

“Increasing Pace,
Scale, and Quality”



FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM UPDATE

2016–2024 ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

FACT SHEET 28 • JANUARY 2024

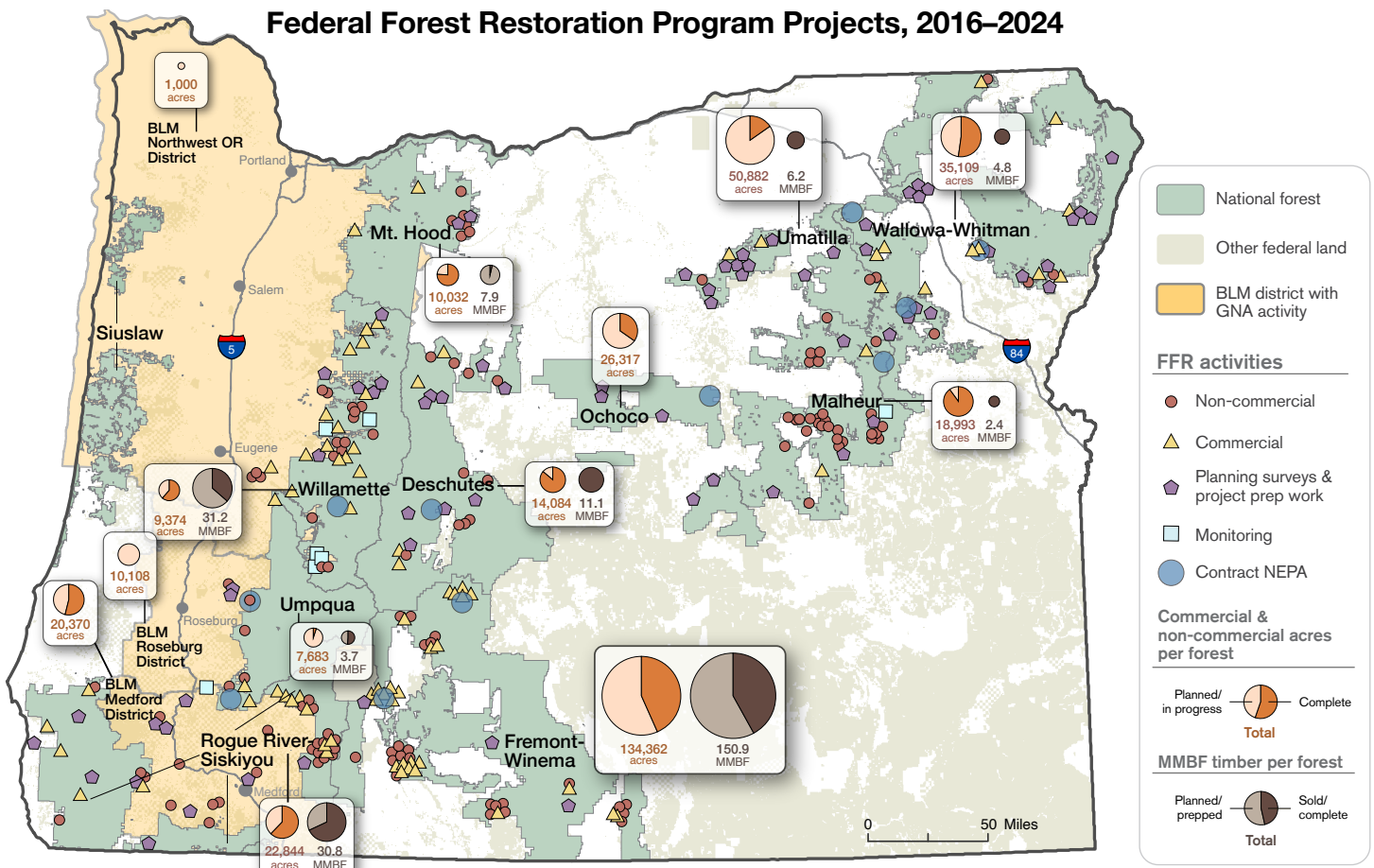


Oregon Department of Forestry’s (ODF) Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program looks forward to playing a role in implementing Oregon’s 20-year Landscape Resiliency Strategy,¹ which has identified over five million acres of forestland as a top priority for treatment due to high wildfire risk, and other ecological and social factors. 57% of these priority geographies are under federal jurisdiction. The FFR Program’s federal partnership and work with forest collaboratives will play a key role in helping realize the strategy.

The work of the FFR Program is also guided by the Oregon state law ORS 526.275 which created “...the policy of the state to pursue projects under the [Good Neighbor Authority] that increase timber harvest volume, contribute to job creation, reduce wildfire risks to all lands, improve wildlife habitat and watershed health, and stimulate local economies.”

For this biennium, the FFR Program will be releasing four fact sheets roughly every six months containing program updates, activities and outcomes instead of one comprehensive monitoring report released prior to the end of the biennium. After June 30, 2025, the program will publish a comprehensive report that captures all activities within the 2023-25 biennium.

Federal Forest Restoration Program Projects, 2016–2024



¹ <https://online.anyflip.com/xodvh/gjpd/mobile/index.html>



ODF's work on federal lands in Oregon:

The Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program uses the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) as a tool, in addition to other tools such as Cooperative Agreements, to work with federal forest management agencies in Oregon. The GNA is a tool in the toolbox to achieve the State's vision for federal forestlands.²

40 agreements – with – **10 national forests** (31 agreements) | **3 BLM districts** (6 agreements) | **Forest Service PNW Regional Office** (3 agreements)

Restoration service projects

Activities on **10 national forests, 3 BLM districts** covering **186,270 acres**

including

- Planning surveys & project preparation work:**
 - Wildlife, botany, heritage, or other resource surveys
 - Remote sensing, stand exams, or other forest inventory work
 - Cruising, tree marking, unit layout, or other project preparation

7,171 planned | 23,097 in progress | 76,674 complete | **106,942 acres**
- Non-commercial work:**
 - Non-commercial fuels reduction, thinning, or forest health treatments
 - Prescribed fire
 - Wildlife habitat restoration or improvement
 - Stream enhancement or fish passage
 - Invasive/noxious weed treatments

9,419 planned | 26,077 complete | 42,361 in progress | **77,857 acres**
- Monitoring work:**
 - Post-implementation vegetation management and stream restoration monitoring

820 in progress | 650 complete | **1,420 acres**

16,590 planned | **66,279 in progress** | **103,401 complete**

Commercial Projects

73 Sales on **9 national forests**

24 complete, 18 sold, 31 planned

over an anticipated **57,760 acres** and **248.1 MMBF** (million board feet)

8,307 complete | **43.4 complete**

35,344 planned | 14,109 sold | 122.6 planned | 82.1 sold

Contract NEPA projects

14 Projects on **9 national forests**

10 complete, 2 in progress, 2 planned

over an anticipated **102,142 acres** during

35,324 complete³ | **84,818 in progress or planned**

2019: 3 completed | **2020:** 2 completed | **2021:** 1 completed | **2022:** 3 completed | **2023:** 1 completed

² <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/documents/achieving-oregons-vision-for-federal-forestlands-report.pdf>
³ Completed contract NEPA acres is 2,000 acres less than the previous report (December 2022) due to a correction made to the 42 Road CE from 5,000 acres to 3,000 acres

RESULTS:

2023-25 Biennium Update & Budget:

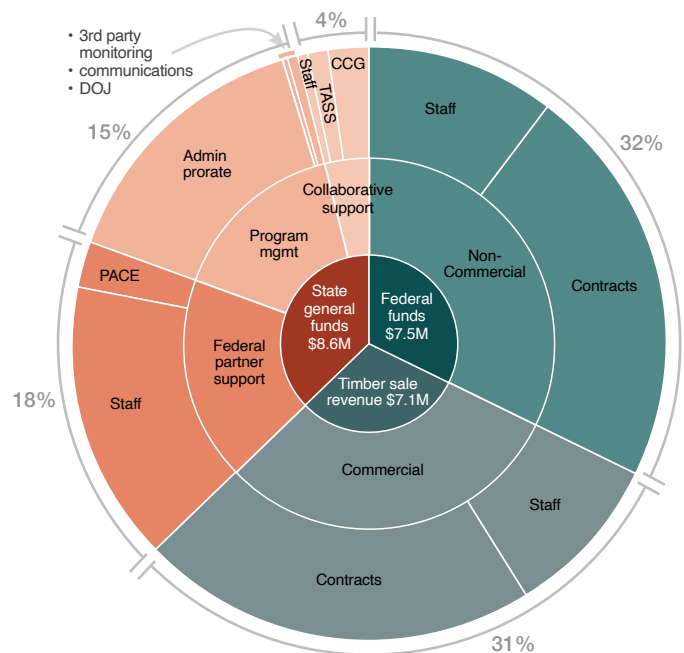
Highlights for the current 2023–25 biennium include:

- Implementation of the newly passed Senate Bill 872 (2023)
- Expansion of staffing from 29 to 44 positions⁴
- Planning to complete over 80,000 Contract NEPA⁵ acres this biennium, which is double the amount completed since the program’s inception

\$23.3M Total

» \$8.6M (37%) State

» \$14.6M (63%) Federal



The FFR Program team at their winter 2023 workshop

The Program is expected to continue to leverage a significant amount of federal funds, either federal appropriations (including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or Inflation Reduction Act funds) or GNA timber sale revenue to achieve our mission and adhere to our guiding legislation. The majority of these federal funds are used for contracts or agreements for restoration planning, implementation or monitoring.

The state general fund portion of the budget provides support for forest collaboratives, NEPA planning support in areas with little timber value, and FFR Coordinators and Unit Foresters. All of these are ineligible for federal funds or have limited federal funding available, in the case of NEPA planning work.

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 872 passed the Oregon Legislature in the 2023 Regular Session and called on the Oregon Department of Forestry to "...endeavor to further shared stewardship to decrease wildfire risk across Oregon through increased partnership with federal agencies to expand activities under the [GNA]...through:

- Increased forest thinning
- Reducing ladder fuels and other hazardous fuel loading
- Restoring meadowland
- Increasing biomass utilization
- Increasing post-disturbance recovery and restoration activities"

This legislation reaffirms the commitment on behalf of the Oregon Legislature that the work of the FFR Program is relevant and necessary to achieve the state’s goals.

Leading the Way

Oregon is a leader among western states in the utilization of GNA. According to a Council of Western State Foresters report released in November 2023,⁶ ODF has treated more non-commercial and commercial acres under GNA than any other western state in the Nation. In addition to the program’s performance related to improving forest health, the FFR Program is contributing to rural economic development goals. The FFR Program’s state investments (~\$3M/yr.) and GNA timber sales supported an annual average of 323 jobs and contributed \$30.5 million to the regional economy in the previous biennium.



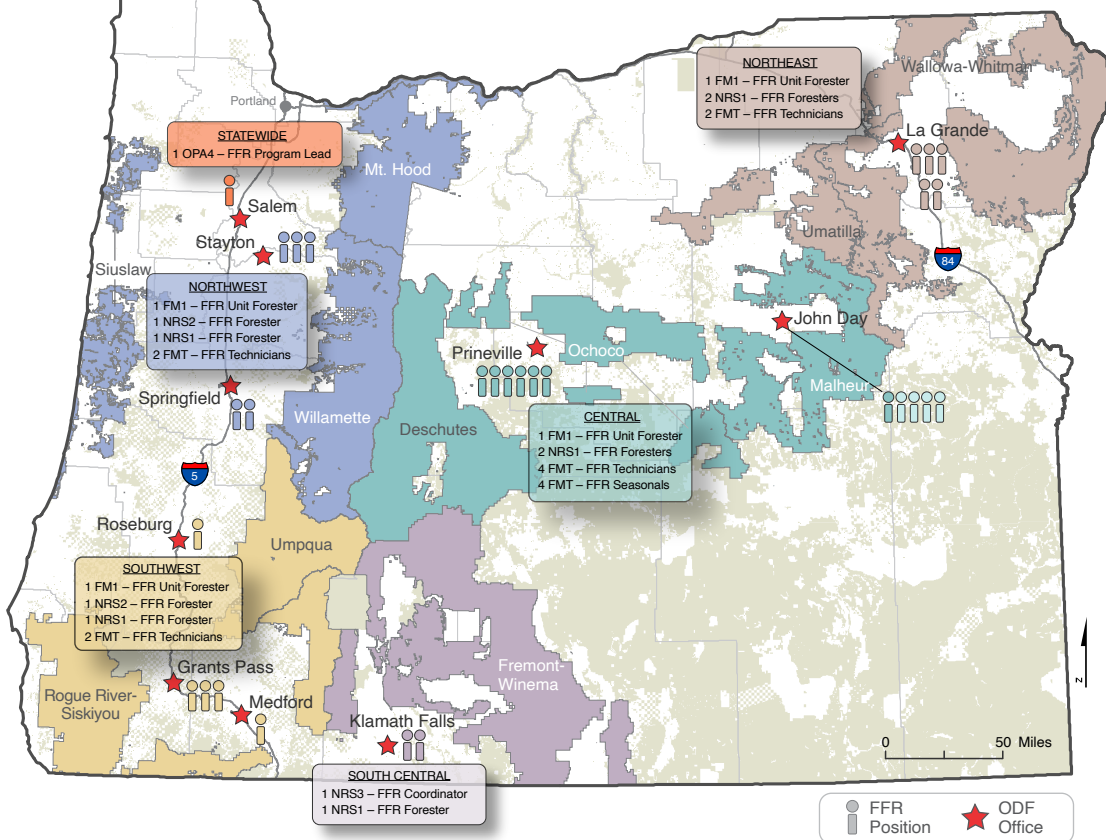
The Pinegrass fuels and habitat improvement project on the Willamette National Forest

⁴ Pending Department of Administrative Services review and approval

⁵ Contract NEPA is a term for the state procuring a 3rd party contractor and leveraging in-house expertise to take on the comprehensive NEPA planning process required to move a restoration project from inception to shovel-ready; ensuring the project adheres to all the applicable federal laws and utilizes as little federal resources as necessary.

⁶ https://www.westernforesters.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/CWSF%20GNA%20Activities%20and%20Accomplishments_November%202023.pdf

Current Staffing and Biennial Targets



Statewide
• 1 position

Northeast

- 5 positions
- 42,300 Contract NEPA acres
- 8,700 NEPA survey/project prep acres
- 605 non-commercial acres
- 2 road maintenance miles

Northwest

- 5 positions
- 140 Contract NEPA acres
- 400 NEPA survey/project prep acres
- 8 non-commercial acres
- 859 commercial acres
- 22,500 MBF volume sold
- 32 road maintenance miles

Central

- 11 positions
- 100 Contract NEPA CE acres
- 2,000 NEPA survey/project prep acres
- 625 non-commercial acres
- 727 commercial acres
- 9 road maintenance miles

Southwest

- 5 positions
- 7,000 Contract NEPA acres
- 7,500 NEPA survey/project prep acres
- 300 non-commercial acres
- 1,219 commercial acres
- 8,000 MBF volume sold
- 8 road maintenance miles

South Central

- 2 positions
- 38,210 Contract NEPA acres
- 600 non-commercial acres
- 5,468 commercial acres
- 29,93 MBF volume sold

84,000 acres contract NEPA	24,000 acres NEPA survey/ project prep	2,100 acres non-commercial treatments	8,900 acres commercial treatments	77,000 MBF volume sold	51 miles deferred road maintenance
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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: FOUR CORNERS

In July 2022, the 66-acre Four Corners GNA commercial thinning project area was completed on the Umatilla National Forest. The success of this project served as a springboard for larger restoration efforts on the forest. These include the 425-acre Davis GNA and the 506-acre Elbow GNA commercial restoration projects, 335 acres of non-commercial fuels reduction work, assisting with the planning of a future restoration project planning assistance via through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and additional commercial restoration GNA projects still in the planning phases.

From the FFR Program's inception in 2013 through 2023, the state has invested \$1,352,434 in restoration work on the Umatilla National Forest for grant funds supporting the Umatilla and Northern Blues Forest Collaboratives, NEPA planning support through the FFR Program's Planning Assistance and Categorical Exclusion (PACE) initiative, and staff and crew personnel time supporting the preparation and implementation of restoration work on the Forest.



Before treatment

After treatment

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: GM

The GM GNA project on the Willamette National Forest is currently being implemented and involves 220 acres of commercial thinning, 4.3 miles of road improvement, and 1.8 miles of fire line construction.

This project was a part of the Green Mountain Project Environmental Impact Statement, signed in July 2017, which identified forested stands to be treated that were overstocked, and lacked age-class diversity and associated habitat diversity. The main goals of this project are to allow for the production of forest products to provide jobs and fiber for the local economy, increase stream-side vegetative diversity, and increase forest species and structural diversity.



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