

West Bend Rx Fire Pilot: Overview

The West Bend Prescribed Fire Pilot identified pathways for increasing the use of prescribed fire to achieve land management objectives at scale near wildland urban interface communities (WUI), while also engaging in risk reduction measures to minimize public health impacts. By engaging in this pilot, federal and state air, environment, public health, local government and land management agencies further clarified roles, responsibilities and opportunities related to addressing forest health and public health. This included forming a coalition that worked together from a November 2023 tabletop planning exercise through prescribed burn implementation in spring 2024.

To see research from this pilot, refer to these reports:

- **West Bend Prescribed Fire Pilot: After Action Review**
 - [Project page](#)
 - [Executive Summary and Supplemental Materials](#): Includes Executive Summary report, survey questionnaire, data collection and tracking document, and communications and outreach material from the Deschutes National Forest and Deschutes County Environmental Health (Spanish and English).
 - [Presentation on West Bend: The Role of Land Management and Public Health Partnerships](#), as part of the Northwest Fire Science Consortium's workshop on whole community approaches to being smoke ready.
 - [Joint Statement of Intent to Cooperate on Prescribed Fire and Smoke Management](#)
 - *Contact Jess Downey (jdowney7@uoregon.edu) for additional information.*
- **West Bend Pilot: Outreach & Communications**
 - [Executive Summary](#)
 - [Appendices](#): Includes Deschutes NF prescribed burn communications plan, summary of public health activities prior to burn season, press releases, project two-pager, and communications tracking spreadsheet.
- **West Bend Pilot: Air Quality Forecasting, Monitoring, and Analysis**
 - [Executive Summary](#) (draft, Feb. 2025)
- **West Bend Community Survey: Residents' Experiences with Spring 2024 Burns and Attitudes towards Prescribed Burning**
 - [Executive Summary](#) (preliminary, Apr. 2025)
 - [Presentation](#) (preliminary results, Apr. 2025)
 - *Contact Dan Chapman (dchapma3@uoregon.edu) for additional information.*
- **Using Passive Air Sensors (MerPAS) to Measure Atmospheric Elemental Mercury Concentrations Before, During and After the Spring 2024 Prescribed Burns in West Bend**
 - [Report](#) (Jan. 2025)
 - *Contact Sarah Rothenberg (sarah.rothenberg@oregonstate.edu) for additional information.*
- **Fire Season and Your Home: Understanding Indoor PM2.5 Levels During Smoke Events in Bend, Oregon**
 - *Contact Lee Mitchell (lee.mitchell@oit.edu) for additional information.*

