



SENATE BILL 762

DEQ Community Smoke Response and Preparedness Funding Report

August 2023



State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

This document was prepared by
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

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SENATE BILL 762 – Health Systems for Smoke

Overview

The Oregon Legislature in 2021 passed Senate Bill 762, creating a statewide approach to a wide range of wildfire mitigation measures. The bill provided \$220 million to help Oregon modernize and improve wildfire preparedness through three key strategies: creating fire-adapted communities, developing safe and effective response to wildfire, and increasing the resiliency of Oregon's landscapes. SB 762 increased DEQ's ability to do air quality monitoring and wildfire smoke response work. In addition, Section 13a directed DEQ to "establish a program for supporting local communities through intergovernmental agreements, grants, contracts or cooperative agreements to develop and implement community response plans and to enhance the communities' readiness and mitigation capacity for smoke." The bill provided \$1.5 million in pass-through funding for projects across Oregon.

DEQ grants and contracts funded by SB 762 supported projects that created alternatives to outdoor burning including yard debris and slash pile burning, enhanced smoke preparedness for Oregon's Tribes, developed Community Response Plans (CRP) in smoke sensitive communities across Oregon, implemented CRPs in communities that already had them, and completed comprehensive emissions testing on air curtain incinerators as an alternative to slash pile burning.

Quick Glance

Locations where SB 762 Section 13a provided funding to 22 groups across Oregon.



* Tribal grantees provided support to tribal members beyond reservation lands

Summary

This report summarizes the 22 community projects funded by SB 762. The projects are categorized by type in the table below. Each project is summarized with examples of how the community used the funding to plan for and mitigate the impacts of smoke, build community smoke awareness, and reduce wildfire risk through fuels treatments and other alternatives to burning. The project summaries found in this document are a compilation of testimony and feedback provided by the grantee and contract recipients.

Locally run programs are extremely effective because each program can be tailored to best suit the specific community's air quality and fuels reduction needs. Using the \$1.5 million of community pass-through funding, DEQ provided \$180,000 to four communities to develop CRPs; \$375,000 to five communities to support CRP staffing and implementation; \$303,539 to eight tribes to support tribal smoke preparedness; and \$403,740 to support three projects that reduced fuels through alternatives to burning. The remaining funding went to support research and emissions testing of ACIs.

Overview of Funding

Grant Type	Grant Recipient	Grant Funding
Community Response Plan Development	Jackson County	\$40,000
	Union County (La Grande)	\$40,000
	Klamath County	\$20,000
	Wasco and Hood River County (Columbia River Gorge)	\$80,000
Community Response Plan Staffing and Implementation	City of Oakridge	\$75,000
	Deschutes County	\$75,000
	Wallowa County	\$75,000
	Town of Lakeview	\$75,000
	City of Ashland	\$75,000
Tribal Smoke Preparedness	Burns Paiute Tribe	\$23,539
	Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians	\$40,000
	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	\$40,000
	Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde	\$40,000
	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	\$40,000
	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	\$40,000
	Coquille Indian Tribe	\$40,000
	Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	\$40,000
Smoke Mitigation and Alternatives to Burning	Biomass One	\$182,100
	Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District	\$113,290
	Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative	\$99,200
ACI Emissions Testing	Adventure Metal Machine Works	\$97,151
	Montrose Air Quality Services	\$146,000
TOTAL		\$1,496,280

DEQ Community Smoke Response and Preparedness Project Recap

DEQ compiled the project summaries below using information provided by grantees and contract recipients. The summaries capture the differing priorities and experiences unique to each community or tribe involved.

Community Response Plan Development Grants

Jackson County (Medford)

The City of Medford, as the lead agency of a Jackson County collaborative group, developed a Smoke Management Community Response Plan (CRP) to address smoke impacts in the county. The CRP created a process by which prescribed burning notifications, mitigation activities, and smoke planning and response could be coordinated on a county-wide level, increasing collaboration across communities. The CRP helps protect the health of residents in Jackson County from smoke impacts resulting from prescribed fire smoke and wildfire smoke. The CRP enhances the community's readiness and mitigation capacity for smoke.

Partners in development of the CRP included Jackson County Public Health, Jackson County Fire District 3, the EPA Smoke Ready Communities Team, Jackson County Emergency Management, the City of Medford, the City of Talent, the National Weather Service, and the Medford School District, among others. Throughout the planning process, DEQ provided guidance and technical assistance on community response planning requirements, assisted with identification of advocacy groups for vulnerable populations, and supported the county in identifying options for communicating smoke impacts. Completion of the CRP was accomplished through a subcontract with the University of Oregon – Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR). OPDR has a proven record in guiding, developing, and implementing natural hazard mitigation plans and smoke and air quality response plans for cities and counties throughout Oregon. OPDR facilitated meetings, conducted historical data research, obtained mitigation and response strategies based on proven "best practices", and assisted in community outreach. Together Jackson County and project collaborators developed a comprehensive CRP that is currently seeking review and approval by county authorities.

Union County (La Grande)

La Grande is in the Grande Ronde Valley, nestled between the Northern Blue Mountains and Wallowa Mountains in eastern Oregon. The history of smoke events and intrusions across the area paired with the anticipated need for fuel reduction, and the resulting smoke that could pose a health and safety risk to vulnerable members of the community, highlighted the urgent need to design and implement a CRP. Union County worked with partners to enhance coordination, communication, and notification to residents of La Grande and surrounding communities about planned prescribed fire, potential smoke, and air quality impacts. The plan also includes recommendations to reduce exposure and mitigate the health impacts of smoke from both planned and unplanned fire on the landscape. Union County prioritized fine-tuning the communication strategies used to reach vulnerable populations, identifying cleaner air

spaces and further protecting the eight communities that share the Grande Ronde Valley airshed in Union County.

Completion of the CRP increased opportunities to accomplish critical prescribed fire treatments in the wildland urban interface to improve forest health, reduce the risk of extreme wildfires, and increase community and firefighter safety when wildfires do occur. The CRP provides guidance to manage smoke and protect the community, while providing the opportunity to reduce fuels across a larger area to enhance resilience to severe wildfire.

Klamath County

Klamath County Public Health (KCPH) completed three primary objectives during the grant project period including developing a Memorandum of Understanding, preparing a CRP, and creating a public health packed. The MOU limits some prescribed burning within the county when wintertime burning restriction are in place. Partners include DEQ, Klamath County, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and Green Diamond Resource Company. This MOU can be used as a template for similar agreements with other partners, including the Bureau of Land Management Lakeview District and the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

KCPH created and implemented a CRP for smoke, during which they updated their cleaner air space list. Previously identified cleaner air spaces include library branches and community centers that are easily accessed by community members. Unfortunately, many of these spaces did not have adequate ventilation systems to provide protection from smoke and were not able to afford the necessary upgrades. KCPH developed a cleaner air space criteria and identified partners with facilities that are better equipped to serve in this capacity. In partnership with Cascade Health Alliance (CHA), the local coordinated care organization for the majority of the County, KCPH identified community resources that enable citizens to take an active role in protecting themselves from poor air quality. KCPH and CHA used flexible funds to cover the cost of items to make homemade air filters or to replace old filters in homes of the vulnerable population. They added cleaner air spaces to the list of approved locations to which CHA members can be transported under their non-emergency medical transport benefit.

Additionally, KCPH created a home checklist to teach citizens how to protect themselves from smoke hazards. This checklist, along with a list of resources such as cleaner air spaces, will be a mechanism to communicate the dangers of smoke and how the community can protect themselves. One method of communication includes the newly developed [Klamath County Public Smoke Map](#) which shows locations of prescribed fire and wildfire, air quality information and other smoke information.



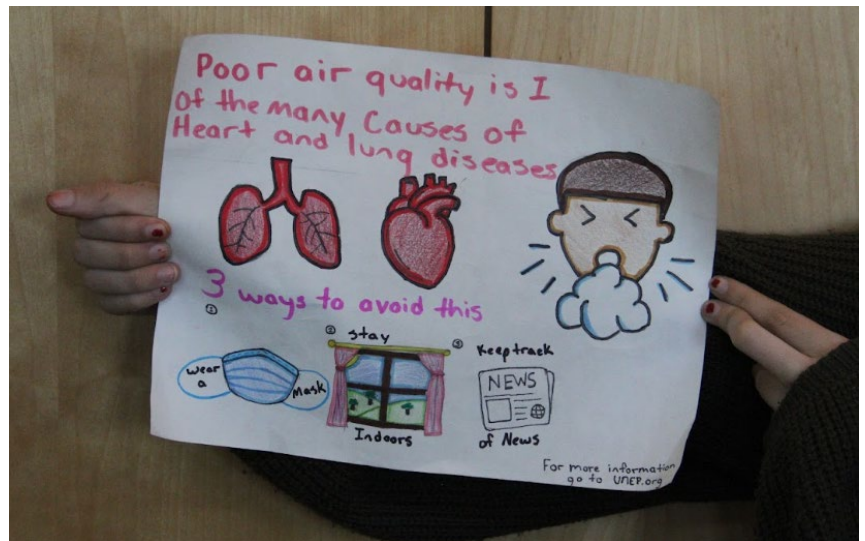
Wasco and Hood River County (Columbia River Gorge)

In the Columbia River Gorge, which is a smoke sensitive receptor area, there are currently only two air quality monitors. Wasco and Hood River counties used grant funds to bring relevant county, state, and federal agencies together, along with community-based organizations to develop comprehensive fire and smoke plans for each county. At the end of this project, both Hood River and Wasco counties have comprehensive plans to address the potential impacts from smoke and developed methods for informing their communities about fire and smoke events.

Key partners and players including local emergency management, local public health, schools, social service agencies and others came together to begin coordinating efforts around the development of the CRP. Funding provided an opportunity to attend smoke management related meetings, trainings, and conferences.

Input sessions were hosted with the community to inform development of the CRP. A total of five focus groups were held in Mt. Hood/Parkdale with elders, Cascade Locks with elders, Hood River with parents of young children, The Dalles with parents of young children, and online for Spanish speakers. Staff members presented to 175 seventh graders who then helped develop communication and outreach tools for smoke-susceptible populations as a part of their science coursework. The combination of community listening sessions and an online survey elicited over 750 responses from across the Columbia River Gorge.

The CRP has been shared with key community partners. DEQ staff members worked with both Hood River and Wasco counties' emergency managers and public health representatives to complete this project. The plan is being shared with the general public and is available on county websites. DEQ provided funding and technical assistance in the deployment of additional low-cost-sensors creating a more robust network of monitors.



Community Response Plan Staffing and Implementation Grants

City of Oakridge

The City of Oakridge subcontracted directly with Oakridge Air/South Willamette Solutions (SWS) for this project. In addition, the City made a capital investment in electronic reader boards to provide a means to inform citizens of changes in air quality other than only online.

In preparation for wildfire season, SWS hosted the Second Annual Community Wildfire Safety Night on July 14, 2022, which featured a community conversation with project partners. SWS met with project partners through regular meetings with the Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative, Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Fire Safe Council, Fire Adapted Communities Network, and 5 Rivers Group. In April and May of 2022, SWS coordinated an eight-week yard debris pickup event. Local partner, Inbound LLC, picked up debris for vulnerable populations in Oakridge. In May 2022, SWS partnered with the Oakridge School District to demonstrate a Firewise House in time for the Tree Planting Festival. Yard debris from both cleanup events were added to the community debris pile managed by the City of Oakridge to be chipped instead of burned.

Wallowa County

Wallowa County improved the knowledge and educational resources available to healthcare partners, natural resource partners and vulnerable population on smoke events and exposure risks. A CRP brand and messaging system was developed and included six educational videos, [a website on smoke and air quality information](#), social media resources and educational materials and pamphlets. The county hopes to continue to update and partner with community organizations for ongoing engagement efforts. The overarching goal of the project was to deliver succinct educational, informative, and advisory information about smoke hazards and to disseminate consistent messaging across a variety of platforms.



Deschutes County

Deschutes County hired a local firm to develop a media campaign for smoke and public health. The campaign is evolving into an ongoing project, triggering interest from neighboring counties to replicate the work done in Deschutes County. The county increased their capacity for messaging around wildfire and prescribed fire smoke events and preseason communication. Material developed will continue to be used by the Deschutes County climate and health coordinator and the public information officer moving forward.

A [public service announcement video](#) related to smoke and health concerns was created and distributed on social media and local television. Many community members have mentioned seeing these videos and that the messages have been impactful. Due to this grant, Deschutes County now has a bank of graphics to use for media releases which can easily be accessed in the future, saving time and making smoke related messaging more meaningful. The overall expansion and improvement of the CentralOregonFire.org website is another invaluable resource made possible by SB 762 funding.

Be Prepared This Fire Season



Sign up for emergency alerts. Visit DeschutesAlerts.org to sign up for emergency alerts this wildfire season.



Visit CentralOregonFire.org for information about protecting your health this fire season.

Check Air Quality Index



Learn what AQI means and how to use it to protect your health.



Visit CentralOregonFire.org for information about protecting your health this fire season.

“This grant was a valuable investment in increasing the media capacity for wildfire and smoke events and preseason messaging. Our climate and health coordinator and PIO will continue to utilize and benefit from the materials created in this campaign.”
-Tom Kuhn, Program Director, Deschutes County Public Health

City of Ashland

To implement their CRP, the City of Ashland and their partners identified and addressed the needs of smoke vulnerable persons and coordinated partnerships with local businesses, health organizations, regulators and those conducting controlled burns. Part of their funding was dedicated to a staff person with Ashland Fire & Rescue to oversee the project. Another portion of grant funds were used to print and distribute health information and to purchase replacement air purifier filters for HEPA filtrations units that were purchased as part of a past DEQ funded project.

The City of Ashland engaged organizations and institutions who serve vulnerable populations to discuss smoke preparedness and mitigation messaging. The city provided outreach for smoke sensitive groups, ongoing education, and expanded existing programs. Ashland administered a public survey with local businesses to assess awareness and use of smoke communication tools (e.g., Smokewise, Nixle, etc.). A smoke risk rating system was initiated during prescribed fire season. This risk rating system and informational map help clearly communicate when smoke is most likely to impact the community and what required actions are necessary to protect vulnerable citizens.

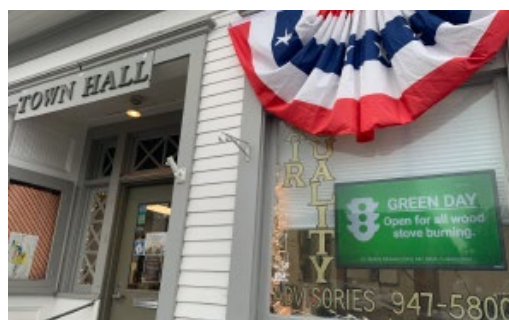


Smokewise, a collaborative working group focused on protecting public health and creating economic resilience, provided business displays and continuing education for new community members and travelers experiencing smoke for the first time. Google analytics was utilized to ensure messaging effectively reaches a wide range of ages and balanced gender distribution in the survey. Relationships with regional regulators were deepened and extended. Replacement filters were provided for lower income participants in the Smokewise Ashland residential room air purifier program.

Town of Lakeview

Lake County and the Town of Lakeview developed a joint CRP and expanded on existing efforts by using grant funds to create a community-based hub for environmental related information. The informational hub is housed, managed, and maintained by the Town, published on their website, and shared with community partners.

The Town wanted to reach a broader audience so a digital display was purchased and installed in the Town Hall main window. Passersby are able to view current air quality conditions and get alerts in real-time. This digital sign will help to inform residents about winter wood burning curtailments and seasonal burn bans.



Tribal Smoke Preparedness Grants

DEQ values our partnerships with Oregon’s Tribal Nations. During our preliminary input sessions on community needs, Tribes voiced a preference for smoke preparedness support that was flexible to meet the unique needs of each tribal community.

Burns Paiute Tribe

The Burns Paiute Tribe used funding to purchase 133 HEPA air filtration units. They were able to provide one for every member household and for their staff office buildings. As part of the distribution process, they were able to connect with members and assist with setup of all units.

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians created an application process to identify those who are most impacted by poor air quality and would benefit from having an air purifier in their homes. Fire safety and air quality are now ongoing opportunities for Tribal education and outreach. A large portion of the funding was used to purchase 230 HEPA air filtration units for vulnerable members. In addition, they were able to use a small amount of the funding to purchase fire extinguishers, which allowed them to deliver messaging around fire safety and the importance of defensible space.

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians used grant money to develop and implement a smoke notification system and to create and distribute outreach materials. The development of the smoke notification system was successful because the grant provided for a dedicated taskforce team who met regularly. Outreach materials were designed to provide smoke and air quality related information to Tribal members through multiple platforms, including pamphlets, newsletter articles, a smartphone app, and a survey. Additionally, the Tribe purchased and distributed 48 HEPA air filtration units to vulnerable populations who were selected using a survey and Elders Program recommendations.



We strive to promote health and wellness to all our Tribal families and the communities in which we live.

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde used the funding to purchase and distribute 220 portable HEPA filtration units and 220 single replacement air filters to tribal members whose health was deemed “at risk” during wildfire smoke events. Those members who received a filtration unit and replacement filter expressed feeling more prepared for smoke this upcoming wildfire season.

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs purchased PurpleAir monitors, a form of low-cost air quality sensor, to track air quality and communicate risk to households and offices of vulnerable tribal members. The monitors were installed in previously unmonitored locations and provide critical air quality data to the Tribe. Educational materials were developed to communicate the health impacts of smoke and that messaging was shared, along with current air quality, on the local radio station.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation sought to enhance their ability to provide air quality notification to their community. *Cay-Uma-Wa Camp Crier* is a mobile application licensed for use by the Tribe to provide targeted and timely information to its tribal members. They used grant funds to enhance the app, pulling data from the PurpleAir monitoring system to provide air quality notifications to tribal members when poor air quality occurs.



Coquille Indian Tribe

The Coquille Indian Tribe identified smoke-vulnerable tribal members and methods for sending alerts during smoke events. As a result of analyzing the best methods of communication, the Tribe is utilizing Nixle for emergency notifications. The Tribe also conducted outreach to ensure they have accurate contact information for tribal members. Additionally, the Tribe purchased 99 portable HEPA filtration units and 156 replacement filters to distribute to vulnerable tribal members.

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

The Cow Creek Tribe used grant funding to distribute 212 HEPA filtration units to qualifying tribal members. They announced the opportunity to make members' homes a cleaner air space in newsletters, on social media, and via post card mailing. Through the use of several messaging tools, the Tribe was able to determine the most effective means of communication with their members.

The Tribe found this project to be very popular and helpful to tribal members. Their administration has recommended the project make an annual or semi-annual return to ensure that tribal members can have access to HEPA filtration units during times when Oregon experiences poor air quality.



Smoke Mitigation and Alternatives to Burning Grants

Grant funding was provided for three projects in support of removing hazardous fuels and woody biomass through means that promoted smoke mitigation and alternatives to burning. While each project used a unique approach, the overarching goal was to remove fuels from the landscape, reducing fire risk and reducing smoke impacts from both prescribed fire and wildfires.

Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative

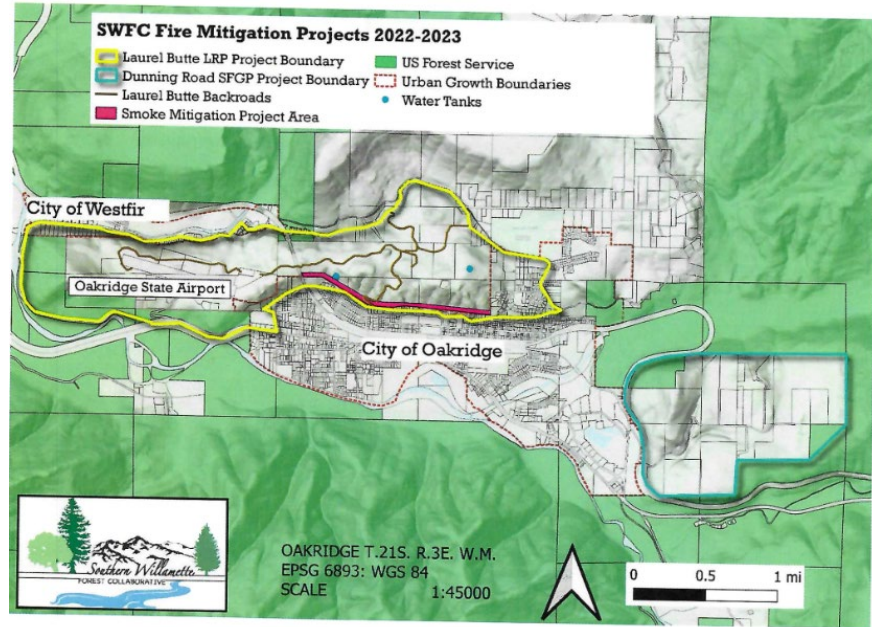
South Willamette Solutions used grant funding for chipping woody debris as an alternative to pile burning. The project was located near the City of Oakridge's boundary with Laurel Butte and treated brush, small trees, and limbs to reduce ladder fuels. Fuels reduction work was completed by contract crews who created nearly two miles of continuous fuel treatment along the boundary.

Slash was dragged to the nearest access point to be chipped or used as firewood. Material larger than six inches, totaling approximately 12 cords of firewood, was hauled to the

Community Firewood Program lot to be dried and processed into firewood to be donated to low-income residents.

Public outreach to Oakridge and Westfir residents was conducted to share information about the Laurel Butte fuels reduction project. The Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative outreach coordinator also provided information to local news outlets.

Newspaper stories were published in the [Highway 58 Herald](#) local online paper and regional [Register Guard](#), shared on social media and posted throughout the community. Contract crews were also provided handouts to give to interested citizens they encountered while doing the work. About 35 informational fliers were handed out concerning the Laurel Butte project.



Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District

The Hood River Mobile Chipping Program provided several options to assist local landowners with hazardous fuels reduction by hosting seven mobile chipping days. The service was offered free of charge, but landowners were required to have all material cut and piled prior to the arrival of the chipper.



Mobile chipping services were provided to 37 individual landowners, two homeowners associations, and the City of Hood River Parks and Recreation Department. Spring and summer events included Mountain Shadows Homeowners Association, comprised of 19 recreational residences that border the Mount Hood National Forest, and Stonegate Homeowners Association including 49 homes on the west side of Hood River. Fall mobile chipping days served another 12 individual landowners as well as the Stonegate Homeowners Association and City of Hood River Parks and Recreation Department.

The Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District also partnered with a contractor to provide use of an [air curtain incinerator](#) for disposal of orchard debris instead of pile burning the material. Air curtain incinerators burn material in an oxygen rich environment that results in fewer emissions, more complete combustion, and generation of biochar as a beneficial byproduct. Approximately 650 cubic yards of debris were disposed over 15 days using the air curtain incinerator. In total, Hood River diverted approximately 94 tons of woody material from open burning, resulting in emissions reductions of 2.75 tons of particulate matter.

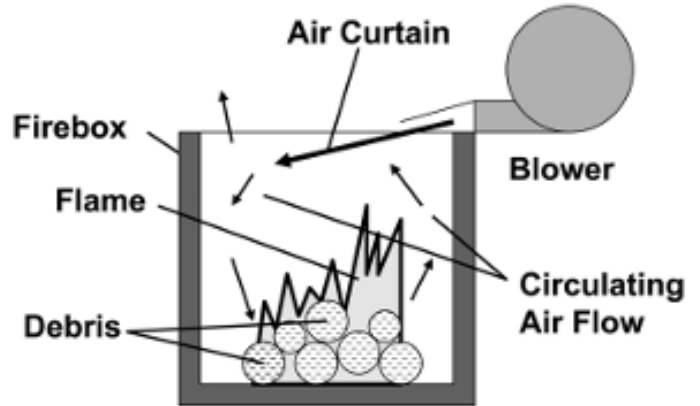
Biomass One

For this project, Biomass One identified sites suitable for mechanical treatment of forest debris and other high hazard fuels without the use of prescribed burning. Grant money was used to purchase a masticator, a tractor, and a trailer to move the equipment to treatment sites. During the project period, Biomass One reduced high hazard fuel loads on approximately 83 acres. Reports were provided demonstrating an approximate cost per acre of \$700 to treat forest debris with mastication as an alternative to burning.



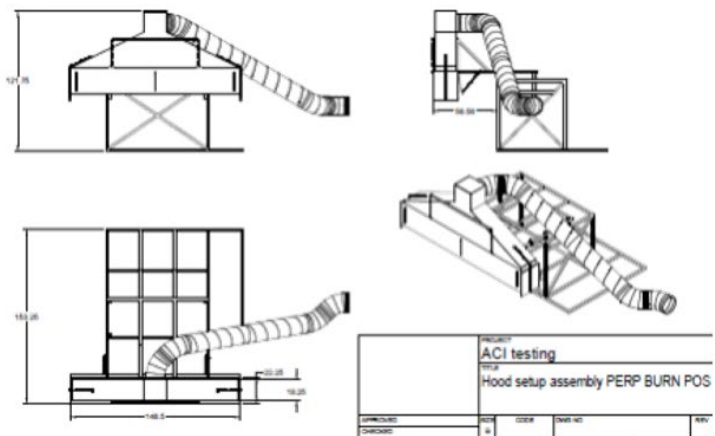
Air Curtain Incinerator Emissions Testing

Air curtain incinerators operate by forcefully projecting air at a high velocity across an open combustion chamber in which clean woody debris is loaded. The "air curtain" that is created in this process traps unburned particles (smoke) under it where it is re-burned. ACIs are a preferred alternative to traditional open burning because they produce less harmful smoke. Oregon uses ACIs for a variety of reasons including wildfire cleanup and fire prevention efforts. ACIs can also be used to control for and slow the spread of forestry pests and disease. ACIs still produce air pollution and require air quality permits and monitoring. Accurate emission factors are needed to make informed policy decisions. Emissions are essentially the amount of a pollutant, in a gaseous or particulate form, that is being emitted into the air from a specific source. Measurements of emissions can be used to understand how one source compares to another and to assess the performance of control strategies.



Advance Metal Machine Works

In order to complete the emissions test, DEQ needed to find a way to capture emissions from the ACI. The biggest challenge when testing an ACI is capturing the emissions from the open combustion chamber, which requires continuous loading of materials. Emissions must be captured while also accounting for interferences (compounding emissions, ambient air, etc.) and ensuring that the collection method does not interfere with the air curtain.



A team of engineers and metal fabricators from Advance Metal Machine Works in Portland worked with DEQ to design, fabricate, and transport a partial fume hood used to collect ACI emissions during testing.

Montrose Air Quality Services

DEQ worked with [Montrose Environmental Services](#), an international environmental solutions company known for comprehensive air measurement and laboratory services, to design and implement the testing protocol, complete the testing, and prepare a findings report. Montrose subcontracted with Valley Environmental, an Oregon small business that owns and operates an air curtain incinerator.



The ACI emissions test was completed in the spring of 2023 using ash wood that had been removed as part of the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s emerald ash borer response efforts. The emerald ash borer is an exotic invasive forest pest that was recently discovered in Oregon. DEQ will publish results from the ACI emissions test in the fall of 2023.

Reflection on Accomplishments

As a result of funding from SB 762 Section 13a, communities across Oregon are more prepared to respond to smoke events and to communicate air quality risks to their residents. Eight federally recognized Tribes have furthered their connections with tribal members on the importance of staying safe during smoke events and have distributed more than 1,070 HEPA filtration units. Additionally, more than 270 replacement filters were purchased and distributed to community members. Ensuring proper maintenance of HEPA air filtration units and providing necessary replacement filters is extremely important to ensure community members are protected and that the units are working properly.

Beyond the community preparedness and planning work completed, DEQ funded projects that removed hazardous fuel and excessive woody debris from over 100 acres – including 94 tons of woody debris removed from the Hood River area alone.

The communities that participated in the community response planning process stated they found value in building relationships with the prescribed burn entities in their community and with vulnerable populations. They also mentioned finding value in sharing information across communities during DEQ-hosted quarterly check-in meetings with other grant recipients. Along

with being an evolving document that aids in communication strategies, community response plans also serve as an opportunity for smoke sensitive receptor areas to qualify for one-hour exemptions to smoke management rules. This exemption would allow for an expanded use of prescribed burning in and around their communities. Increased prescribed burning in the wildland urban interface and surrounding forested areas removes hazardous fuels and reduces wildfire risk to those communities. Community response plans ensure smoke impacts from prescribed burning is completed in a manner that reduces smoke impacts and results in more effective communication.

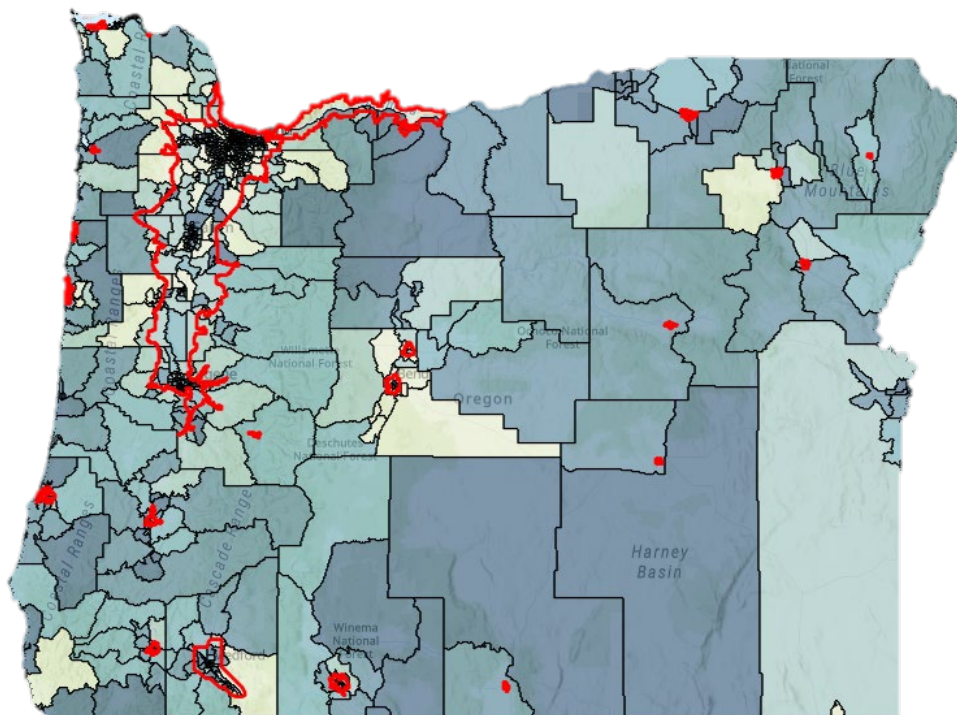
“We’ve spent an entire year learning about the community and seeking to best serve local residents. Communication is an area where we want to constantly improve. We want everyone in Klamath County to know we are here to serve them and ensure they receive the best information.”

**– Jennifer Little, Director
Klamath County Public Health**

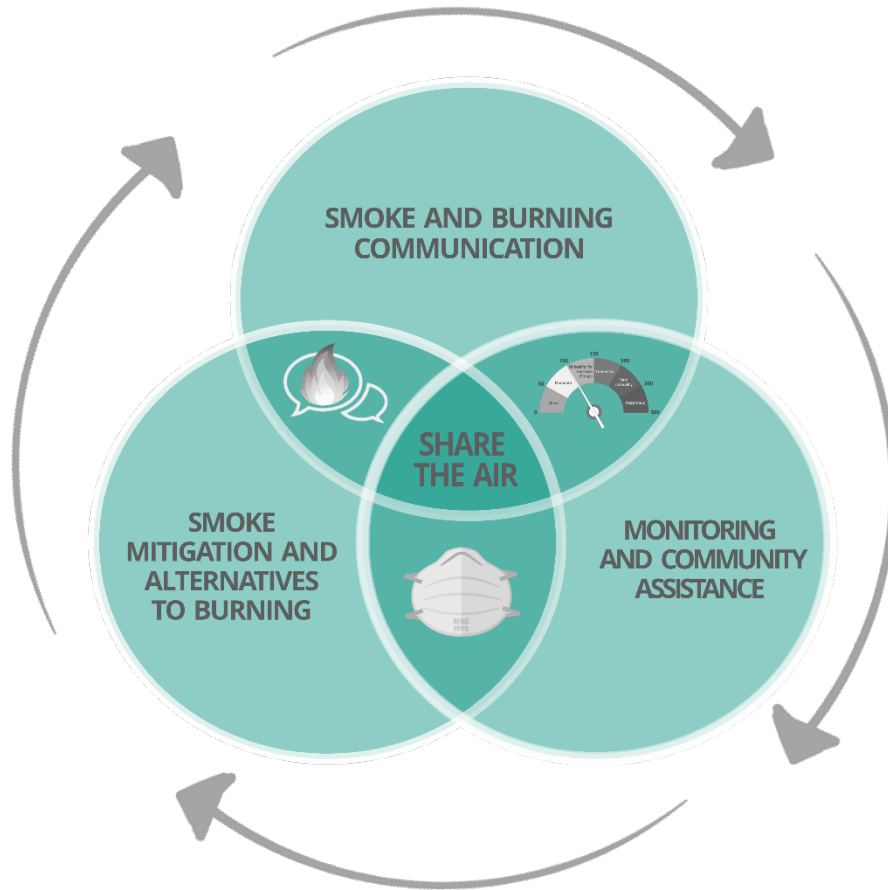


Even with all the work that was completed, over 80 percent of Oregon’s smoke sensitive receptor areas do not have formal community smoke response plans in place. Support from DEQ has proven to be a driving factor in whether a community develops a plan or not. We’ve heard from many of these remaining communities who want to develop plans but need financial and technical support to be successful.

Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas of Oregon



DEQ's mission is to be a leader in restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water. Projects supporting community preparedness and resilience are great example of our agency's "share the air" effort and directly support our mission. Share the air is the integration of communication, monitoring, and mitigation to find the balance between the need to increase the pace and scale of prescribed burning and fuels treatments while also protecting public health and meeting national ambient air quality standards.



DEQ is committed to continuing to provide technical assistance for these efforts, but communities need funding in order to support the planning and implementation of community response plans and other share the air projects.

A special thanks to all of the communities and partners involved in these projects who helped DEQ successfully achieve its mission across the state. Your dedication to the work has been an inspiration and we hope to continue our partnerships in the future.