

Introduction to Woodland Management Wildfire & Defensible Space

*Strategies to Protect Your Home & Property –
While Appreciating the Ecological Role of Wildfire*



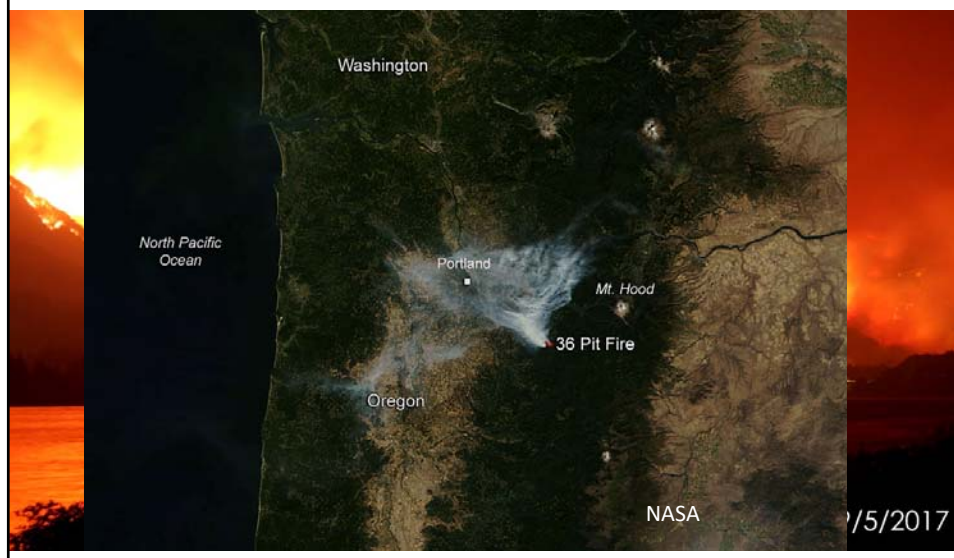
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1st Poll

- What is your level of concern about the risk of wildfire to your home and property?
 - Low
 - Moderate
 - High

Fire in Northwestern Oregon?



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Historic large wildfires, NW OR

- 1848 Nestucca 290,000 ac
- 1849 Siletz 800,000
- 1853 Yaquina 480,000
- 1865 Silverton 988,000
- 1902 Yacolt 500,000
- 1933 Tillamook 240,000
- 1939 Saddle Mtn 190,000
- 1945 Wilson River 180,000

A black and white photograph showing a dense forest of charred, standing tree trunks. The ground is covered in ash and charred debris. The background shows a hazy, mountainous landscape.

1. THE GREAT NESTUCCA BURN.

Ecological Importance of Wildfire



Why are homes lost in wildfires?



Improving Home Survivability

- Roof
- Gutters
- Vents
- Decks
- Perimeter



Defensible Space



"Lean, Clean, and Green"

Utilize Fire-resistant Plants

Fire-Resistant Plants



- Foliage is moist, supple, easily crushed
- Not aromatic
- Tend not to accumulate dead material
- Mostly broadleaf deciduous
- Some evergreen
- See PNW 590, Fire-Resistant Plants for Home Landscapes

Highly Flammable Plants

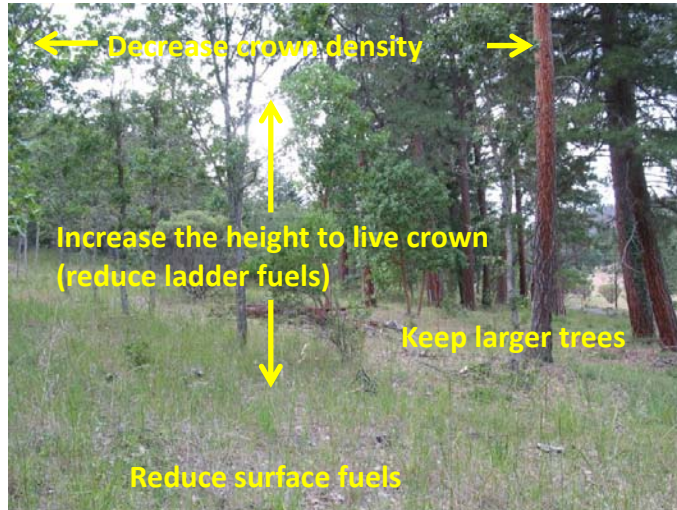


- Contain fine, dry or dead material within the plant
- Aromatic, gummy sap
- Leaves, twigs, and stems may contain volatile waxes, terpenes, or oils.
- Leaves are aromatic.
- Sap is gummy, resinous and has a strong odor.

How do you create a forest/woodland that is resistant to wildfire?



Principles of fire-resistant forests



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Access



Driveways should be clear of debris & overhanging branches to allow fire truck access.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly





Poll: What are some things you can do to protect your home and property from wildfire?

- Cut down all trees within 100' of home?
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants?
- Reduce ladder fuels?
- Screen attic vents with fine mesh?
- Install a wood shake roof?
- Build the home on top of a steep slope, with a steep driveway with encroaching vegetation, with no turn-around?

Resources for class website

- [Ember video](#) This video shows what happens when a home is showered with embers. A must-see!
- [Preparing homes for wildfire](#) (National Fire Protection Association, Firewise). Helpful tips, checklists, images, fact sheets.
- [Reducing Fire Risk on Your Forest Property](#). PNW 618. Whether you own a few acres or thousands, this publication will help you reduce the potential for wildfire damage on your property while improving overall forest health and wildlife habitat.