

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: *Accept the FY18 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-Post Fire for FM-5195-OR grant in the amount of \$429,174 from the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to reduce hazardous fuels in the Forest Park area.

Contact name: PF&R and PP&R
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Presenter name: PF&R 503-347-2637

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:
Accept grant award

Financial and budgetary impacts:
FEMA Grant # FM-5195-OR provides \$429,174.00, there is a 25% cash match of \$143,058, a total grant budget of \$572,232.

Community impacts and community involvement:
Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) intend to collaborate on a hazardous fuels reduction project targeting a 500-acre area in Forest Park, and directly surrounding Linnton Neighborhood.

To reduce the rapid spread of wildfire to residences and critical infrastructure, activities will include understory enhancement, fuel ladder removal and pruning, and the creation of defensible space wherever park property in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) falls within the “home ignition zone” of adjacent residences.

PF&R and PP&R will also partner with the non-profit Forest Park Conservancy to conduct homeowner outreach and education in park-adjacent Linnton neighborhoods, providing information on local wildfire risk and guidance on creating defensible space on private property.

This community was identified as a “community at risk” in Multnomah County’s 2011 Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and a Focus Area in the 2008 Forest Park Wildfire Risk Reduction Final Report (Attachments 8 and 9). There are 192 Single Family Occupancies (SFO) neighboring the proposed project area. Using a conservative estimate of two occupants per SFO, there are approximately 384 people living immediately adjacent to the targeted project area.

This project would minimize wildfire damage and disruption to residential properties, public resources, critical transportation arterials and a Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI). It would also restore and protect the long-term health of Forest Park, enhancing fire-resiliency, improving natural ecological functions, and benefiting wildlife.

There has never been a comprehensive effort to conduct defensible space treatments on private properties adjacent to Forest Park. To pilot this necessary work, Portland Parks &

Recreation (PP&R) and Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) will partner with the Forest Park Conservancy (FPC), a non-profit organization that works to protect and promote the ecological health of Forest Park and its surrounding lands. The City of Portland will support FPC by producing outreach materials (e.g. instructional brochures and factsheets) that provide guidance on defensible space and hazardous fuels reduction on private land around homes. FPC staff will then provide door-to-door outreach to Linnton residents living adjacent to the project area, distributing these materials and speaking directly with community members and collaborating with community centers and local businesses. To date, FPC has been engaged with the Linnton community for two years through their Canopy Weeds Program, which targets invasive vines (ivy and clematis) on private properties directly adjacent to Forest Park. This partnership will allow FPC to: 1) expand their direct engagement with landowners to reach additional residences, 2) develop educational materials about home ignition zones and defensible space, and 3) connect landowners to a local Firewise Community effort.

100% Renewable Goal:
Not applicable.

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