



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Oregon 2019



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$550,000
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$901,877
Forest Legacy	\$3,800,000
Forest Stewardship	\$261,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$1,076,643
State Fire Assistance	\$2,832,306
Urban and Community Forestry	\$590,622
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$591,248
Total	\$10,603,696

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, 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 2018 Accomplishments	Value
Population	3,831,074	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	917
Acres of Forest Land	29,656,156	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	18,645
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	6,970,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	11,414
Number of NIPF Landowners	149,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	51
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	2,411,706	State Fire Communities Assisted	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	13,493,620	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	7,134
Number of Rural Fire Departments	168	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	242	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	151
Forest Based Employment	41,161	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	2,914,795
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	15,993
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	147,429,143		

Program Highlights

Cohesive Wildfire Strategy

ODF leads one of only three Cohesive Wildfire Strategy (CWS) pilot projects nationally. CWS promotes collaborative work across landscapes and stakeholders, using best science to support three goals: resilient landscapes; fire-adapted communities; and efficient, effective wildfire response. In the Illinois Valley community engagement led to a 52,000 acre landscape restoration project on USFS, BLM, and private lands. Across the Rogue Basin, the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI) is spawning collaborative funding strategies like Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's proposal to support restoration activities on public and adjacent private lands. Regional field trainings reached to over 100 private landowners, and demonstrated proper forest thinning, debris management and debris disposal methods. The "My Southern Oregon Woodlands" landowner outreach program reached 50 landowners with property assessments covering over 3,700 acres of small, non-industrial forest.

In the northern Blue Mountain Geo-region, a CWS project spanning 8 million acres of northeast Oregon and southeast Washington demonstrate that the collaborative approach and process used to develop this sizeable project is worth replicating elsewhere. In 2018 a new and more comprehensive Community Wildfire Protection Plan was completed for four counties in the project area. Five counties have now implemented GIS wildland/urban interface pre-fire home site identification and triage program called Interra. The annual "All Partner" wildfire simulation exercise in Umatilla County focused on local relationships and included non-traditional partners. Nearly 90 participants representing over 25 entities attended the exercise. Forestland owners across a four county area learned about opportunities for cross boundary, all lands projects in forest management activities through the "My Blue Mountain Woodlands" campaign. The "Smoke Management Issues" work group continued efforts in improving public outreach.

Community Forestry and Open Space

In 2018, Oregon's Eagle Creek Community Forest in Clackamas County was selected through national competition to receive a \$550,000 Community Forest and Open Space grant. Through the grant, Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District will perpetually conserve 319 acres of working forestland at risk of conversion to rural residential estate development.

The District will manage the community forest in conjunction with, and for the benefit of, a larger landscape of adjacent conserved lands – including a popular county park that also includes significant patches of low-elevation old growth forest, federal forestland, and rare low-elevation late seral forests, including patches of old growth owned by a local electric utility – totaling over 1,400 acres. The project will provide perpetual community benefits in a high priority watershed that provides drinking water to 300,000 people.

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 the 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. 71 fire departments and rangeland associations were funded through the VFA program in 2018. These dollars allowed for the growth and expansion of 23 rangeland protection associations engaged in suppression efforts. Often the first resource to attack a fire, these organizations saved the public potentially millions of dollars in suppression costs in 2018. The number of Firewise Communities increased to 146 statewide, with the addition of 15 new communities in 2018. The 2018 Western State Fire Managers (WSFM) grant projects will mitigate fire hazards in nineteen communities with a goal of treating 1,840 acres in the wildland urban interface. The Community Assistance grant has projects that treat hazardous fuels in five communities and are forecasted to treat 715 acres.

Federal Forest Restoration Program and Good Neighbor Authority

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 contracts. In this process, local collaborative groups have demonstrated success in building renewed trust across stakeholder groups and have enabled a base of forest management activities 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 an active means 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 resources to the State so that ODF can to implement management actions authorized by federal land managers and provide additional human resources to accomplish more restoration on federal forest lands. The GNA is a method to transfer federal funds to the state to complete restoration work on federal land. ODF has used FFR funds to jump-start GNA projects in numerous National Forest Units and BLM Districts. In 2018 the Federal Forest Restoration Program has GNA projects with signed supplemental agreements for services in the amount of \$3,076,147 and product removal in the amount of \$1,480,227.

Forest Biomass

The Forest Biomass program is essential to build biomass markets in order to increase the pace and scale of federal land restoration, reduce fire risk, and support local economies. As a result of these efforts market demand is increasing in five key sectors: thermal energy, liquid fuels, biochar, cross-laminated timber, and integrated manufacturing. Oregon Department of Forestry relies on collaboration and partnerships to provide the financial, technical, communication, and coordination assistance in order to support biomass enterprise development. This collaboration was showcased at the 2018 International Mass Timber Conference in held in Portland, Oregon. Several collaborative market development efforts are supported by ODF, which includes providing direct technical assistance to project and business developers. The landscape scale forest restoration project includes private, state, and federal land managers working toward shared goals. ODF works to ensure that sufficient markets exist to utilize the by-products of collaborative treatments.

The Oregon Statewide Wood Energy Team is comprised of academic, private, state, federal, and non-

profit partners, and the team utilizes an integrated approach in order to expand and advance wood to energy use. One aspect of the approach is to use experts to raise public awareness and develop support for high-priority biomass projects. Another approach, one used by the Western Juniper Group, is to emphasize coordinated collective action as a means grow markets for western juniper and support rangeland restoration efforts. The strategic elements of this approach are strengthening the juniper brand with green consumers, supporting utilization businesses, and building a comprehensive juniper supply chain. ODF also engages a broad array of biomass stakeholders to ensure they are informed and aware of opportunities to participate in the development of climate and energy policies affecting forests and the forest industry.

Forest Health Protection

ODF in cooperation with the FS, conducts aerial and ground surveys for insect, disease, vertebrate animal and abiotic damage and mortality. The annual aerial detection survey covers 30 million acres including additional surveys for agents such as Sudden Oak Death (SOD) and Swiss needle cast (SNC). Oregon's SOD strategy includes early detection surveys, slowing the spread of the NA1 strain of the pathogen and eradication of the EU1 strain. With other partners, ODF participates in the SOD Task Force. SNC continued to impact Douglas-fir in the Coast Range but severity decreased slightly from 2016. Tree mortality due to bark beetles and the flatheaded fir borer decreased, likely from reduced available host following the 2012-2015 drought. Most of the state is still in a drought and many trees are still at risk of beetle attack. ODF provides technical assistance and training to landowners and forest managers. Cost-share funds provided by the USDA FS are available for private landowners to create bark beetle resilient stands through stand thinning and slash disposal. Balsam woolly adelgid, a chronic pest of true firs, continued to spread in the Cascades. ODF and OSU Extension cooperate to teach arborists, foresters and other professionals on the early signs of invasive species (e.g. emerald ash borer) as part of the Oregon Pest Detector Program. A Invasive Woodborer Survey was conducted along the Columbia River. ODF conducted Hazard Tree Training for state park employees, and joined OSU and ODA on the board of the Oregon Bee Project, to enhance pollinator health and habitat on all lands. ODA reported no moths captured in areas treated for Asian Gypsy moth in 2016; and planning is occurring for GM eradication in Corvallis in 2019. ODA continues with an invasive plant program treating 10,000+ ac of 13 priority weed species with numerous partners, and continues an active public and education program. The governor declared May 13-19, 2018 as Oregon Invasive Weed Awareness week.

Forest Legacy

ODF and project partners continued acquisition activities for the 1,533 East Moraine Wallowa Lake project, a fee-title acquisition which will be held by Wallowa County. This acquisition will be supported by grants awarded in FY2016 and FY2017. Key partners include the Trust for Public Land and Wallowa Lake Land Trust, who are integral in assisting Wallowa County with their eventual transfer of title. The appraisal and review appraisal have been completed and determined the appraised value meets USFLA standards. Final acceptance of the purchase offer is anticipated in FY2019. FY2018 funding for Hood River Fish and Forest Conservation has initiated ODF's due diligence for the first phase of this 19,000 acre project. Conservation easement negotiations have begun with landowner Weyerhaeuser Company, aided by project partner Western Rivers Conservancy. Appraisal work for this project is anticipated to begin in FY2019. Funding requests have been submitted for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of this project.

Forest Stewardship

The Forest Stewardship Program assists governments and private landowners to improve resource conditions on forestlands. Stewardship Foresters provided 741 on-site, one-on-one technical assists to individual landowners, operators, forestry, and other natural resource professionals on improving resource conditions on private (primarily family forest) and local government owned forestlands. Assistance was provided to: 97 family forest owners on general forestry and forestland management affecting 57,024 forestland acres; 6 forest operators on marketing and forest product utilization; 35 landowners on watershed improvement activities affecting 1,254 acres; 68 landowners on afforestation or reforestation projects covering 5,081 acres; 136 landowners on timber stand improvement projects on 5,273 acres; 27 landowners on wildfire fuel treatment and slash reduction projects on 12,382 acres; and 7 landowners on wildlife habitat enhancements covering 196 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 61 family forest owners so they could find and hire a professional forester or other qualified natural resource professional to write a

multiple resource, long-term management plan meeting national Forest Stewardship Program standards on their property. Total stewardship plan accomplishments in 2018 covered 18,645 acres, on which 24 landowners developed new plans covering 18,205 acres and 1 landowner conducted updates to an existing plan covering 440 acres. ODF Stewardship foresters spent 1,791 hours responding to walk-in and phone technical assistance inquiries and assisted an additional 423 participants in training sessions, watershed council meetings, local advisory groups and other education/outreach forums.

Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnerships

Since 2014 ODF has partnered with the USDA Forest Service and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service agencies on several Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership projects. Through the Joint Chief approach partnerships accomplish work on a landscape scale by finding ways to share priorities, effort, risk, costs and resources. Oregon's Joint Chiefs projects demonstrate that diverse groups of stakeholders can agree that the health of each property in a landscape is interdependent with the health of the entire landscape. Working together, it is possible to achieve landscape scale impacts to forests and watersheds, and communities. Oregon's Joint Chief Landscape Restoration Partnerships are finding ways to improve forest health, improve water quality and reduce wildfire risk. ODF is a key partner in the East Face of Elkhorn Project, Greater LaPine Basin Cohesive Strategy Project, and the North Warner Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project. Oregon is also home to the Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Project and the Salmon Super Highway Basin Management Project. All of these projects have significantly impacted their respective forests and communities.

Tree Improvement

Funded by a cooperative effort between federal, state and private landowners, ODF's Tree Improvement efforts to produce seedlings and educate the public about tree improvement and reforestation continue to produce results. In 2018, the Schroeder Seed Orchard complex produced the second largest Douglas-fir crop on record. The overall harvest came to almost 5,500 bushels, which is expected to result in about 2,200 pounds of seed, enough to produce about 33 million seedlings. The western redcedar harvest produced 134 bushels or enough seed to produce about 7.5 million seedlings. Public education and outreach remains an important part of ODF's mission. Four events were held at the Schroeder Seed Orchard to educate the public on the process of tree improvement and the importance of proper genetic selections for reforestation. One tour included visitors from Victoria, Australia who wanted to learn more about seed orchards and tree improvement efforts. An updated 2018/2019 Seedling catalog was developed, written, and will be posted on ODF's website. The catalog will assist Family Forest Landowners in their reforestation needs. Tree Improvement efforts continue to support Family Forest Landowner reforestation by facilitating availability of the best seed. In 2018 seed sources were purchased for the Oregon Seed Bank to fill critical need areas with existing seed deficiencies, and to replace seed lots purchased for sowing. Meeting these needs is a continual process, and reliance on natural seed collections with often erratic crop cycles means that substantial work remains to build seed inventories to desired levels.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) serves as a catalyst for Oregonians to improve their quality of life by promoting community investment in urban forests. Healthy urban forests can improve life quality and healthy urban forests require proper planning, management, and community investment.

ODF provided assistance to over 60 % of Oregon's cities, representing over 95% of Oregon's urban population. This is a significant increase from previous years. Staff assists communities with a wide range of technical, educational, and organizational services through onsite visits and training, webinars, newsletters, email, and video conferencing.

Staff from ODF's UCF led the development and presentation of a webinar specific to Oregon cities on how best to prepare for emerald ash borer and other invasives. Approximately 60 people participated. Staff also participated in the steering committee for the Emerald Ash Borer Readiness and Response Plan for Oregon. The UCF program provided scholarships for three Oregon Community Trees Directors to attend the Partners in Community Forestry conference in Tulsa, OK. ODF staff also produced the 2018 Annual Urban Forestry conference in partnership with Oregon Community Trees. The conference was attended by 125 people and the theme was, "The Dollars and Sense of Urban Trees – Are you getting the biggest bang for your buck?" Staff, for the first time, participated in the Oregon Association of Mayors conference along with about 60 other participants. Staff was involved in trainings and education including

the first urban forestry "field session" for the Society of American Foresters Annual Convention, the Greater Forest Park Restoration project, Linnton community FireWise efforts, and the "Urbanizing Landscapes" Master Naturalist class for OSU extension. Staff also provided technical assistance to over 35 private citizens and 25 schools, colleges, and public entities.

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