

January 31, 2023

Project Title: Insights to Wildfire Preparedness in Jackson County, OR: A Qualitative Approach

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Background

Wildfires in the American West have grown exponentially in scope, size, and duration over the last several decades. Many people currently live-in wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas making their homes and property particularly vulnerable to potential wildfires. Research has found that the reduction of small fires and embers around structures and property can significantly reduce wildfire impacts.¹ Thus individual homeowners can have a significant impact in mitigating not only personal property loss and household safety, but more broadly community protection from wildfires if they engage in pre-fire mitigation actions like creating defensible space, reducing fuel build up around their home and property, etc.

On the heels of the 2020 Labor Day Weekend Fires in the Pacific Northwest, the state of Oregon passed Senate Bill 762 (SB 762) in June 2021. The bill was designed to assist Oregon in modernizing and improving wildfire preparedness through three key strategies: (1) Creating fire-adapted communities; (2) Developing a safe and effective fire suppression response force; (3) Increasing the resilience of Oregon's landscape.² The bi-partisan legislation implicated 14 state-level agencies and allocated approximately \$220 million to address wildfire mitigation and adaptation in Oregon. The bill outlined 15 objectives that covered topics ranging from land-use and building codes, grants programs, fire regulations and rules, and the creation and establishment of statewide wildfire risk classifications.

Section 7 of the SB762 outlined the development and maintenance of a comprehensive statewide map of the wildfire risk in Oregon. In collaboration with the Officer of the Oregon State Fire Marshal and other state agencies, Oregon State University created the *Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer*, which considered weather, climate, topography, and vegetation data to determine parcel-level risk classifications.³ Additionally, the map was to include a layer that geospatially displayed the locations of socially and economically vulnerable communities. Tax lots identified as high and extreme risk will be expected to adopt wildfire hazard mitigation building code standards defined in the 2021 Oregon Residential Specialty Code and meet the requirement for defensible space set by the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

¹ National Fire Protection Association, 2022. Firewise USA®. <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

² Senate Bill 762. Oregon Department of Forestry Headquarters. <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/sb762.aspx>

³ <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB762/Enrolled>

In the spring of 2022, the Oregon State University Policy Analysis Laboratory (OPAL) was contracted to conduct a study of Jackson County, OR residents to understand what current pre-fire mitigation actions residents are engaging in, what barriers might exist that limit mitigation activities, prior experience with wildfires, and knowledge regarding programs, incentives, insurance, and wildfire risk and preparedness. The outcome of this research will be used to inform potential interventions that could assist homeowners in the uptake of pre-fire mitigation activities. Funding for this project was made possible by the Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL) State and Local Government Innovation Grant.

Study Area

Jackson County is located in the southwest corner of Oregon and is home to approximately 200,000 residents. In Jackson County, 15.5% of the population live below the poverty line.⁴ In the concurrent Almeda and South Obenchain fires of 2020, three people lost their lives and over 2,500 homes and properties were destroyed, primarily in low socioeconomic communities where most of the affordable housing in the county is located. While both fires were determined to be human caused, the extent and containment of the fires was challenging due to the build-up of fuels, the extended drought in the county, and above normal temperatures that continue to threaten the region.⁵ At present, the majority of Jackson County is considered in “severe” drought conditions, with past dry seasons (late spring, summer, and early fall) showing the county in “extreme” drought.⁶

Methods

SB762 requires Oregon State University (OSU) in partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and State Fire Marshal Office to create a statewide map identifying areas of social vulnerability to wildfires. Upon completion of this map in late June 2022, Principal Investigator, Fire Chief Bob Horton (Fire District 3) created a mailing list of potential research participants in Jackson County, OR whose residencies were located 1) within Fire District 3’s service boundary and 2) within the high and extreme risk areas of the (WUI). In conjunction with Fire District 3 in Jackson County, a recruitment mailer was created and distributed in batches of 30 beginning August 19th, 2022 and sent for the next consecutive 5 weeks (batches were increased to 100 due to low response). In total, there were 6 waves of recruitment fliers sent, concluding the last week of September 2022. It should be noted that during this time, the wildfire risk map was withdrawn in late August after backlash from residents.⁷

In total, 23 residents self-selected to participate in the study by contacting PI Wolters.⁸ One of the study team members then reached out to schedule an interview with the participant.

⁴ Portland State Population Research Center https://www.pdx.edu/population-research/sites/g/files/znlldhr3261/files/2020-12/ACS_Profile_Counties.pdf

⁵ <https://www.opb.org/article/2022/03/24/jackson-county-oregon-drought-emergency/>

⁶ <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OR>

⁷ <https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2023/01/oregon-wants-to-delay-controversial-wildfire-risk-mapping-again.html>

⁸ 20 interviews were conducted, but in three interviews two residents participated together (e.g., husband and wife)

Using a semi-structured interview format, the research team conducted and transcribed 20 interviews with Jackson County residents between August 11th, 2022, to January 1st, 2023. The interview guide included 28 questions that covered the following themes:

- Past experiences with wildfires;
- Understanding of the risks of wildfires;
- Efforts to mitigate risk;
- Awareness of programs, incentives, and regulations; and
- Demographics

Upon completion of the interview, participants were sent a \$25 Amazon gift card. Interviews were conducted over Zoom with Zoom transcription services used. Data analysis was conducted using NVivo, a qualitative research software program. Interviews were coded for frequency of responses, themes, and sociodemographics.

Operationalization and descriptive statistics

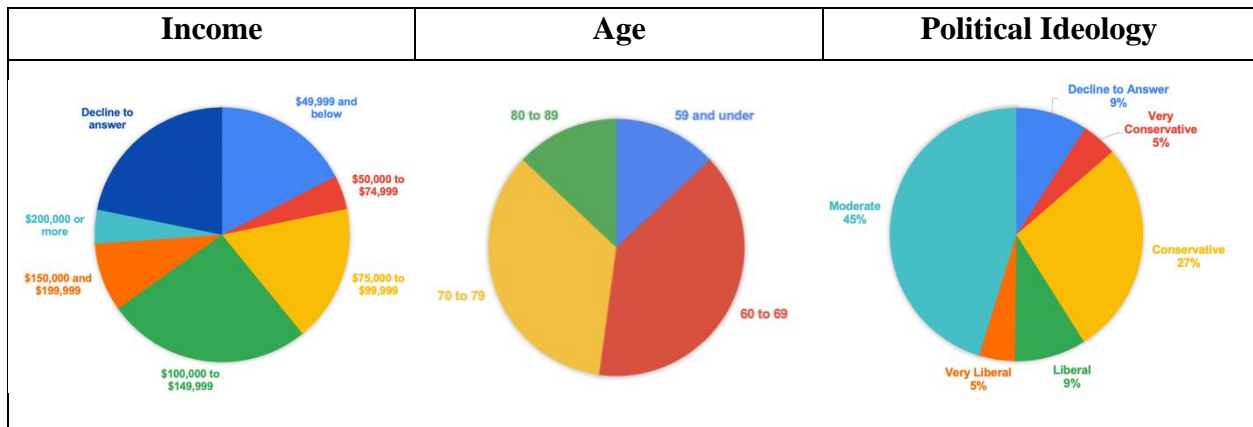
Dependent variables: The questionnaire consisted of 22 dependent variables exploring wildfire experience; interpreted risk of wildfires; barriers or obstacles in creating or upholding defensible space; awareness of programs or regulations; possible incentives for maintaining defensible space; and community considerations.

Independent variables: Sociodemographic variables were measured using different techniques. Age was an open-ended question asking, “What is your current age in years?”, with all respondents indicating they are over 40 years old, but 86.7% indicating they are 60 or older (age was recoded into ranges 1 = 40s to 5 = 80s). Gender was an open-ended question asking, “What is your gender?” with almost equal amounts of participation from men and women (12 men and 11 women participated, gender was recoded as a dummy variable with 1 = female, 0 = male). Race was measured using a multi-categorical response choice, all respondents who provided their race identified as Caucasian. Education was also multi-categorical asking “What is your highest level of formal education?” with a majority responding they had a bachelor’s degree or postgraduate degree (74% of respondents, recoded into range 1 = high school diploma to 5 = postgraduate degree). Income was assessed through a multi-categorical response choice question, “Which category best describes your household income (before taxes) in 2021?”, with a response range of 1 = less than \$10,000 to 10 = \$200,000 or more per year (recoded with 1 = \$49,999, 2 = \$50,000-\$99,999, 3 = \$100,000 or more). More respondents indicated a household income above \$100,000 per year than other categories (39%). Lastly, political ideology provided a multi-categorical response choice by first asking, “On domestic policy issues, how would you describe your political ideology?” 1 = very liberal to 5 = very conservative, with 32% of respondents identifying as conservative or very conservative, 45% moderate, 14% liberal or very liberal, and 9% declining to state (recoded into a scale of 1 = liberal/very liberal, 2 = moderate, 3 = conservative/very conservative) [Table 1].

Table 1. Independent variables

Variables:	Variable Description:	Mean (n = 23):
Sociodemographic:		
Age	Age in years (range 40-80)	64.8
Gender	Gender dummy variable (1 = female, 0 = male)	0.48
Education	Formal education attainment (1 = high school to 5 = postgraduate degree)	3.8
Income	Household Income before taxes (1 = \$49,999 or less, 2 = between \$50,000 and \$99,999, 3 = over \$100,000)	2.3 (n = 18)
Political Ideology	Political ideology (1 = very liberal/liberal, 2 = moderate, 3 = conservative/very conservative)	2.2 (n = 20)

Figure 1. Visual representation of selected demographics

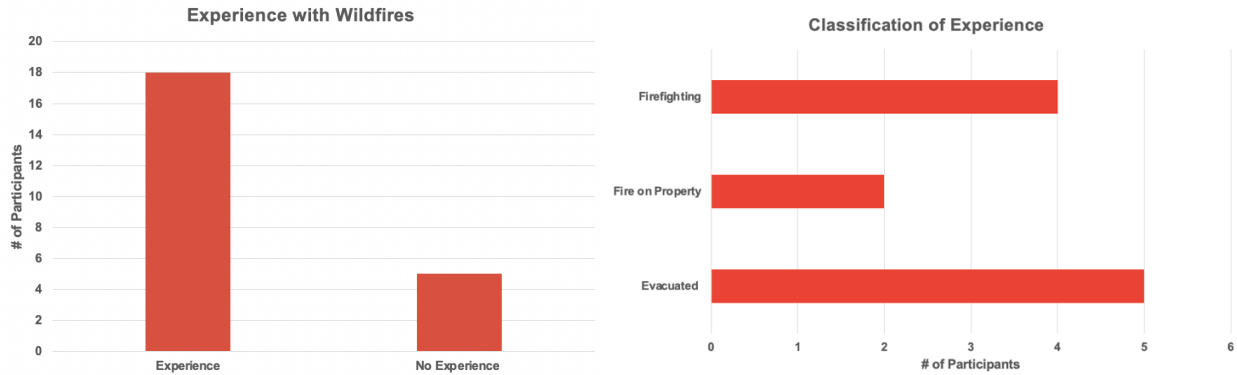


Analysis and Findings

Overall, there were several broad findings that warrant noting. First, most residents in Jackson County cited that they regularly performed yard and property maintenance such as trimming trees and grass and/or installing/running an irrigation system. However, though these actions are regularly taken, few respondents engaged in more aggressive actions like tree or branch removal. Second, most participants indicated that they invest and maintain defensible space around their homes regularly. A majority of respondents had personal or up-close experience with wildfires. Those that had experience with firefighting and fire on their property seemed to take stronger protocols for their defensible space. Third, regarding knowledge of programs or incentives to aid in pre-fire mitigation actions, most respondents stated they were unaware of such programs or incentives. Those that were knowledgeable about programs or

incentives indicated they learned about them through a friend, neighbor, or media outlet. Fourth, most respondents indicated insurance coverage for two-thirds of their property value. Finally, most interviewees expressed concern over the maintenance of neighboring properties (i.e., areas of public land).

Figure 2. Respondents Experience with Wildfires



Turning to policy tools to engage residents in pre-fire wildfire mitigation for their homes and properties, we find that there is an equal number of respondents who think regulations would help (30%) or would not help (30%) [Table 2]. Regarding awareness of programs that convey information on how to safeguard homes and properties from wildfire, 56% of respondents indicated that they were “partially” or “very” aware. In terms of seeking assistance to engage in pre-fire activities, most respondents either do not seek any assistance (30%) or seek assistance from a neighbor (35%).

Table 2. Policy Tools

Regulatory Impact			
Not Applicable	Doesn't Think They Will Help	Unsure	Thinks They Will Help
26%	30%	13%	30%
Awareness of Programs			
N/A	Unaware	Partially Aware	Very Aware
17%	26%	17%	39%
<i>*See next page</i>			
Seeking Assistance			
Not seeking Assistance	Neighbor Assistance	Government Land Assistance	Neighbor + Government Land Assistance

30%	35%	13%	22%
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A slight majority of respondents identified several obstacles in creating defensible space, including age, financial restrictions, mobility, and properly engaging in fuel management. Many respondents indicated a combination of obstacles (see Table 3). Financial (34%) and physical mobility (21.7%) were the top singularly cited obstacles; while age and financial obstacles (13%) were the top obstacles referenced in duo with one another. Our findings suggest financial-ability and age are influencing factors that can impact an individual’s ability to uphold and implement defensible space on their property.

“ it’s a big upfront investment, so that’s what is hard for a lot of homeowners is it’s either a repeated investment so they can’t seem to get ahead of it every year to have stuff cleared or the upfront cost for fencing is astronomical, because building materials are not cheap, but that upfront cost is super expensive, so for this are – I’m not one of them, but there are quite a few folks that live in this area who are either elderly, disabled, or both, and they physically get out on the hillside and do the clearing themselves.”

Table 3. Obstacles to Pre-Fire Mitigation

Obstacle Combinations			
Age and Financial	Age and Physical Mobility	Age, Financial and Fuel Management	Financial and Physical Mobility
13%	8.6%	4.3%	4.3%

Wildfire Mitigation

From our results, we saw that 95% of participants conduct fuel management practices (e.g., mowing grass, tree thinning and trimming, and understory maintenance) on their property. In addition, 39% cited having some irrigation system, with 13% having either a water reserve or pump accessible for wildfire resource assistance. With house hardening, we found that 22% of our participants had metal roofing, 13% had fire-resistant paneling, and 4.3% had fire-resistant decking.

Investment in Defensible Space

All respondents stated they invested and maintained some form of defensible space on their property. The range for initial investment was \$100 to \$32,000. A moderate level of respondents invested \$500 or less, while a minimal level invested \$5000 or more. Those that have invested more money into some form of defensible space typically made above \$100,000 of

household income. Moreover, we captured a range of \$30 to \$800 for maintaining defensible space. These investments were usually directed toward clearing the land through hired help.

Neighboring Conflicts

Considering neighboring conflicts, 21.7% of respondents noted unmaintained government land poses a significant risk to them. In contrast, 26% of respondents reported their neighbor's lots pose considerable risk to them due to being unmaintained. Respondents relayed the theme that mobility issues were a primary reason their neighbors could not manage the overgrowth on their lots, suggesting that regardless of income, lack of mobility can create vulnerabilities to property and residences.

“I went down late spring, just before the fire restrictions went up and borrowed one of my neighbors' tractors to go mow another neighbors like 10 acres field because he's in a wheelchair, so he can't get out there physically and mow, and he doesn't have a tractor that he can loan someone or yeah know have someone do it. I went and borrowed one person's tractor to go mow another person's field because it is downhill from me [...] if a fire broke out downhill from me and his grass is high, it's going to spread faster up to my property. The fact that he can't physically get out there and mow it and he can't financially afford to pay someone else, you know that can pose a risk to other people.”

Insurance

Of the 23 respondents, 21.7% reported having full coverage for wildfires, with an estimated range between \$100,000 to \$750,000 in coverage. In comparison, 8.6% reported having insurance covering up to two-thirds of their estimated property value. Overall, a majority of participants had a replacement policy for their property.

Rising insurance prices was a primary concern for a majority of participants. Specifically, respondents cited their anticipated impact of the 2022 WUI Risk Map in relation to their current rates and deductibles.

“I have concerns that the recent letter a few months ago talked about insurance potentially going up because of the grade the area that was assigned to us, that it could affect our insurance, and that does concern me a lot.”

Sociodemographics

Of the sociodemographic variables, only income had an impact on engagement in activities. People with income above \$100,000 per year were 9.4% more likely to state they did not have any obstacles in maintaining defensible space [Table 4].

Table 4. Seeking assistance in relation to income

Seeking Assistance			
Income over \$100,000/Not seeking assistance	Income over \$100,000/Neighbor seeking assistance	Income under \$100,000/Not seeking assistance	Income under \$100,000/Neighbor seeking assistance
17.3%	21.7%	13%	16.6%

“The contract that we have is seven thousand dollars. [...] That's for this first time they come out, and I know after that there will be times to redesign, there will be limbs that fell out of trees that rose back up, and I will probably be doing it myself as much as I can, but I would certainly expect within five years I would have to have somebody else to come out again.”

Barriers (Rebuilding and Evacuation)

Considering barriers, 75% cited one or more barriers to rebuilding or recovering losses and 60% cited one or more barriers to evacuating their homes if a wildfire came through their neighborhood. Of those citing rebuilding barriers, 40% noted the possibility of insurance not covering everything lost, specifically personal items. Furthermore, 33% noted finances to be a substantial barrier to rebuilding or recovering losses from a wildfire.

The most prominent barrier to evacuating was road access at 67%. This includes homes with dead end roads, cul-de-sacs, and unpaved roads.

“We live on a dead-end road, a two-and-a-half-mile dead-end road. We live a little more than a mile in, so we really only have one way out, and even when we do, the one way out goes to highway 234, and you only have two ways to go, and one was towards the fire, highway 62, and the other way was towards I-5. But there were fires all over Grant’s Pass and down south, so you know, we sort of felt trapped.”

Request, comments, or suggested solutions

In total, there were 14 requests or suggestions brought forward. Over a quarter of respondents (29%) requested home visits while 21% advocated for increased effort by fire stations and government agencies to spread news about programs and defensible space regulations. Some other recommendations included controlled burns, increased water access in the form of hydrants and irrigation, vouchers and tax incentives, and government responsibility

regarding fire signage and land maintenance. These recommendations were only made once or twice but combined made up the other 50% of recommendations.

When asked about their thoughts on regulations that defined the minimum defensible space on a property, a respondent stated:

“It's an ideal way to incentivize people to be responsible of creating the defensible space if it directly had an impact on lowering your homeowner's insurance. Where an inspector, whether it's a fire district agency or a state agency can come out and say, you've done an amazing job. Your insurance can only go so low because of from where you live, but you've done as much as you can, and therefore, you qualify for these discounts.”

Policy Recommendations

From our study population, in Jackson County, Oregon we can see they are generally aware of the risks of wildfires and what actions they can take to mitigate wildfire damage to their homes and property. It should be noted that our study population was not necessarily representative of all of Jackson County residents due to the self-selection to participate. However, it should be noted that all respondents reported that they engaged in some type of home and/or property management for protection against wildfires. The extent and scope of the engagement in these activities varied; however, due to a variety of factors. Interview responses suggested several policy recommendations that may increase uptake of pre-fire mitigation actions.

1. **Communication** is critical in conveying pre-fire mitigation actions. Considering the age demographics of our sample population, employing other formats of communication, aside from electronic mechanisms, might assist in building consensus among residents in upholding defensible space. Receiving physical mailings of pertinent information will most likely reach residents more directly and explicitly convey important information about mitigation, preparing for a wildfire event (i.e., evacuation plans), and providing information about grants and assistance to relieve financial or physical constraints to pre-fire activities.
2. **Grants and assistance** such as vouchers, rebates, or other financial incentives or assistance can help alleviate financial restrictions as well as allow older residents (or residents constrained by limited mobility) to hire people to do the work for them. Vouchers could be utilized in conjunction with a list of verified contractors to make the process easy and clear.
3. **Community champions** can provide the link between local fire departments and residents. A community champion (e.g., Firewise community lead) can help with word of mouth and with further facilitation of wildfire mitigation actions. In addition, many residents expressed concern about neighboring properties, community champions could

help to bridge the gap within neighborhoods or areas to create a better community response to mitigation activities.

4. **Site visits** can provide residents with an assessment of property and home vulnerabilities as well as a prioritization of mitigation actions so they can invest in the most impactful wildfire mitigation actions first.

Discussion

Two common occurrences noted by the study team during this research were the respondents' gratitude for conducting this study and their desire for this study to have happened before the Oregon's Wildfire Risk Assessment map was re-sent out. Many interviewees said that the map created a considerable amount of unnecessary stress and worry for themselves and their communities. The main concern was that insurance rates would go up for people in 'high-risk' areas even though they took measures to mitigate their risk of wildfire on their property. Most of the interviewees expressed that they were glad to be a part of this study and that they hope their input helps bring improvements to wildfire risk mitigation in the county.

Study Limitations and Future Research

Recruiting participants in this study required participants to opt-in by contacting the PI of the project, then setting up an interview day/time. Being interviewed posed a potential barrier for those who do not have extra time to commit to the research process. Initially, we had intended on recruiting 30 interviewees, but uptake of the invitation to participate was slow. Of note was the controversy surrounding Oregon's Wildfire Risk Map that potentially created some distrust of a state institution asking questions about wildfire preparedness and actions. Further, while invitations to participate were sent to a diverse sample, including socially vulnerable wildfire areas, there was not much demographic diversity among the participants. This suggests the need to potentially oversample or target sample some areas more in the future, e.g., through a more explicit call for likely vulnerable populations and areas, to gain a broader understanding of barriers and opportunities to engage in pre-fire mitigation actions.

Appendix

Interview Guide for Questionnaire for Wildfire Defensible Space

Purpose

The purpose of this survey is as follows:

- Learn about individuals past personal experiences with wildfires
- Understand individuals' perceptions of their risks of encountering a wildfire
- Understand the actions individuals have taken to mitigate their wildfire risks
- Understand the rationale behind why individuals do or do not engage in risk-reduction behaviors
- Learn about individuals' understanding of existing resources in their community related to wildfire risk reduction

The responses from this survey will inform the design of an intervention to encourage wildfire risk-reduction behaviors in Jackson County. In order to design an effective intervention, we seek to understand why individuals are currently not undertaking these behaviors. Is it because they do not believe they are at risk of experiencing wildfires or are there constraints that prevent them from taking such actions (e.g., time, resources, knowledge)?

Script

Thank you for speaking with me today. My name is XXX XXXX and I am a graduate student researcher in the School of Public Policy at Oregon State University. I am interested in understanding more about households who are at risk of being impacted by wildfire and their preparation to reduce that risk. I am conducting research that explores households who are located in the wildland-urban interface, their intent to prepare their homes and properties for wildfire through the creation of defensible space, and their experience with creating defensible space.

I would like to talk with you today about your experience with wildfires, your understanding of the risks of wildfires, and any efforts you have made to mitigate those risks. If you are ok with it, I would like to record our discussion today so I can be sure to reflect your answers appropriately. Your identity will remain anonymous, and you are welcome to skip any questions or stop the interview at any time. Do you have any questions for me before we start?

(Intro and questions below will be tailored to suit the interviewee and specific cases evaluated; the following questions are geared toward households in the WUI)

1. Please state your name, and how long you have lived in Jackson County? 5 years
 1. How long have you lived in your current home? 7 months
 2. Do you own or rent your home? If rent, is there property management?

Past experiences with wildfire

2. Tell me about your experience with wildfires--have you been evacuated as a result of a wildfire? Have your neighbors?

Understanding the risks of wildfires

3. Briefly, please tell me about your understanding of how wildfire spreads to a house.
 1. Can skip if they described in detail how wildfires spread in response to the previous question
4. Have you thought about what would happen to your home if you faced a wildfire? If so, what are your thoughts? Can skip if responded to this question via Question 2
5. How likely do you think it is that homes in your community would burn in a wildfire this fire season? On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the most likely.
6. How likely do you think it is that your community would be impacted by a wildfire this fire season, not including smoke impacts? On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the most likely.
 1. On a scale of 1-10 how likely do you think it is that your community would be impacted by smoke from wildfires?
7. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the least prepared and 10 being the most prepared, how prepared do you think you are to respond to a wildfire?

Efforts to mitigate risk

8. Have you taken any steps towards mitigation or risk reduction on your house or property?
 - 8a. If so, what actions did you take? Why? (What motivated you?)
 - 8b. Has your past mitigation efforts been tested by a wildfire? If so, did your actions have an impact on protecting your home/property?

Now I'm going to ask you a question specifically about "defensible space." Defensible space is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any

wildland area that surround it. This space may help slow or stop the spread of wildfire and may help protect your home from catching fire.

9. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your property in terms of having “defensible space” that could slow the spread of wildfire? 1 is the worst situated in terms of defensible space, and 10 is the best situated in terms of defensible space.
10. What are your thoughts about the costs, both time and money, that it would take for you to create a defensible space?
 1. What are your thoughts about the costs to *maintain* defensible space? (Vegetation management in subsequent years)
11. Are there any barriers or limitations you face, in maintaining defensible space?
 1. [if there is only a short answer to the question above:] What other barriers might exist that would prohibit someone from a household to take action to protect their home and property from wildfire?

Awareness of programs, incentives, and regulations

12. Are you familiar with any wildfire preparedness programs designed to reduce a household’s risk of wildfire (and/or, programs to maintain defensible space)?
 1. [Follow-Up] Have you heard of any county programs, State programs, Fire district programs, or Firewise?
13. How do you hear about such programs?
14. What are your thoughts on how property insurance relates to wildfires and defensible space? (Get specific if you can, if not, ask to estimate)
 1. If your home were to be completely destroyed by a wildfire this year, what do you think your financial losses would be for rebuilding, replacement of your belongings, temporary housing, etc.? – Tough question to answer without policy information in front of you
 2. What fraction of this total loss would be covered by your homeowners’ or renters’ insurance policy?
 3. Skip if running out of time
15. Would [describe available programs or interventions] be a valuable help to you in reducing risk on your property?
 1. Skip if covered in Question 8
16. If your community is caught in a wildfire similar to the “Camp Fire” in Paradise, California (ensure they are familiar with this fire, it burned down the entire community of Paradise/maybe we consider the “Alameda Fire” which was in Jackson County two years ago and ought to be salient to this audience); what do you think the probability is that your home will survive? Highly probable, probable, not probable, don’t know.

1. How much do you think establishing defensible space will increase that probability?
17. What other barriers may influence your ability to rebuild or recover losses in the event your home was impacted by wildfire?
18. Are you aware of any rules or penalties that may exist related to defensible space on your property?
19. If there were regulations that defined the minimum defensible space on your property, do you think that would serve as a motivator for people in your community to conduct that work?
20. Wildfire risk on one property creates a hazard for neighbor houses and communities (highlight risk interdependency) What responsibility, if any, do you feel a homeowner has to create defensible space to ensure the neighborhood and community has lower risk? (Assessing motivation for collective responsibility)
 1. Do you feel your community is prepared for a wildfire? (Or, how prepared do you feel your community is for a wildfire? Very, Somewhat, Not sure, Not at all)
21. What additional thoughts do you have that might make it easier to protect your property from wildfire?
22. Have you considered how you might evacuate your home if officials initiate an evacuation order in your neighborhood?
 1. Do you have an evacuation plan?
 2. What is your understanding of Oregon's "Be Ready, Be Set, Go" Evacuation program?
 3. Do you have any limitations to evacuating (e.g., lack of access to a car, physical constraints, etc.?) or What other barriers may exist that could influence your ability to evacuate?

In order to check how representative our survey is, we need to ask some demographic and political orientation questions. Please remember that all responses are confidential.

23. What is your current age?
24. What is your gender?
25. What is your race?
 1. Hispanic or Latino or Spanish Origin
 2. American Indian or Alaskan Native
 3. Asian
 4. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 5. Black or African American
 6. White
26. What is your level of formal education?
 1. Less than high school

2. Some high school
 3. High school graduate
 4. Some college, no degree
 5. Two-year associate college degree (e.g., A.A.)
 6. College degree (e.g., B.A., B.S., A.B)
 7. Some postgraduate schooling (no degree)
 8. Postgraduate/Professional degree (e.g., M.A., J.D., Ph.D.)
27. On domestic policy issues, how would you describe your political ideology?
1. Very liberal
 2. Liberal
 3. Moderate
 4. Conservative
 5. Very conservative
28. Which category best describes your household income (before taxes) in 2021?
1. Less than \$10,000
 2. \$10,00-\$14,999
 3. \$15,000-\$24,999
 4. \$25,000-\$34,999
 5. \$35,000-\$49,999
 6. \$50,000-\$74,999
 7. \$75,000-\$99,999
 8. \$100,000-\$149,000
 9. \$150,000-\$199,999
 10. \$200,000 or more

Conclusion

This concludes the questions I have for you. We'll follow up with you by sharing information about programs for preventing and responding to wildfires. Is there anything else you would like to share with me before we conclude?

Thank you so much for your time. If you would like to be informed of the results of this research, please leave me your contact information and I will be sure to share the results with you once they become available.

Thank you again, goodbye.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS - presented November 8, 2022

Analysis Key

# Of Respondents	Assigned Level
More than 12	Majority
Between 6 to 12	Moderate
Less than 6	Minimal

Thematic Findings

Wildfire Mitigation

- Majority level of respondents cited they:
 - Continually trimmed their trees and grass
 - Minimal level of respondents had trees and branch removed
 - Set up irrigation systems
 - Minimal respondents noted having water reserves for wildfire usage (i.e., 1000-gallon or more)
- Minimal level of respondents' complete house hardening
 - Metal roofing
 - Fire resistant paneling
 - Fire resistant decking

Investment in Defensible Space

- Majority level of respondents have invested and maintain their defensible space
- Moderate level of respondents cited investing \$500 or more
 - Minimal level of respondents cited investing \$5000 or more

Neighboring Conflicts

- Moderate level of respondents cited unmaintained BLM land to pose significant risk to them
- Majority level of respondents cited unmaintained neighbor lots to pose significant risk to them

Knowledge of Programs

- Majority level of respondents cited they were unaware of programs or incentives
 - Those who were aware were notified through either a first party (friend or neighbor) or fire department community outreach initiatives

Insurance

- Majority level of respondents cited insurance coverage for $\frac{2}{3}$ of their property value or valuables
 - Moderate level of respondents cited full coverage for their property value and valuables

Concerns

- Moderate level of respondents cited insurance rates rising
 - Moderate level of respondents cited actions related to SB 762 Section 7 for being at fault or influencing insurance rates
- Majority level of respondents cited neighboring property maintenance
 - Majority level of respondents cited neighbors face financial or physical barriers in maintaining property
- Moderate level of respondents cited personal financial and/or physical constraints on maintaining defensible space
- Moderate level of respondents cited lack of communication from state officials in regard to SB 762

Barriers

- Moderate level of respondents cited physical barriers
 - Majority level of respondents cited mobility barrier
 - Minimal level of respondents cited land access
- Moderate level of respondents cited financial barriers
 - Moderate level of respondents cited financial barriers in starting the process of creating a defensible space, rather than up-keep
- Majority level of respondents cited continued investment in maintenance
 - Moderate level of respondents cited price of labor and supplies
- Moderate level of respondents cited lack of state land and infrastructure maintenance
 - Minimal level of respondents cited road maintenance
 - Moderate level of respondents cited state land maintenance

Request, comments, or suggested solutions

- Moderate level of respondents cited site visits
 - Minimal level of respondents cited insurance-discounts if defensible space is well-maintained.
 - Minimal level of respondents cited penalties for people who do not maintain land.
- Moderate level of respondents mentioned offered assistance or grants for those who face barriers in implementing a defensible space

- The Minimum level of respondents expanded on the topic of implementing a program focused on courtesy visits from local fire districts, that include recommendations and resources on developing their wildfire preparedness.

Demographic

- Majority of respondents cited to be moderate to conservative
 - Majority of respondents cited to be 40 and above
 - Majority of respondents cited to be long term residents
 - Majority of respondents identified as Caucasian
 - Majority of respondents cited income to be \$100,000 or more
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