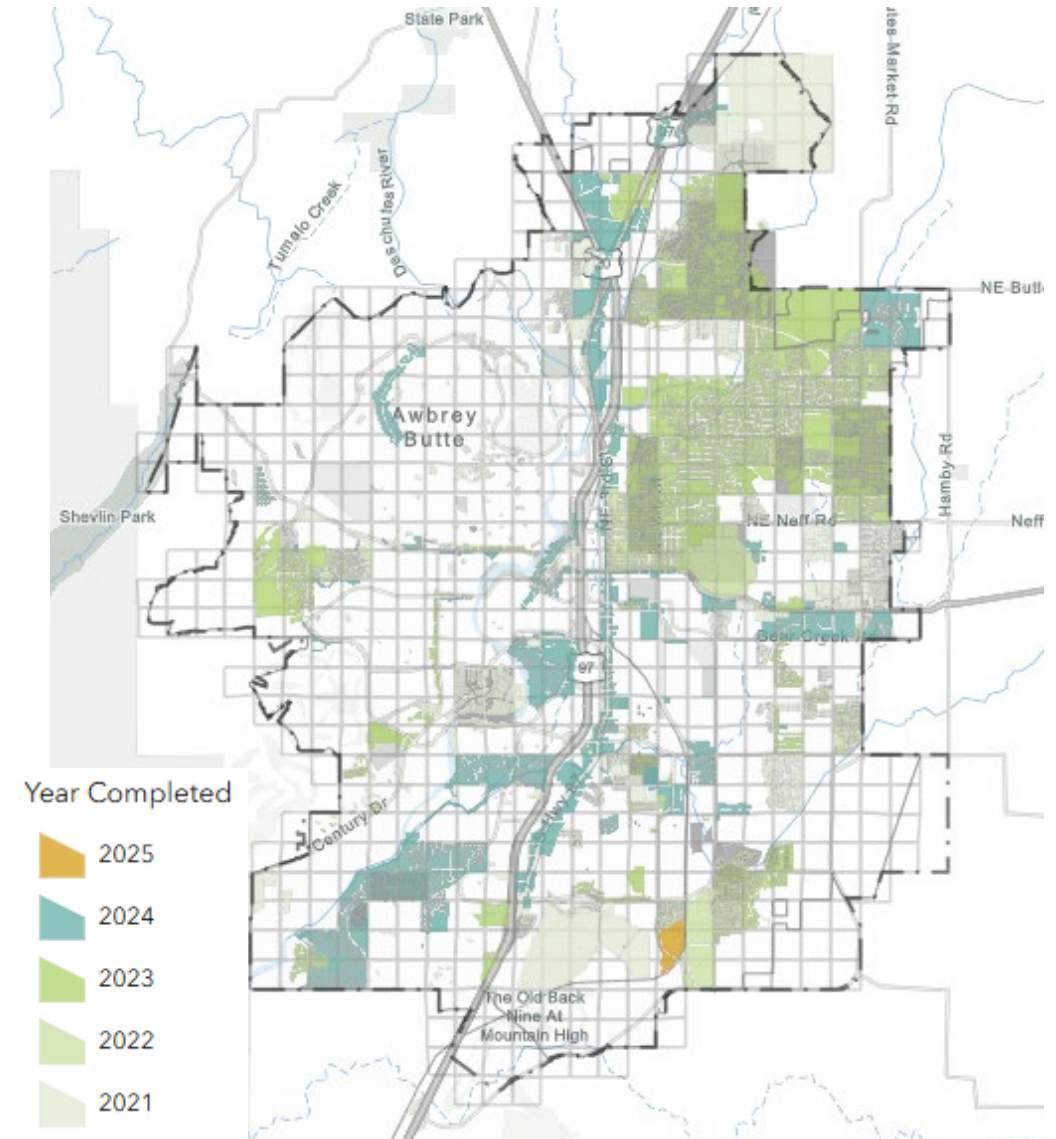


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Flammable Vegetation Code

- Bend - All tenants, property managers, and owners are responsible for reducing potentially flammable vegetation. To help confine fires to the property and prevent them from spreading to neighboring properties.
- Prioritize inspection efforts using data like where we have Firewise communities.
- Different shades of green indicate a reinspection is now needed again on a tax lot.

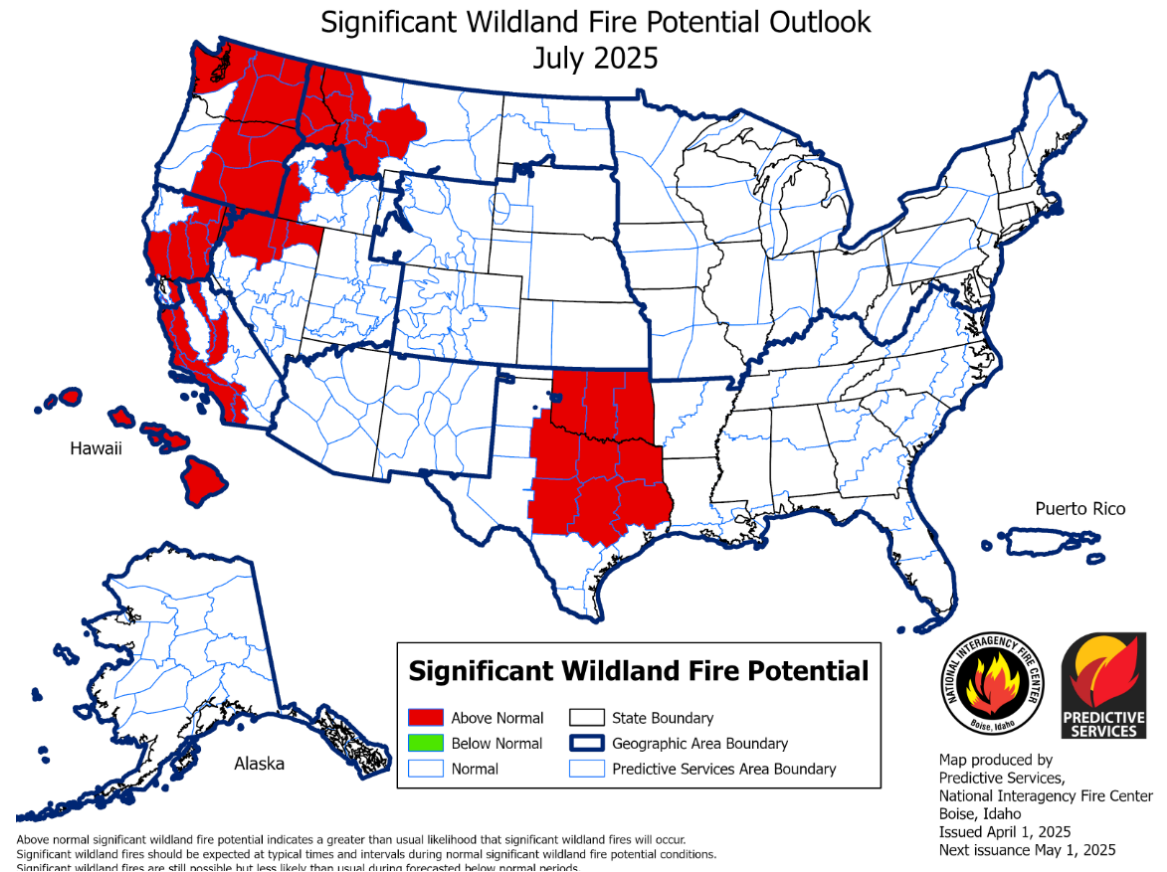


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Fire Season 2025

- Forecast is to maintain normal (low) significant fire potential through June.
- July, is above average for significant fire potential.
- Trends suggest short-term drought conditions could accelerate, leading to rapid fuel drying coinciding with increased human fire activity.
- Weather forecasts are for dryer than normal and warmer than normal conditions

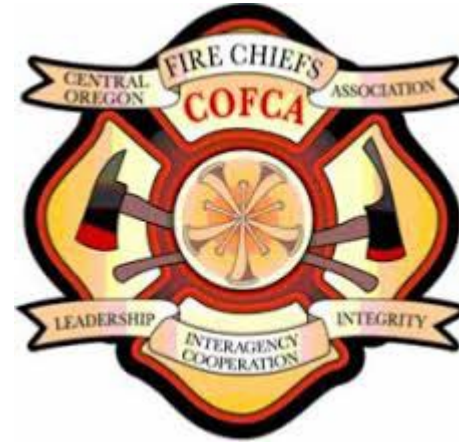


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Fire Season 2025

- Response should be similar to 2024
- Safe and coordinated fire response
- All hands, all lands approach
- Regional fire simulation
- Dispatch coordination
- Non-fire agency/organizations



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Fire Season 2025

Bend Fire & Rescue is...

- Fully staffed and ready for this fire season.
- Completed annual wildland training, and the apparatus have been serviced and are ready to go.
- Bend Fire has a new Type 6 engine.
- Monitoring the legislative session, especially for continued adequate funding for OSFM.



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Questions?

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