

"Increasing Pace, Scale, and Quality"

Photo credit: Michael Coughlan



FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM UPDATE

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

FACT SHEET 30 • JULY 2024



The Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program is pleased to share updates at the mid-point of the 2023-25 biennium. This period has seen significant progress in our ongoing efforts to enhance the resilience of Oregon's federal forests and support rural economies. The biennial investments in forest collaboratives and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning have been awarded, and the program's activities under the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) are entering a busy summer season. This report shares where the program's collaboration and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning investments are targeted this biennium and shows the accomplished on-the-ground work over time and across the state.

Forest Collaborative Support:

\$809,110 total to support Oregon forest collaboratives

A critical component of the FFR Program's work is its support for place-based forest collaboratives across Oregon, which focus on building agreement and social license for forest resilience treatments on federal lands. The FFR Program operates two competitive grant programs to bolster these collaborative efforts. Forest Collaborative Grants provide funding for trained facilitation support, ensuring that collaborative processes are inclusive, transparent, and effective in reaching consensus among diverse stakeholders. Technical Assistance and Science Support (TASS) grants offer technical assistance from researchers and non-profits, equipping collaboratives with the necessary expertise and resources to develop consensus recommendations to federal land management agencies. Together, these grants enable forest collaboratives to effectively address complex forest health issues, enhance the resilience of federal lands, and avoid inaction induced by disagreement.

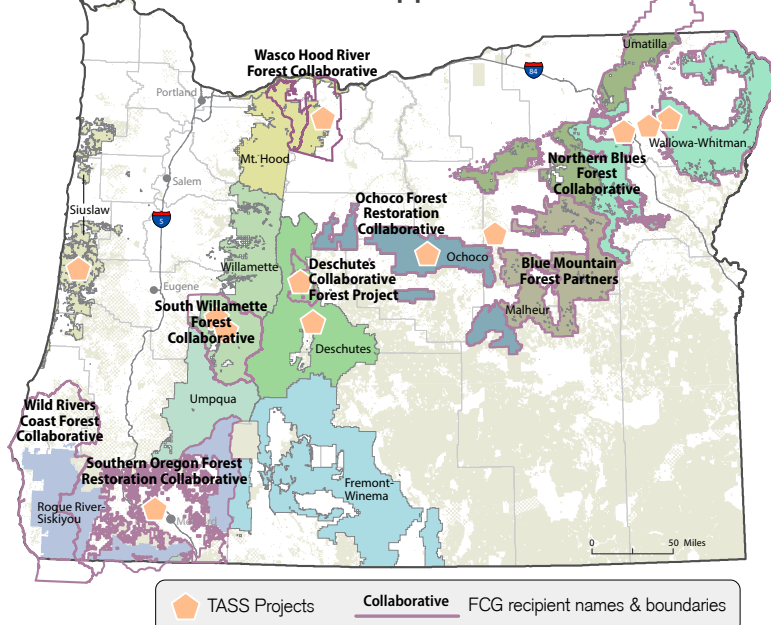
\$409,110 in Forest Collaborative Grants (FCG) provided to 8 groups:

- Blue Mountains Forest Partners (\$30,095)
- Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (\$70,648)
- Northern Blues Forest Collaborative (\$62,856)
- Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative (\$58,273)
- Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (\$55,625)
- Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative (\$55,625)
- Wasco-Hood River Forest Collaborative (\$48,949)
- Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative (\$20,000)

\$400,000 in Technical Assistance and Science Support (TASS) to 11 projects, such as:

- Research on historical fire regimes in the productive federal lands of western Oregon and monitoring the effects of silviculture intended to replicate natural disturbance events on the Willamette National Forest
- Research to understand how best to conserve mature and old trees in eastern Oregon
- Monitoring oak habitat restoration on the Mt. Hood National Forest
- Evaluating public perceptions of forest restoration efforts in the rogue basin of southwestern Oregon
- Collaborative forest planning for the Blue Mountain Forest Plan revision

Collaborative Support Locations:



Planning Assistance and Categorical Exclusions (PACE) updates: \$2,010,421 awarded

Project Name	National Forest	Award Amount
Snowy Butte heritage surveys	Rogue River-Siskiyou	\$150,000
Sun Pass CE Contract NEPA	Fremont-Winema	\$154,121
Boundary Road heritage surveys	Deschutes	\$264,000
Hootnanny CE Contract NEPA	Mt. Hood	\$35,000
Wallowa Valley CE heritage surveys	Wallowa-Whitman	\$260,000
Royce Mountain & Two Rivers heritage surveys	Deschutes	\$72,600
Bull Springs heritage surveys	Deschutes	\$84,700
Hootnanny CE heritage & wildlife surveys	Mt. Hood	\$390,000
*SW Tiller EA Contract NEPA	Umpqua	\$300,000
*54 North EA Contract NEPA	Umatilla	\$300,000

*Project is funded with state general funds, rather than federal.

Economic Development Administration Grant

In 2022, the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition, which includes the Oregon Department of Forestry, received a \$41.4 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to bolster the development of mass timber manufacturing capacity in Oregon. This initiative aims to increase affordable housing production, create jobs, and restore forest health. Among the many components of this grant project to advance the mass timber ecosystem in Oregon is the goal of increasing the supply of small-diameter fiber from federal forests in Oregon. This work, led by ODF, is intended to expand the accomplishments of the FFR Program by planning and implementing additional commercial restoration treatments and monitoring the socio-economic and ecological outcomes of this work.

Over the last six months, this grant has led to the preparation of the Dry Beard GNA commercial restoration project that will complete:

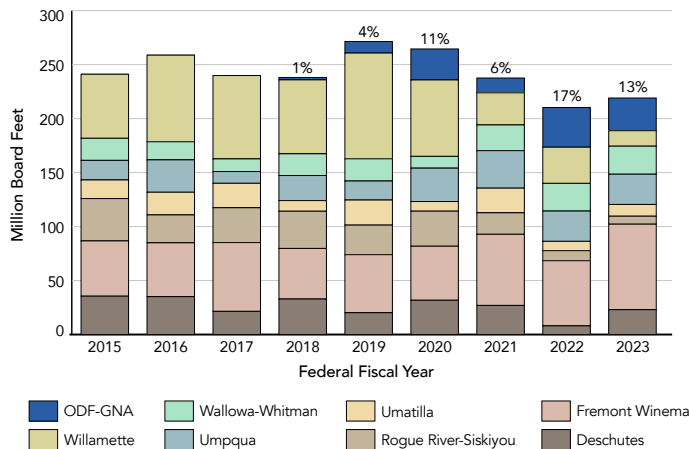
- 417 acres, 6.8 million board feet
- 11.2 miles of road improvements, reducing sedimentation and improving public access to public lands
- Pre-treatment of noxious weeds along roadsides within the project area
- 4 miles of fire line construction in anticipation of post-thinning prescribed fire treatments within the project area

Another milestone achieved this year as a result of this grant is the completion of comprehensive planning for two 70-acre CE projects. These projects will increase forest health and vigor and are estimated to generate 2 million board feet, supporting local jobs and providing fiber for mass timber manufacturing.

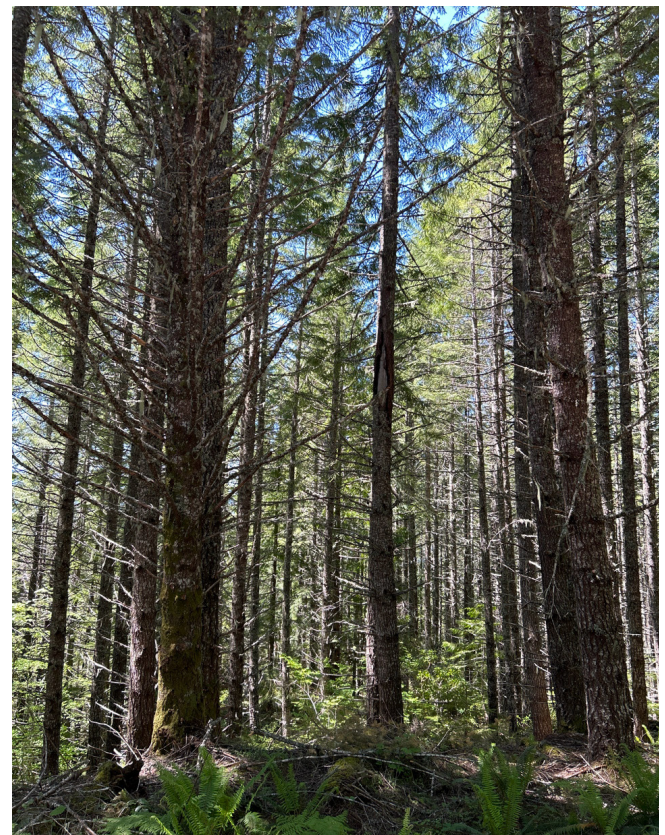
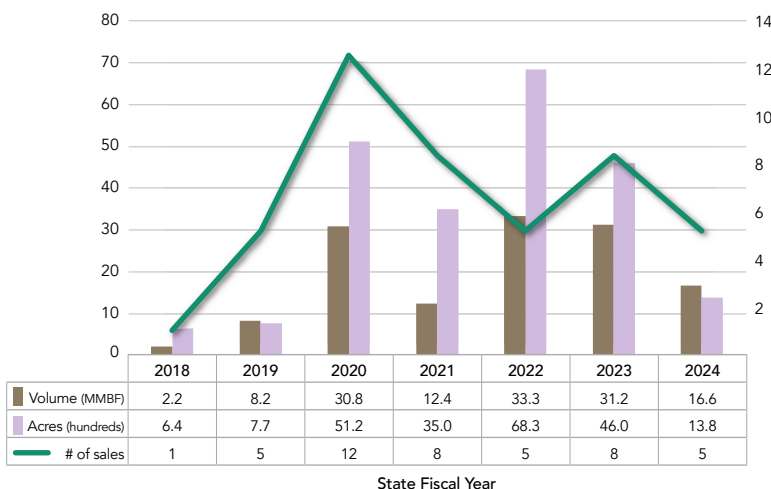
Good Neighbor Authority Timber Sales

Sawlog volume sold from partnering national forests

(Source: Forest Service Cut and Sold Reports, ODF Woods Accounting and Log Tracking data)



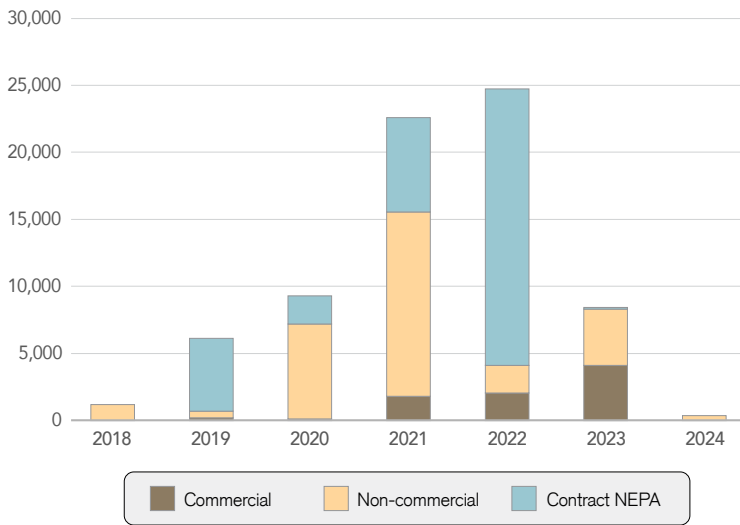
Sold GNA timber sale summary



Above: Dry Beard GNA before restoration work. Credit: Kyle Sullivan-Astor

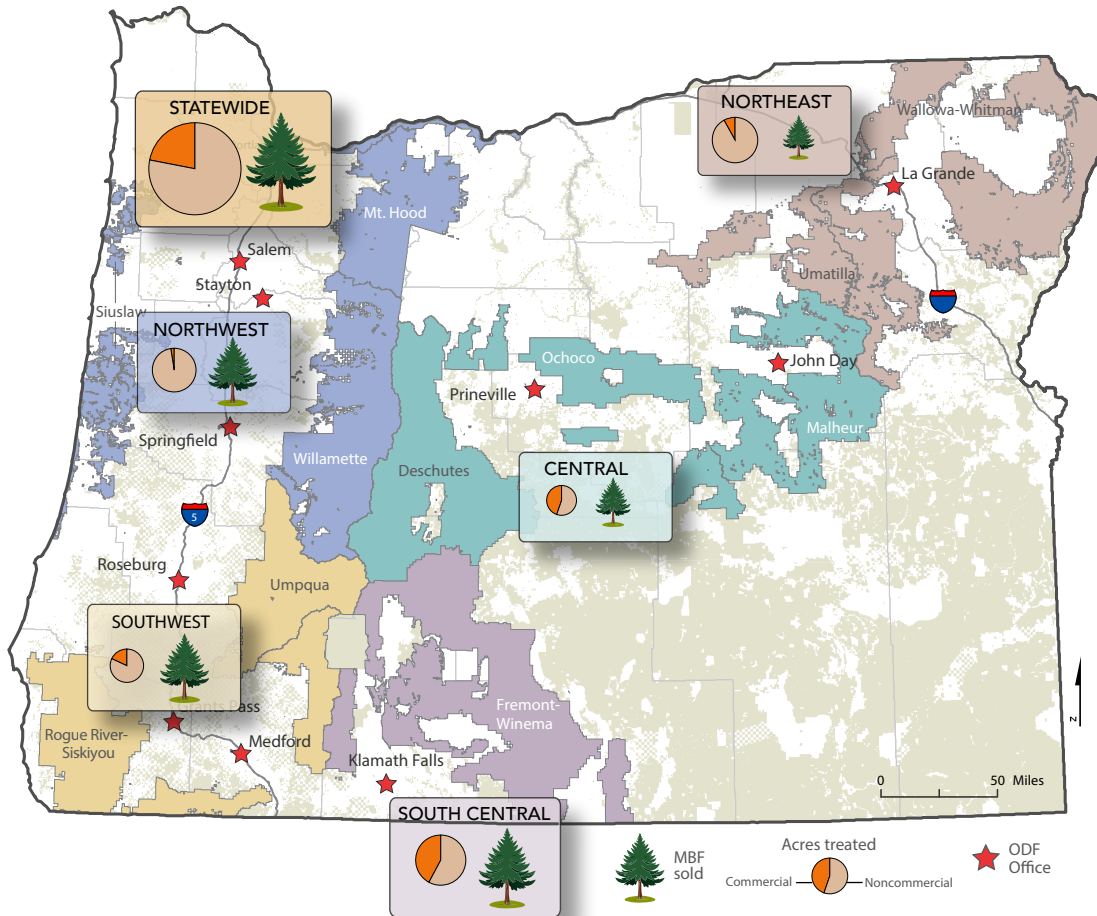
ODF's accomplishments on federal lands

Acres accomplished by calendar year*



Recently completed commercial thinning on the Willamette National Forest. Credit: Kyle Sullivan-Astor

Program accomplishments by region since 2018*



Statewide

- 254,251 MBF sold
- 35,324 Contract NEPA acres
- 98,099 NEPA survey/project prep acres
- 29,195 non-commercial acres
- 8,167 commercial acres
- 1,333 monitoring acres

Northeast

- 10,939 MBF sold
- 70 Contract NEPA acres
- 37,020 NEPA survey/project prep acres
- 8,377 non-commercial acres
- 707 commercial acres

Northwest

- 44,440 MBF sold
- 70 Contract NEPA acres
- 4,083 NEPA survey/project prep acres
- 8,199 non-commercial acres
- 191 commercial acres
- 933 monitoring acres

Central

- 13,541 MBF sold
- 5,128 Contract NEPA acres
- 26,480 NEPA survey/project prep acres
- 2,174 non-commercial acres
- 1,742 commercial acres

Southwest

- 34,423 MBF sold
- 190 Contract NEPA acres
- 23,044 NEPA survey/project prep acres
- 4,026 non-commercial acres
- 876 commercial acres
- 400 monitoring acres

South Central

- 150,908 MBF sold
- 29,866 Contract NEPA acres
- 7,472 NEPA survey/project prep acres
- 6,419 non-commercial acres
- 4,651 commercial acres

35,324 acres contract NEPA	98,099 acres NEPA survey/ project prep	29,195 acres non-commercial treatments	8,167 acres commercial treatments	1,333 acres monitoring	254,251 MBF volume sold
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*For projects reported in miles, such as road maintenance, a 50 foot project width was assumed

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: Slim Prospect GNA Project

The Slim Prospect Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) commercial restoration project is the culmination of years of investments and work accomplished by ODF, the Forest Service, and our many partners in the Rogue Basin. This project is part of the larger Stella Landscape Restoration (Stella) Project on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, covering over 40,000 acres near Prospect, OR. It is intended to thin overstocked stands, introduce prescribed fire, improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat including culturally significant plants, and upgrade and maintain road infrastructure.

The Stella project has been supported by the FFR Program in various ways through the planning and implementation stages since 2017. Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative has been a recipient of a forest collaborative grant every biennium since the 2013-15 biennium and has been heavily engaged in the planning and development of the Stella project. The ODF-FFR Program also invested \$60,000 in the 2017-19 biennium and \$75,000 in 2021 Emergency Board funds for botany and heritage surveys within the Stella project area, allowing for the signed decision to come sooner than expected in 2022.

The Slim Prospect GNA project, which started in 2023, is now approximately 50% complete. It is expected to thin 250 acres, improve or decommission 14.3 miles of road, and generate 2.3 million board feet of small diameter fiber to support jobs in the local community. Revenue generated from this project is planned to be reinvested in the planning and implementation of future restoration projects that achieve the common goals of ODF, the Forest Service, and local partners.



Slim Prospect GNA before treatment. Credit: Chris Rudd.



Slim Prospect GNA after treatment. Credit: Chris Rudd.

CASE STUDY: The FFR Program and Bear Wallow Project Area

The Bear Wallow Timber Stand and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project is a forest restoration project on the Fremont Winema National Forest, just south of La Pine, Oregon, bordering the Gilchrist State Forest. Developed as a collaboration between the Fremont Winema National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership, this project serves as an interesting example of the FFR Program's use of the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) to accelerate the pace and scale of restoration on federal forest lands.

During the 2019-2021 Oregon State Biennium, FFR Program involvement in Bear Wallow began with a Planning Assistance Categorical Exclusion (PACE) grant to invest \$100,000 in contract NEPA planning in the Sugarpine project area. This resulted in two commercial restoration projects generating over \$2.7M in revenue. The state then used this funding to accomplish additional non-commercial restoration within these project areas and to complete surveys and planning for two additional NEPA project areas: Bear Wallow and Sun Pass.

The Bear Wallow project comprises about 17,000 acres of National Forest, approximately 40 percent of which is former Industrial Timber lands, some of which were heavily logged prior to Forest Service acquisition from Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Company in 1943¹. Fire suppression and the lack of other active management has resulted in dense mixed conifer encroachment (mainly lodgepole pine), raising fire hazard and creating competition with more desirable species, such as ponderosa pine and aspen. The project intends to improve habitat for wildlife and increase wildfire resilience by thinning less-desirable trees. The restoration prescriptions on the Bear Wallow Project will create openings by removing lodgepole pine and white fir from within 30 feet of mature ponderosa pines and 100 to 200 feet from aspen stands. The prescriptions will retain all trees 21 inches or greater in diameter those within a 75 feet buffer of streams.

Conifer infill began soon after the historical logging of ponderosa pine in the Bear Wallow project area. As a result, many of the trees that require thinning are of commercially desirable size. Through the use of the GNA, the ODF's FFR Program plans to advertise and administer commercial thinning projects within the project area. Recent FFR Program GNA commercial projects have been purchased by local businesses such as Gilchrist Forest Products LLC, which produce building materials from ponderosa and lodgepole pine. Revenue from these commercial sales will be directed toward additional restoration needs within the project area and potentially elsewhere on the Fremont Winema National Forest.

¹ U.S. Forest Service Automated Lands Program, S_USA.SurfaceOwnership, download

Contributors: Kyle Sullivan-Astor, Michael Coughlan, Naomi Serio, Autumn Ellison. Funded by Oregon Department of Forestry.