

Using the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer (OWRE) for updating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in Oregon



OWRE advanced map viewer URL: http://tools.oregonexplorer.info/OE_HtmlViewer/index.html?viewer=wildfireplanning

Overall information and guidelines about using the wildfire risk data:

- The OWRE advanced map viewer provides **wildfire risk assessment data** primarily from the Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment, produced by the US Forest Service for Oregon and Washington. This assessment uses the most current data (incorporating 2017 fires) and state-of-the-art fire modeling techniques, and is the most up-to-date wildfire risk assessment for Oregon. The risk assessment primarily characterizes risk of larger wildfires (>250 acres). Data on the site also come from the West Wide Wildfire Risk Assessment, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and other sources.
- OWRE is characterizing the **fire environment** only, at a **landscape scale**. The data does not reflect access for emergency response, housing materials, characteristics of the home ignition zones, and many other considerations. You may want to consider two scales for your CWPP update: a local scale, focusing on communities and detailed information about preparing for a fire and mitigating fire risk, and a landscape scale, using data from the OWRE to characterize the fire environment more broadly. OWRE will provide a landscape context of the fire environment surrounding local communities identified as high risk.
- OWRE will not replace local data or “on the ground” knowledge of communities you may consider high risk. Continue to **use local Fire Department and ODF knowledge** to generate CWPP concern areas.
- Data layers are derived from a regional risk assessment across Oregon and Washington. OWRE will produce broad scale maps for your CWPP area as a whole, but **maps will contain some inaccuracies**, which are most prevalent at fine scales.

OWRE provides spatial data layers that may be useful for CWPPs, including:

- Overall wildfire risk, wildfire risk to assets, people and property
- Burn probability
- Flame lengths under varying conditions
- Potential impacts of wildfire to multiple assets of interest
- Potential impact to structures
- Fire history and active fires
- Land ownership
- Vegetation type
- Estimated housing density
- Other reference data

OWRE advanced functions

- View data through interactive web-based map and print images of selected layers.
- Generate a customized report for a user-defined area.
- Download data for a user-defined area to be used in GIS analyses.

Demographic and other community data may also be useful for CWPPs. Access community data at a county level through the Communities Reporter Tool: <http://oe.oregonexplorer.info/rural/communitiesreporter/>

For more information about how to use the OWRE, contact:

Jenna Nelson, Oregon Department of Forestry, jenna.a.nelson@oregon.gov, 503-945-7444