



KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR WILDFIRE POLICY

WE NEED TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT WE FUND, HOW WE FUND IT AND SUPPORT ALL OREGONIANS TO PREPARE BEFORE FIRE COMES

1 Need to Define the Problem

- 2020 Labor Day wildfires destroyed 5,000+ homes and businesses in Oregon.
- 7 million acres in Oregon are Industrial Timberlands, which burn more severely and reduce water supplies
- Insurance company flight in California and Oregon
- Rural counties struggling to pay for essential services

2 A Fair Conversation About Who Pays

- Wall Street investors own millions of forest acres in Oregon, and harvest timber but pay little to no tax since the repeal of the severance tax in the 1990s.
- Reinstating a value tax on industrial plantation harvests can finance essential wildfire programs.
- A fair program should consider operation size, local tax contributions, and climate-smart practices, addressing industrial management's impact on fire risk and water supplies.

3 Climate Resilient Communities

- Increased heat and drought are intensifying fires, and exceeded our ability to control and suppress
- Preparing homes and communities to be ignition resistant supports firefighters, sustains viable insurance markets, and minimizes losses.
- 80% of Oregon's drinking water is provided by its forested watersheds, but industrial timber harvests have reduced water flow and quality, particularly in low flow summer months.

4 Focus on Home Safety

- Oregon needs permanent funding to support all of us to prepare our homes and communities to survive fast moving wildfires.
- Experts say to focus on ignition resistance before a fire comes
- By focusing from the home outwards, not the forest in, we can make Oregon fire safe.

WILDLAND-URBAN FIRE DISASTERS AREN'T ACTUALLY A WILDFIRE PROBLEM

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (PNAS) - DEC 13TH, 2023. DAVID E. CALKIN, KIMI KO BARRETT, JACK COHEN, MARK A. FINNEY, STEPHEN J. PYNE, STEPHEN L. QUARLES



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THE PROBLEM IS URBAN FIRES INITIATED BY WILDFIRE

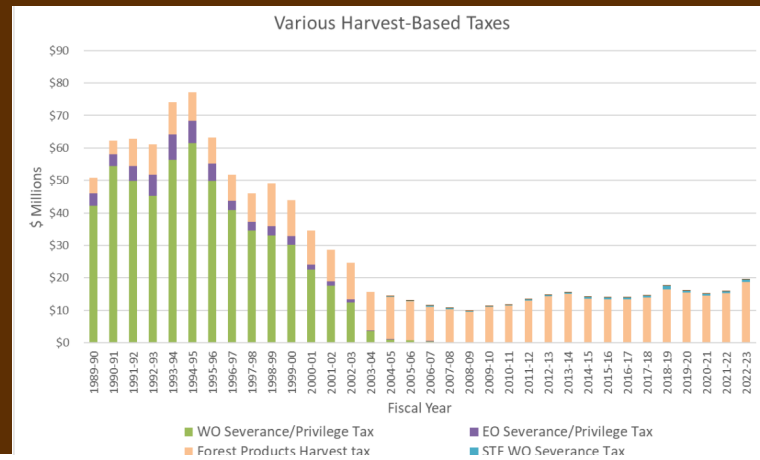
In August 2023, the wildland-urban fires of Lahaina, Hawaii, damaged or destroyed more than 2,200 structures and killed 98 people. In December 2021, the Marshall Fire in Superior and Louisville, Colorado, destroyed 1,084 structures and killed two. In September 2020, the Alameda Drive Fire in Talent and Phoenix, Oregon, destroyed 2,600 homes and killed three. In November 2018, the Camp Fire in Paradise, California, destroyed 18,804 buildings, and killed 85. These fire disasters burned in different environments and most of the destruction occurred within the first 12 hours.

These fires immediately overwhelmed wildland and structural firefighting efforts. Whole communities were vulnerable to ignition and burning—irrespective of what initiated the fires. These fires have been defined as an issue of wildfires that involved houses. In reality, they are urban fires initiated by wildfires. That's an important distinction—and one that has big repercussions for how we prepare for future fires. To date, these repercussions have not received enough attention.

Timber Industry Won Huge Tax Cuts in the 90s...Communities Are Paying the Price.

REPORTING BY OPB, PROPUBLICA, OREGON CAPITAL CHRONICLE

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IS IT FAIR TO CUT THE BIGGEST LANDOWNERS TAXES EVEN FURTHER WHILE PUTTING THE BURDEN ON OREGONIANS?

We support a solution that is fair and equitable to all Oregonians, and includes restoring a value tax on harvested timber that provides revenue to develop fire-safe communities, funds vital local public services and restores drinking water sources. We need a policy that restores severance taxes on timber value that addresses how large corporations structured as Real Estate Investment Trusts escape taxation, while providing credits or discounts for owners that pay taxes locally and accounting for differences in land ownership.

We also strongly support incentives, including a reduced tax rate for forestland owners who grow their trees longer and use climate smart forestry e.g. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. Longer rotations and protecting mature and old growth trees are the most effective natural climate solution that will result in more carbon on the landscape over time.