

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Public hearing on HB 5019 Department of Forestry  
February 20, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Kathleen Taylor and Jeff Reardon, and other members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

I represent the Ecosystem Workforce Program (EWP), which is a joint program of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment at the University of Oregon and the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. EWP has conducted social and economic monitoring for the Federal Forest Restoration Program (which is administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry) for the past six years.

We are submitting for the record our most recent monitoring reports on the Federal Forest Restoration program, to be considered for the February 27, 2019 public hearing on HB 5019-Department of Forestry. Please refer to some of the outcomes created by this program to date in the two attached fact sheets.

**About the Ecosystem Workforce Program:** The Ecosystem Workforce Program's (EWP) unique partnership between UO and OSU allows Oregon's two leading universities to collectively contribute to natural resource governance that fosters prosperity and sustainability. Together, we apply scientific expertise and leadership to promote the resilience of forests and communities. Our social science research and communication efforts focus on topics such as accomplishing cross-boundary restoration, wildland fire policy and management, forest governance, rural economies and land use. Our publications and technical assistance aim to inform policy makers and practitioners, and contribute to scholarly and practical discourse.

Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,



Heidi Huber-Stearns, PhD

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# OREGON'S FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

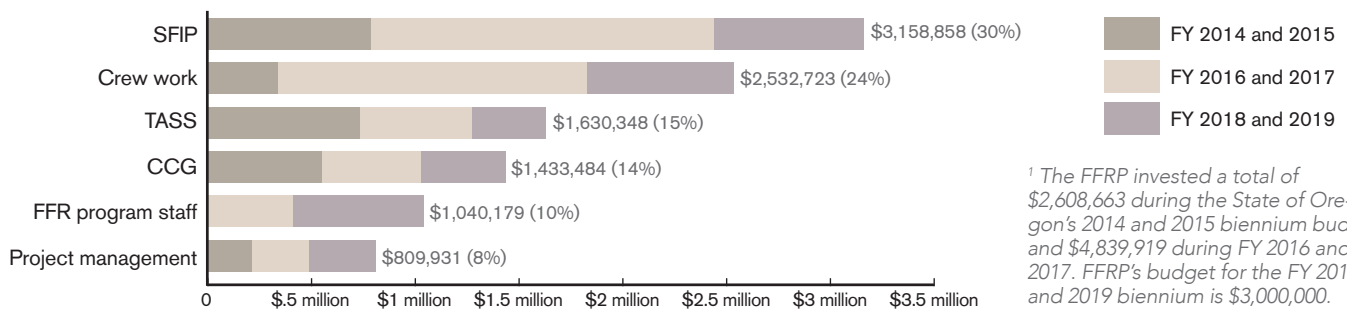
## FY 2014–2019 CUMULATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFRP) is a partnership between the state of Oregon, federal forest managers, and public lands stakeholders to increase forest restoration and economic opportunity on federal forest lands across Oregon. This Fact Sheet shows cumulative investments and select impacts made over the six years of the program.

### KEY FINDINGS

- A total of approximately \$10.6 million was invested in FFRP between fiscal year (FY) 2014–2019.
- The largest investments were made in State-Federal Implementation Partnerships (30%) to expedite restoration project planning and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) crew work (24%) to complete on-the-ground restoration on federal forest lands in Oregon.
- FFRP investments leveraged at least \$4.0 million in matching contributions.
- On average, FFRP activities have resulted in the generation of 40 jobs and \$3.0 million in GDP per year for six years.

**Total Investments made through Federal Forest Restoration Program by funding type, FY 2014–2019<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> The FFRP invested a total of \$2,608,663 during the State of Oregon's 2014 and 2015 biennium budget and \$4,839,919 during FY 2016 and 2017. FFRP's budget for the FY 2018 and 2019 biennium is \$3,000,000.

### PROGRAM INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) administers the FFRP through six types of program funding:

**State-Federal Implementation Partnership (SFIP)** funds support the hiring of contractors to conduct surveys, exams, timber sale layouts, NEPA analysis, and other work to expedite restoration planning on federal lands.

**Crew Work** allows ODF crews to complete on-the-ground restoration work on federal lands.

**Technical Assistance and Science Support (TASS)** provides forest collaborative groups access to expertise to advance

their work (e.g., research scientists, outreach or communication specialists, and web designers).

**Collaborative Capacity Grants (CCG)** help forest collaborative groups increase effectiveness in supporting restoration work on federal lands (e.g., facilitation, administration).

**ODF Federal Forest Restoration Program staff** facilitate FFRP-related work and liaise between collaborative groups, agencies, and communities.

**Project Management** provides administrative and legal support and third-party program evaluation.



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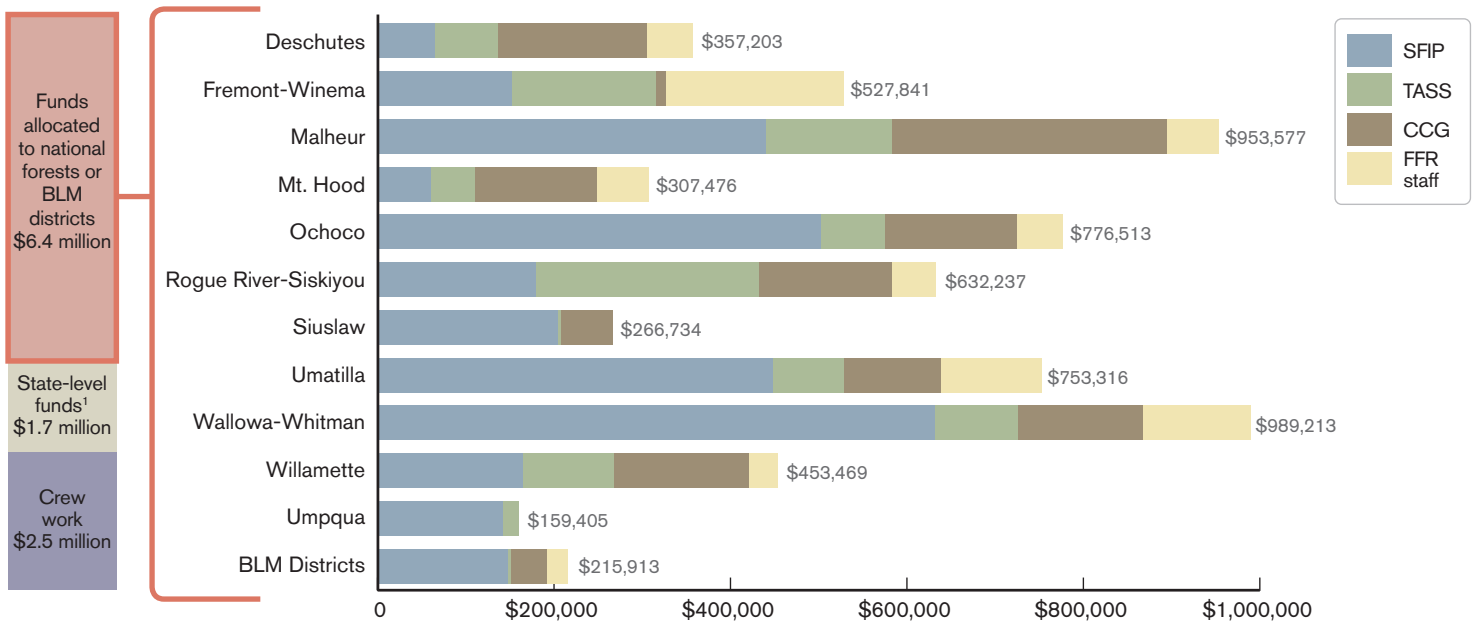


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## Federal Forest Restoration Program spending by national forest and BLM district, FY 2014–2019<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Statewide investments include investments with regional or statewide impacts. Spending totals include 2017-2019 anticipated spending. 2013-2015 awards focused primarily on dry forests in eastern and southwestern Oregon. BLM District investments include: \$76,053 Medford; \$53,390 Prineville; \$51,496 Roseburg; and \$35,034 Coos Bay.

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF FFRP INVESTMENTS

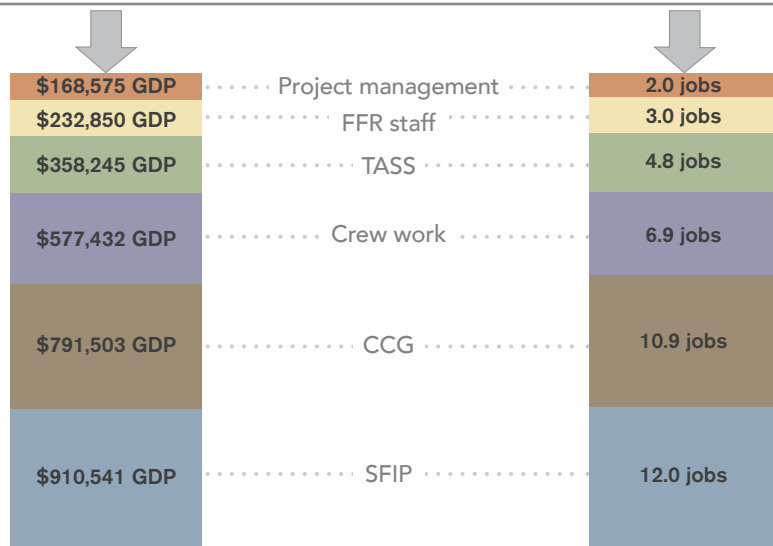
Spending by the FFRP supports economic activity across the state. FFRP funding totaled \$10.6 million from FY 2014 through FY 2019. The impacts of this spending, however, do not stop at the direct addition of these funds into Oregon's economy. FFRP investments have also leveraged at least \$4.0 million of matching funds and in-kind support from project partners. On average, FFRP funds and match-

ing contributions have totaled \$2.4 million per year every year for six years. These combined contributions support jobs and income across broad sectors as they ripple through the economy. On average, these investments have resulted in the generation of 39.6 jobs and \$3.04 million in gross domestic product (GDP) every year for six years.

**FFRP INVESTMENTS GENERATED**  
(per year average)

**\$3.04 million** - and - **39.6 JOBS**  
GDP

**BY FUNDING TYPE**



Contributors: Anna Santo, Heidi Huber-Stearns, Autumn Ellison, Policy Analysis Group at the University of Idaho, Amelia Rhodewalt, and Emily Jane Davis. Funded by Oregon Department of Forestry. Header photo by Jesse Abrams.



# FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM USE OF THE GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY

2016–2018 ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

FACT SHEET 16 • SPRING 2019

**T**he Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. It allows federal and state agencies to work in partnership to implement watershed and forest management activities on federal lands. The Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFRP)—administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)—began using GNA in 2016 to complete restoration activities on lands managed by the USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. This fact sheet highlights select outcomes from GNA activities administered by ODF from 2016 to 2018.

The Oregon Legislature House Bill 4118 in 2018 established a state priority to pursue GNA projects that increase timber harvest volume, create jobs, reduce wild-fire risks, improve wildlife habitat and watershed health, and stimulate local economies. The bill also provided \$400,000<sup>1</sup> in lottery funds to ODF to support the development, planning, or implementation of GNA projects. The increasing use of GNA and OR HB4118 represent important steps toward mobilizing additional capacity to manage Oregon's federal lands.

## GNA PROJECT OUTCOMES

Below, we report outcomes of both completed and in-progress GNA projects.

**Service work activities:** GNA allows state employees or private contractors to complete noncommercial forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration work on federal lands. Federal agencies compensate state agencies for the cost of labor and supplies. ODF's service work activities include:

- 37 activities across seven national forests and one BLM district.
- 16 completed activities and 21 in-progress activities.
- 5,221 sale prep acres completed; 18,046 sale prep acres planned or in progress. Sale prep acres include activities such as: timber sale layout, timber marking, and data collection.

- 1,081 treatment acres completed; 2,722 treatment acres planned or in progress. Treatment acres include on-the-ground activities such as: non-commercial thinning; brushing, piling or scattering materials; prescribed burns; or road decommissioning.
- Sale prep activities range in size from 150 to 11,375 acres.
- Treatment activities range in size from 5 to 2,000 acres.

**Timber sales:** GNA enables state agencies to administer timber sales on federal land. Timber sales accomplish restoration objectives and may include commercial thinning for fuels reduction or other forest health objectives, or salvage following wildfire suppression. Revenue from timber sales is used to reimburse the state for the costs of preparing and administering sales. Any remaining funds pay for additional restoration work on federal lands. GNA timber sales administered by ODF include:

- 17 timber sales across eight national forests.
- 1 timber sale sold in 2018 (2,200 mbf and 650 acres on the Fremont-Winema National Forest).
- 16 timber sales in development (totalling an estimated 42,690 mbf, and 9,608 acres).
- Sale footprints range in size from 35 to 3,500 acres.

<sup>1</sup> An additional \$100,000 in lottery funds was granted to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

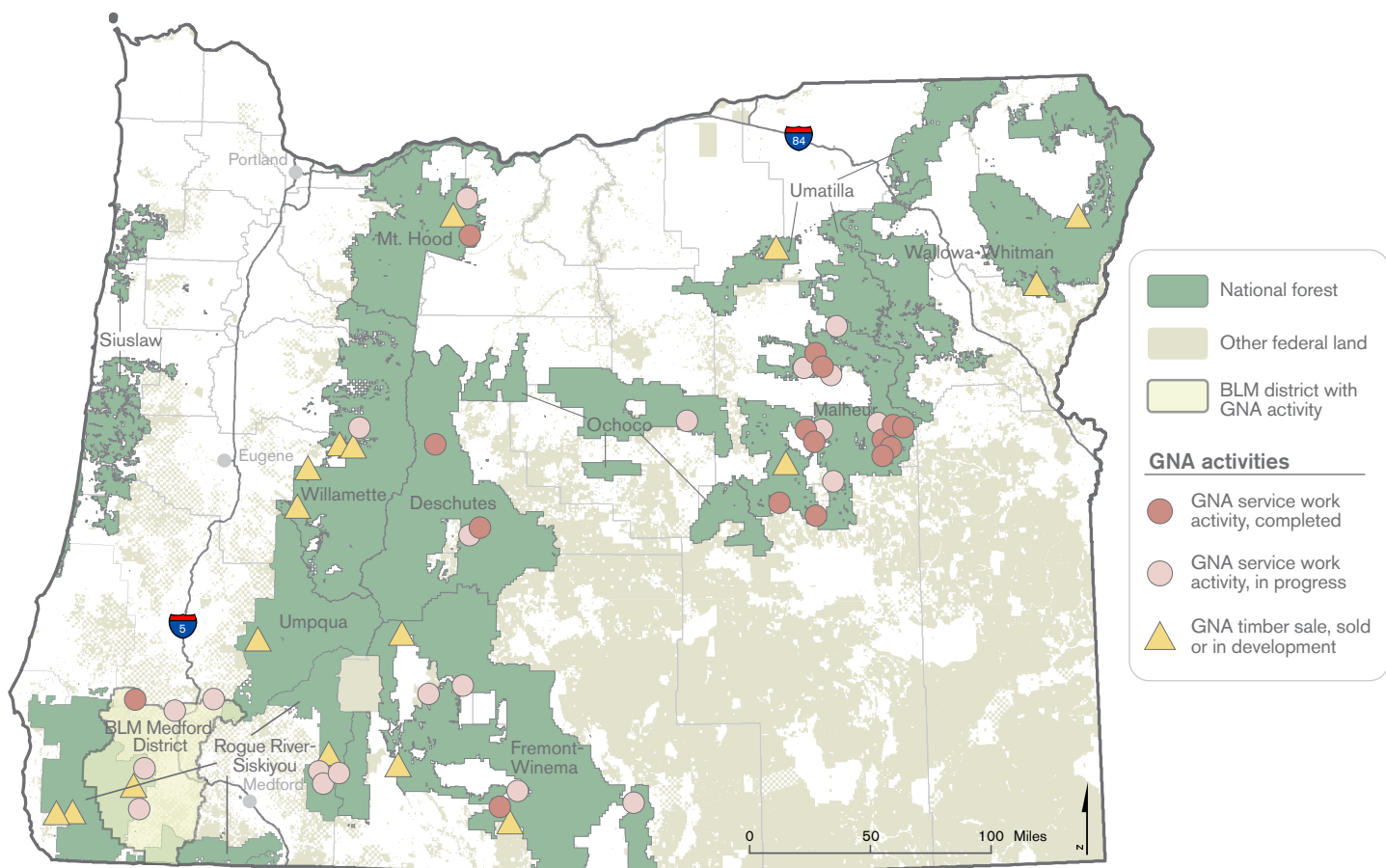


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## Good Neighbor Authority activities administered by Oregon Department of Forestry, 2016–2018



**GNA allows ODF to provide critical additional restoration capacity.** Forest Service and BLM units leverage relatively small investments of ODF staff time and resources to increase the pace and/or scale of restoration work in Oregon. Below are specific examples of how ODF and federal land management units partner to use GNA:

- GNA allows ODF and contract crews to provide surge capacity to complete restoration work at key times of year, within narrow time frames, such as conducting prescribed burning or accessing high-elevation restoration sites.
- GNA allows ODF to administer unexpected salvage or deck timber sales following emergency wildfire suppression on federal lands. The funds from the sales are reinvested in restoration work on the federal units.
- GNA allows ODF to complete NEPA planning work and administer timber sales in sections of federal forests that federal units are unable to prioritize due to their small size and/or isolation from other untreated areas. This work serves to reduce wildfire risk in nearby communities, protect infrastructure, and generate local economic benefit.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- More detailed reporting will be provided in a Working Paper, forthcoming in June 2019 (See: <http://ewp.uoregon.edu/publications/working/>).
- Bertone-Riggs, T., Cyphers, L., Davis, E.J., and K. Hardigg. 2018. Understanding Good Neighbor Authority: Case Studies from Across the West. Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition Report. Available at [https://www.ruralvoicescoalition.org/s/RVC-GNA-2018\\_web\\_.pdf](https://www.ruralvoicescoalition.org/s/RVC-GNA-2018_web_.pdf).
- Davis, E.J. and A. Santo. 2019. Oregon’s Forest Collaborative Organizational Capacity: An Updated Picture. Ecosystem Workforce Program, University of Oregon. Working Paper #90. Available mid-March at <https://ewp.uoregon.edu/publications/working/>.

Contributors: Anna Santo, Heidi Huber-Stearns, Autumn Ellison, Michael Coughlan, Zach Koutnik, and Emily Jane Davis. Funded by Oregon Department of Forestry. Header photo by Jesse Abrams.