



Summary of Recommendations

City of Sisters, OR

Overview of CPAW Recommendations for Sisters, OR		
Recommendation	Summary	Key Points
<p>RECOMMENDATION 1: Spatially Define the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and Adopt the Advanced Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer</p>	<p>The City of Sisters wildland-urban interface (WUI) is defined through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), but lacks the type of spatial reference information for land use planners to apply to development decisions. In addition, an updated and consolidated wildfire risk assessment would further provide a decision support tool for the city to analyze local wildfire risk across the community, and support land use and regulatory decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an updated spatial definition of the WUI based on the CWPP definitions and modified with SILVIS lab data. • Utilize a comprehensive assessment available in Advanced Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer that provides a delineated wildfire risk assessment tool without requiring additional local capacity. • Conduct parcel-level assessments for the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) to further enhance the city’s understanding of wildfire risk at a detailed scale.
<p>RECOMMENDATION 2: Update Defensible Space Requirements and Adopt New Building Code Requirements</p>	<p>Current wildfire regulations for defensible space and building requirements have multiple challenges associated with implementation, including gaps in applicability, limited staff capacity for enforcement, lack of technical knowledge to administer regulations, standards that do not reflect the most current science, and other conflicts. Revisions and an improved process for implementation will help the city effectively use regulations to address wildfire risk to development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the defensible space requirements beyond the high and extreme hazard class to include the entire WUI area. • Update defensible space requirements to align with current science and best practices. • Adopt the future Oregon State Building Code Appendix W to address new construction. • Reconcile conflicts with other policies and codes.

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<p>RECOMMENDATION 3: Update Wildfire Planning Goals and Policies</p>	<p>The Sisters Comprehensive Plan is anticipated to be updated next year. The city is also engaging in other plan updates, including the Sisters Country Community Vision, Greater Sisters Country Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and the Deschutes County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. These plan updates provide opportunities to link land use decisions with wildfire mitigation activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Comprehensive Plan’s Goal 7 to elevate the significance of wildfire hazard and include more recent findings. • Adopt new wildfire policies that address current and future wildfire planning concerns, such as existing development, air and water quality, critical infrastructure, and future growth. • Participate in other plan updates, such as the CWPP update, to ensure land use discussions are factored into wildfire mitigation priorities.
<p>RECOMMENDATION 4: Implement Mitigation Measures on Critical Infrastructure</p>	<p>The city relies on critical infrastructure to provide routine and emergency services to local residents and businesses. However, no comprehensive inventory of critical infrastructure is available to identify, assess, and guide mitigation activities to protect critical infrastructure from wildfire threat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an inventory and assessment of the city’s critical infrastructure. Use the Potential Impact to Infrastructure layer of the Advanced Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer, with the assistance of a qualified professional, to guide appropriate mitigation decisions. • Coordinate with other agencies and landowners where vegetation management is required on adjacent public and private properties. • Prioritize actions on known critical infrastructure needs, including Well #1 and the reservoir, using a combination of structural improvements and defensible space mitigation strategies.