



Oregon Department of Forestry Certified Burn Manager

CBM Program Overview

Prepared by Carrie Berger and John Punches

COLLEGE OF FORESTRY Oregon State University

1

Oregon Certified Burn Manager (CBM) Program

- Formal training and certification
- Safe and effective use of prescribed fire
- On lands under Oregon Department of Forestry protection
- Serves private individuals, landowners, contractors, firefighters, students, and anyone interested in conducting prescribed burns.

What does the CBM Program in Oregon provide?

The CBM Program in Oregon provides:

- 1 Access to classroom and field training** in safe and effective prescribed burn leadership
- 2 Leadership certification** recognized throughout community of prescribed fire practitioners nationwide
- 3 Limited liability protection** and access to the \$5 million Prescribed Fire Claims Fund (available Summer 2024)

Graphic credit: NWFS, ODF, Sustainable NW, DRFC, JSP

2

Goal of the Certified Burn Manager Program

- Legislatively enacted in 2021 (Senate Bill 762) with the goal of **reducing barriers to prescribed fire in Oregon by increasing available resources on non-federal ODF protected lands.**
- **It's optional:** It is not required that one be a Certified Burn Manager through ODF in order to conduct a controlled/prescribed burn in the state of Oregon.



Photo credit: Wildfire Today

3

Roles & Responsibilities of a Certified Burn Manager

- Technical expertise and leadership for prescribed fire planning and implementation on lands for which the ODF has jurisdiction for wildfire suppression ("ODF protected lands").
- Primarily private industrial and non-industrial forestlands, as well as state and local government lands falling within an ODF protection district.



Map credit: ODF

4

Benefits of Certified Burn Manager Status

What are the benefits?

- Protected air quality
- Increased equitable access to use of prescribed fire
- Reduced incidents of wildfires from escaped burn plans
- Navigation of regulatory and permitting processes
- Limited civil liability protection from damages
- Improved practices in planning & implementing prescribed fire

Graphic credit: NWFS, ODF, Sustainable NW, DRFC, JSP

5

Benefits of Certified Burn Manager Status



Limited civil liability protection from damages

When landowners within an ODF protection district use a certified burn manager and follow the required burn plan, the landowner, CBM, and any persons working under the CBM are protected from civil liability damages ([ORS 526.360 \(6\)](#)).

✓ *When a burning [...] is started under the supervision of [...] a Certified Burn Manager, a person may not be held liable for property damage resulting from that burning unless the damage is caused by the negligence of the person.*

6

Two Types of CBM Certifications

Lead pile burns only



Photo credit: Carrie Berger

Lead broadcast, understory, and pile burns



Photo credit: John Pundich

7

Certification Requirements



24-hours of classroom training
from an accredited CBM training provider + final exam



Training with a CBM on prescribed burns
using ODF-issued certification books



Payment of \$50 fee
and potentially other fees for any third party training

- Accreditation good for 5 years, then must be renewed
- Persons with RXB2 or higher NWCG qualification, or significant burn experience, may qualify for historical recognition.

8



This course should NOT be your first Rx fire experience

- Obtain and document experience on at least three prescribed fires. Must include broadcast or understory burns if seeking the CBM broadcast/understory certification.
- Complete an approved 24-hr training course
- Successfully complete the CBM exam
- Request a CBM certification book from the ODF Prescribed Fire Coordinator
- Complete the certification book through participation in a minimum of three CBM training burns, mentored by a CBM or other authorized ODF representative
- Apply for CBM status by contacting the ODF Prescribed Fire Coordinator and submitting your application, documentation of training and experience, and application fee

9

Recertification Requirements (after becoming a CBM)



- ✓ CBM must successfully complete 16 hours of continuing education within the certification period (not to exceed 5 years).
- ✓ The applicant must have led at least one CBM prescribed burn, and participated in another two prescribed burns, within the certification period.
- ✓ No recertification fee.

10

Some CBM Program Details

- ODF's *Prescribed Fire Coordinator* is responsible for administering the Certified Burn Manager Program including issuing certification books and cards.
- The *Certified Burn Manager Advisory Committee* advises on the administration of the Certified Burn Manager Program including revocation of certification.



Photo credit: Carrie Berger

11

CBM Legal Basis

OAR 629-042-1000 to OAR 629-042-1070 sets forth the standards, requirements, and procedures by which the Certified Burn Manager program will be operated, pursuant to ORS 526.360(3).



Photo credit: Columbia Land

12

Burn permit requirement

- Every person conducting an operation inside or within one-eighth of one mile of a forest protection district that uses fire in any form or power-driven machinery shall first obtain from the ODF Protection Unit Forester a **written permit**.
- ✓ Burn permits are often waived outside of declared fire season, except on "Class 1" forestland.
- ✓ ODF districts differ in their exact processes for prescribed fire review and oversight.
- ✓ Contact the ODF Stewardship Forester for the area where you are considering a burn.

13

Permits and Registrations

- ✓ Register the burn unit in FERNs to provide ODF with notification of intent to burn and to initiate process of obtaining a burn permit (at least 15 days before burn).
- ✓ Apply for a Notice of Application (NOAP) and Permit for Power Driven Machinery (PDM) – also done in FERNs
- ✓ Obtain a burn permit, or confirmation that the burn permit has been waived, from ODF
- ✓ Register the burn unit with the ODF Smoke Management Unit using their registration form



14

CBM Legal Status: Smoke Management

- Key rules relevant to ODF and DEQ Smoke Management are found in [OAR 629-048-0230 to OAR 629-048-0320](#).
- Apply to prescribed burning of forest fuels for management purposes within any ODF forest protection district.



Photo credit: TNC

15

Smoke Registration & Reporting

- **Level 1 regulated areas**
 - register units at least seven days prior to burning
 - planned in the smoke management data system the day of the proposed burn
 - accomplishments reported the first business day following the actual burn and each additional day that burning is conducted in the unit
- **Level 2 regulated areas**
 - registered prior to burning
 - accomplishment reported by the first business day of the week following ignition
 - not required to be planned (in smoke data system) prior to burning

Burns must be conducted in compliance with the Smoke Management Plan. (See [OAR 629-048](#))

16

Burn permitting summary

1. Write burn plan
2. Submit NOAP/PDM (in FERNs)
3. ODF site inspection (possible)
4. ODF issues (or waives) burn permit
5. Register in smoke management system
6. Request smoke management authorization the day before or morning of (Level 1)
7. Burn
8. Submit smoke management accomplishments
9. Pay fee (Level 1)
10. File accomplishment report (in FERNs)



Photo: Chris Adams

17

Know the local rules & procedures – they vary (SW Oregon Examples)

On ODF protected lands

- If under 2 acres and 10 tons of material
- ODF permit waived outside fire season
- Smoke management waived by district
- Fire department may require burn permit
- CHECK WITH ODF STEWARDSHIP FORESTER

Outside ODF protection

- May require fire department permit
- Smoke management through DEQ, not ODF

Is this a CBM burn?

IF YOU DON'T KNOW, ASK

18

CBM burns are planned burns

- Burn plan is an agreement between the CBM and landowner
- Identifies objectives and how they will be met
- Guides CBM implementation of burn
- Allows CBM and ODF Protection Unit Forester to ensure prescription, staffing, equipment, etc. can be met before, during and after the burn

ODF doesn't "approve" your burn plan - it reviews it when deciding whether to give you permission to burn

19

Transfer of responsibility

- If you are the CBM responsible for a prescribed burn, you **cannot** terminate that responsibility unless you transfer responsibility to another CBM or the landowner.
- Must document on the Transfer of Responsibility form (from ODF).
- Must notify ODF of the transfer within 2 hours of termination of responsibility.
- [OAR 629-042-1040 to 1055](#).

20

Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program

- Up to \$1 million in damage claims and suppression costs per eligible burn
- Prescribed fire or cultural burns
- Burn must be supervised by ODF, forest protective association, rangeland protection association, CBM, or cultural fire practitioner
- Damages must not be a result of willful, malicious, or negligent behavior
- Burn must be pre-enrolled on Oregon Prescribed Fire Liability website
- Claim must be submitted within 14 days of discovery of damage and not more than 45 days post-burn
- Excludes claims for smoke damage to crops/natural resources, carbon stocks/assets
- ODF incident report required – ensuring all laws/rules followed

ORS 629-042-2000 through 2060

21

Summary: CBMs

- CBMs help put good fire back on landscape
- CBM is an ODF program - applies to ODF protected lands
- To become CBM, take course, get and complete certification book
- To stay CBM, engage in burns and continuing education

COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

22

Summary: CBMs

- Two types of CBM: Pile-only or broadcast/understory and pile
- Follow your plan, don't be negligent => protected from civil liability
- Transfer responsibility to landowner or another CBM, and notify ODF

COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

23

Summary: CBM Program

- Standards, requirements, procedures: OAR 629-042-1005 thru 1070
- ODF Prescribed Fire Coordinator administers program
- CBM Advisory Committee advises on program admin

COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

24

Summary: Burn plan

- Agreement between CBM and landowner
- CBM and ODF Protection Unit Forester ensure specifications before, during, after burn

COLLEGE OF FORESTRY 

25

Summary: Permits, etc.

Enroll burn in Oregon Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program

- NOAP & PDM (FERNs)
- Burn permit (or waiver)
- Smoke registration
- Smoke authorization
- Smoke accomplishments and fee
- Operational accomplishments (FERNs)

COLLEGE OF FORESTRY 

26