

Executive Summary

The Multnomah County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a non-regulatory plan with the purpose of identifying strategies to reduce harm to people, property, infrastructure, and the natural environment from future wildfire and wildfire smoke events. The plan does not create laws or policies, but instead brings partners from local fire agencies, governmental jurisdictions at all levels, and special districts and private-sector partners to create a framework for long-term risk-reduction. The plan serves as starting point for increased collaboration and engagement around risk from these hazards and creates a public accounting of action.

Concern in Multnomah County about wildfire and wildfire smoke disaster has grown considerably since the last version of this plan was published in 2011. The 2017 Eagle Creek Fire and 2020 September Wildfire Smoke Event have shown how significantly risk from these related hazards has increased because of the changing climate, as fire seasons grow longer and hotter. This plan is intended to reflect that increased urgency and to identify the particular risks from these hazards to those in Multnomah County.

Wildfire is a natural process that has occurred for millennia in what is now Multnomah County, and is an important part of the regeneration process of forests and other natural landscapes. Residents of Multnomah County live in an area with stunning and diverse natural environments, and wildfire and wildfire smoke will remain a risk exchanged for that benefit. But it is not an insurmountable risk. The cover of this plan includes a photo of a fern re-growing in the Columbia River Gorge just months after the devastating Eagle Creek Fire. The resilience that nature has to fire is also the goal for human systems, in what has been called ‘transformative resilience’¹, where we are not just prepared to bounce back from future disasters but can do so while also adapting to changes and ensuring that everyone in the community shares in that resilience.

Amendments

October 2023 – *Addition of Corbett Water District and West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Information and Action Items, Specification of Adoption Date, Corrections of Minor Errors*

Cover Photos

- [Bracken Fern at Devil's Rest Trail](#) – Lillian Palmer, US Forest Service, May 2018
- [Smoky Air in Portland](#) – Motoya Nakamura, Multnomah County Communications, September 2020

¹ [Rethinking Resilience to Wildfire](#), *Nature Sustainability*, David B. McWethy, Tania Schoennagel, Philip E. Higuera, Meg Krawchuk, Brian J. Harvey, Elizabeth C. Metcalf, Courtney Schultz, Carol Miller, Alexander L. Metcalf, Brian Buma, Arika Virapongse, Judith C. Kulig, Richard C. Stedman, Zak Ratajczak, Cara R. Nelson, Crystal Kolden, 2019