

# Wildfire Protection Issues On Private Land in Oregon



# Oregon's Landscape?



- Approximately ~30 million of acres of forestland
- Oregon Department of Forestry protects approximately 16 million acres of that total
- ODF's fire protection system is a partnership
- Protection responsibility is intermingled with federal agencies: thousands of miles of common boundaries



# Forest Protection Policy

## ORS 477.005:

- “The preservation of forests & the conservation of the forest”
- “The need for a Complete and Coordinated Forest Protection System”

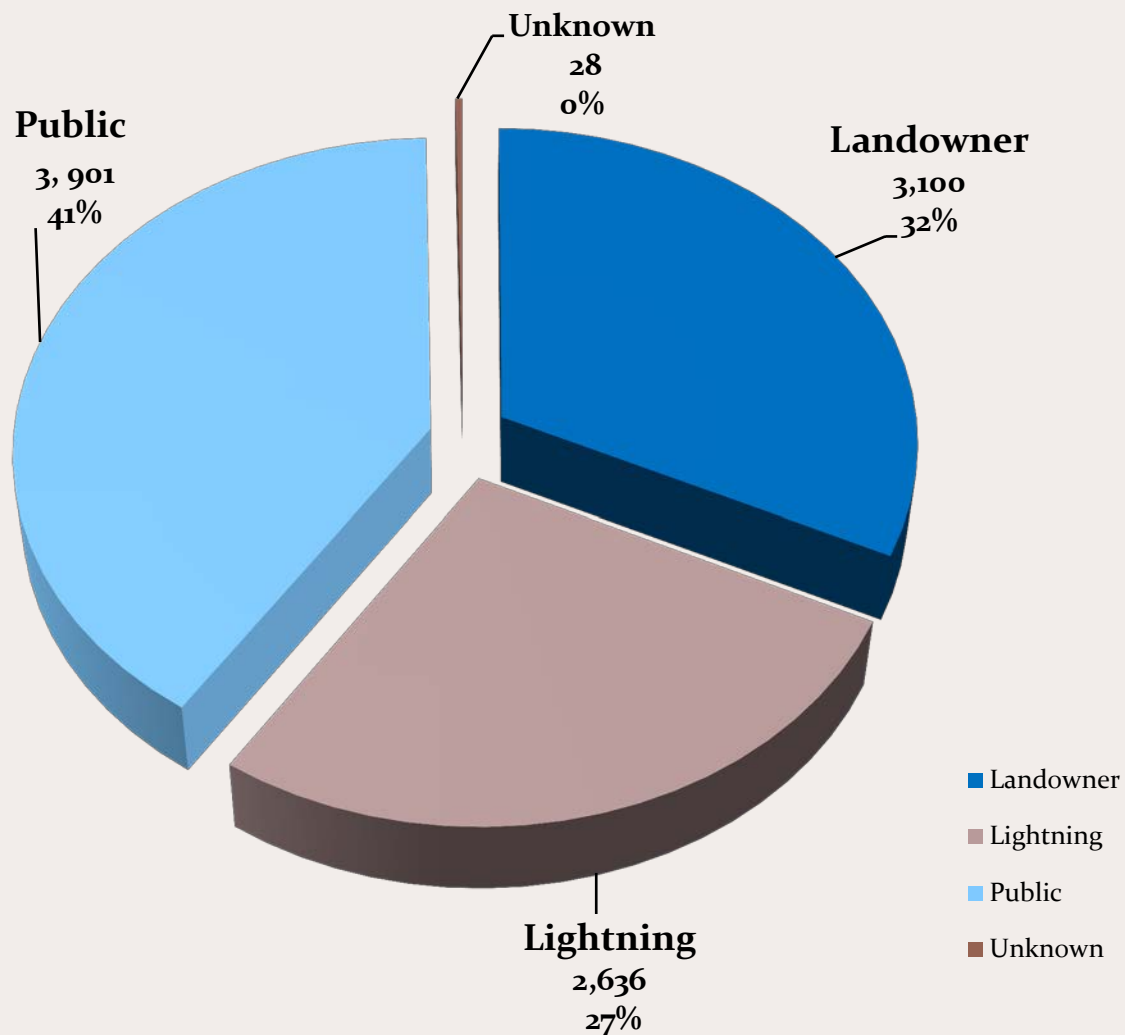
## ORS 321.012:

- Public share / responsibility in fire protection



# Number of ODF Fires

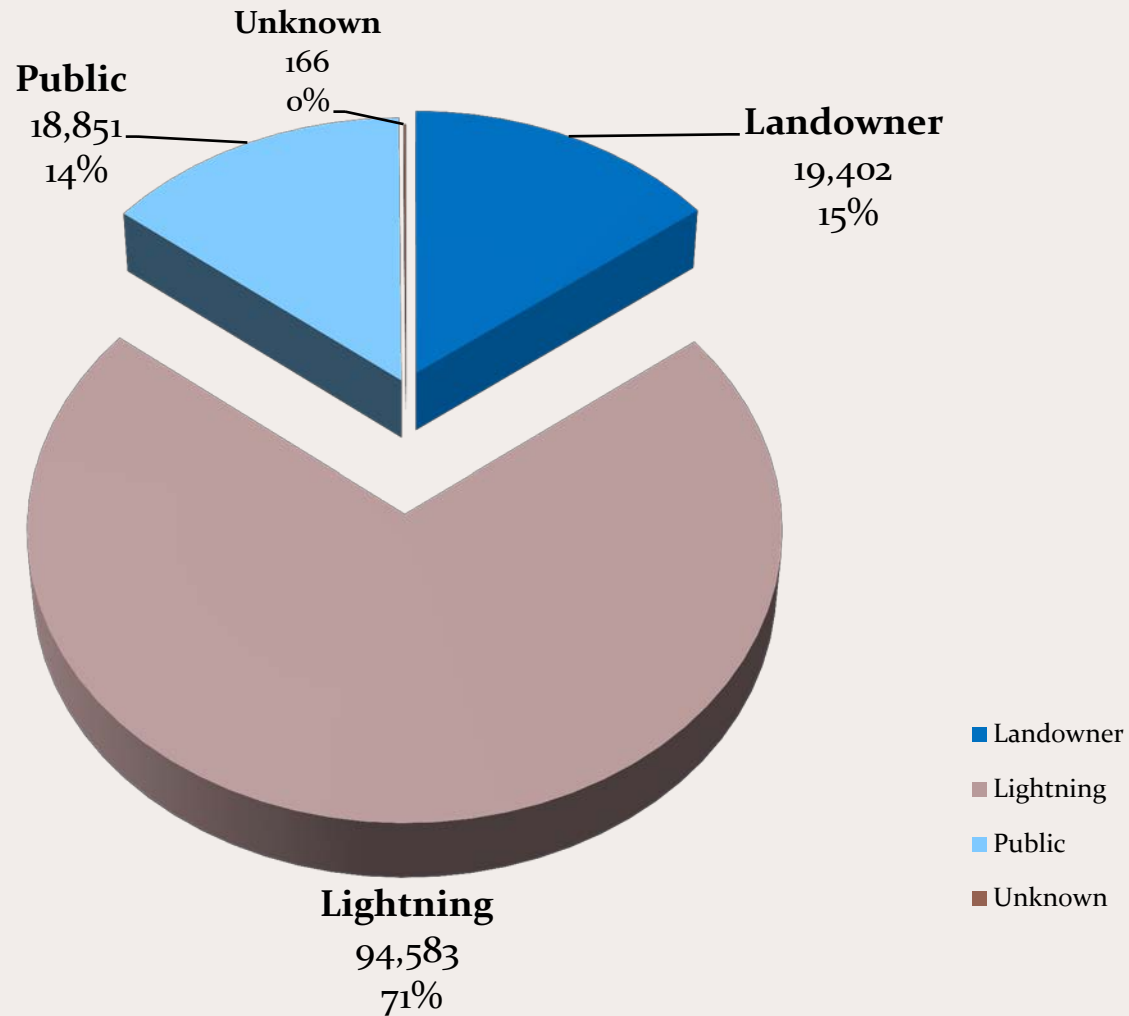
Caused by Public, Landowners, and Lightning  
Statewide 2003-2012





# ODF Acres Burned

Caused By Public, Landowners, and Lightning  
Statewide 2003-2012



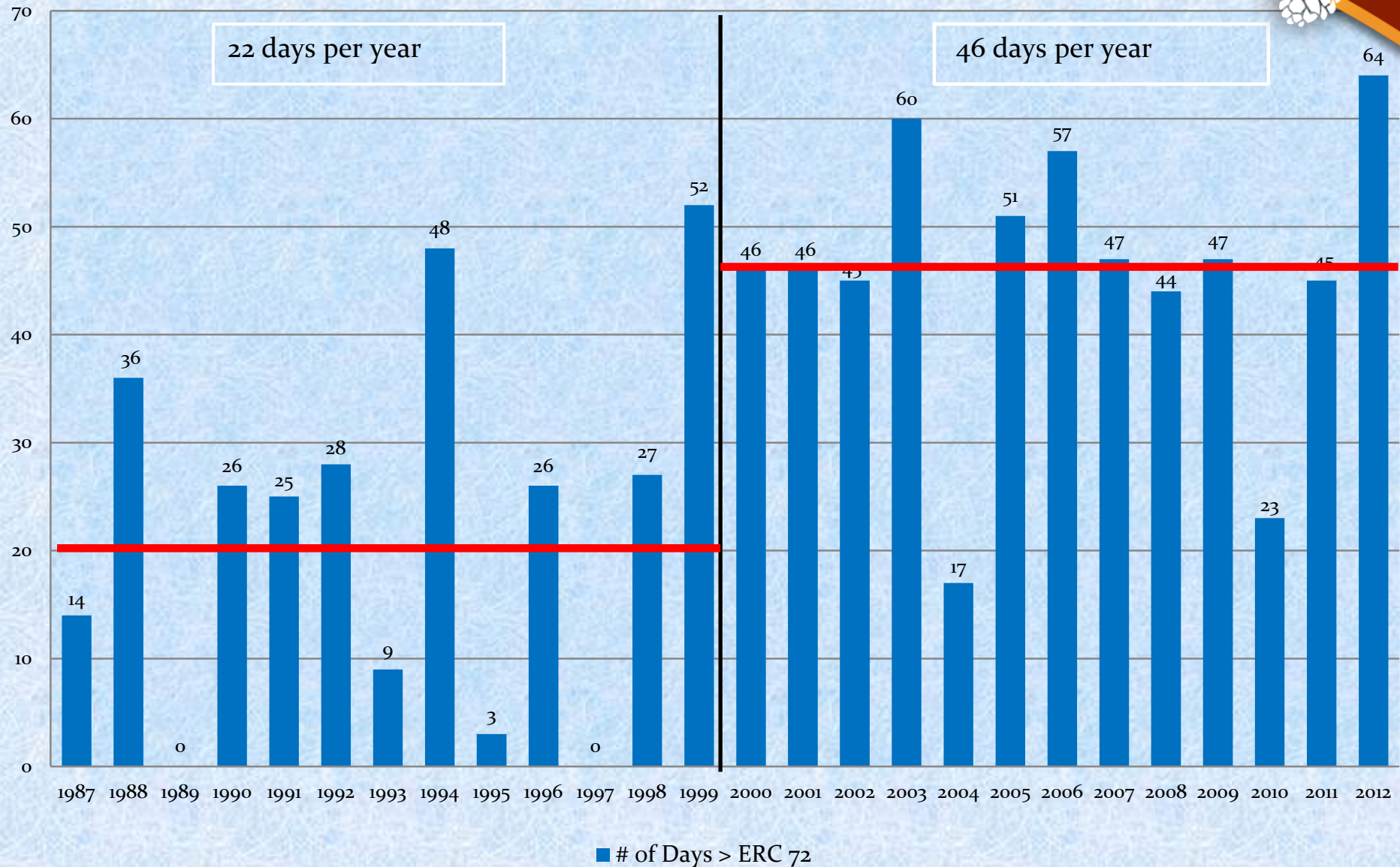
# Influences and Challenges



- Large costly fires
  - Significant costs
  - Impact on landowners
- Increasing fire season severity & impacts to Oregonian's
- Increasing fuel loadings and an expanding WUI
- Fires transferred from other jurisdictions
- Growing landowner concerns over high fire suppression assessment rates in eastern Oregon

# Fire Season Severity

## Increasing Risks

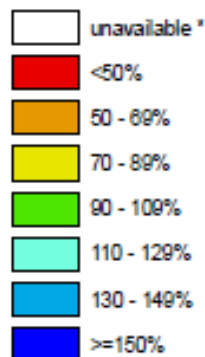




## Oregon SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

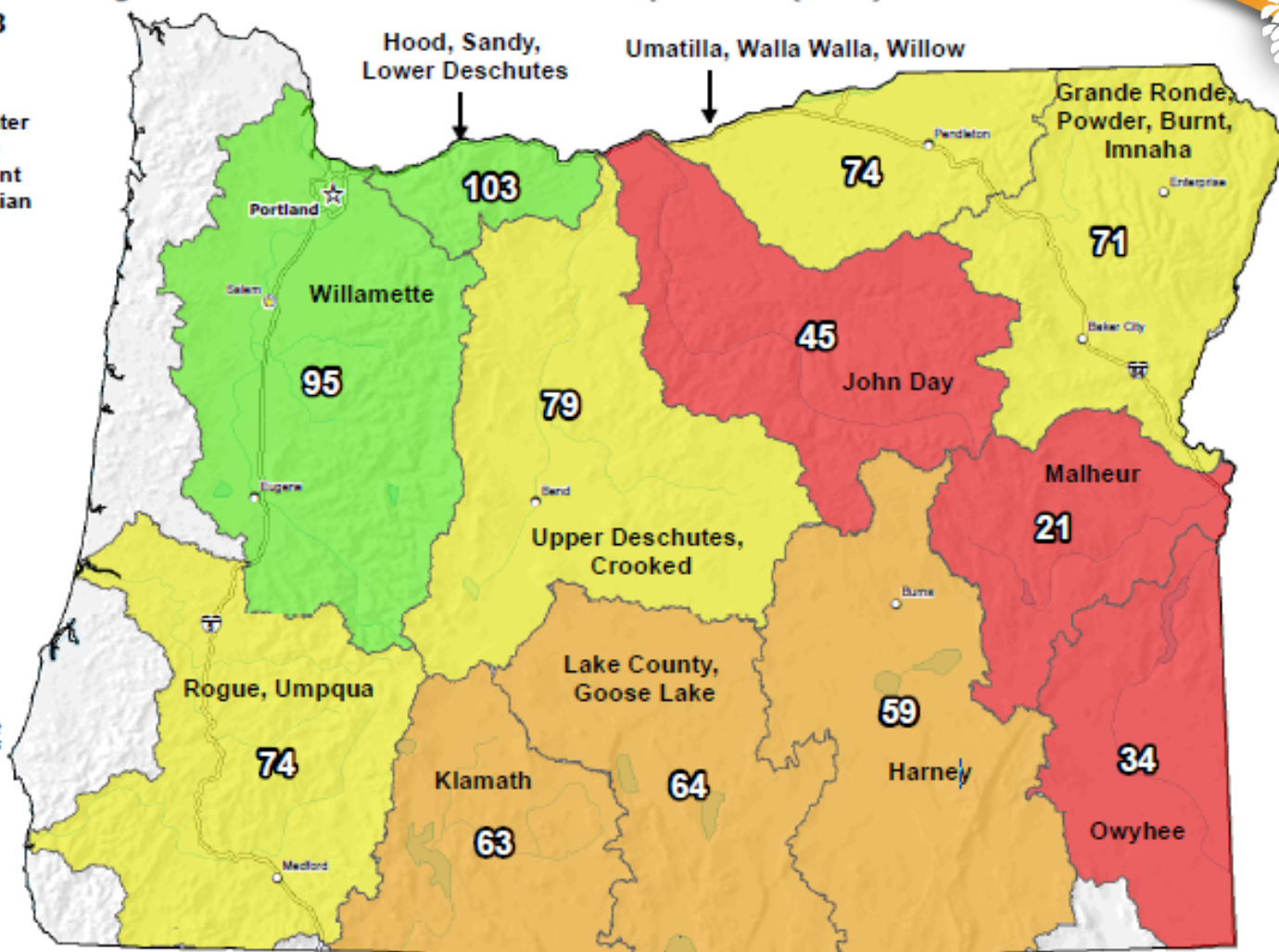
Apr 10, 2013

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)  
Basin-wide Percent  
of 1981-2010 Median



\* Data unavailable at time  
of posting or measurement  
is not representative at this  
time of year

Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

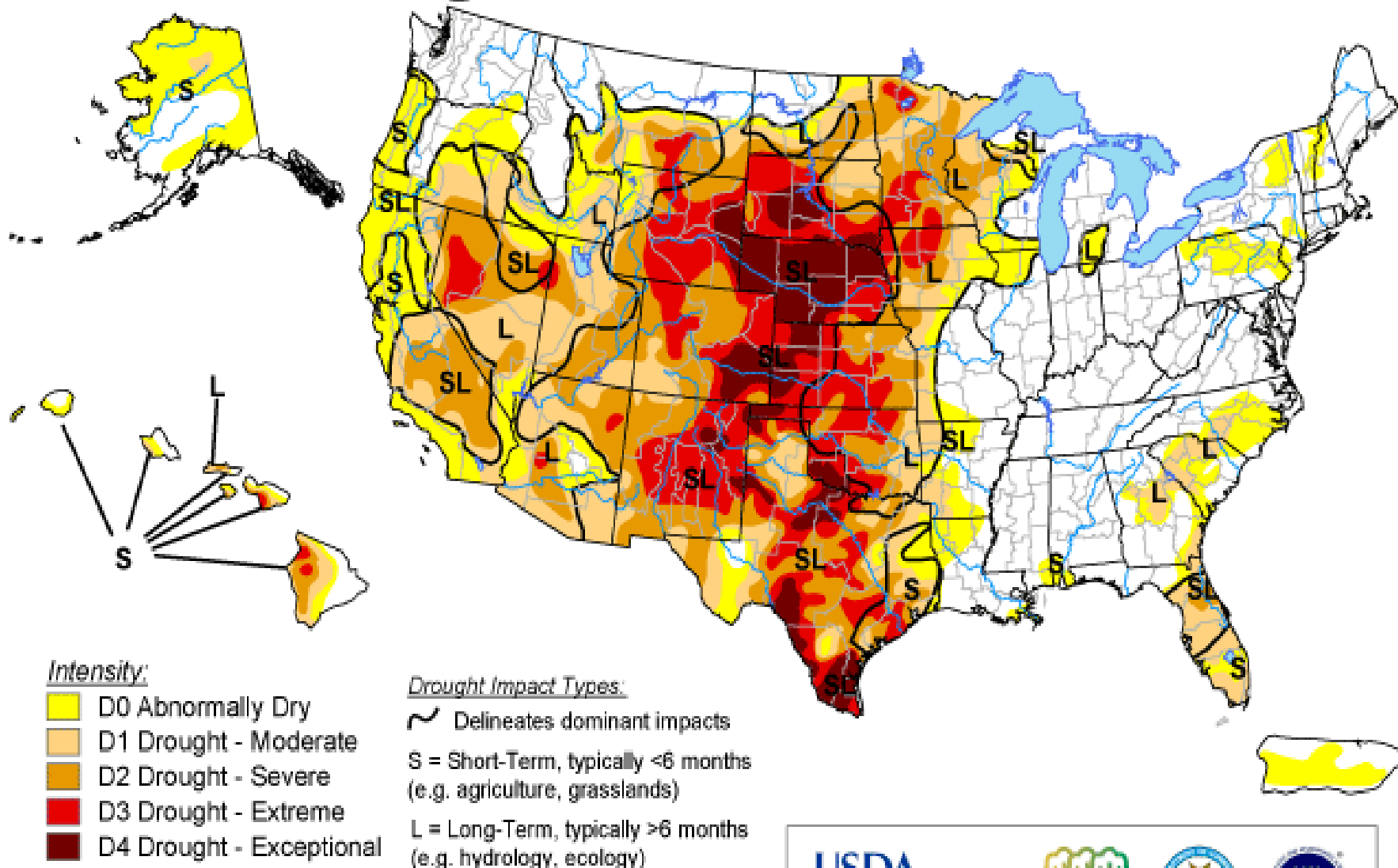
Prepared by the USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/gis/>  
Based on data from <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/reports/>  
Science contact: Jim.Marron@por.usda.gov 503 414 3047



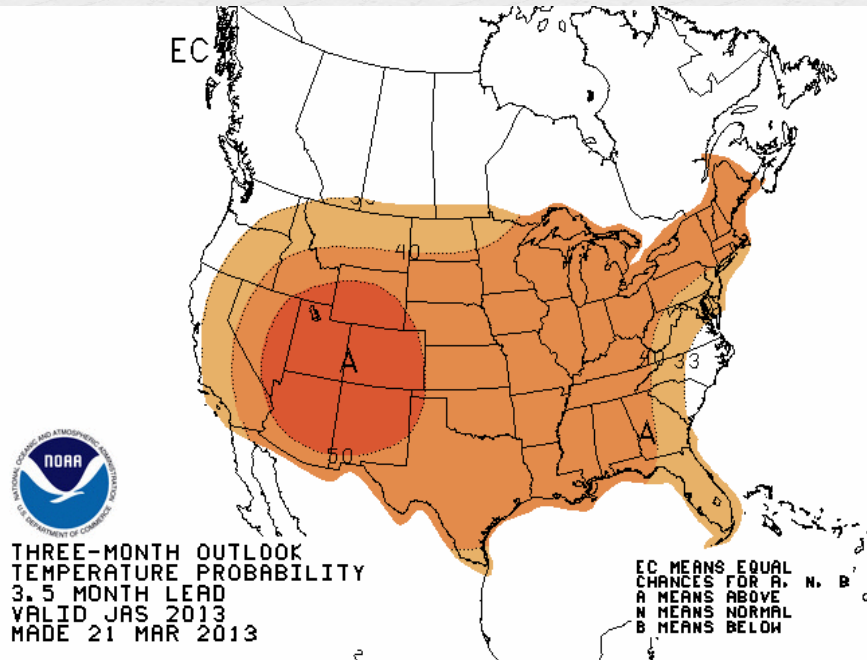
# U.S. Drought Monitor

April 2, 2013

Valid 7 a.m. EDT



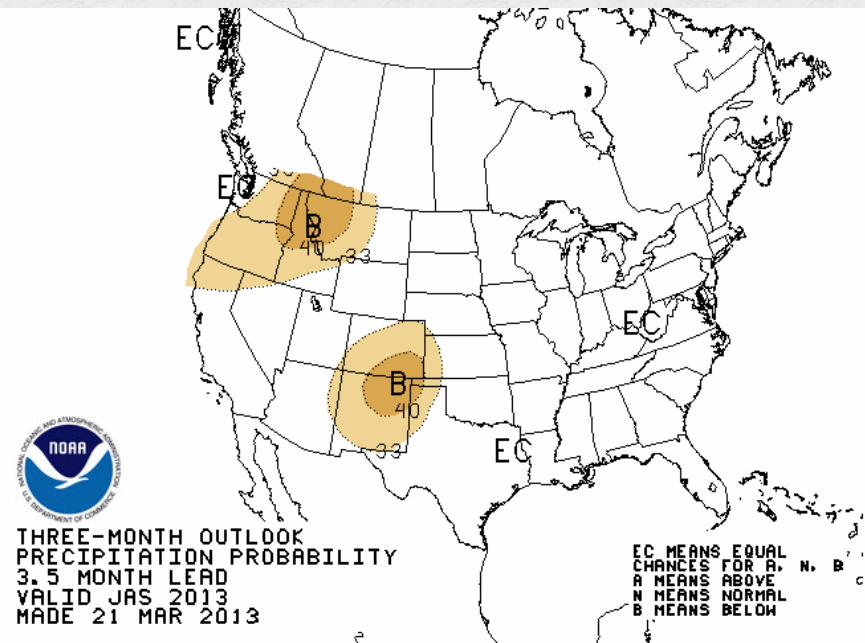
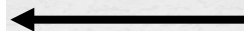
# Summer Outlook



EC = Equal Chance of above or below average  
A = Above Average  
N = Normal  
B = Below Average  
33, 40, 50 = Probability of occurrence

## July/Aug/Sept

Temperature  
Precipitation



# The impacts of large fires





# Policy Context



## Board of Forestry

- Keeping working forests working

## Oregon's fire policy

- Preserve and conserve forest resources

## Oregon's Mission

- Protect Oregon's valuable forestland and communities from wildfire
- Safe and aggressive initial attack - limits firefighter risk, suppression costs and damage



# Recent Actions



- Board of Forestry direction- 2011
- Fire Funding Group created- 2011
- The Wildfire Protection Act- 2012



# Challenges

- Protecting and limiting risks to Oregonian's, forests and other values
- Costly large fires – dollars and resource loss
- Eastside forest productivity and costs
- Equality across all “three level” of fire funding
  - Base, severity and large fires

# The Wildfire Protection Act

Other Funds  
**\$25 M**  
Insurance Policy

**\$10 M of GF**  
**\$10 M of OFLPF**

Stair stepped approach 2013  
and beyond in sharing the \$20 M  
in Large fire costs dollar for  
dollar

Shared large fire costs in 2013

GF- \$500K

OFLPF- \$500K

**GF \$2M**  
Severity

**\*OFLPF \$3M**  
Statewide Severity

**\$1 M Rates**

**Base Level of Fire Protection**  
The Fire Department

LO 50 / 50 GF

\* OFLPF- Oregon Forest  
Land Protection Fund





# Questions??

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