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IMPACT STATEMENT

Date: February 21, 2019

Council Date: April 24, 2019

Legislation Title: Authorize a Collection Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service in the amount of \$159,948 to use ecohydrological models to study wildfire scenarios in the Bull Run Watershed (Ordinance)

Contact Name: Liane Davis, Bull Run Watershed Protection Manager

Contact Phone: (503) 823-7487

Presenter Name: Edward Campbell, Resource Protection and Planning Group Director

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

Wildfires are projected to increase with climate change and are a major cause of increased erosion, runoff, suspended sediment, and debris flows in forested watersheds. In the western Cascades, the estimated area burned is projected to increase 200-400% by 2100, and a severe fire could have major consequences for municipal water supplies and the people who depend on these forested watersheds for clean water.

In areas where wildfires have historically been infrequent, such as the Bull Run Watershed and the Cedar River Watershed which are the respective primary water supplies of Portland and Seattle, water utilities have little to no empirical data available to aid in predicting the current or future impact of fire activity on source watersheds, water quality, or infrastructure. To date, wildfire planning has relied upon data and literature from other locations and forest types that are often different ecologically.

This Collection Agreement is to provide site-specific tools and modeled data and outputs to enhance knowledge of potential risk resulting from differing wildfire scenarios. This information will be used to assist in the source water protection and fire planning efforts of the Water Bureau.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The total not to exceed cost for the work under this Collection Agreement is \$159,948 to be expended over three fiscal years. Funding is available in the FY 2018-19 Budget and funds will be requested in FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 Budgets.

No staffing level changes are anticipated. It is estimated that 0.1 FTE of an existing position will be required to manage the work associated with the Collection Agreement.

Community impacts and community involvement:

Services included in the Collection Agreement are compatible with goals stated in the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit Agreement (BRWMU Agreement) for the City to augment efforts by the U.S. Forest Service-Mt. Hood National Forest (Mt. Hood National Forest) for fire planning and protection of the Bull Run Watershed. The Mt. Hood National Forest staff will be invited to participate in development and review of project deliverables; all data and tool products will be made available to the Mt. Hood National Forest to assist with collaborative fire planning efforts.

The BRWMU Agreement is a 20-year agreement adopted in 2007. It guides cooperative management and protection of the watershed by the City of Portland and the Mt. Hood National Forest. Public input from the community, solicited during the development of BRWMU Agreement, is documented in the accompanying 2007 Report to the Community.

In addition to the BRWMU Agreement, the Bull Run Working Group, made up of Forest Service and Water Bureau staff, holds semi-annual meetings open to the public and provides annual reports that are available for public review. Fire planning and resilience are continuing topics in both the meetings and reports.

Additionally, the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station has policies to inform the public of programs and policies. (See Collection Agreement)

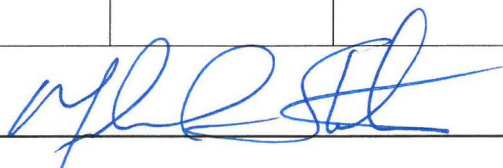
The services in the Collection Agreement are intended to improve data and planning tools. This council action will have a minimal financial or social impact to Water Bureau rate-payers and community-based organizations. Positive impacts include strengthening the Water Bureau's existing planning and preparation for wildfire and enhancing the long-term resilience of the water supply. Communities and customers relying on the Bull Run supply will benefit from information, tools, and data obtained as part of work that is completed through the Collection Agreement.

100% Renewable Goal:

This action will not increase or decrease the City's total energy use. This action will not increase or decrease the City's renewable energy use.

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



3/7/19

Michael Stuhr, P.E., Administrator

Date