



ABOUT NASF

The mission of the National Association of State Foresters is to represent state and territorial forester interests by influencing forest policy and leading efforts to promote healthy and sustainable trees and forests.

ABOUT USFS

The U.S. Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Learn More:

www.stateforesters.org

www.fs.fed.us

www.oregon.gov/ODF

www.forestationplans.org



Partnerships Across Boundaries: Restoring, Protecting Forests with the Oregon Department of Forestry



With support from the USDA Forest Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is achieving goals outlined in its Forest Action Plan.

Oregon has turned the threat of wildfire into a chance for new collaboration with partners and opportunities for restoration including:

- A 70,000-acre restoration project across multiple land ownerships
- Technical assistance to more than 30 private landowners treating more than 3,000 acres.
- Grants to help develop markets for the woody biomass that restoration produces—important in lowering restoration costs.

Wildfire knows no boundaries, a reality that long has united wildland firefighters across jurisdictions. Now an interagency team in the Blue Mountains of northeast Oregon and southwest Washington has pushed collaboration even further, with forest restoration, fuels reduction and other work focused on landscapes rather than ownership lines.

Led by ODF, the team uses the framework of the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy, an outgrowth of the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act of 2009. The strategy, being piloted in just a few places nationally, seeks to enhance wildfire response, create fire-adapted communities and improve forest resiliency.

“We have a long history of working together on wildfires...That forms a great foundation for working together on restoring forest resiliency and reducing fuels, with the aim of treating larger landscapes,” said Mark Jacques, project coordinator with ODF.

That means working across ownerships—a true “all lands, all hands” approach. This concept drives a 70,000-acre restoration project along the eastern face of the Blue Mountains, which has received USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding through the Chiefs’ Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership.

The East Face project aligns fuels reduction and restoration work from ridge top to valley floor. In the project’s first year, ODF foresters have provided technical assistance to more than 30 private landowners treating more than 3,000 acres, using NRCS cost-share funds through the Joint Chiefs’ award. ODF is also administering a 200-acre timber harvest on Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife lands, reducing fuels and improving fire resiliency. Across the boundary line, the Willowa-Whitman National Forest leads a complementary project.

Ramping up restoration requires new approaches to investment and collaboration. In a pioneering step, Oregon state government has invested \$2.88 million in federal forest restoration, supplemented with federal funds. Some of the state dollars help support local collaborative groups, including one involved in planning the 46,000-acre East Face Restoration Project on the Willowa-Whitman. Implementation is set to begin in 2016.

Through innovation and collaboration, the Blue Mountains project offers new opportunities and a brighter future for our forests and the communities that depend on them.

Photo credits: ODF; Joel Prince.