



## WILDFIRE & LAND USE

**STATE LAND USE PLANNING** is our best defense against the increasing risk of wildfire.

We support statewide mapping of fire risk and the use of fire-resistant building materials in both new and existing development to mitigate the potential for wildfire losses.

### WHO WE ARE

For 35 years, LandWatch has fought for sustainable, healthy communities in balance with nature, waterways and wildlife in Central Oregon.

Leveraging our legal expertise, policy analysis, and experience with Oregon's land-use planning system, we bring public concerns about natural resources and urban growth to government decisions and negotiations with private interests.



The Awbrey Hall Fire in Bend, OR, as seen from Pilot Butte.  
Source: Bend Bulletin, 1990, Gary Staffield.

### OUR CONCERN

Recent years have seen increasing extreme wildfire events throughout the West, culminating in 2020's devastating Labor Day weekend fires throughout our state, destroying 4,009 homes and burning over 1 million acres of land. With the benefit of our statewide land use planning system already in place, Oregon has the opportunity to be on the leading edge of protecting our communities against wildfire.

### WHAT WE SUPPORT

LandWatch believes that land use planning which limits development in forests is the most effective way to mitigate the risk of wildfire. Climate change is increasing the likelihood that severe wildfire will impact Oregon communities. Our best chance for saving homes, businesses, and lives is through planning for where development will occur. Where structures, both new and existing, are already in fire risk areas, they should be built or retrofitted with fire-resistant materials and to meet today's standards.

