



# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## 2020 Oregon Wildfires

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**Summary:** An analysis of the Labor Day 2020 wildfires in Oregon determined that the combination of high temperatures, unusually dry fuels, and strong winds occurring at the same time was unprecedented in the area. That led to an unprecedented number of acres burned in the Oregon Cascades, about 11 percent of the mountain range, and more than the previous 36 years combined.

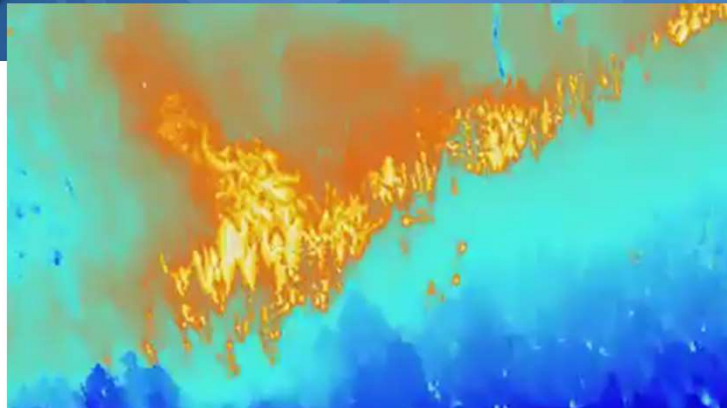




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### A lot of first for Oregon

One of the largest ECC operations and activations

First time the state's recovery plan was fully activated

Largest Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Hazard Mitigation Program – Post Fire funding opportunities in Oregon history.



### Problems were quickly identified

Overwhelmed current OEM staff and resources

OEM had to quickly staff up

Forced identification within jurisdictions between 404 and 406 mitigation

Duplication of benefits

Disaster case management and social service organizations





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OEM's mitigation team has historically been 2.5 people, a SHMO, Accountant, and Planner.

Oregon lost its FEMA enhanced status days after the wildfire

This incident brought to the attention of Oregon Leadership, OEM Leadership, and others the importance of mitigation, staff capacity, and agency growth

Opportunity to explore and expand capacity and improve internal processes



**Lessons learned**

Many special districts were not in connection with their counties or cities to be sure they were included in their area's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Increase in NHMP Update participation as well as outreach to potential subapplicants who have never or rarely utilized FEMA HMA Funding

Many jurisdictions did not initially go after mitigation funds due to bad experiences in the past

Had to develop additional outreach, technical assistance, and one-pagers to further and increase outreach

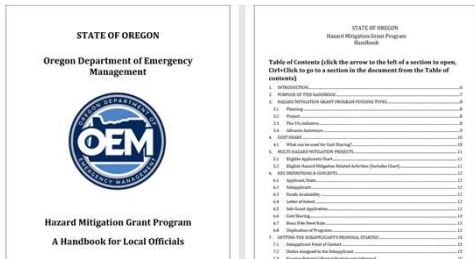


Developed the first Hazard Mitigation Grant Program guidebook for local jurisdictions to utilize. This has been very successful in helping many jurisdictions, many small and rural, apply for and be successful with mitigation grants

Philanthropic match dollars

Partnerships to resolving community financial gaps

Local official meetings with FEMA and HM



Opportunity to let legislators know about the disparity and barrier of the 25% cost share. This led to HB5006 providing \$20 Mil of legislative dollars to be used as cost share

With the recent consolidated appropriations act, OEM and the state were able to pay the cost share for all HMGP and HMGP-PF grants under 2020 Wildfire Disaster

Public Assistance- The cost share for wildfires is 90% for all categories of work with 100% federal share in a 30-day window ( 9/11/20-10/10/20) for emergency work (category A &B). The PA disaster estimate is over 650 million.

FEMA Region X was instrumental in supporting Oregon. They provided a team of local hires, reservists, and HMGP specialist from the region.

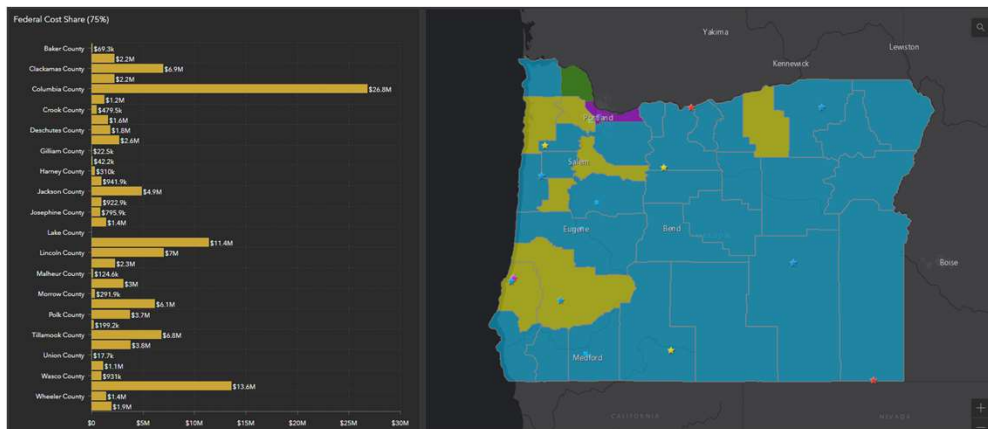


Began exploring GIS and maps to help tell a story

We began to incorporate NHMP's, which ones are expiring, which ones are expired, and which one are in good standing

Helping us to be more proactive in NHMP's We learned where majority of funds are going, where to help focus priorities and technical assistance

In the works to build up an awarded layer to help better track Oregon's success stories of mitigation actions and activities





Kudos to the SHMO's who had to quickly develop processes, subapplication reviews, and focus on refining processes

Region X was able to help provide some interaction with our new teams to help us start off on a good step.

Use of IRC, adopted and made into joint ISRT, ran off ISRP model



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### OEM Mitigation Staff

Hired Section Manager to oversee daily operations of HMA Grants, HM Planning, and other FEMA Programs

Allowed hiring of Deputy SHMO to focus on non-disaster competitive grant rounds

Allowed the hiring of six mitigation representatives to support SHMO

Volume of wildfire (4562) and Covid (4499) disasters allowed three additional mitigation representatives to focus on those grants

Admin assistant to assist with communication, organization, and assist section as needed



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## Questions?

## Thank you!

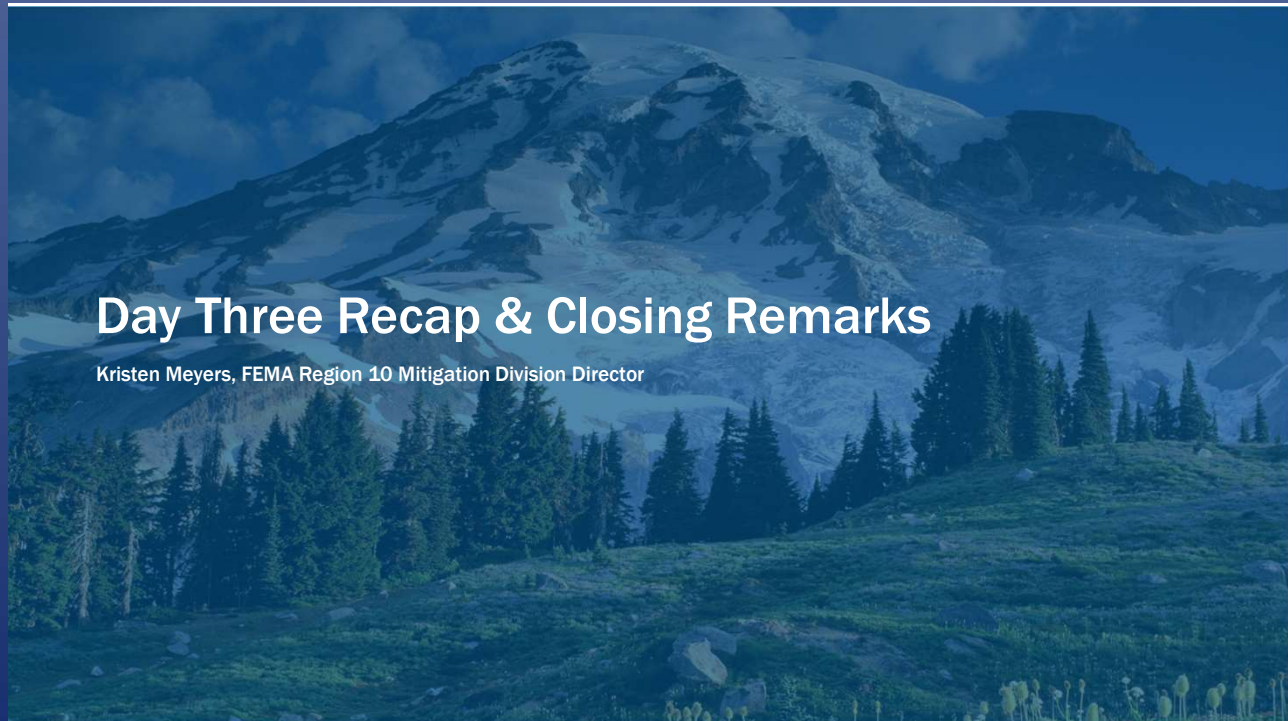
<https://oregon-oem-geo.hub.arcgis.com/apps/6e1e42989d1b4beb809223d5430a3750/explore>

### Mitigation Team:

- Anna Feigum- State Hazard Mitigation Officer
- Jessi Weaver- Deputy State Hazard Mitigation Officer
- Joseph Murray- Hazard Mitigation Planner
- Jason Gately- Mitigation Representative
- Nic Roberts- Mitigation Representative
- Alex Perkins- Mitigation Representative
- Mike Crop- Mitigation Representative
- Jon Wiebe- Mitigation Representative
- Shannon Bryers- Mitigation Representative
- Rachel Foley- Mitigation Administrative Assistant

Shawna Jepson- Interagency Strategic Recovery Program Manager

Amanda Fox- State Recovery Functions Coordinator



## Day Three Recap & Closing Remarks

Kristen Meyers, FEMA Region 10 Mitigation Division Director