



## **Agenda Item Number 12.**

### **Lane County Land Management Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Letter of Support**

**Date:** January 26, 2023

**Presenter:** Brenda Wilson

**Action Recommended:** Approve

#### **Background:**

The Lane County Land Management Division (LMD) is applying for the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant funding, to create and implement a wildfire mitigation/ fuels reduction program for low-income, elderly, and vulnerable homeowners in Rural Lane County. They are seeking letters of support from interested forest management, fire, and social service agencies to highlight multi-agency coordination for this initiative.

The Firewise Program has provided financial and technical assistance for wildfire mitigation to hundreds of Lane County properties over the life of the program, but the reimbursement model of the program makes it difficult for lower income homeowners to access because of the need for participants to pay for work up-front. For cash-strapped homeowners, especially seniors, this can be a barrier to participation in the existing Lane County Firewise Incentive Program.

LMD's proposed solution is to use this grant to make similar kinds of wildfire hazard mitigation work accessible to lower income homeowners by a providing a basic level of fuels-management work (treating vegetation to create or enhance the defensible space zone) on those properties, at no direct cost to the participant.

**Suggested Motion: Approve sending a Letter of Support.**