



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Oregon 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$400,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$1,140,729
Forest Legacy	\$6,080,000
Forest Stewardship	\$298,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$760,000
State Fire Assistance	\$3,783,426
Urban and Community Forestry	\$463,400
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$621,483
Total	\$13,547,038

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

Cooperative Forestry programs are implemented through a partnership between the State of Oregon, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of private forestlands, city and community trees and forests, and rural economies. Emphasis is on sustainable forests for timber and other forest products, watersheds, healthy urban and community ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and local economies. The goal is to continue providing economic, environmental, and social values and products.

Program Goals

- Increase cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in delivery.
- Use voluntary, rather than regulatory approaches.
- Empower landowners, cities, and communities to be stewards of the land.

Key Issues

- Assist communities to mitigate the wildland fire problem in the Wildland-Urban Interface.
- Administer the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program to effectively support eligible rural fire departments and improve the fire protection district capabilities.
- Utilize unused forest residue materials for energy production as an alternative to burning and as a means to reduce fire hazards.
- Minimize damage from native insects, such as bark beetles and other defoliators, and diseases, both foliage and root pathogens, which often results from overly dense stands, management history, or low species diversity.
- Respond to introductions of non-native insects, pathogens, and invasive plants on state and private lands using early detection/rapid response practices for new introductions and management & suppression practices for established populations.
- Slow the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the cause of sudden oak death, through early detection, local eradication of the more aggressive EU1 strain, and containment. Funding remains a limiting factor in the state's ability to mitigate the spread and damage of the disease.
- Maintain large blocks of private industrial forestlands as working forests despite the loss of forest product markets and increasing development.
- Encourage long-term sustainable management of family forestlands by assisting the owners to develop and implement a plan to actively manage their forest and related resources according to their objectives.
- Improve infrastructure for better access for fire protection while enhancing fish habitat.

- Educate cities about the public safety, economic development, environmental quality, and community livability benefits that result from the proper planting and management of their urban trees.
- Help strengthen, or pass new, tree ordinances, develop tree inventories and management plans, train local staff, support tree advisory committees, and develop comprehensive municipal urban forestry programs.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	3,831,074	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	1,060
Acres of Forest Land	29,740,902	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	17,617
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	6,970,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	8,834
Number of NIPF Landowners	149,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	65
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	2,411,706	State Fire Communities Assisted	108
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	13,493,620	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	14,670
Number of Rural Fire Departments	168	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	1,539
Cities and Towns	242	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	125
Forest Based Employment	41,161	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,789,259
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	8,395
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	147,429,143		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

Cooperative Fire funds are a key component of Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF's) fire budget and strategy to improve protection efficiency and effectiveness on non-Federal lands. These funds allow 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. 65 fire departments and rangeland associations were funded through the VFA program in 2020. These dollars provide capacity for a local fire response, often the first resources to attack a fire. These organizations saved the public potentially millions of dollars in suppression costs in 2020. The number of Firewise Communities increased to 194 statewide, with the addition of 17 new communities in 2020. Oregon is ranked 2nd amongst states for the number of Firewise communities. The 2020 Western State Fire Managers (WSFM) grant projects will mitigate fire hazards in thirty nine communities with a goal of treating 1,430 acres in the wildland urban interface. The Community Assistance grant has projects that treat hazardous fuels in fifteen communities and are forecast to treat 845 acres.

On January 30, 2019, Governor Brown signed an executive order creating the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response (GCWR). The Council is reviewing Oregon's current model for wildfire prevention, preparedness and response, analyzing whether or not the current model is sustainable given our increasing wildfire risks. Cooperative Fire resources and efforts are integral to the GCWR discussions and decision-making process.

Forest Health Protection

The Forest Health unit prevents and protects forests from harm, in alignment with the Forest Action Plan. Covid and a extreme fire season were primary causes in preventing the traditional cooperative aerial detection survey; a limited survey in priority areas was accomplished using a combination of remote sensing, pan and sketch, and ground surveys. The new workflows developed will produce a useful data product, and further assessment of the methods and the applicability to the end user, are expected.

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) continues to be a priority issue. ODF, USFS, and BLM completed treatments on 31 acres and most of an additional 700 acres were cut, piled and slashed and are slated to be burned by mid 2021. The SOD quarantine boundary is unchanged; new infestations were detected approximately 2 miles inside the northern boundary. ODF, Oregon State University, and USFS collaborated on: 1) a citizen science and educational outreach campaign, 2) testing tanoak seedling SOD resistance, and 3) improving imagery analysis methods to detect new infestations.

The Oregon Forest Pest Detector Program continued training. The "Emerald Ash Borer Readiness and Response Plan" was released. Oregon ash seeds were collected to ensure species preservation and aid resistance research.

ODF formed a research group with USFS biologists to focus on native bees in forestlands. ODF & WA DNR are participating in an effort to map and collect data on western redcedar dieback and have collected data in 87 sites. The WRC team trained urban & wildland foresters on data collection protocols; developed technical and general outreach, and put together an international summit to tackle the issue. The ODA Noxious weed program was severely affected by Covid, but was still able to treat 6,000 acres of invasive plants, and made 135 biocontrol releases, including 2 new agents for gorse and Japanese knotweed. 2882 acres of hay, and 2.5 million tons of rock material were certified as weed free.

Forest Legacy

Wallowa County acquired the East Moraine Wallowa Lake tract utilizing grants awarded in FY2016 and FY2017. Wallowa Lake Land Trust, Wallowa Resources, and other key partners with Wallowa County are finalizing a multi-resource management plan for ODF review and approval in 2021.

Negotiations have continued with Weyerhaeuser, assisted by Western Rivers Conservancy, for the Hood River Fish and Forest Conservation Project. The landowner, Oregon Department of Justice and USFS, has approved the conservation easement. ODF and USFS have conducted a risk analysis for federal review appraisal involvement in the appraisal process. The appraisal package for this project will be submitted early in 2021 and will initiate the appraisal process. Funding requests for the final phase of this project have been resubmitted and are under review in the FY2022 funding cycle.

Due diligence has begun for the Arch Cape Watershed Phase 1 (FY20 funding). ODF is working with Arch Cape Watershed Board, Sustainable Northwest and North Coast Land Conservancy to compile the appraisal package documents. ODF anticipates submitting the appraisal package for USFS Review Appraiser to initiate appraisal instruction in December 2020. ODF is awaiting final budgets for FY2021 regarding Phase 2 of Arch Cape Watershed FLP Project and Spence Mountain. Upon final budgeting due diligence for Spence Mountain will begin engaging multiple funding sources and seeking to finalize cost-share and bridge the funding gap as we await the FY22 FLP list. Based on shifts to the application and funding cycle as a result of the Great American Outdoors Act and anticipated funding shifts for FLP, ODF will revamp the application process for FY23 and is currently in discussions with multiple project partners about future FLP projects.

Forest Stewardship

The Forest Stewardship Program assists governments and private landowners to improve resource conditions on forestlands. Stewardship Foresters provide one-on-one technical assistance to individual landowners, operators, forestry, and other natural resource professionals on improving resource conditions on private (primarily family forest) owned forestlands. Assistance was provided to: 416 family forest owners on general forestry and forestland management affecting 73,715 forestland acres; 7 forest operators on marketing and forest product utilization affecting 2,727 acres; 22 landowners on watershed improvement activities affecting 157 acres; 44 landowners on afforestation or reforestation projects covering 2,009 acres; 189 landowners on timber stand improvement projects on 11,791 acres; 36 landowners on wildfire fuel treatment and slash reduction projects on 3,681 acres; 22 landowners on wildlife habitat enhancements covering 5,886 acres; 18 landowners on invasive species topics covering 1,324 acres; and 41 landowners with forest health concerns covering 4,914 acres.

ODF supports 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. ODF also provided assistance to 13 family forest owners so they could find and hire a professional forester or other qualified natural resource professional to write an Oregon multiple resource, long-term management plan meeting national Forest Stewardship Program standards on their property. Total stewardship plan

accomplishments in 2019 covered 17,244 acres. ODF Stewardship foresters spent 3,170 hours responding to walk-in and telephone technical assistance inquiries and assisted an additional 197 participants in training sessions, watershed council meetings, local advisory groups and other education/outreach forums.

Landowner Assistance

The Oregon Department of Forestry has no dedicated state funding for landowner assistance. The Forest Stewardship Program provides base funding that we leverage to help landowners access cost share and other resources through a host of partners. These partners, which include 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. 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). Through this agreement, ODF is able to hire additional capacity to provide technical assistance to landowners receiving cost share through NRCS. The Department also partners with the American Forest Foundation (AFF) on innovative landowner engagement strategies and has recently begun work on a joint pilot project designed to bring additional capacity for forest management planning to targeted watersheds in Eastern and Southwest Oregon.

Landscape Scale Restoration

The Oregon Department of Forestry is a partner in the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP), located in South Central Oregon. KLFHP, which is a broad collaborative group that includes federal, state, and local partners, has come together to build cross-boundary, landscape scale projects that serve both landowner and resource needs. Their efforts are a model for Forest Stewardship at scale. Their efforts have successfully built two Joint Chiefs projects in Klamath and Lake Counties – North Warner and Chiloquin. In areas where Joint Chiefs funds have not been available, they have leveraged other resources. ODF's Federal Forest Restoration Program takes advantage of the Good Neighbor Authority to complete restoration work on federal lands. ODF also has a statewide agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist forest landowners with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The group has paired these programs to treat thousands of acres of adjacent public and private lands. Recognizing that not all programs are the right fit for some landowners, KLFHP has also secured supplemental funds through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and other federal opportunities, such as the Western States Fire Managers program. Members of KLFHP have captured their success in an OSU Extension publication: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw707>.

Oregon Seed Bank

The J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard is one of the primary sources of seed for regrowing Oregon's forests with seed and seedling needs are matched to appropriate geographic areas in the PNW. Seed orchard staff also provides Technical Assistance to Family Forest Landowners, industrial landowners, and forest seedling nurseries to assure that seed and seedling needs are matched to appropriate geographic areas in the PNW.

During the 2020 calendar year, the Oregon Seed Bank program and through ODF State Forest surplus seed sales provided enough seed to produce 5,971,000 seedlings or enough to reforest almost 13,725 acres.

The Schroeder Seed Orchard Tree Improvement efforts have been instrumental on moving 3rd. cycle breeding programs for Douglas Fir and western hemlock forward. In 2020, 175 new third cycle crosses were made at Schroeder for these programs. The first progeny tests have been established for these programs and once these tests are completed, new selections will be made and serve as the backbone for new 3rd cycle seed orchards. These new orchards will eventually provide the bulk of new seed planted by state, federal, and industrial partners in the Pacific Northwest. Through the Oregon Seed Bank, this seed will be made available to Family Forest Landowners in Oregon assuring that they will continue to have access to the most advanced, genetically improved seed available. This will help ensure that broadly-adapted, disease-resistant, highly-productive genetic sources of a range of species continue to be planted on Family Forest lands in Oregon.

The 2020 cone harvest at Schroeder was the largest on record. The 10,620 bushel harvest exceeded the

2nd largest 2016 harvest by 66%. While cones are still being processed to extract seed, we project this harvest should produce approximately 3,500 to 4,000 lbs. of seed or enough to produce approximately 55 million seedlings enough to reforest approximately 120,000 acres.

Oregons Federal Forest Restoration Program - Sharing Stewardship of Oregons Forestlands

Oregon established the Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program in 2013 "to accelerate the pace, scale and quality of forest restoration to increase the resilience of Oregon's federal forests, in a manner that leverages collaborative efforts and contributes to the long-term vitality of regional economies and rural communities." The FFR Program supports forest collaboratives through competitive grants and technical assistance contract awards. With FFR Program support and before, local collaborative groups have demonstrated success in building trust across stakeholder groups and have enabled a base of active forest restoration work on Oregon's national forests. FFR District Coordinators work with USDA FS Region 6 staff and local collaboratives to develop local projects. The FFR Program is a direct avenue for the state to respond to the urgent need to restore our federal forests and revitalize our rural economies. Since enacting FFR the State of Oregon has invested over \$1 million per year to increase capacity and build collaborative agreement to accelerate restoration work in Oregon's 11 National Forests and 8 BLM Districts. In 2014 Congress authorized partnerships between the State and the federal forest agencies to accomplish restoration on federal land under the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). GNA projects allow the Forest Service and BLM to provide funds and timber value to the State so that ODF personnel and contractors can implement management actions authorized by federal land managers, accomplishing more restoration on federal forest lands by adding capacity from the state. ODF has used FFR funds to jump-start GNA projects in 10 of Oregon's National Forests and a few BLM Districts. As of August 2020 the Federal Forest Restoration Program has GNA projects with signed supplemental agreements for services in the amount of \$8,088,170 (up \$4.6M from 8/2019) and product removal in the amount of \$7,293,413 (up \$1.8M from 8/2019).

Urban and Community Forestry

The mission of the UCF program is to help Oregonians improve their quality of life by promoting community investment in our urban forests. Urban and Community Assistance Forestry Program staff assist communities with a wide range of technical, educational, and organizational "Best Management Practices" through onsite visits and training, webinars, newsletters, email, and video conferencing.

In 2020, the UCF program staff helped cities improve their urban forest canopy through a webinar series; implementation of statewide tree mapping software; strategizing on better diversity, equity, and inclusion outreach in partnership with Oregon Community Trees); and understanding the potential roles that urban forests can play in climate change mitigation.

Covid-19 pandemic restrictions limited field outreach and the annual urban forestry conference had to be rescheduled for 2021. U&CF produced eight webinars that reached 150 participants representing 60 unique cities, schools, and nonprofits. Sixty-seven cities recertified as Tree City USAs, and seven universities certified as Tree Campus USAs. Scholarships were awarded to five Oregon Community Trees Directors to attend the Partners in Community Forestry conference. Staff provided over 325 statewide assists to private citizens, schools, colleges, and other public entities.

In an event that became a highlight of the year, approximately 35 Oregon cities, schools, and churches accepted Green Legacy Hiroshima Peace Trees. Grown from the seeds of trees that survived the Hiroshima bombing, these trees were grown, cared for, and distributed across the state through a partnership between ODF-UCF, Oregon Community Trees, and One Sunny Day Initiatives -- a Medford-based nonprofit organization that promotes world peace. The trees carry a message of peace and reconciliation on the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII in 2020.

Wildfire Recovery and Restoration - A Shared Stewardship Approach

In January of 2019, Governor Brown signed an executive order creating the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. The Council embraced a Shared Stewardship approach to wildfire prevention, response, and recovery, and made recommendations to address Oregon's increasingly catastrophic and costly wildfire seasons. The 2020 wildfire season highlighted the need for a Shared Stewardship approach.

On September 7, an uncharacteristically strong and dry east-wind event, combined with dry forest

conditions, caused the most catastrophic wildfire event in Oregon's history. At the peak, ODF was tracking 17 major wildland fires, with multiple large fires roaring through key watersheds and communities west of the Cascades. Five of these fires were among the top 25 worst fires of all time in Oregon. In all, 4,524 structures were lost and 1.2 million acres of private, city, county, state, and federal forests burned. Now, Oregon is facing its largest-ever fire recovery operation.

These recovery efforts rely upon a Shared Stewardship approach to: 1) Provide a coordinated and collaborative response through cooperation with the Natural and Cultural Resources Task Force and federal natural resource agencies; 2) Provide organizational planning and ensure accountability for recovery operations using an All Lands approach; 3) Ensure timely and accurate information sharing.

An Erosion Threat Assessment & Recovery Team has been mobilized and is following Oregon's recovery plan to: 1) Address areas of high erosion potential associated with debris torrents and public safety debris management; 2) Work with Oregon's tribes to protect cultural resources at risk; 3) Prioritize investments in critical streams for aquatic habitat and those that need active restoration. Oregon is facing recovery and restoration needs at a magnitude never addressed before; embracing a Shared Stewardship approach is essential to meeting this unprecedented challenge.

Willamette Valley Oak Restoration

The Willamette Valley Oak Restoration project embraces a Shared Stewardship approach to landscape scale restoration. This model approach aims to simplify landowner access to planning resources and cost share funding to increase the pace and scale of restoration on private lands. The landscape of focus is an endangered forest ecotype, Oak woodlands and Savannas in the Southern Willamette Valley. Over 95% of this habitat no longer exists. Remaining stands are fragmented and primarily small, non-industrial landownerships, which are increasingly impacted through development, agriculture and the removal of natural disturbance of low intensity surface fires.

A tri-county landscape-scale oak management plan will be developed for Lane, Linn and Benton Counties. The management plan will be collaboratively developed, led by ODF and the Long Tom Watershed Council. The plan will address two key management objectives: strategies to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health. The scale of this plan is intended to facilitate ODF-NRCS collaboration via EQUIP projects by easing the planning burden, improving ODF stewardship foresters' efficiency in providing NRCS deliverables while providing landowners and the NRCS more detail than is currently required for practice plans.

This plan is expected to demonstrate a new approach to increase the pace and scale of restoration on private lands by addressing economies of scale, providing historical conditions, soil types, desired future conditions and treatment prescription templates. The plan will include a funding flowchart, pairing various funding and representative agencies to landowner objectives. Funding for forest management activities by Watershed Council administered OWEB grants, ODF WSFM grants, and NRCS EQIP funding

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