Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2022 Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Forestry and Open Space</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management</td>
<td>$741,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Legacy</td>
<td>$2,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Scale Restoration</td>
<td>$217,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$404,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and Community Forestry</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Fire Assistance</td>
<td>$692,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,286,024</strong></td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Facts</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>FY 2022 Accomplishments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>4,237,256</td>
<td>Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Forest Land</td>
<td>29,740,902</td>
<td>Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land</td>
<td>6,276,127</td>
<td>Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of NIPF Landowners</td>
<td>37,735</td>
<td>Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>2,411,706</td>
<td>State Fire Communities Assisted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection</td>
<td>13,493,620</td>
<td>Coop Forest Health Acres Protected</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Rural Fire Departments</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities and Towns</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Based Employment</td>
<td>41,161</td>
<td>Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Forestry Budget (All Sources)</td>
<td>147,429,143</td>
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### Program Highlights

**Certified Burn Manager Program**

Oregon's Legislature, through SB762, made a major investment in prescribed fire moving into 2023 through the Certified Burn Manager (CBM) program for non-federal lands under ODF protection. Among the barriers to prescribed fire in Oregon is a trained workforce, and this program aims to address that through accredited training that creates certified professionals to increase available resources to conduct prescribed burning. When landowners within ODF protection districts either use a CBM, or are one themselves, and follow their required burn plan it also protects both from civil liability. An advisory committee will be formed to provide guidance in the administration of the program, including development and delivery of training curriculum, in anticipation of program launch in Spring of 2023.

**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. 75 fire departments and rangeland associations were funded through the VFA program in 2021. 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 2022. The number of Firewise Communities increased to 260 statewide, with the addition of 29 new communities in 2022. Oregon is ranked second amongst states for the number of Firewise communities. The 2022 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.

**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 the 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. EDA funds will also support workforce investments in forestry, construction, and manufacturing.

**Federal Forest Restoration and Shared Stewardship**

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 is the primary mechanism for the state to respond to the urgent need to restore our federal forests and revitalize our rural economies.

Oregon has invested over $21 million of state funds (2013-2023) to increase capacity and build the social license to accelerate restoration work across the state. Oregon Department of Forestry has 26 active GNA Agreements with the USFS, 24 with ten National Forests and two with Region 6. These agreements have resulted in the completion of 20,000 acres of non-commercial fuels reduction, thinning, and wildlife habitat improvement; 35 timber sales sold/completed; 9 fully contracted NEPA Categorical Exclusion (CE) projects covering 35,000 acres; and 650 acres of monitoring.

The FFR Program staff work closely with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) staff and local collaboratives to develop projects to improve the health of the forests and watersheds across the 14 million acres of National Forest System (NFS) within Oregon. A new Master Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreement was signed in 2022 to extend cooperation through 2032. In 2022 the FFR Program expanded from 9 to 25 permanent staff.

Utilizing a blend of funding, including $6.5 million of state funds between 2021-2023, the FFR Program contributes to the full adaptive management cycle for work on federal forestlands in Oregon: collaboration, planning, implementation, and monitoring.

**Forest Health Protection**

ODF Forest Health, cooperated with the USFS and WDNR, to complete the annual statewide aerial and Swiss Needle Cast surveys and recorded 2.1 million ac and 650,000 ac of damage, respectively. A historic level of tree fir mortality (1.1 million ac) was recorded in south-central OR due to drought, root disease, and insects. Damage from the 2021 heat dome was visible but did not cause widespread mortality. ODF added an Aerial Survey Specialist. 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 ac and 239 ac were cut, piled and slashed for burning. Treatment work continued on the aggressive NA2 infestation detected in 2021. The generally infested area (where treatment is no longer required) will be expanded in 2023 to encompass areas not treated in the last few years. Climate change and drought conditions impacted vulnerable species, such as western redcedar (WRC). A USFS-funded project was completed in collaboration with WDNR on mapping and identifying the cause of western redcedar dieback in OR and WA. Results indicate the reduction of moisture makes sites inhospitable for WRC. ODF Forest Health staff identified emerald ash borer (EAB) in Forest Grove, OR in June, and traps detected additional
EAB nearby. OR Dept of Agric (ODA) and ODF co-developed an interagency survey that included 2,000 trees. ODF is leading components of the interagency EAB Task Force and began projects on air curtain incineration, survey and monitoring, and wood sanitation guidelines. Seeds from 135 Oregon ash trees in 17 populations were collected for the genetic repository. Mediterranean oak borer was surveyed in coordination with ODA. Twenty-one specimens were captured in 4 northern Willamette Valley counties. Two OR Pest Detector workshops were delivered to natural resource agencies. ODA treated 7,500 ac of Japanese knotweed, Tree-of-Heaven, and other noxious weeds. Seven spongy moth were trapped.

**Forest Legacy**
Arch Cape Water District acquired the Arch Cape Watershed tract utilizing grants awarded in FY2020 and FY2021. Sustainable Northwest and North Coast Land Conservancy were key partners in this acquisition. Arch Cape Water District is currently working on their multi-resource management plan with assistance from a community working group as well as a partnership with National Parks Service to identify recreational opportunities and needs across the forestlands acquired by Arch Cape Water District and North Coast Land Conservancy. The management plan and grant close will be completed in calendar year 2023.

ODF in partnership with Trust for Public Land and Klamath County have proceeded through necessary due diligence and a contract appraisal and appraisal review on the Spence Mountain project. This project is scheduled to close in the first quarter of FFY23 utilizing FLP funds from FY2021 and FY2022. ODF will work towards closing out this grant once all documentation is finalized and FLP requirements are met.

ODF, in partnership with Western Rivers Conservancy, has been coordinating the contract appraisal and federal appraisal review for the Hood River Forest and Fish Conservation Project. Project partners meet bi-weekly to track this progress and ensure the process remains on track.

ODF, in partnership with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, have begun working through preliminary due diligence for the Minam Phase 2 fee title acquisition. FLP funding may be awarded through FY23 funding or through Inflation Reduction Act FLP funds. This project needs to close prior to December 31, 2023 and ODF and USFS FLP are working on the appraisal package and Request for Appraisal Services, anticipating that the appraisal will begin in first quarter FFY2023.

The Columbia Gorge and Tualatin Mountain projects have been submitted for FY24 funding consideration.

**Forest Stewardship**
The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) assists governments and non-industrial private landowners to improve resource conditions on forestlands. Stewardship Foresters provide one-on-one technical assistance. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has no dedicated state funding for landowner assistance. The FSP provides base funding that is leveraged 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.

In 2022, assistance was provided to 238 family forest owners affecting 113,345 forestland acres. Total stewardship plan accomplishments in 2022 covered 5,394 acres. Stewardship foresters spent 2,020 hours responding to walk-in and telephone technical assistance inquires and assisted an additional 142 participants in training sessions, watershed council meetings, local advisory groups and other education/outreach forums.

ODF has also helped landowners who were affected by large wildfires by providing technical assistance through the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). Since the Labor Day Fires of 2020, ODF has delivered over 175 plans covering 12,500 acres and provided 558 hours of Technical Assistance. ODF also partners with the American Forest Foundation 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.
ODF foresters also 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.

**J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard - Oregon Seed Bank**

The J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard is one of the primary sources of seed for regrowing Oregon's forests. Seed orchard staff provide Technical Assistance to family forest landowners, industrial landowners, and forest seedling nurseries to assure that seed and seedling stock are matched to the appropriate needs of specific geographic areas across Oregon.

The Schroeder Seed Orchard Tree Improvement efforts are instrumental to move 3rd. cycle breeding programs for Douglas Fir and western hemlock forward. Through the Oregon Seed Bank, this seed is available to family forest landowners in Oregon. By providing highly advanced genetically improved seed the J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard ensures that landowners have access to broadly adapted, disease-resistant seedlings from highly productive genetic sources across a range of species.

In 2022, the Oregon seed bank program and surplus seed sales from state forest distributed over 425 pounds of seed from 9 species. These species included ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, noble fir, Red Alder, western white pine, grand fir, and Jeffrey pine. Combined, these 425 pounds of seed had the capability to produce approximately 6 million seedlings.

From 2016 to 2021, four of the five greatest harvests on record at Schroeder have occurred. This was culminated by the single greatest harvest on record in 2020, when 10,620 bushels of cones were harvested. Douglas Fir seed yields from the 2020 harvest exceeded 5100 of seed. This massive harvest was 69% greater than the second largest harvest at record on record at Schroeder. The 2020 harvest also included orchards that had the highest per acre yields on record at Schroeder.

**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 Willamette Valley Oak Landscape Scale 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

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. 2022 was a year of transition for the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. In the wake of the retirements of two long-time urban forestry program staff members, ODF successfully hired a new urban forestry program manager, Scott Altenhoff, in June. Two weeks after Scott's start date, the invasive insect, emerald ash borer (EAB), was detected in Forest Grove. Coordinating an EAB response plan, building program capacity, aligning partnerships, administering grants, and anticipating an influx of Federal funding have taken up the majority of Scott's time. Fortunately, in December, the program will be welcoming a new community assistance forester, Brittany Oxford.

With the assistance of temporary program staff, the UCF program has been able to continue most of its "business as usual." Through 2022 the program has promoted and increased the implementation of its statewide tree mapping software TreePlotter™ inventory; maintained the Tree City USA program with 29 participating cities; worked productively with the state urban forestry advisory council, Oregon Community Trees; administered scholarship grants for the Municipal Forestry Institute and the Partners in Community Forestry Institute, along with most of its other outreach efforts. Staff provided 250 statewide assists to private citizens, schools, colleges, and other public entities.

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