State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet
Oregon 2024

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2023 Estimate
Community Forestry and Open Space	$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	$1,457,769
Forest Legacy	$9,344,000
Forest Stewardship	$140,462
Landscape Scale Restoration	$661,720
State Fire Assistance	$3,141,668
Urban and Community Forestry	$736,256
Volunteer Fire Assistance	$761,705
Total	**$16,243,580**

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

Program Goals

Key Issues

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value
Population	4,237,256
Acres of Forest Land	29,740,902
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	6,276,127
Number of NIPF Landowners	37,735
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	2,411,706
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	13,493,620
Number of Rural Fire Departments	168
Cities and Towns	241
Forest Based Employment	41,161
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	147,429,143

FY 2023 Accomplishments	Value
Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,629
Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	4,352
Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	2,974
Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	55
State Fire Communities Assisted	178
Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	8,025
Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	7,014
Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	90
Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,654,737
Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	46,220

Program Highlights

Certified Burn Manager Program

With rulemaking completed in late 2022, Oregon's Certified Burn Manager (CBM) program for training and certification of prescribed fire leadership on non-federal lands under ODF protection launched in Summer 2023. Applications for the CBM Advisory Committee were received and selections made in early 2023, with the first meeting convening in April. Applications for both pile and broadcast/understory CBM certification have been received from 26 individuals seeking historical recognition of existing burn boss qualifications and experience, of whom 16 are now certified. ODF partnered with Oregon State University

Extension, University of Idaho, and Washington Department of Natural Resources to create an instructional guide including standardized pile and broadcast/understory burn plan templates, unit descriptions, and a final exam. ODF is currently entering into agreements with training providers who will then create content based upon the instructional guide to be approved by ODF prior to delivery, the first of which is anticipated for Winter 2023. ODF also worked with the Northwest Fire Science Consortium and Ecosystem Workforce Development Program to create an informational brochure about the program.

Community Wildfire Defense Grant

The State of Oregon is supporting the implementation of the BIL Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program by hosting trainings and assisting with the application process and scoring of applications. Within the state 10 projects were awarded for a total funding amount of $23,521,348. There are 3 Community Wildfire Protection Plan updates and 7 implementation projects. Projects are estimated to treat 1,845 miles of road/powerline right of ways and 101,405 acres.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Cooperative Fire Protection is a key component of Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF's) strategy to improve protection efficiency and effectiveness on non-federal lands. This allows ODF to address critical preparedness needs for safety, increased initial attack capability, new and improved fire control technologies and intelligence, organizational improvement, and strategic planning. ODF foresters statewide worked closely with wildland-urban interface landowners and homeowners to limit wildfire damage and conserve forestland by reducing hazardous fuel loading. Ninety-two fire departments and rangeland associations were funded through the VFC program in 2023. This provided additional capacity for local fire response, often the first resources to attack a fire. BIL Volunteer Fire Capacity funding for 2022 & 2023 focus on Oregon's Volunteer rural fire agencies replacing older fire shelters with new generation fire shelters, and for increasing inventory of fire shelters. Thirty-three agencies were awarded using the 2022 federal funding and 23 were awarded using the 2023 funding. Oregon remains second in the nation for recognized Firewise, USA sites with 282 sites. In 2023, 29 sites were added in Oregon. 2023 Western State Fire Managers (WSFM) grant projects will mitigate fire hazards in forty-one communities with a goal of treating 1,590 acres in the wildland-urban interface. Three Community Assistance projects will treat hazardous fuels in six communities, treating 575 acres. Community Assistance funds were also awarded to Oregon's Prescribed Fire Council to support increased collaboration to promote safe and effective prescribed burning and the return of fire-adapted natural ecosystems. ODF received one Community Wildfire Defense Grant for treatment of 300 acres of fuel reduction to create defensible space in Grant County.

Developing Forest Product Markets to Accelerate the Restoration of Federal Forests

The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Willamette National Forest are finding creative solutions to address two intertwined challenges: declining federal forest health and lack of housing supply. The development of modular mass timber housing advances both efforts. Modular mass timber housing provides a new market outlet for the by-products of federal forest restoration. Modular mass timber housing also presents a solution to the housing crisis affecting many urban and rural communities. The effort increases wood fiber supply and forest resilience by adding additional restoration capacity through ODF's Federal Forest Restoration Program and the use of Good Neighbor Authority under the umbrella of Shared Stewardship.

The Oregon Mass Timber Coalition is investing approximately $41.4 million from the US Economic Development Administration to accelerate affordable housing production, provide good jobs, and restore forest health. The funding supports a series of investments along the full value chain. Research and development projects by the University of Oregon and Oregon State University will lead the design and prototyping of new construction materials and products. Public testing facilities will certify that developed products meet fire and acoustic codes, paving the way for production and sale. Infrastructure improvements at the Port of Portland will create a site suitable for private investment in a regional mass timber manufacturing facility to build housing at scale. The Oregon Dept. of Land Conservation and Development will ensure planning and development codes are primed to accommodate modular mass timber homes in rural and wildlife-impacted communities. Economic Development Administration funds will also support workforce investments in forestry, construction, and manufacturing.

Federal Forest Restoration and Good Neighbor Authority

Oregon is a leader among western states in the use of GNA. According to a Council of Western State

Foresters report released in November 2023, ODF has treated more non-commercial and commercial acres under GNA than any other western state. In addition to the program's performance related to improving forest health, the FFR program is contributing to its goals related to rural economic development. The FFR program's state investments (~$3 million/yr.) and GNA timber sales supported an annual average of 323 jobs and contributed $30.5 million to the regional economy.
Using a blend of funding, including $8.6 million of state funds between 2021–2023, the FFR program, working closely with USFS leadership and staff, local collaboratives, and partnerships, contributes to the full adaptive management cycle for work on federal forestlands in Oregon.
Since the FFR Program's inception in 2013 through the end of the 2023-25 biennium (June 30,2025), Oregon will have invested over $29 million of state funds to increase capacity and build the social license to accelerate restoration work on federal forestlands across the state. The state is still the primary financial supporter of forest collaborative groups in Oregon, which are groups of stakeholders seeking agreement and ultimately functioning to avoid litigation by providing socially contextualized recommendations to the USFS during restoration project planning.
ODF has 36 active GNA agreements with the USFS, 32 with ten National Forests and four with USFS Region 6. Through these agreements, the planned accomplishment targets for the 2023-25 biennium are to complete 8,971 acres of commercial forest health treatments, 87,650 acres of comprehensive contract NEPA, 18,600 acres of surveys/project preparation, 2,138 acres of non-commercial forest health treatments, improve 51 miles of road, participate in 7,202 acres of tree planting, sell 77.7 million board feet, and engage with 15 forest collaboratives/all-lands partnerships.

Forest Health Protection

ODF Forest Health cooperated with the USFS and WDNR to complete the annual statewide aerial survey and recorded over 3 million acres of damage from abiotic and biotic disturbances. The highest proportion of damage (2.5 million acres) resulted from ongoing hot drought stress to trees that were later killed by opportunistic beetles. Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is a priority issue that received $1.7 million of state funds for treatments. ODF, USFS, and BLM completed treatments on 357 acres, and 239 acres were cut, piled, and slashed for burning. Treatment work continued on the aggressive NA2 infestation detected in 2021 in Port Orford and in 2022 in Humbug Mountain. The generally infested area will be expanded in 2024 to encompass areas not treated in the last few years. The Oregon and Washington collaborative USFS-funded Western redcedar dieback project continues to garner interest as the first of several less drought-tolerant species that will suffer large-scale diebacks or range reductions due to climate change. A new publication from this project was produced in 2023. Mediterranean woodborer, an emerging exotic that has been found in Oregon traps starting in 2018 has more recently been identified as killing oaks in the Willamette Valley. A multiagency effort was initiated in 2023 to monitor this insect and develop management guidance. ODF Forest Health coordinated the 2023 EAB trap survey among local agencies and landowners in the Willamette Valley. Over 140 EAB traps were placed; no EAB adults were captured. ODF assisted in responding to nearly 300 public reports of EAB on the state's Invasive Species Hotline, ten of which were verified as EAB-positive, all within Forest Grove city limits. ODF Forest Health cooperated with ODA on EAB surveys among 109 girdled trap trees near Forest Grove, detecting new infestations in 19 trees. A remote sensing project is underway to map hardwoods of the northern Willamette Valley, depicting the predicted locations of wild Oregon Ash.

Forest Health Protection - Invasive Plants

The Oregon Department of Agriculture recieved funding through State Private & Tribal Foresty to treat 8500 acres of priority listed noxious weeds including Hoary alyssum, Oblong spurge and Dyer's woad. This effort also supports statewide implementation of biological control of weeds using 80 different agents for 28 species of invasive plants. This effort is in addition to ODF's other Forest Health Protection activities.

Forest Legacy

The mission of ODF's Forest Legacy Program is to conserve privately owned forest land In Oregon through the federal Forest Legacy Program administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Protection of private forests in Oregon through conservation easements or fee title acquisitions, protects our natural resources and promotes public access for recreation while fostering sustainable forest management practices. Klamath County acquired the Spence Mountain property utilizing FLP funds awarded in FY 2021 and FY 2022. ODF worked in partnership with Trust for Public Land and Klamath County to see this project through to completion. ODF has compiled all necessary documentation and met FLP requirements to close out the grant.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife acquired the Minam Conservation & Connectivity tract after Phase 2 of the project closed in November 2023. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was a key partner in this acquisition. This project used a combination of FY 2023 and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) FLP funds. Nationally, Minam was the first FLP project to close while utilizing IRA funding. The management plan is in the works and grant close out will happen in calendar year 2024 once all FLP requirements have been met. An on-site celebration is tentatively scheduled for June 20–22, 2024.
ODF, in partnership with Western Rivers Conservancy, has been working through the appraisal and federal appraisal review process for the Hood River Forest and Fish Conservation Project. Project partners continue to meet weekly to track progress and ensure we remain on track for project completion in the calendar year 2023.
ODF submitted a total of three projects for FY 2025 funding consideration. Tualatin Mountain and The Columbia Gorge projects are resubmissions and Lostine Forest, which is a new project proposal.

Forest Stewardship

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) assists governments and non-industrial private landowners to improve resource conditions on forestlands. ODF field Foresters provide one-on-one technical assistance. In 2023 the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) received state funding to further landowner assistance goals of the department. The FSP provides complimentary funding that is leveraged to help landowners access cost share programs, other resources, and provides support to a host of partners with shared interests. These partners, including the Oregon State University Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Program and Oregon Forest Resources Institute, formally meet at least once each year as the Partnership for Forestry Education to coordinate statewide assistance efforts. In 2023, planning assistance was provided to 386 family forest owners affecting 110,526 forestland acres. Total stewardship plan accomplishments in 2023 covered 4,352 acres. ODF foresters spent 2,202 hours providing an array of technical assistance functions, engaged 1,243 landowner participants in educational offerings, and participated in watershed council meetings, local advisory groups, and other education/outreach forums. ODF has also partnered with the Natural Resource Conservation Service on an innovative post-fire recovery pilot program to expedite the resource assessments and provide a decision support function to allocate funding in impacted landscapes.
ODF foresters support the USDA Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Councils, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Additionally, ODF foresters provide planning input and technical assistance to deliver the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) following wildfires and other natural disasters.

Increasing Capacity in Fire Protection

In 2023 the State Fire Capacity program provided 5,730 hours of classroom training to 184 agency staff for improvements to the complete and coordinated system. Seven individuals were able to complete their task books and become fully qualified in their positions. In addition to agency staff training, 185 Oregon National Guard soldiers were trained as Firefighter Type 2 to support fire suppression activities during critical resource drawdown. Increasing trained personnel in Oregon reduces the strain on the overall firefighter workforce and addresses the need for more firefighters due to increased intensity of wildfire seasons. ODF hosted a multi-agency collaborative Fire Investigation 210 course, resulting in certification for 28 participants with increased knowledge in investigation, prevention, and education about wildfire.

Landowner Assistance

During federal Fiscal Year 2024, ODF will begin development of a new Small and Underserved Landowner Assistance program in partnership with USFS SP&TF. The project will be funded through the Inflation Reduction Act. Establishing this program will support several state funded landowner assistance programs that have been recently launched to support strategic landowner practices to protect ecosystem services in accordance with Oregon's Forest Practices Act.
Historically there have been limited state funds available for landowner assistance. Through technical assistance offered through the Forest Stewardship Program, ODF foresters help landowners access cost share and other resources available through a host of partners. These partners, including the Oregon State University Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Program and Oregon Forest Resources Institute, formally meet at least once each year as the Partnership for Forestry Education to coordinate statewide assistance and educational efforts. Of note, ODF has a statewide agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist forest landowners with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and other Farm Bill forestry programs. Through this agreement, ODF is able

to hire additional capacity to provide technical assistance to landowners receiving cost share through NRCS. ODF has also partnered with the NRCS on an innovative post-fire recovery strategy to expedite the assessments and provide a decision support function to allocate funding in impacted landscapes.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Oregon's Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program upholds Oregon's collaborative All Hands, All Lands approach to managing forests and forest issues across ownerships and boundaries through collaborative efforts. Every year, on behalf of the State Forester, ODF and the USFS SP&TF review and select project proposals that reflect the highest priority programs from across the state. Project selection is based upon the project's alignment with Oregon's Forest Action Plan, the LSR national Landscape Objectives, and the application of collaborative efforts and utilization of strategies most likely to result in success. Oregon's projects often pioneer new approaches to address emerging issues, resulting in models that are often replicated on a statewide level or in other states.
The LSR Cooperative Burning project prioritizes the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (NCWFMS) as a strategic priority to identify how best to support landowners in re-introducing low to moderate intensity prescribed fire across public and non-industrial private lands to improve forest health. Expanding fuels reduction through prescribed fire systems is a key strategy in Oregon's Forest Action Plan, in order to manage the risks of uncharacteristic wildfire and develop resilient forests. The LSR "Can I Burn" project aims to reduce the number of human caused fires through collaboration in a centralized space for up-to-date debris burn data, process, education and aligning responsibilities to reduce careless human-caused wildfires via escaped debris burns. The Willamette Valley Oak restoration project, Wasco Oak Restoration project, and Bear Wallow Restoration project seek to restore critical forest habitat. The South Fork John Day Partnership for Forest Health and Collaborative Habitat Restoration in the North Fork Eagle projects seek to improve water quality and quantity and habitat for endangered coho, spring chinook and winter steelhead.

Oregon's 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy

Oregon's 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy, is a collaborative effort among federal and state agencies, Tribes, local entities, and diverse partners, creating a shared approach to mitigate wildfire risk. It draws inspiration from the 2014 National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and is further refined by recommendations from the 2019 Oregon Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. The focus is on strategically channeling resources to areas most vulnerable and in need, thereby aligning efforts to effectively tackle the multifaceted challenges posed by wildfires.
Key entities like the ODF, USFS, NRCS, BLM, OWEB, and ODFW collaboratively govern this model. At the core of this strategy are principles that prioritize local collaborations, data-driven decisions, and a collective approach to capacity building.
Spanning an extensive 13.1 million acres, the strategy is dedicated to identifying and focusing on key geographical areas through comprehensive local assessments and coordinated multi-agency action plans. This meticulous approach ensures that resources are efficiently allocated to areas most in need, embodying a strategic vision for Oregon's landscapes in the face of evolving wildfire challenges.

Urban and Community Forestry

The mission of the UCF program is to help all Oregonians improve their quality of life by promoting community investments in trees and green infrastructure in and around cities and towns. UCF staff work with community partners to provide a wide range of technical, educational, and financial assistance.
2023 was a momentous year for the UCF program. The top priority was to build overall program capacity and expand UCF opportunities for disadvantaged communities and Tribal Nations. Thanks to the passage of HB 3409 in July, the UCF Program now has permanent state funding to support the hiring of two additional Community Assistance Foresters. These new hires will assist in the fight against a variety of UF threats, help to stand up a publicly available statewide tree mapping and canopy assessment tool, and consult with the Department of Land Conservation and Development to design and administer a state-funded $6.5 million Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program. Helping communities to plan for emerald ash borer (EAB) response has been a major focus for the UCF team, as has working to secure federal grant funding through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).
This fall, the UCF Program was awarded $26.6 million in IRA grant funding from the U.S. Forest Service to stand up two sizable sub-award programs--a $10 million fund devoted specifically to Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations, and a $12.5 million fund that will be available to all eligible entities in the state of Oregon--to promote urban forest investment and equity for overburdened and underserved communities. These programs will provide funding to advance UCF planning and monitoring,

education and engagement, network development and relationship building, workforce diversification and development, nursery capacity building and tree production, tree planting and maintenance, and adaptive management and lesson sharing throughout the state of Oregon.

Wood Innovations

The Wood Innovations program purpose is to stimulate, expand, and support U.S. wood products and wood energy markets to support the long-term management of the National Forest System and other forest lands. In 2023 there were four nationally competitive grant programs: Wood Innovation Grants (WIG), Community Wood (CW), Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance (WPIA), Firewood Banks. ODF staff engages with partners and stakeholders and shares information with SPTF staff about emerging technologies and serves on review teams to help evaluate and rank proposals.

The Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance grants invested $2,737,100 in facilities that purchase and process byproducts of ecosystem restoration projects in high priority areas for ecological restoration because of unnaturally severe high fire and insect risks.

The Wood Innovation Program invested $1,533,125 in wood innovations grants funding to eight projects including mass timber buildings showcasing and advancing wood as a sustainable building material to supporting family owned mills that are vital to local communities and rural economies.

The Community Wood Program invested $2,749,161 to three projects to purchase equipment needed to create Veneer Laminated Timber, process hardwoods, and establish bulk pellet infrastructure and delivery systems for federal buildings, schools, and hospitals.

The firewood bank program provides renewable and cost-effective heating sources for people in need. Partnering with the Alliance For Green Heat, $42,568 was awarded to three organizations and $80,000 was invested in one non-profit organization benefitting a federally recognized Indian tribe's efforts to establish a firewood bank program.

$4,000,000 was invested to utilize small diameter feedstocks from hazardous fuels reduction treatments to convert into biochar and apply back to public and private lands.

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