

Senate Bill 762 – Wildland Urban Interface: During the 2021 legislative session, Senate Bill 762 was passed that established a new comprehensive wildfire preparedness and resiliency program throughout the State of Oregon. The Bill contains various elements, including but not limited to the creation of a statewide wildfire risk map; defensible space, land use, and building code regulations; health systems for smoke; and emergency response and disaster recovery rules.

On June 30, 2022, Oregon Department Forestry, in consultation with Oregon State University, released the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer Map, which is available on the State of Oregon website at: [https://tools.oregonexplorer.info/oe\\_htmlviewer/index.html?viewer=wildfire](https://tools.oregonexplorer.info/oe_htmlviewer/index.html?viewer=wildfire). Also see the attached “cheat sheet” created by County GIS.

The map shows that the majority of the Hood River County is rated as either “high” or “extreme” risk for wildfire based on weather, climate, topography, and vegetation. All properties mapped as high or extreme and located with the Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI) – established previously – will be subject to new defensible space and fire hardening (building code) regulations, which are in the process of being developed. Defensible space requirements are expected to be completed by December 2022 and effective sometime in 2023, while fire hardening requirements are expected to be adopted on October 1, 2022, and effective April 1, 2023.

All property owners located in high or extreme risk areas will receive letters (anticipated sometime in July) and given 60 days to appeal their designation.

- Oregon Dept of Forestry Website:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/sb762.aspx>
- Senate Bill 762 Mapping FAQ:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/documents/wui-sb762-faq.pdf>
- Oregon State Fire Marshal Website:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/pages/oregon-defensible-space-code.aspx>