

## CHAPTER 3: FOREST CONDITIONS & WILDFIRE HISTORY

### History of Wildfire in Clackamas County (since 2005)

Clackamas County has escaped the recent large fire occurrences of other western Oregon counties. However, weather, fuels buildup, and climatic changes have provided conditions conducive for a large fire event. Residential development in Clackamas County is heavily interwoven with forest land, so a relatively small fire of only a few hundred acres would pose a significant risk to many residents and their homes. Oregon Department of Forestry places the number of homes on forest land within ODF's boundary in Clackamas County at over 11,000.

Since 2005, there have been eight significant fires on USFS land in or affecting Clackamas County (Table 3.1). The majority of these had a wildland urban interface component, triggering voluntary and/or mandatory evacuations.

**Table 3.1. Significant USFS Fires in the Clackamas County Area 2005-2012**

Year	Name	Acres	Cause	Area
2011	Mother Lode	2,700	Lightning	Bull of the Woods Wilderness
2011	Nasty Fire	< 100	Lightning	Opal Creek Wilderness
2011	Dollar Lake	5,000	Lightning	Mount Hood
2010	View lake	2,900	Lightning	Ollalie Lake/ Bull of the Woods
2009	Microwave	2,100	Lightning	Mosier/Hood River
2008	Lake Lenore	450	Lightning	Bull of the Woods Wilderness
2008	Ruddy	47	Lightning	Ollalie Lake
2006	Blister	790	Lightning	North of Bagby Hot Springs
Total USFS Acres Burned		16,187		

### ODF North Cascade District Fire Ignitions

In addition to the USFS fires reported below, ODF responded to a total of 582 wildfire ignitions since 2005, burning over 640 acres. These fires were controlled during initial attack, and thus did not result in significant losses. However, the number of ignitions underscores potential for a large scale wildland urban interface fire in the ODF protection boundary. Causes of these fires are tracked to assist in directing public outreach and prevention efforts:

- Debris Burning: 250
- Equipment Use: 98
- Miscellaneous: 69
- Arson: 36
- Smoking: 20
- Lightning: 16
- Railroad: 1

**Total ODF Ignitions: 582**

### Forest Conditions

There have been no significant changes to forest conditions since 2005. The majority of forest lands in Clackamas County have a Moderate to High Severity Fire Regime in Condition Class 1.