

IMPACT STATEMENT

188233

Date: December 6, 2016

Council Date: February 8, 2017

Legislation Title: Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement for \$67,500 with the Mt. Hood National Forest for fire lookout services for the Bull Run Watershed (Ordinance)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The Mt. Hood National Forest's (Forest Service) Hickman Butte lookout tower is a valuable component of the fire protection program for the Bull Run Watershed. The lookout tower is strategically located in the watershed and provides a key vantage point for detecting fires in and near the Bull Run.

For the past ten years the Portland Water Bureau (Water Bureau) and Forest Service have had an Intergovernmental Agreement to share costs for contract services to staff the lookout during the annual summer fire season. Previously, the Forest Service relied on volunteers to staff the lookout; however, the volunteer-based program did not guarantee that an experienced, qualified person would be available for the position and willing to work the full fire season. Contracting services have ensured that reliable, qualified staff has been providing lookout services.

The Intergovernmental Agreement expires in March 2017, and the Water Bureau and Forest Service would like to enter into a new five-year Intergovernmental Agreement to continue the fire lookout services at Hickman Butte.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The total not to exceed cost for the work under this Intergovernmental Agreement is \$67,500. Funding of \$13,500 is available in the FY 2016-17 Budget. Funding shall be requested in subsequent budgets through FY 20-21.

Community impacts and community involvement:

Annual fire-season staffing of the Hickman Butte fire lookout in the Bull Run Watershed is compatible with the fire prevention, detection and suppression goals identified in the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit Agreement (BRWMU Agreement). The BRWMU Agreement guides cooperative management and protection of the watershed by the City of Portland and the Mt. Hood National Forest. This BRWMU Agreement was adopted by the City of Portland and the Forest Service in 2007 to replace a 1979 Memorandum of Understanding.

The Water Bureau and the Mt. Hood National Forest solicited public input from the community at several key points in the process of developing the 2007 BRWMU Agreement, beginning in October 2000. These efforts are documented in a Report to the Community, published in 2007. The seven-year development process culminated in a formal public review (following National Environmental Policy Act guidelines) of the BRWMU Agreement in February 2007 and included publication in the Federal Register and an expanded federal comment period.

In addition to the BRWMU Agreement and its subsequent outreach efforts, there is a Bull Run Working Group that consists of Forest Service and Water Bureau staff. The Working Group meets semi-annually and provides annual reports. These meetings are open to the public and the reports are available for public review, offering an additional opportunity for public involvement.

This council action will have a minimal financial or social impact to the City of Portland rate-payers of the Water Bureau, and community-based organizations. Positive impacts include the assurance that qualified personnel are available to staff the fire lookout throughout the duration of the fire season from 2017 through 2021.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet**Does this action change appropriations?**

- ☐ YES: Please complete the information below.
☒ NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount



Michael Stuhhr, P.E., Administrator

12/21/16
Date