

## PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE & ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION (PIER)

### PROJECT PROPOSAL

Instructions: Please complete all fields and email the completed form and attachments to [pier@hcs.oregon.gov](mailto:pier@hcs.oregon.gov). Please enter N/A for any section which does not apply. Once received, you will be contacted regarding the next steps in the project evaluation and selection process.

| Project Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                       |                                                  |
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| <b>Project Title:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Estacada Wildfire Community Risk Reduction                                            |                                                  |
| <b>Primary Contact Name and Title:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Sarah Poet, Fire Marshal                                                              |                                                  |
| <b>Phone Number:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 503-630-7788                                                                          |                                                  |
| <b>Email address:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Spoet@estacadafire.org                                                                |                                                  |
| <b>Project Lead Organization Name:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Sarah Poet                                                                            |                                                  |
| <b>Type of Eligible Organization:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit |                                                  |
| <b>Amount of PIER Funds Requested:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | \$1,000,000                                                                           |                                                  |
| Type of Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                       |                                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Revitalization |
| Project Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                       |                                                  |
| <p>1.1 Project purpose, area of benefit, description of the proposed activity, and who will be served by proposed activity.</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to reduce the risk of wildfires in the Estacada Rural Fire District by implementing targeted fuels reduction and mitigation activities around residential structures, critical infrastructure, and wildfire evacuation routes. The project will involve creating defensible spaces, enhancing evacuation routes, and addressing hazardous fuel loads to prevent the spread of wildfires. The project will also include a component to allow residents to check out equipment to help mitigate hazards on their own properties, empowering them to take proactive steps in protecting their homes and surrounding areas. This approach ensures that both the immediate and long-term wildfire mitigation needs of the community are met.</p> <p>Area of Benefit:</p> <p>The project will benefit residents within the Estacada Rural Fire District, which encompasses the 9 sub-boundaries of Dodge, Tumala, George, Tracy, Frog Pond, Viola, Springwater North, Springwater South, and the City of Estacada. These sub-districts include approximately 5147 structures, 4842 residences, valued at a market total of \$3,142,536,775 and overall, there are 6,660 property accounts within the district with at total market value of \$3,996,174,292 (based on current Tax Assessor numbers). Additionally, the area contains vital critical infrastructure such as the Estacada Water Treatment Plant, PG&amp;E powerlines, dams, and the Clackamas River Watershed, which serves several municipalities. The project will prioritize high-risk areas,</p> |                                                                                       |                                                  |

especially those impacted by previous fires (including the Milo McIver Fire, Riverside Fire, and Dowty Road Fire) as well as areas identified through the USFS Strategic Plan and other wildfire risk assessments.

**Description of the Proposed Activity:**

The activities will focus on a combination of fuels reduction, vegetation management, and community-driven efforts to reduce wildfire risks:

- **Fuels reduction:** A 100-foot buffer will be created around residential structures, critical infrastructure, and high-priority areas such as evacuation routes. The mitigation will reduce hazardous fuel loads and improve the safety of evacuation routes.
- **Creation of defensible space:** Establishing defensible spaces around homes and infrastructure to increase their protection during wildfire events and improve firefighter safety.
- **Collaboration with local agencies:** Coordination with Clackamas Fire District #1 (Crew 30) for fuels reduction work, particularly along evacuation routes and in areas like Eagle Fern Park. Partnerships will also include Timber Lake Job Corps, AntFarm, PGE, and other local agencies.
- **Use of community resources:** Natural vegetation management through grazing by goats and other tools like brush hog mowers and woodchippers to reduce fire risks in rural areas.
- **Self-certification/Equipment checkouts:** Residents can check out equipment from All American Rentals to conduct their own defensible space projects. This program is a self-certification initiative, where residents, supported by equipment and resources, take responsibility for mitigating fire hazards on their properties. All American Rentals will maintain and service all equipment, while a Project Manager will organize cleanup days within sub-districts to ensure active participation.
- **Consultations and inspections:** ODF and Department of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), along with Estacada personnel, will conduct site inspections and provide consultations to landowners to ensure their properties meet wildfire mitigation standards.

**Who Will Be Served:**

The project will directly benefit residents within the Estacada Rural Fire District, particularly those in high-risk, rural areas (see attached WUI map). Vulnerable populations, including low-income, elderly, and disabled residents, will be especially supported by the improved wildfire preparedness and reduced risks to their homes and critical infrastructure. The project will also positively impact local governments, emergency responders, and utilities by protecting critical public services, thus contributing to the overall resilience of the entire community.

**1.2 Project delivery summary (how the work will be done, those responsible for or involved in completing the project, project partners, and general timeline).**

This wildfire mitigation project will be delivered through a combination of contracted work crews, collaborative partnerships, and community-driven self-certification efforts to achieve the overall goal of reducing wildfire risk to critical infrastructure and private properties within the Estacada Fire District.

**Key Administration and Goals:**

The primary objective of this project is to reduce wildfire risk and protect critical infrastructure by conducting fuels reduction activities and creating defensible spaces around homes, businesses, and key infrastructure. This will be achieved through a multifaceted approach, leveraging both professional contractors and community involvement to ensure comprehensive risk reduction throughout the district.

**1. Fuels Reduction and Infrastructure Protection:** The project will be administered through a collaborative partnership with Clackamas Fire District #1, AntFarm, Timber Lake Job Corp, and local government and utility partners. Clackamas Fire District #1 may provide a work crew (Crew 30) for fuels reduction efforts in high-priority areas, with some collaboration in Eagle Fern Park, a county park. This will involve the clearing of hazardous vegetation along evacuation routes, around critical infrastructure like the Estacada water treatment plant, PGE powerlines, dams, and areas near residential communities. These crews will also assist with strategic fuels reduction projects in high-risk areas identified in the district.

Professional contractors like AntFarm and Timber Lake Job Corp will support additional fuels reduction, firebreaks, and defensible space creation around critical infrastructure and private properties. These contractors will be responsible for managing and carrying out the primary on-the-ground mitigation work, ensuring that the project stays on schedule and meets all safety and environmental standards.

**2. Community-driven Defensible Space Initiatives:** A key component of this project is the community-driven defensible space initiative, where residents can directly participate in mitigating wildfire risks on their own properties. All American Rentals will serve as the primary equipment rental hub, providing landowners with free access to essential tools (such as chainsaws, pole saws, blowers, weed eaters, etc.) to create defensible spaces around their homes. All equipment will be battery-operated for sustainability unless specifically noted, and All American Rentals will be responsible for the maintenance, servicing, and repairs of the equipment.

Residents will be able to check out equipment for free and use it on their property. To support this, the project will implement a self-certification system that encourages property owners to actively engage in fuels reduction work. Property owners will also receive resources and information on proper techniques for creating defensible spaces.

**3. Supportive Oversight and Consultation:** The project manager will be responsible for organizing community clean-up days within sub-districts of the fire district, allowing residents to actively participate in mitigating wildfire risks. These clean-up events will be scheduled throughout the year and offer an opportunity for local residents to receive hands-on assistance.

Additionally, ODF (Oregon Department of Forestry), the Department of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), and Estacada personnel will conduct site inspections and provide consultations to

landowners participating in the defensible space program. These agencies will provide technical support to ensure property owners are effectively implementing defensible space strategies and meeting fire mitigation standards.

4. Collaborative Partnerships: The success of this project relies heavily on collaboration with key agencies and partners, including:

- PGE (Portland General Electric), which will be involved in coordinating with the project team to ensure that fuel reduction and defensible space efforts align with utility safety requirements, particularly around powerlines and critical infrastructure.
- City of Estacada, which will collaborate on project planning, community outreach, and resource sharing.
- USFS (U.S. Forest Service) and ODF (Oregon Department of Forestry), who will be essential partners for wildfire risk assessment, technical expertise, and alignment with larger state and federal fire management goals.
- Clackamas County, providing support in resource management, permitting, and coordination for local mitigation efforts.
- Water Resource Groups to ensure water sources remain protected and maintained, preventing contamination from wildfire impacts.

#### Timeline and Phases:

The project will be divided into clear phases, beginning with initial risk assessments, followed by fuel reduction activities, the establishment of defensible space around critical infrastructure, and finally, community engagement through clean-up days and self-certification for property owners. The timeline will be as follows:

- Phase 1: Project initiation (0-3 months) – Risk assessments, initial outreach, and equipment rental coordination.
- Phase 2: Fuels reduction and infrastructure protection (3-12 months) – Contracting crews (AntFarm, Timber Lake, Crew 30) to complete high-priority fuels reduction, including critical infrastructure protection.
- Phase 3: Community outreach and self-certification (12-24 months) – Organize clean-up days, equipment check-outs, and consultations for residents, with continued monitoring by ODF, OSFM, and Estacada personnel.
- Phase 4: Ongoing monitoring and evaluation (24+ months) – Assess the effectiveness of the fuels reduction work and defensible space creation and adjust strategies as needed.

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By involving local contractors, partnering agencies, and engaging the community in self-driven mitigation efforts, the project ensures that wildfire mitigation is comprehensive, effective, and sustainable over the long term. This approach builds resilience in the community and creates a model for ongoing wildfire preparedness and recovery.



### 1.3 Anticipated outcomes and performance measures

#### Anticipated Outcomes:

##### 1. Reduction in Wildfire Risk:

- The project will significantly reduce the risk of wildfire spreading to homes and critical infrastructure within the Estacada Rural Fire District by creating defensible spaces and reducing hazardous fuel loads. This includes the creation of defensible spaces around approximately 2,000 properties and 100 feet of defensible space around critical infrastructure, such as water treatment plants, powerlines, and key evacuation routes.
- Fuels reduction efforts will also prioritize Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery, located in a steep, narrow canyon with limited access and surrounded by heavy timber. This critical infrastructure, which has only one way in and out, will receive targeted attention as part of the mitigation efforts to ensure its protection from wildfire threats.
- Additional priority areas will include Milo McIver State Park, Fern Creek Park, and Metzler Park, all of which have been identified as key areas where wildfire risk is high due to steep terrain, limited access, and proximity to residential communities. Fuels reduction and defensible space creation around these parks will help safeguard not only park visitors and infrastructure but also the surrounding residential areas.

##### 2. Enhanced Community Engagement and Preparedness:

- We anticipate strong engagement from local residents through the self-certification process, with over 200 landowners participating in equipment checkouts for personal property wildfire mitigation. Additionally, 5 community clean-up days will be organized within the district, with a target of at least 80% of landowners in the high-risk areas participating in defensible space efforts.

##### 3. Support for Vulnerable Populations:

- Special efforts will be made to ensure that low-income, elderly, and disabled residents are supported through direct consultations, free access to mitigation equipment, and prioritizing these properties in the fuels reduction plan. Our goal is to have at least 30% of the program participants come from these vulnerable groups.

##### 4. Collaboration and Coordination:

- By working with partners like Clackamas Fire District #1, Timber Lake Job Corps, USFS, AntFarm, PGE, ODF, Clackamas County, and local utilities, the project will ensure that at least 80% of critical infrastructure within the district is protected through fuels reduction efforts. This includes improving evacuation routes and defensible space around public infrastructure, including work near Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery, Milo McIver State Park, Fern Creek Park, and Metzler Park.

##### 5. Ecological and Environmental Recovery:

- Fuels reduction will extend across 500 acres in high-risk areas to not only protect residential properties but also improve ecosystem resilience. We aim to restore

vital habitats and reduce future wildfire risks in fire-adapted ecosystems, ensuring 30% of high-priority land is restored through this project.

6. Post-Fire Recovery:

- The project will directly address post-fire recovery, including hazardous fuels removal along the corridors impacted by previous fires (like the Milo McIver Fire, Riverside Fire, and Dowty Road Fire), helping to mitigate future risks. The restoration efforts will benefit over 500 landowners and directly reduce the risk of further damage in these areas.

Performance Measures:

- Fuels Reduction: Acres treated, with a goal of treating 500 acres of high-risk land, including areas around Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery, Milo McIver State Park, Fern Creek Park, and Metzler Park.
- Community Participation: Number of residents engaged in defensible space efforts and equipment checkouts (target: minimum of 200 residents annually).
- Critical Infrastructure Protection: Percentage of critical infrastructure protected (target: 80% of identified assets).
- Vulnerable Population Engagement: Percentage of program participants from vulnerable populations (target: 30%).
- Collaboration Success: Number of successful partnerships formed with local, state, and federal agencies, such as Clackamas Fire District #1, USFS, and ODF (target: 5 key partnerships).
- Recovery Impact: Number of properties and acres affected by previous fires that will benefit from recovery efforts (target: up to 500 properties and 300 acres).

2.1 State the unmet need(s) of the community that will be addressed by the completion of this project, and how the project will benefit historically underserved communities.

Unmet Needs of the Community:

The Estacada Rural Fire District faces significant wildfire risks, particularly due to its rural and forested landscape. Many residential properties, including those located in steep and difficult-to-access areas like Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery, Milo McIver State Park, Metzler Park, and Fern Creek Park, are highly vulnerable to wildfires. The region also contains critical infrastructure, such as the Estacada water treatment plant, powerlines, and the Clackamas River watershed, which serves multiple municipalities.

Past wildfires, such as the Milo McIver Fire, Riverside Fire, and Dowty Road Fire, have further exacerbated the community's vulnerability, damaging homes, public infrastructure, and critical ecosystems. Despite previous recovery efforts, significant gaps remain in the protection of key areas, particularly residential structures and essential services. Fuels reduction and the creation of defensible spaces around homes and infrastructure are needed to mitigate future fire risks.

Additionally, many residents in the area, particularly in remote and hard-to-reach zones, have limited resources to undertake their own wildfire preparedness efforts. Vulnerable populations, such as low-income, elderly, and disabled residents, are at higher risk due to their limited mobility, access to resources, and ability to engage in fire mitigation activities. Many of these residents are unable to invest in necessary fuels reduction or property improvements on their own.

#### Benefits to Historically Underserved Communities:

This project directly addresses these unmet needs by providing targeted fuels reduction, critical infrastructure protection, and resources to support wildfire preparedness. In particular, it focuses on improving resilience in areas that have been historically underserved, including:

- **Low-Income Residents:** Many low-income households in the district live in high-risk wildfire zones and face financial barriers to mitigating those risks. By providing free access to wildfire mitigation tools and equipment through All American Rentals, this project enables these residents to take necessary action on their properties, creating safer homes and reducing fire risk.
- **Elderly and Disabled Populations:** These vulnerable groups often lack the physical ability to manage vegetation around their homes or to participate in larger community efforts. This project will prioritize these individuals by offering specialized support, such as site consultations by the Department of State Fire Marshal and ODF, to ensure their properties are properly prepared for wildfire threats. The project will also ensure that these groups have direct access to free mitigation tools, reducing the burden on them and improving their safety.
- **Rural and Remote Communities:** Many rural communities, particularly those in steep canyon areas and with limited access points, are at a higher risk of isolation during wildfire events. By focusing on Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery, Fern Creek Park, and Metzler Park, areas with challenging terrain and limited escape routes, the project will provide critical protections for vulnerable properties and infrastructure, including the one-way access routes in these locations.
- **Critical Infrastructure Protection:** Fuels reduction efforts around vital services like the Estacada water treatment plant, powerlines, and the Clackamas River watershed will ensure that the community has access to clean water and energy during and after wildfire events, helping to safeguard the well-being of all residents, especially those in underserved communities.

#### Collaborative Approach:

The project takes a collaborative approach to wildfire mitigation and recovery by partnering with a range of local, regional, and state agencies. These agencies will work together to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive effort that integrates expertise and resources, maximizing the impact of the project.

#### Key collaborators include:

- **Clackamas Fire District #1:** Providing fuels reduction labor, especially in high-risk areas like Fern Creek Park. Their expertise will be used to clear hazardous fuels around residential structures and critical infrastructure.
- **PGE:** Assisting with the protection of energy infrastructure, including powerlines and facilities, by addressing fuel loads near these assets to reduce the risk of power disruptions during wildfire events.

- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS): Providing technical support for wildfire prevention and management, including fuels reduction strategies, firebreak establishment, and site inspections for proper defensible space.
- Clackamas County and City of Estacada: Ensuring alignment with county-wide fire and emergency plans, facilitating community engagement efforts, and providing local knowledge to support targeted mitigation activities.
- Water Resources Agencies, such as the Clackamas River Basin Council and Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District: Focusing on the protection and restoration of the Clackamas River watershed, critical water resources, and surrounding ecosystems. These agencies will also help with erosion control, soil stabilization, and water quality protection, particularly in wildfire-prone areas.
- Timber Lake Job Corp and AntFarm: Contracting for manual labor to assist with vegetation management, debris removal, and other fuels reduction activities. These groups will also help build workforce capacity and provide valuable job training and community development opportunities.

Through these partnerships, the project will implement a comprehensive and collaborative wildfire mitigation strategy that addresses the community's unique needs while ensuring ongoing support for long-term resilience.

## 2.2 Describe any mitigation efforts

The proposed mitigation efforts prioritize the protection of residential areas and critical infrastructure in high-risk wildfire zones. These efforts include targeted fuels reduction, defensible space creation, and the enhancement of evacuation routes to ensure safe evacuation and firefighting access. The following strategies reflect a comprehensive approach to wildfire risk reduction, with a focus on vulnerable communities and infrastructure that could be severely impacted by wildfires.

### 1. Primary Focus: Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Residential Areas

**Critical Infrastructure Protection:** The project will prioritize the protection of critical infrastructure including Estacada's water treatment plant, booster pump stations, PGE powerlines, dams, and the Clackamas River watershed. These assets are vital to community safety, water supply, and power delivery and are particularly vulnerable to wildfires.

We will conduct fuels reduction and defensible space treatments around these facilities to ensure that fire crews have access to these critical locations. Specifically, we will:

- Create firebreaks and clear vegetation around the water treatment plant and booster pump stations to ensure firefighting access and prevent fire damage to these vital utilities.
- Reduce hazardous fuels and create defensible space around solar farms, PGE's powerlines, and dams to minimize the risk of damage to power infrastructure and reduce the chance of power outages caused by wildfires.

By addressing these key infrastructure points, we aim to protect community resources and prevent widespread disruption in the event of a wildfire.

**Residential Protection:** Another primary focus of the project will be the creation of defensible space and hazardous fuels reduction around residential neighborhoods and vulnerable



communities. These areas have been identified as high-risk zones based on historical fire data, including recent fires and projected risks.

Work will include:

- Clearing vegetation and creating defensible spaces around homes and properties to reduce the risk of wildfires spreading to residential areas.
- Removing fire fuels (e.g., dry brush, dead trees) to improve evacuation routes and provide greater access for fire crews.
- Collaborating with local residents to develop fire-adapted communities, through education, outreach, and active participation in community clean-up days.

This work is essential for resilience in vulnerable communities and for the safety of the residents who are most at risk.

## 2. Secondary Focus: Enhancing Evacuation Routes and Fuels Reduction in Public Parks

Milo McIver State Park: Given its recent historical fire, Milo McIver State Park presents an important secondary mitigation priority. This park, along with surrounding private lands, is at risk from wildfires due to dense vegetation and high public visitation, which increases potential fire hazards. As part of our efforts to protect the public, we will work to:

- Clear vegetation along evacuation routes that connect the park to surrounding areas.
- Enhance firebreaks around the park's most vulnerable areas such as the fish hatchery and PGE dam infrastructure to reduce the chances of fire spreading from the park to nearby communities and critical infrastructure.
- Collaborate with agencies to ensure that evacuation routes are clear and safe for the public in the event of another fire.

Metzler Park and Fern Creek Park: While secondary to residential and critical infrastructure protection, Metzler Park and Fern Creek Park will still receive significant attention due to their vulnerabilities and role as evacuation corridors.

- Metzler Park: This area includes one-way access to a steep canyon, which presents a serious obstacle to evacuations during emergencies. We will focus on brushing and clearing vegetation along evacuation routes to ensure clear, safe access for residents and visitors. The aim is to provide a wider, safer evacuation route for those needing to exit during a wildfire.
- Fern Creek Park: Like Metzler Park, Fern Creek Park has similar access challenges, with narrow roads and dense vegetation inside the park posing barriers to timely evacuation and firefighting efforts. Fuels reduction and clearing of underbrush along these roads will improve evacuation efficiency and ensure firefighting access if a fire were to occur.

## 3. Collaborative Efforts with Clackamas Fire District #1

Collaboration with Clackamas Fire District #1 will be essential throughout this project, particularly with respect to fuels reduction, firebreak creation, and improving evacuation routes. Their support will help ensure that our mitigation strategies are comprehensive and aligned with ongoing efforts in the region.

The project will also build on the mitigation work already completed by Clackamas Fire District #1 and other agencies, ensuring that our efforts contribute to a larger regional strategy for wildfire resilience.

In conclusion, while the residential areas and critical infrastructure will be prioritized, significant mitigation work will also be done in public parks like Milo McIver State Park, Metzler Park, and Fern Creek Park. These efforts, alongside the continued collaboration with Clackamas Fire District #1, will reduce wildfire risk and improve community preparedness, making the region more fire-adapted and resilient to future fire events.

## 2.3 Describe benefits to wildfire survivors

The wildfire mitigation project offers critical benefits to wildfire survivors by helping to reduce future risk, providing a buffer against the devastating consequences of wildfires, and contributing to long-term recovery. While the immediate priority is safeguarding lives and property, the secondary focus is on ensuring that the resilience of the community is restored and maintained for future generations. The project's holistic approach includes both physical and emotional recovery for wildfire survivors by addressing their immediate needs and preparing the community for future events.

### 1. Immediate Protection for At-Risk Communities:

For survivors of past wildfires, the immediate benefit of this project lies in reducing future exposure to wildfire risk. The targeted mitigation efforts—such as defensible space clearing, fuel reduction, and improving evacuation routes—will directly protect the homes and properties of those who have experienced wildfire trauma. Survivors who live in the high-risk areas that have previously been affected by fires will see a direct reduction in the likelihood of future destruction.

This includes residents whose properties have already been threatened by wildfire or experienced damage, such as those affected by the 2020 Riverside, Dowty Road Fires and other regional wildfires. Reducing the severity and frequency of future wildfires allows these survivors to rebuild and move forward with greater peace of mind.

### 2. Mental Health and Community Stability:

The mental toll of wildfires on survivors cannot be overstated. After experiencing the chaos, displacement, and loss of homes or livelihoods, survivors often face a range of mental health challenges, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression. By reducing the likelihood of future destruction, the mitigation efforts will help restore community stability, allowing individuals to focus on healing and rebuilding rather than constantly fearing a repeat disaster.

Additionally, fostering a sense of community solidarity through collaborative clean-up efforts and outreach programs will enable survivors to connect with neighbors, rebuild trust, and foster a shared vision for a fire-resilient future. This mental and social recovery is an often-overlooked benefit that ensures survivors feel supported in their journey back to normalcy.

### 3. Improved Recovery Time and Economic Stability:

By reducing the extent of wildfire damage, this project also accelerates economic recovery for individuals and businesses in the affected areas. Survivors will face fewer financial setbacks from property loss, insurance claims, and rebuilding efforts. For those who rely on the region's natural resources (like those in agriculture, forestry, or fishing), this mitigation will ensure that their livelihoods are not disrupted by future fires, contributing to sustained economic stability.

Furthermore, many survivors are also those who contribute to the local economy. By protecting homes and businesses in the fire district, the project reduces the need for emergency response resources and recovery expenditures, freeing up funds for long-term investments in the community.

#### 4. Long-Term Resilience and Prevention of Future Losses:

The mitigation measures will also play a crucial role in preventing future loss by ensuring that the area is not as susceptible to widespread destruction. Survivors who were impacted by previous fires will benefit from the increased resilience of the entire community—because the more resilient the landscape and infrastructure, the less likely future wildfires will cause catastrophic losses.

Additionally, mitigation efforts around critical infrastructure, such as water treatment plants, dams, and powerlines, will help ensure that survivors have access to essential services, even in the aftermath of a wildfire. This ensures that the region remains operational, connected, and recoverable, reducing the long-term impact of future disasters.

#### 5. Incorporation of Learnings from USFS Strategic Plan:

This project builds on critical insights from the USFS (U.S. Forest Service) Strategic Plan, which has emphasized the importance of creating fire-adapted communities. By engaging directly with the USFS and applying strategies that prioritize resilient landscapes, improved evacuation routes, and wildfire-resistant structures, the project incorporates best practices that are grounded in science and past experience. This comprehensive approach will help build community trust, as survivors see that proactive, science-backed measures are being taken to prevent further harm.

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In summary, the benefits to wildfire survivors are not just about the immediate physical protection of homes, but about restoring psychological well-being, economic stability, and community cohesion. This project gives survivors the resources to recover faster and more effectively while preparing the community for a future that is safer, more resilient, and better equipped to withstand the next wildfire threat.

### 2.4 Describe any direct recovery

This wildfire mitigation project directly supports recovery by addressing both immediate and long-term needs within our community and surrounding areas affected by previous wildfire incidents. Specifically, this project focuses on restoring vital infrastructure, protecting vulnerable populations, and reducing future fire risks, which collectively contribute to the recovery of both physical and community resilience.

#### 1. Fuels Reduction and Community Resilience:

The project will provide direct recovery for local communities by reducing hazardous fuels in high-risk areas, which were identified through the USFS Strategic Plan and other wildfire risk assessments. By implementing proactive vegetation management, including creating defensible space around critical infrastructure (such as water treatment plants, fish hatcheries, powerlines, and the Clackamas River watershed), the project mitigates the immediate threat of wildfires to these essential systems. This will help restore confidence in the community's ability to safely recover from past wildfire events and be better prepared for future ones.

## 2. Collaboration with Local Partners:

This project is closely aligned with the USFS Strategic Plan, and its goals to create resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities, and safe, effective wildfire responses. By participating in efforts that support wildfire prevention strategies, we ensure that recovery efforts are in line with broader federal, state, and local goals. The collaboration with Clackamas Fire District #1, Clackamas River Basin Council, and Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District ensures that recovery efforts address critical ecosystem restoration, community infrastructure repair, and long-term health and resilience.

## 3. Community Health and Wellbeing:

The project directly addresses the psychological and emotional recovery of residents by implementing community clean-up days, defensible space projects, and educational outreach. Past wildfires have caused significant disruptions to residents' lives, contributing to increased stress and mental health challenges. Through this project, community members will actively participate in creating safer environments, which will not only reduce long-term trauma but also restore community cohesion and improve overall mental well-being.

## 4. Post-Fire Recovery for Landowners:

This project will provide direct recovery to landowners impacted by previous wildfires, including those affected by the 2020 Riverside and Dowty Road Fires. By assisting with defensible space creation and vegetation restoration, the project will help landowners recover their properties, improve fire resilience, and re-establish their homes and livelihoods. Additionally, debris removal and fuel reduction efforts will aid these landowners in protecting their property from future wildfire damage.

## 5. Long-Term Recovery from Ecological and Environmental Damage:

The project, in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the USFS, targets ecological recovery by focusing on areas impacted by wildfires. Fuels reduction in high-risk areas will not only protect communities but also support ecosystem restoration. This approach is aligned with the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, working toward resilient landscapes and fire-adapted communities. Key areas identified include Metzler Park and Fern Creek Park, both critical parks located in areas with steep terrain and limited access.

## 6. Public Infrastructure Protection:

The project will reduce the risk of damage to critical public infrastructure such as the Estacada water treatment plant, State and Federal fish hatcheries, PGE powerlines, dams, and the Clackamas River watershed. This proactive mitigation ensures that these systems remain intact during future wildfire events, preserving essential public services and reducing the need for costly repairs or replacements in the aftermath of a disaster.



## Recovery Efforts Following Major Wildfires:

### Milo McIver Fire (2022):

This fire impacted residential areas, natural habitats, and critical infrastructure in Milo McIver State Park. Recovery efforts will focus on:

- Fuels reduction and removal of hazardous vegetation along evacuation routes and near critical infrastructure like powerlines and water sources.
- Ecosystem restoration to promote fire resilience and reduce future vulnerability.

### Riverside Fire (2020):

The Riverside Fire devastated large parts of Clackamas County, impacting private properties and critical infrastructure. Recovery efforts will include:

- Clearing fire debris and removing hazardous fuels along firebreaks, evacuation routes, and near vulnerable infrastructure.
- Restoring fire-adapted ecosystems and defensible spaces to protect homes and businesses from future risks.

### Dowty Road Fire (2020):

This fire significantly impacted the Clackamas River Basin and surrounding communities. Recovery efforts will include:

- Clearing fire debris, removing hazardous fuels, and restoring firebreaks along the Clackamas River.
- Soil stabilization and erosion control to protect water quality and prevent downstream sedimentation.

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## Post-Fire Recovery and Long-Term Resilience:

In addition to immediate recovery, the project aims to reduce future wildfire risks and restore resilience in impacted areas. Key strategies include:

- Fuels reduction, firebreaks, and defensible space creation around homes and critical infrastructure in Metzler Park and Fern Creek Park, which are located in areas with steep terrain and limited access.
- Rebuilding ecosystems and fire-adapted landscapes to prevent soil erosion and reduce future wildfire risks.

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## Integration with USFS Strategic Plan:

The recovery efforts align with the USFS Strategic Plan for Wildland Fire Management, focusing on three key goals: Resilient Landscapes, Fire-Adapted Communities, and Safe and Effective Wildfire Response.

- Resilient Landscapes: Restoration and mitigation efforts will reduce future risks by collaborating with the USFS and local stakeholders to restore habitats and reduce hazardous fuels.

- **Fire-Adapted Communities:** Through education, engagement, and defensible space creation, we will empower local residents to prepare for future fire events.
- **Safe and Effective Wildfire Response:** This project will improve evacuation routes, firebreaks, and critical infrastructure resilience, ensuring communities are better prepared for wildfires and that response efforts are more effective.

#### Collaborative Recovery Efforts:

In addition to local agencies in district, this project will work with other key regional partners to enhance recovery efforts, including:

- Clackamas River Basin Council and Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District to support fire prevention, recovery, and mitigation efforts in the Clackamas River watershed.
- Oregon Conservation Corps to assist with workforce development and restoration of local ecosystems.

#### Future Goals and Enhancing Resilience:

This project will create the foundation for future wildfire resilience in the area, improving land management, fire-adapted landscapes, and community preparedness plans to ensure the community can withstand future wildfires.

### 2.5 Outline the expected number of people impacted or assisted

The wildfire mitigation project will have a broad and far-reaching impact on the Estacada Rural Fire District and neighboring areas, with a specific focus on high-risk wildfire zones and critical infrastructure. The expected number of people impacted or assisted includes not only the direct beneficiaries of the project, such as homeowners and landowners, but also those who depend on critical infrastructure and environmental resources.

#### 1. Number of Residents Impacted:

- **Estimated Total Structures:**  
The Estacada Rural Fire District serves approximately 16,000 residents within its boundary. The district contains 5147 structures, including 4842 residences with an estimated market value of \$3,142,536,775 according to Clackamas County Tax Assessors. This project will directly benefit these households by reducing wildfire risk and improving resilience.
- **Sub-boundaries Targeted:**  
The project will primarily focus on the 9 sub-boundaries within the district: Dodge, Tumala, George, Tracy, Frog Pond, Viola, Springwater North, Springwater South and City of Estacada. These sub-boundaries are critical targets for wildfire mitigation due to the heavy timber, residences, and fuel loads, challenging terrain, and limited evacuation routes.

#### 2. Total Market Value of Structures at Risk:

- **High Value at Risk:**

The land in the Estacada Rural Fire District represents a substantial value, with a total market value of almost \$4 billion across all properties, including both residential and non-residential buildings. Mitigating wildfire risks in these areas is essential not only for the safety of residents but also for the preservation of significant economic assets. The 4,842 residences in the target sub-boundaries represent over \$2.87 billion in market value, indicating the high stakes involved in reducing wildfire risks.

### 3. Impact on Critical Infrastructure:

The project will also directly benefit the broader community by protecting critical infrastructure, which supports both the local population and regional resources:

- **Water Treatment Plant and Infrastructure:**

The Estacada water treatment plant, which provides drinking water to approximately 8,000 residents in the Estacada community, is at significant risk during wildfire events. Damage to this infrastructure could cost up to \$5 million and take 6 months to rebuild. By creating defensible space and improving fire protection measures around this critical infrastructure, the project helps ensure water availability and community recovery in the event of a wildfire.

- **Power Infrastructure:**

The protection of several solar farms and PGE's 3 dams and powerlines is another critical focus. A disruption to power services due to wildfire can impact thousands of people, affecting not only local residents but also the region's economy. The project's mitigation work will help safeguard this vital infrastructure.

- **Clackamas River Watershed:**

The project will also protect the Clackamas River watershed, which supplies drinking water to several municipalities and water utilities. Any wildfire damage in this area can disrupt water quality and increase treatment costs for surface water intakes that serve the City of Estacada, Lake Oswego, Tigard, Gladstone, Oregon City, and other communities. Safeguarding this critical watershed will protect thousands of residents who depend on this water source.

- **Fish Hatcheries:** Two local fish hatcheries, vital to regional wildlife and conservation efforts, will also benefit from the wildfire defensible space project. These hatcheries play a critical role in maintaining healthy fish populations, such as salmon and steelhead, which are essential to the local ecosystem and economy. Wildfires pose a significant threat to these hatcheries, with potential damage to their infrastructure, water supply systems, and surrounding habitat. By implementing fire protection measures around these facilities, the project will help preserve these essential operations, ensuring that fish populations are supported, and the hatcheries can continue to operate without interruption during wildfire events.

### 4. Indirect Beneficiaries:

While the project directly impacts residents within the fire district, its effects will ripple out to surrounding areas, particularly in terms of infrastructure protection and long-term wildfire resilience. The mitigation of wildfire risk, particularly for critical infrastructure and the environment, indirectly benefits approximately 100,000+ residents across the Clackamas

County region and beyond, who rely on water, power, and ecosystem services from the impacted areas. This also includes the protection of two local fish hatcheries that are critical to regional wildlife conservation efforts. These hatcheries play a vital role in maintaining healthy fish populations, including salmon and steelhead, which are not only crucial to the local ecosystem but also support recreational and commercial fishing industries. By safeguarding these hatcheries, the project will ensure the continued health of fish populations and their role in sustaining the local environment and economy.

In summary, the project will assist thousands of residents directly within the fire district, with a focus on protecting billions of dollars in residential property value. In addition, it will safeguard critical infrastructure that supports the livelihoods and daily operations of tens of thousands of people in the region. Through this comprehensive approach, the project addresses both immediate and long-term wildfire risks and contributes to community resilience.

### Estimated Project or Program Budget

Provide a general budget estimate for your project and describe next steps to generate a more detailed budget. Include a list of other funding sources that are pending, funds that have already been received, and explain any funding gaps. Include a plan for funding maintenance and operations.

#### 1. Personnel: \$200,000

- Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator (3 years): \$200,000
  - The Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator will manage all aspects of the project, including overseeing daily operations, coordinating with local partners and stakeholders, managing the defensible space program, organizing community clean-up days, and ensuring that resources are effectively utilized.
  - This role will include both the responsibilities of the coordinator and project manager, ensuring smooth execution and accountability of the project.

#### 2. Mitigation Work (Contracted Services): \$500,000

- AntFarm (Youth and Adult Contracted Crew) for Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space Projects: \$312,500
  - AntFarm will provide labor for vegetation mitigation, defensible space creation, and brush clearing work in collaboration with other local stakeholders. This includes adult and youth crew members with equipment like chainsaws, dump trucks, and excavators.
  - Cost breakdown for services:
    - 2 Adult Crew + 5 Youth: \$2,500/day (estimating 125 days of work across various sites).
- Timber Lake Job Corp (Contracted Labor and Equipment): \$150,000



- Timber Lake Job Corp will provide labor and equipment for fuels reduction and defensible space projects, specifically on USFS land around Timber Lake. This collaboration helps to address public land mitigation and evacuation routes.
- Crew 30 (Clackamas Fire District #1 - If Available): \$100,000
  - Crew 30 from Clackamas Fire District #1 will assist with fuels reduction work in the project area. This allocation is based on a day rate of \$15,000/day for their team, estimating that they will be available for 10 days during the course of the project.

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### 3. Equipment: \$220,000

- Battery-Operated Equipment (Cost includes extended warranties, tax, and shipping):
  - Miscellaneous Tools (e.g., shovels, rakes, gas cans): \$999.45
  - Iron Bull 7x12 14K Dump Trailer: \$13,200
  - BC 1000XL Wood Chipper (RDO Equipment Co. w/warranty): \$49,500
  - DR Field and Brush Mower - Model XD36 (with extended warranty): \$5,724.98
  - 60V MAX 16 in. Brushless Chainsaw (2.5Ah battery) x 2: \$599.98\*
  - 60V MAX 10 in. Brushless Pole Saw (2.0Ah battery) x 2: \$559.98\*
  - 60V MAX 120 mph Brushless Leaf Blower (2.5Ah Battery) x 1: \$229.99\*
  - 60V MAX 15 in. / 17 in. Telescoping Carbon Fiber Shaft String Trimmer (2.5Ah Battery) x 1: \$249.99\*
  - 12 x 60V MAX Flex-Force 4.0Ah Lithium-Ion Batteries: \$2,699.88\*
  - 6 x 60V MAX Flex-Force 5.4 Amp Lithium-Ion Battery Rapid Chargers: \$839.94\*
  - 60V MAX Flex-Force 12A 6-Pod Li-Ion Charger (charges 6 batteries at once): \$399.99\*
  - Spare Chainsaw Chains (x10): \$199.90
  - Spare Pole Saw Chains (x10): \$299.90
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for 6 workers: \$960.00

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### 4. Operations and Maintenance: \$70,000

- Fuels Reduction and Clean-Up Day Logistics: \$28,000
  - Community Clean-Up Days will involve organizing community-wide efforts to create defensible space, remove hazardous fuels, and clean fire-prone areas. This budget includes the cost of transportation, materials, supplies, volunteer coordination, and messaging to engage local residents and promote participation in the clean-up efforts.
  - Messaging: This includes developing and distributing outreach materials (flyers, social media posts, and press releases) to raise awareness about the clean-up

events, educate the community on wildfire preparedness, and encourage active participation. Messaging will also focus on the long-term benefits of defensible space for fire prevention and public safety.

- Maintenance and Service: \$42,000
    - Regular maintenance, such as chain sharpening, oil changes, and battery management, will be carried out locally through All American Lawn & Garden Supply in Estacada. This allocation will also cover tool replacements and general upkeep of equipment.
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#### 5. Administration & Miscellaneous: \$30,000

- Grant Management and Reporting: \$20,000
    - These costs cover the personnel and administrative time for managing the grant, ensuring compliance with all reporting requirements, and providing progress updates to stakeholders.
  - Miscellaneous Costs: \$10,000
    - This is a contingency fund for unforeseen expenses, tool replacements, and other small but necessary expenses.
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Total Estimated Project Budget: \$1,000,000

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#### Other Funding Sources:

##### Pending/Other Sources:

- AntFarm – Funding sought for additional mitigation efforts in collaboration with local partners.
- Clackamas Fire District #1 – Hazard Mitigation Grant for FEMA Declarations, with efforts to further mitigate fire risks and improve evacuation routes.
- Clackamas River Basin Council – Pending funding for fuels reduction and wildfire preparedness projects in the district and surrounding communities.
- Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District – Secured funding for land restoration and wildfire mitigation efforts in collaboration with local landowners and stakeholders.
- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) – Potential funding for wildfire prevention and mitigation strategies through state-level grants and initiatives.
- Oregon Conservation Corps – Funding for workforce development and fuels reduction projects, focusing on youth engagement and environmental sustainability.

##### Already Received:

- Estacada Fire District – Existing budget allocations and volunteer efforts.

##### Funding Gaps:

- While this project is well-supported through the partnerships mentioned, ongoing funding will be needed to support future maintenance and long-term mitigation efforts. Additional grants from these partners will help bridge this gap.

#### Plan for Maintenance and Operations:

The emphasis on battery-operated equipment ensures reduced operational costs, lower maintenance, and greater environmental sustainability. All American Rentals (AKA All American Lawn & Garden Supply), located locally in Estacada, will provide servicing and warranties, allowing for quick turnaround and maintenance. The use of AntFarm and Timber Lake Job Corp for contracted labor will help manage costs and ensure high-quality work, while also providing valuable job training opportunities for local youth.

#### 4.1 Describe mitigation of loss of life or property in the face of future hazards

This project plays a critical role in reducing the risk of loss of life and property in the Estacada Rural Fire District, addressing current and future wildfire hazards through strategic fuels reduction, infrastructure protection, and community engagement.

##### Key Components of Mitigation:

1. **Fuels Reduction:** The project will focus on reducing hazardous fuels around homes, critical infrastructure, and emergency evacuation routes. Specifically, the 100-foot defensible space around structures, especially those in high-risk areas like Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery, Milo McIver State Park, Fern Creek Park, and Metzler Park, will significantly reduce the risk of fires spreading to residential homes and vital services. The clearance of fuels along firebreaks and evacuation routes will provide critical safe spaces for both residents and firefighters during an emergency.
2. **Defensible Space Creation:** By working directly with residents through tools like All American Rentals, the project encourages homeowners to actively engage in creating defensible spaces around their properties. This community-driven approach, supported by ODF and the Department of State Fire Marshal, will empower individuals to reduce their fire risk through site consultations, equipment rental, and hands-on fire prevention strategies.
3. **Protection of Critical Infrastructure:** The project will prioritize the protection of key infrastructure, including the Estacada water treatment plant, fish hatcheries, solar farms, powerlines, PGE infrastructure, and the Clackamas River watershed. These assets are vital not only to local residents but also to neighboring communities. Fuels reduction in these areas, along with regular clearing of hazardous vegetation, will help prevent

disruption of essential services during a wildfire. The safeguarding of these infrastructures ensures that recovery and relief efforts are less impacted by fire-related damage.

4. Community Preparedness and Education: Collaborations with Clackamas Fire District #1, Timber Lake Job Corp, AntFarm, and other partners will involve community outreach, education, and training. Community cleanup days, educational workshops, and consultations will increase awareness and preparedness, directly mitigating potential losses to life and property. Ensuring that residents know how to protect their homes, create defensible spaces, and maintain fire safety standards plays a crucial role in reducing vulnerability.
5. Enhanced Emergency Response and Evacuation Routes: Working with the Clackamas County, USFS, and PGE, the project will enhance emergency evacuation routes and increase the accessibility of these routes during wildfire events. The improvement of these pathways, along with firebreak establishment in areas like Milo McIver State Park and Metzler Park, will ensure that residents can evacuate safely and emergency responders can access areas in need of assistance.
6. Ecological and Environmental Protection: Beyond property and infrastructure, the project will also focus on protecting natural habitats and preventing soil erosion, which could lead to greater downstream damage. Partners such as the Clackamas River Basin Council and ODF will aid in restoring fire-adapted landscapes and protecting critical ecosystems, ensuring long-term resilience in the face of future hazards.

Long-Term Resilience: The collective efforts of local agencies, stakeholders, and the community will build a foundation for future wildfire resilience. These proactive measures, combined with continued investment in fuels reduction and wildfire risk mitigation, will ensure that the area remains better prepared for future hazards, ultimately reducing the potential for catastrophic losses to life, property, and infrastructure.

#### 4.2 Describe consultations for risk assessment

Risk assessments for this project have been conducted through extensive collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as input from experts in wildfire mitigation, community safety, and ecological restoration. These consultations have resulted in a comprehensive evaluation of wildfire risks within the Estacada Rural Fire District and surrounding areas, focusing on both community vulnerability and the resilience of critical infrastructure.

##### Key Consultations and Assessments:

1. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF): As the agency with jurisdiction over Milo McIver State Park, including the Milo McIver Fish Hatchery, ODF has played a critical role in assessing the wildfire risk in and around this state park, which was impacted by the 2022 Milo McIver Fire. ODF provided wildfire hazard mapping, identified high-risk areas, and prioritized fuels reduction efforts around key infrastructure such as the fish hatchery, water treatment plants, and evacuation routes. ODF's expertise has been essential in creating defensible space within high-risk areas, ensuring that the project integrates



best practices for fire-adapted landscapes and sustainable land management. Their work also contributed to efforts around Metzler Park and Fern Creek Park, where access is more limited, and mitigation is especially important.

2. Oregon State Parks: Oregon State Parks has been a major supporter and contributor to the project, providing invaluable guidance and assistance in consultations for Milo McIver State Park, which is a critical area for both ecological restoration and wildfire risk management. Oregon State Parks worked closely with ODF to assess the risks to infrastructure, including the Milo McIver Fish Hatchery, and ensured that mitigation efforts align with park management goals. Their support has been crucial in prioritizing fuels reduction and addressing access challenges in the park, which has a narrow, steep canyon with limited entry points.
3. U.S. Forest Service (USFS): As a federal partner, the USFS has contributed to the risk assessment process by providing data on wildfire behavior, ecosystem vulnerabilities, and fuel loading across Clackamas County. Their input has shaped the project's focus on Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery, critical infrastructure, and surrounding communities, ensuring that risk reduction measures are in place to protect public lands and vital resources, including water supply and habitats.
4. Clackamas County Disaster Management: As the lead agency for disaster preparedness and response within Clackamas County, Clackamas County Disaster Management has provided specialized expertise for the development of risk assessments and strategies for mitigating wildfire hazards. They created the Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP), which serves as a critical resource for guiding wildfire risk reduction efforts across the region. The CWPP outlines strategies for reducing wildfire hazards, including fuels reduction, defensible space creation, and community education, and it has been integrated into the project's planning to ensure alignment with the county's broader disaster management goals. Clackamas County Disaster Management has also been a key partner in planning for evacuation routes, particularly in areas like Metzler Park and Fern Creek Park, which face challenges due to steep terrain and limited access.
5. Clackamas River Basin Council & Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District: These organizations provided valuable insights into watershed risks and the ecological impact of wildfires, particularly in the Clackamas River watershed, which is crucial to the region's water supply. Their participation ensured that fire mitigation efforts align with conservation goals and protect vital ecological resources. They also contributed to soil stabilization strategies in areas prone to erosion post-fire, such as along the riverbanks and other sensitive ecosystems.
6. Department of State Fire Marshal (OSFM): While OSFM has not actively participated in the consultation process for this project, they have extensive resources available to assist with wildfire mitigation efforts if requested. Their expertise and resources can be leveraged to support training, fire prevention, and education programs, as well as to provide guidance on building fire-resilient communities.

#### Risk Assessment Deliverables and Outcomes:

- A prioritized list of high-risk areas, including critical infrastructure like the Estacada water treatment plant, solar farms, powerlines, PGE infrastructure, and both Eagle Creek and Milo McIver Fish Hatcheries.
- Evaluation of firebreaks, evacuation routes, and access roads to ensure safe and efficient emergency response.
- Integration of ecological data to protect local ecosystems and watersheds while mitigating fire risks.
- Identification of vulnerable populations and residential areas that require immediate attention for mitigation efforts.

These consultations have resulted in a unified approach to risk reduction that addresses both immediate hazards and long-term resilience. The project will continue to work with these partners throughout implementation to ensure that risk assessments are regularly updated and that mitigation efforts are tailored to the evolving needs of the community.

#### 4.3 Describe communities impacted

This wildfire mitigation project will have a direct impact on several communities within the Estacada Rural Fire District, including both residential and critical infrastructure zones. The project is specifically designed to reduce the risk of wildfire damage to vulnerable communities, ecosystems, and essential services. Below are the primary communities and areas that will benefit from the project:

1. **Estacada Rural Fire District:**  
The Estacada Rural Fire District encompasses several sub-districts, including Dodge, Tumala, George, Tracy, Frog Pond, Viola, Springwater North, and Springwater South, as well as the City of Estacada. These areas collectively house approximately 4,842 residences with a market value of \$2,876,120,349. Wildfire risk in these residential zones is a growing concern due to the proximity of dense forests, steep terrain, and limited evacuation routes. The project will directly address this risk by implementing fuels reduction and defensible space strategies around homes and infrastructure, making the community more resilient to wildfires.
2. **Critical Infrastructure:**  
The Estacada Rural Fire District contains several vital infrastructure components that support not only local residents but neighboring communities as well. These include the Estacada water treatment plant, PGE powerlines, dams, and the Clackamas River watershed. Protecting these critical systems is essential to ensuring continued access to water, power, and other essential services, particularly in the face of a wildfire event. This project will focus on creating defensible space and reducing hazardous fuels around these areas to minimize the risk of service disruptions caused by wildfires.
3. **Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery:**  
Located in a narrow, steep canyon with only one access route, Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery is a priority area for wildfire mitigation efforts. The hatchery, an important ecological resource, is surrounded by heavy timber, creating high wildfire risk. The

project will focus on creating defensible space around the facility, improving access roads for emergency response, and reducing hazardous vegetation to protect the hatchery and the surrounding natural habitats. This effort is critical to ensuring the health of the hatchery, which plays a vital role in local fish populations.

4. Milo McIver State Park and Fish Hatchery:

This state park is another critical area impacted by wildfire risks. The Milo McIver Fish Hatchery, located within the park, is at risk due to its proximity to dense forests and steep terrain. Following the 2022 Milo McIver Fire, the park and hatchery need ongoing mitigation efforts, including fuels reduction along evacuation routes and near critical infrastructure, such as water treatment systems and the fish hatchery itself. In partnership with Oregon State Parks and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the project will continue to focus on creating a defensible buffer zone around the hatchery and restoring fire-adapted ecosystems in the park.

5. County and State Parks:

Several Clackamas County parks, such as Fern Creek Park and Metzler Park, are located in areas with steep terrain, narrow access roads, and dense forest growth, making them particularly vulnerable to wildfires. These parks, along with the communities near them, will benefit from collaborative mitigation efforts, particularly around improving access and creating defensible space. Work on these parks will be done in partnership with Clackamas County Disaster Management and Clackamas Fire District #1, especially for evacuation routes and fuels reduction efforts.

6. Vulnerable Populations:

Vulnerable populations, including low-income, elderly, and disabled residents, will benefit significantly from the project. Many of these individuals live in rural and isolated areas, where they face higher risks in the event of a wildfire (see attached Health Equity Index). By improving fire preparedness and reducing the risk to homes and infrastructure, this project will enhance the safety and resilience of these populations. Additionally, the provision of equipment from All American Rentals, free of charge for property owners to create defensible space, will enable individuals to directly contribute to their own safety and the protection of their property.

The project will also prioritize working with AntFarm and Timberlake Job Corps for mitigation efforts that specifically target low-income, elderly, and people with health issues. These mitigation crews will assist in clearing hazardous vegetation, creating defensible spaces, and providing additional support to vulnerable individuals who might otherwise be unable to manage the work themselves. By directly engaging these populations and providing necessary resources, the project will reduce the vulnerability of at-risk residents and improve their long-term resilience to wildfire threats.

7. Surrounding Communities:

The impacts of wildfire risk and mitigation efforts will extend beyond the boundaries of the Estacada Rural Fire District. Efforts to protect the Clackamas River watershed, reduce hazardous fuels along major evacuation routes, and enhance critical infrastructure protections will have positive effects on neighboring communities, including Oregon City, Gladstone, and Milwaukie, which also rely on the Clackamas River as a vital water source. Collaborative efforts with PGE, USFS, ODF, and other

agencies will ensure that mitigation benefits reach multiple jurisdictions, improving regional resilience to wildfires.

#### 4.4 How is the project designed to withstand chronic stress and extreme events

This wildfire mitigation project is specifically designed to address both chronic stressors and extreme wildfire events, ensuring the long-term resilience of both the community and the environment. Several key components of the project focus on strengthening the area's capacity to withstand future wildfires and other stressors, while also supporting the continued recovery from the devastating 2020 wildfires. These include:

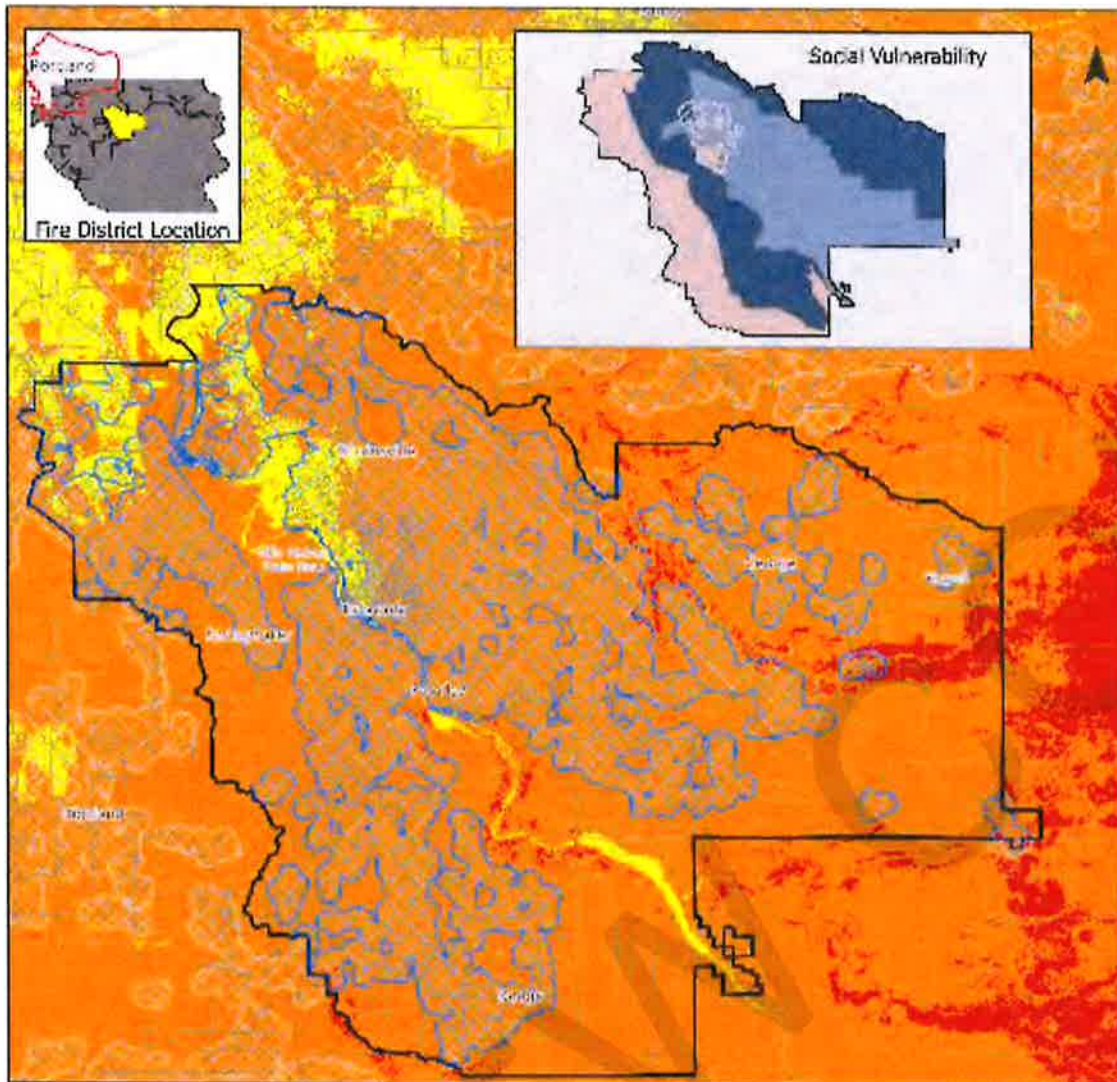
1. **Fuels Reduction and Defensible Space:** A primary objective of this project is the strategic reduction of hazardous fuels around residential structures, critical infrastructure, and high-risk areas, such as Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery, Milo McIver State Park, Fern Creek Park, and Metzler Park. By removing excess vegetation and creating defensible space, we are reducing the likelihood of catastrophic fires reaching these areas and ensuring that the community can respond more effectively. This fuels reduction also supports long-term ecological health, helping to prevent soil erosion and stabilize landscapes that may otherwise be vulnerable to flooding or landslides after wildfires. This mitigation work is a critical part of the ongoing recovery from the 2020 Riverside Fire, Dowty Road Fire, and Milo McIver Fire, which caused widespread damage across the region.
2. **Resilient Infrastructure Protection:** The protection of critical infrastructure, such as the Estacada water treatment plant, PGE powerlines, and the Clackamas River watershed, is a critical component of the project. By addressing the wildfire risks to these systems, we are ensuring that these essential services remain intact and operational, even in the face of extreme events. This enhances the community's ability to recover quickly from any future wildfire incidents, providing access to water, power, and emergency services during and after a disaster. These efforts also continue the recovery from the 2020 fires, which impacted vital public infrastructure, requiring extensive repairs and mitigation to prevent future losses.
3. **Community Engagement and Self-Certification:** The project encourages residents to actively participate in wildfire mitigation efforts through a self-certification process, where they can check out equipment from All American Rentals to clear defensible space around their homes and properties. This approach promotes community engagement, increases local preparedness, and empowers residents to directly contribute to the safety of their homes and neighborhoods. The project also includes ongoing site inspections and consultations from ODF, Department of State Fire Marshal, and Estacada personnel, providing personalized support to help residents mitigate risks. This approach is part of the broader effort to continue the recovery from the 2020 wildfires and ensure that the community is better equipped to handle future fire threats.
4. **Targeted Support for Vulnerable Populations:** Recognizing that certain individuals and communities are more vulnerable to the impacts of wildfires, this project will prioritize



mitigation efforts for low-income, elderly, and individuals with health issues. Through collaboration with AntFarm and Timberlake Job Corps, specialized mitigation crews will be deployed to assist these populations in creating defensible space and clearing hazardous vegetation. This ensures that those most at risk are not left behind in the mitigation process and have the resources and support needed to protect their homes and property. This approach will help address the compounded impacts of the 2020 fires and provide equitable assistance to the most vulnerable.

5. **Collaborative Partnerships:** The success of this project relies on the active collaboration between local agencies such as Clackamas Fire District #1, PGE, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon State Parks, Clackamas County Disaster Management, All American Rentals, and others. These partnerships enable the project to leverage the strengths of each agency, including expertise in wildfire mitigation, access to specialized equipment, and knowledge of the local landscape. Additionally, these collaborations allow for a coordinated response in the event of a wildfire, ensuring that resources can be deployed quickly and efficiently. Working together also strengthens the ongoing recovery from past fires and ensures that the community is better prepared for future wildfires.
6. **Long-Term Ecological Resilience:** The project incorporates ecological restoration efforts to rebuild and enhance the fire resilience of local ecosystems. By focusing on the recovery of fire-adapted landscapes, such as those around Milo McIver and Fern Creek Park, we aim to prevent future damage from extreme wildfire events. These restoration activities will help the natural environment recover and regenerate more quickly after fires, ensuring that wildlife habitats and essential ecosystems remain intact. This approach aligns with broader USFS and ODF strategic goals for creating fire-resilient landscapes. In addition, these efforts are part of the long-term recovery from the 2020 fires, where many critical habitats were lost or severely impacted, requiring restoration to restore ecological balance and reduce vulnerability to future disasters.
7. **Climate Change Adaptation:** The project also accounts for the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires due to climate change. Through proactive vegetation management, the creation of firebreaks, and the restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems, this project aims to build resilience to the long-term impacts of a changing climate. By mitigating future wildfire risks, the project helps ensure that communities in the Estacada Rural Fire District are better prepared for future extreme weather events and chronic environmental stressors, further enhancing recovery efforts from the 2020 fires.

In summary, this project is designed not only to address current wildfire risks but also to support the ongoing recovery from the 2020 wildfires. Through targeted mitigation efforts, community engagement, ecological restoration, and collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies, the project will help build a more resilient community, reducing the impacts of future wildfires and enhancing the ability of the community to recover from past events.



## Estacada Fire District

Overall Wildfire Risk  
WUI  
Social Vulnerability (Inse

### Legend

- Fire district boundary
- Tax lot boundaries
- 2022 WUI

### Wildfire Risk

- Low
- Moderate
- High

### Social Vulnerability

- Low
- Low-Moderate
- Moderate-High
- High
- City footprint

0 2 Miles

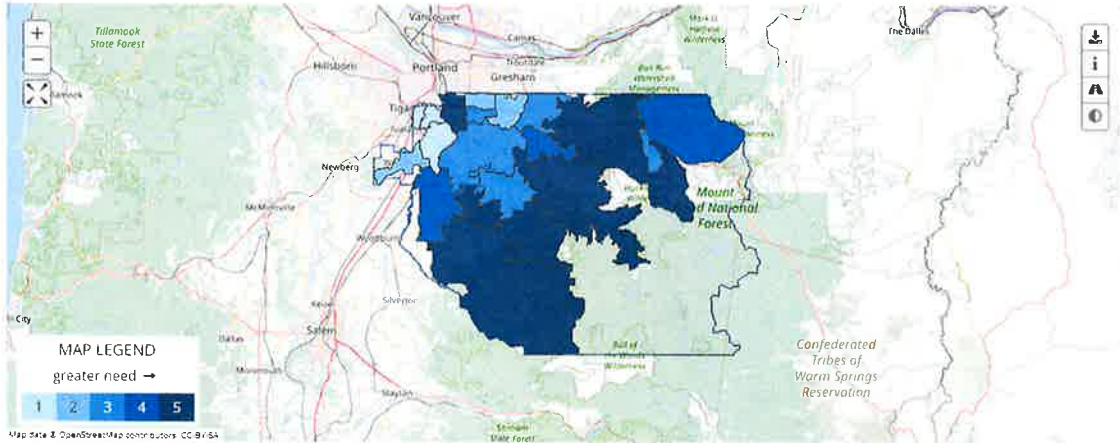


## Health Equity Index

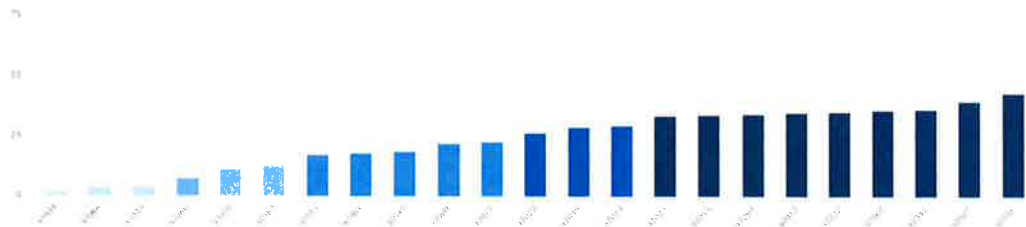


The **2021 Health Equity Index** (formerly SocioNeeds Index), created by [Conduent Healthy Communities Institute](#), is a measure of socioeconomic need that is correlated with poor health outcomes. The index is part of the Conduent's [SocioNeeds Index® Suite](#), which provides analytics around social determinants of health to advance equitable outcomes for a range of topics.

All zip codes, census tracts, counties, and county equivalents in the United States are given an **Index value** from 0 (low need) to 100 (high need). To help you find the areas of highest need in your community, the selected locations are **ranked** from 1 (low need) to 5 (high need) based on their index value relative to similar locations within the region.



County: Clackamas Index Data: Zip Code

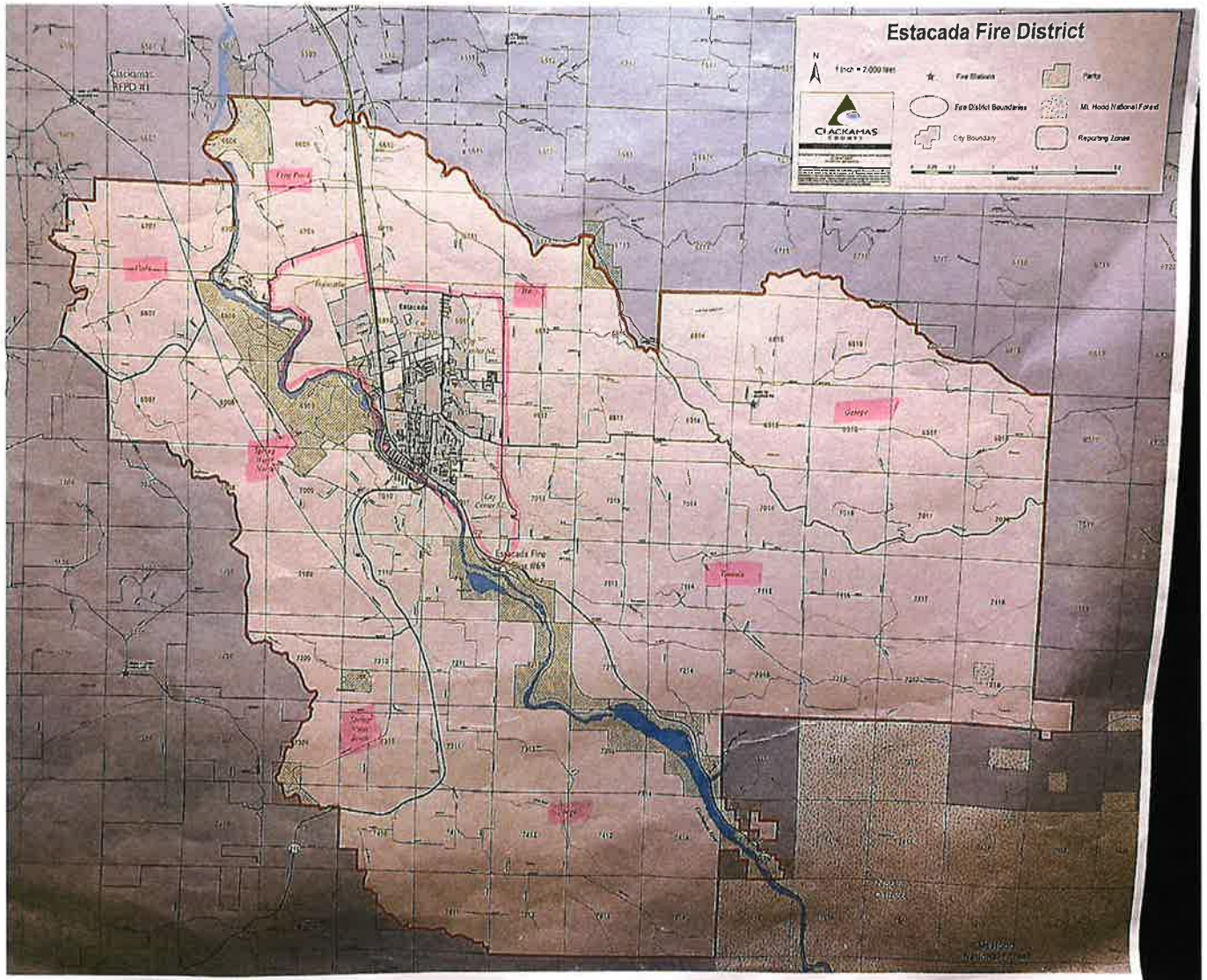


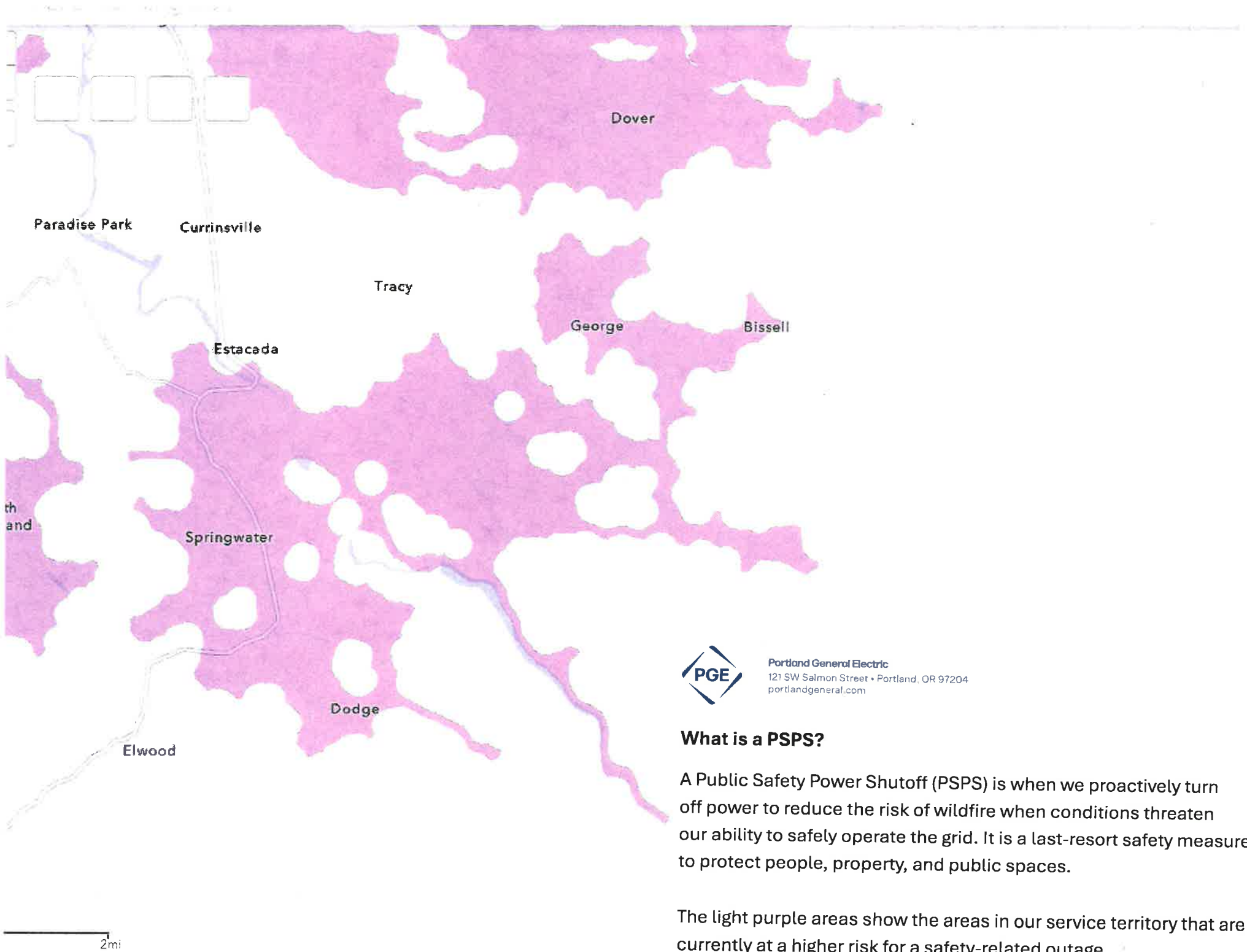
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| Zip Code | Index | Rank | County    |
|----------|-------|------|-----------|
| 97038    | 17.9  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97027    | 18.5  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97042    | 21.7  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97067    | 22.4  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97222    | 26.4  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97017    | 28.5  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97267    | 29.3  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97055    | 33.6  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97023    | 34.0  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97013    | 34.7  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97043    | 35.3  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97022    | 36.0  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97011    | 36.1  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97009    | 39.5  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97045    | 42.9  | 5    | Clackamas |
| 97004    | 75.0  | 1    | Clackamas |

The Health Equity Index is calculated by [Conduent Healthy Communities Institute](#) using data from Claritas, 2021.







Portland General Electric  
121 SW Salmon Street • Portland, OR 97204  
[portlandgeneral.com](http://portlandgeneral.com)

### What is a PSPS?

A Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) is when we proactively turn off power to reduce the risk of wildfire when conditions threaten our ability to safely operate the grid. It is a last-resort safety measure to protect people, property, and public spaces.

The light purple areas show the areas in our service territory that are currently at a higher risk for a safety-related outage.





**Portland General Electric**

121 SW Salmon Street • Portland, OR 97204  
portlandgeneral.com

March 24, 2025

Oregon Housing and Community Services  
North Mall Office Building  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite B  
Salem OR 97301-1266

RE: Support for Estacada Rural Fire District ReOregon Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Revitalization (PIER) Application

Dear ReOregon PIER Selection Committee,

Portland General Electric (PGE) is pleased to provide this letter in support of the Estacada Rural Fire District's application for ReOregon Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Revitalization (PIER) funding. The proposed project will develop and implement a defensible space program that supports rural landowners in creating fire adapted communities and enable collaboration to create defensible space around critical infrastructure that impacts the surrounding community, including:

- Estacada's water treatment plant, booster pump, and four reservoirs;
- PGE's Westside Hydroelectric Project on the Clackamas River, including critical generation, transmission, distribution, and substation assets; and
- Clackamas River watershed.

PGE is proud to partner with Estacada Fire, neighboring fire districts and departments, and other fire agency partners before, during, and after fire season to facilitate information sharing, enhance interoperability, and coordinate community outreach, wildfire preparedness, and response.

PGE proactively implements measures to reduce wildfire risks through our Wildfire Mitigation Plan. With more than 2.2 million trees and approximately 12,000 miles of overhead power lines across our service area, we conduct enhanced vegetation management in areas at greater risk for wildfire, such as Estacada.

We all have a role to play in preparedness and communities must be at the forefront. Created in response to the 2020 Labor Day Fires, the ReOregon program focuses on rebuilding and enhancing infrastructure, promoting economic growth, and planning for future resilience. It provides resources through wildfire prevention education, hazard fuel reduction, and trusted relationships between local communities, fire agencies, and partners. By funding the defensible space program and enabling further collaboration, community members and PGE customers will be better equipped to safely prepare for emergencies.

PGE is pleased to offer our continued support for this impactful work. Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Alderson', is located below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Greg Alderson  
Senior Manager, State and Federal Government Affairs



## Daniel Nibouar

Director

Disaster Management  
1710 Red Soils Ct., Ste. 225  
Oregon City, OR 97045

Ph. 503-655-8378

[www.clackamas.us](http://www.clackamas.us)

Clackamas County PIER Project Advisory Committee  
2051 Kaen Rd.  
Oregon City, OR 97045

Dear PIER Project Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the Estacada Rural Fire District's proposed wildfire mitigation project, an initiative that will contribute meaningfully to both recovery efforts from the 2020 Labor Day Fires and the mitigation of future wildfire risks. This project aligns with the goals of the grant by addressing immediate recovery needs and prioritizing proactive measures to protect the community and its critical infrastructure against high-risk disasters in Clackamas County.

The 2020 Riverside Fire, which burned over 138,000 acres, underscored the urgent need for enhanced wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts in the Estacada Rural Fire District. This project directly addresses these needs by focusing on:

1. **Fuels Reduction and Hazard Mitigation:** Systematic treatment of fuels 100 feet around residential structures in eight identified sub-boundaries to reduce wildfire spread and improve defensible space.
2. **Infrastructure Protection:** Prioritizing critical infrastructure such as Estacada's water treatment plant, PGE's dams and power lines, and the Clackamas River Watershed, which collectively serve thousands of residents and businesses.
3. **Community Resilience:** Building fire-adapted communities through education, cooperation with local stakeholders, and fostering participation in wildfire risk reduction.

In addition to these targeted objectives, this project demonstrates a strong commitment to addressing social and economic vulnerability. Many of the identified project communities face high socioeconomic need as per the 2021 Health Equity Index, placing them at greater risk during wildfire events. By mitigating wildfire hazards in these areas, the project provides critical support to the most vulnerable residents, reduces disruption to daily life, and enhances overall community stability.

The project's focus on infrastructure rehabilitation and long-term system sustainability further supports economic revitalization in the wake of the 2020 Labor Day Fires. Improvements to evacuation routes and access for first responders will not only enhance safety but also contribute to the region's recovery and growth. The collaboration with private and public stakeholders reflects an innovative and coordinated approach that ensures efficient use of resources and maximizes impact.

This proposal embodies the principles of recovery, mitigation, and resilience, making it an invaluable investment for the community. I urge you to fund this initiative, which will have lasting benefits for the Estacada Rural Fire District and Clackamas County.

Sincerely,

Daniel Nibouar  
Director



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Parks and Recreation Department

Headquarters - Administration

725 Summer St NE Ste C

Salem, OR 97301-1266

(503) 986-0707

Fax: (503) 986-0794

[stateparks.oregon.gov](http://stateparks.oregon.gov)



Dear Community Planning, Infrastructure & Economic Revitalization Grant Review Team,

On behalf of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, I am writing this letter of support for the Estacada Rural Fire District 69's Planning, Infrastructure & Economic Revitalization Grant application for their proposed improvements to emergency evacuation egress and ingress routes at Milo McIver State Park.

Milo McIver sees over 520,000 day use visitors a year and contains a 50 site campground and 3 group camps that can accommodate 50 visitors per site. With an increasingly dry climate and dense fuel load in the park, McIver is vulnerable to wildfire. Currently, Milo McIver has two emergency evacuation routes which are not conducive to large vehicles or trailers. Improvements to the surface and reduction of vegetation along these routes would vastly improve the ability to safely evacuate the park in an emergency situation.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department supports a favorable funding decision for Estacada Rural Fire District 69's Planning, Infrastructure & Economic Revitalization Grant.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely

Sam Gibson

Park Manager

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Milo McIver State Park



14275 S. Clackamas River Drive \* Oregon City, OR 97045

March 21, 2025

Clackamas County PIER Project Advisory Committee  
2051 Kaen Rd.  
Oregon City, OR 97045

**RE: PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE & ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION (PIER) PROJECT  
PROPOSAL**

Dear Grant Review Team,

The Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) is a coalition of municipal drinking water providers that get their drinking water from the Clackamas River in Oregon and is made up of representatives from the City of Estacada, the City of Lake Oswego, City of Tigard, Clackamas River Water, the North Clackamas County Water Commission (City of Gladstone and Oak Lodge Water Services), South Fork Water Board (Cities of Oregon City and West Linn), and Sunrise Water Authority (City of Happy Valley and the Damascus area). Collectively we provide drinking water to over 300,000 people in Clackamas and Washington Counties.

Approximately 90% of the Clackamas River watershed is forest and shrubland. Although forested watersheds like the Clackamas tend to produce better water quality than any other surface water source, wildfires can have significant impacts on downstream water quality. As temperatures increase and wildfires become more common, this also has the potential to negatively impact surface water quality resulting in more expensive water treatment costs.

I am writing today in full support of the 2025 Community Wildfire Risk Reduction grant submitted by the Estacada Rural Fire District 69. This grant will develop and implement a defensible space program for landowners in the Clackamas River watershed. Creating natural or human-made areas in which material capable of supporting the spread of fire has been treated, cleared, or modified will help slow the rate and intensity of advancing wildfire and allow space for fire suppression operations to occur.

The 2020 Riverside Wildfire did tremendous damage to our watershed, and although most of this damage was on national forest lands there are small areas near the City of Estacada and in the headwaters of Clear Creek (a tributary to the Clackamas) where landowners need additional fire mitigation assistance. Therefore, we are very supportive of any activities that reduce fire risk and will protect our watershed and drinking water source.

Sincerely,

Kim Swan

Kim Swan  
Water Resource Manager  
Clackamas River Water Provider

*City of Estacada \* City of Gladstone \* City of Lake Oswego \* City of Tigard \* Clackamas River Water \*  
Oak Lodge Water Services \* South Fork Water Board (Oregon City and West Linn)  
Sunrise Water Authority (Happy Valley and Damascus)*