

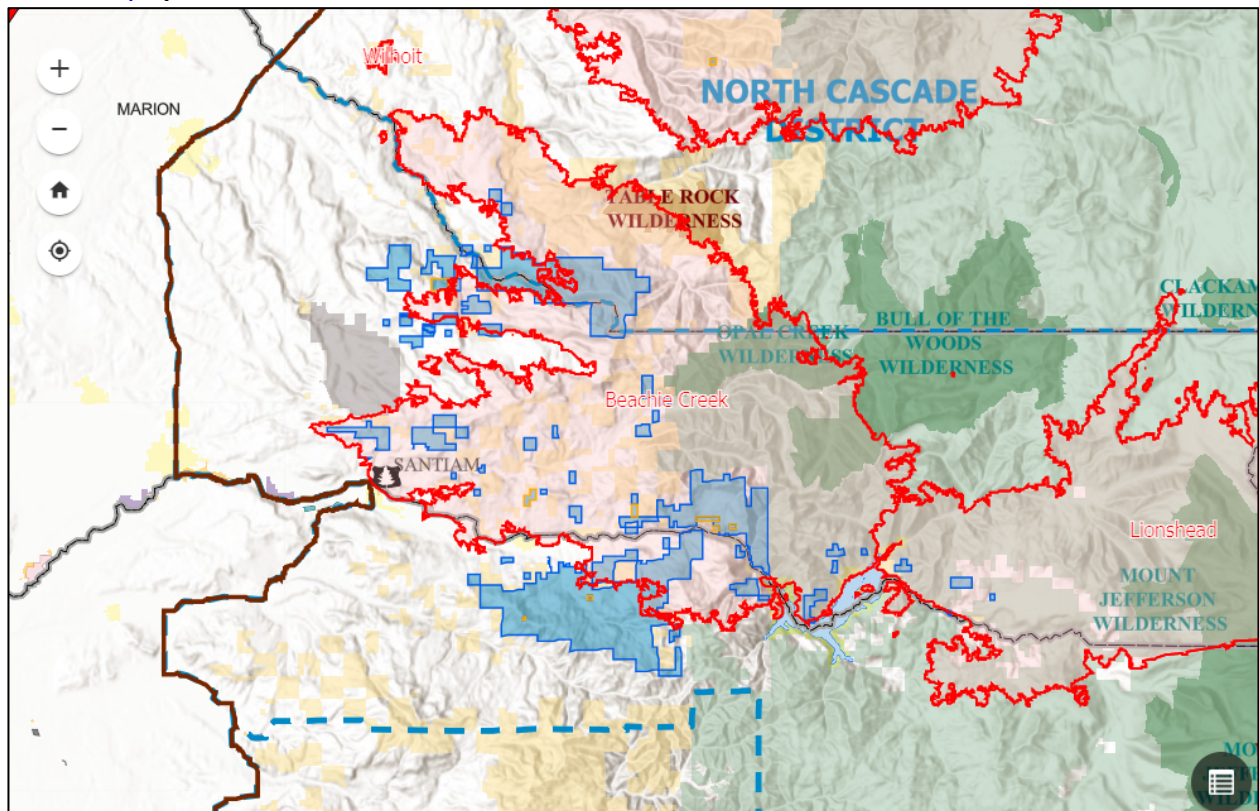
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PLANNING CONTEXT

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Key Findings / Takeaways

- Oregon Department of Forestry has released several updated plans for forest management that may influence future activities related to fire. These plans are linked in the sections below.
- Local government / community participation in existing planning processes, including the Department of Forestry's Climate Change and Carbon Plan, will ensure community interests are represented and will help to strengthen the actions and recommendations coming out of future planning efforts.

Burn severity map (<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/recreation/Pages/santiam-state-forest.aspx>)



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Existing Plans, Policies, Projects, or Funding

- **North Cascades Implementation Plan Revisions 2021**
(<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/documents/aboutodf/implementation-plan-north-cascade-district.pdf>) - The Plan was revised following the 2020 wildfires to include short-term implementation strategies that will be carried out until 2023. The Plan identifies post-fire recovery work needed to address the 2020 wildfires including post-fire harvest methods and prescriptions, recovery activities for fish and wildlife habitat, monitoring, and post-fire research projects.
- **Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Draft Climate Change and Carbon Plan** (<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/Documents/odf-climate-change-and-carbon-plan-draft.pdf>) - Identifies climate-smart policies and actions to increase the resiliency of Oregon's forests to climate change. Climate-smart forestry focuses on forest adaptation, climate mitigation, and the social dimensions of community and economy. The plan includes one goal focused on fire management and response:
 - Goal (p.11): Modernize Oregon's complete and coordinated wildfire protection system to respond to the increased severity of wildfire. Promote fire and smoke adapted communities in the wildland urban interface, to mitigate the impacts of climate-induced increases in wildfire severity.
 - Actions (p.25):
 - Operationalize Shared Stewardship to accelerate the pace, scale, and quality of Federal Forest Restoration to increase resilience to increased wildfire severity.
 - Implement a prescribed fire program within the Department and work with outside agencies to gain the needed experience and tools for conducting safe, successful burns in degraded landscapes.
 - Continue and increase landowner assistance and incentives to reduce the impact of wildfires on private forestlands, particularly those in the smaller ownership classes.
 - Work with landowners, large and small, to create resilient landscapes.
 - Working with state, federal, and nonprofit resources, the agency can work with affected landowners to restore ecosystem function and carbon sequestering trees to fire affected areas.
 - As with climate-smart forestry, the agency should work to develop fire-smart management when undertaking projects related to fire mitigation, restoration, or community hardening.

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- **ODF Santiam State Forests Recovery Website**
(<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/recreation/Pages/santiam-state-forest.aspx>) provides maps, tables, and videos with information on recovery work. The site links forest plans, including the 2021 implementation plan, and public engagement opportunities.
- **Western State Forests Companion Forest Management Plan**
(<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/pages/fmp-companion.aspx>) will direct long-term forest management activities and inform future implementation and annual operations plans for Western State Forests. Plan goals may influence future fire management activities.
- **Western State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan**
(<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/pages/hcp-initiative.aspx>) directs conservation activities for state forests. The Plan includes information on fire history, prescribed fire, and fire's impact on forest health. The Plan's goal related to fire management is:
 - Use science-based forestry to promote conditions that create sustainable, productive forests that are resilient to large fires, climate change impacts, and other disturbance events. Use an adaptive management approach to address uncertainty and change over time (p.ES-2).

Opportunities for Recovery

- The Oregon Department of Forestry is working on several plans that will direct future management of state forests. These plans - including the Companion Forest Management Plan, the Habitat Conservation Plan, and the Climate Change and Carbon Plan - have direct links to fire management activities. Local governments can look to these plans for guidance on how to prepare for and respond to future fire events.
- In addition to management direction, these Plans include ongoing public engagement opportunities for communities to learn more about the future of forest management. Providing the Oregon Department of Forestry with community perspectives will strengthen the actions and directions that come out of these planning documents.

Recommendations

- Engage in existing ODF planning efforts to ensure community interests are represented.