

State Partnerships Work

Oregon forestland owners need technical and financial assistance. Together, state foresters and state conservationists deliver.

State forestry agencies are the primary providers of forestry technical assistance nationwide. When they team up with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)—the leading federal source of financial assistance for forestland owners—great things happen for America's forests.

Forests in Oregon cover over 30 million acres of land. Of this acreage, non-industrial private forestland (NIPF) owners manage close to 3.7 million forested acres.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides technical and financial assistance to more than 166,000 NIPF owners through multiple agreements with NRCS. ODF and NRCS first began their collaborative agreement in 2012 to fund a few foresters in Northeast Oregon. Today, both agencies are on their third iteration of the original agreement, and it has expanded to support over 35 foresters and other natural resource experts in more than 30 offices statewide. These professionals are tasked with working directly with NIPF owners to implement forest management activities that include practices such as: thinnings; fuel breaks; post-fire reforestation; watershed habitat restoration; and agroforestry.

Direct results from this cooperative effort include nearly \$17 million of 2014 Farm Bill funding implemented by 657 landowners. In addition, the 2018 Farm Bill has provided over \$28 million for Oregonians to address shared resource concerns.



Photo credit: National Association of State Foresters

Collectively, these agreements allow ODF and NRCS to address forest-related issues identified in ODF's Forest Action Plan and NRCS' Strategic Approach to Conservation.

The coordinated efforts enable both agencies to partner at the local, regional, and statewide levels for planning and implementation of forest-related conservation activities. These activities target shared priorities including, though not limited to: fire risk reduction, forest health, wildlife, recreation, timber management, and landowner education. The cooperative agreement allows ODF to assist NRCS with providing NIPF technical assistance for a multitude of federal programs including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP), and Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP).

NRCS Oregon's Strategic Approach to Conservation

- **Partner Centric:** NRCS works with local, state, federal, NGO, and tribal partners to focus investments on high priority state resource needs.
- **Cost Effective:** NRCS leverages additional funding from partners to make federal conservation funding more strategic and far reaching.
- **Focused & Targeted:** NRCS targets investments in specific areas identified by local partners. This allows a more focused approach to achieve landscape-scale results that address state resource concerns.
- **Results Oriented:** NRCS works with local partners to set measurable goals and track meaningful conservation results.
- **Management Tool:** NRCS uses the strategic approach to allow leadership and field staff to better prioritize, track, plan, and monitor conservation projects and implementation.

Boots on the Ground: Oregonians' Real-World Success Stories

Hear from Oregonians about how they've collaborated with the USDA NRCS and ODF in discussing forest management objectives, building a forest management plan, and successfully implementing practices to achieve their conservation goals.

- ➔ **Small woodland owners leverage NRCS funding to improve forest health**
- ➔ **Forest Restoration and Resiliency in Eastern Oregon**
- ➔ **Linn County Tree Farmers of the Year Transform the Forest**



WASHINGTON COUNTY
SMALL WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION

2014 TREE FARMER
OF THE YEAR

"Dummer Family
The Ridge Tree Farm"



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