



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Forestry

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"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

April 3, 2019

Honorable Brad Witt, Chair  
House Natural Resources Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

### **Re: House Bill 2962 and House Bill 2953 – Good Neighbor Authority**

Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) submits this letter in reference to two related bills regarding the Good Neighbor Authority. To be clear, ODF has no position on these bills and submit this letter to the Committee for your information.

In 2013, the Legislature established the Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFR) at ODF, and in 2017, made this program a permanent program in the Department. The FFR Program is the culmination of work initiated by the Board of Forestry in 2008 which established the Federal Forest Advisory Committee to develop recommendations for state action to increase active management to increase fire resilience of Oregon's federal forests. A 2009 report adopted by the Board of Forestry included both state-level and national-level recommendations. Two of the state-level recommendations called for an active program and state funds to support local collaborative efforts and stimulate increased forest stewardship on federal lands.

Since initiation of the FFR Program, ODF has contracted with the University of Oregon's Ecosystem Workforce Program (UO-EWP) to provide third-party monitoring and documentation of the investments and outcomes of the state's FFR funds. Reports for the 2013-2015 biennium and the 2015-2017 biennium are available online<sup>1</sup>. Recently, UO-EWP published a fact sheet reporting the cumulative impact of FFR investments since 2013, concluding that on average, FFR projects have resulted in the generation of 40 jobs and \$3.0 million in GDP per year<sup>2</sup>.

In 2014, Congress authorized the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), and in March of 2016, Governor Brown signed a Master GNA Agreement with the US Forest Service. This new authority allows ODF to implement projects using federal funds in addition to what state funds are achieving alone. In the 2018 Legislative Session, House Bill 4118 codified GNA as state policy and provided

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<sup>1</sup> 2013-2015 biennium: [https://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP\\_57.pdf](https://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_57.pdf)  
2015-2017 biennium: [https://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP\\_78.pdf](https://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_78.pdf) and  
[https://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP\\_79.pdf](https://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/WP_79.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> FFR Program, Cumulative Accomplishments:  
[https://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/FS\\_15.pdf](https://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/FS_15.pdf)

one-time allocation of funds to ODF to increase GNA project work. To date, ODF has completed 16 projects and has another 21 projects in progress across 7 different National Forests<sup>3</sup> in Oregon. This work includes commercial timber sales and noncommercial fuel reduction activities, using contractors and ODF seasonal employees to implement project work. Specific to commercial treatments, ODF has sold three timber sales that accumulate to 5 million board feet. Revenue generated will be used to cover ODF's costs to implement project work and to implement additional non-revenue generating restoration actions, such as noncommercial thinning, piling and prescribed burning necessary to complete the project. In addition, the funding provided by House Bill 4118 is being used to contract environmental analyses on three different projects, totaling 4,000 acres that would not have occurred without state investment.

ODF is committed to maintaining transparency and third-party monitoring with respect to the Federal Forest Restoration Program. ODF has prioritized funds for the reports referenced in this letter from FFR Program Funds to the amount of \$100,000 per biennium.

ODF appreciates the Committee's continued interest in the Federal Forest Restoration Program and the Good Neighbor Authority. We would be interested in additional opportunities to keep the Committee informed of this innovative partnership to increase the pace, scale and quality of restoration on Oregon's federal forests.

Sincerely,

Chad Davis, Program Director, Oregon Department of Forestry

Attachments:

1. Oregon's Federal Forest Restoration Program, FY2014-2019 Cumulative Accomplishments
2. Federal Forest Restoration Program Use of the Good Neighbor Authority

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<sup>3</sup> Federal Forest Restoration Program Use of the Good Neighbor Authority:  
[https://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/FS\\_16.pdf](https://ewp.uoregon.edu/sites/ewp.uoregon.edu/files/FS_16.pdf)



# OREGON'S FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

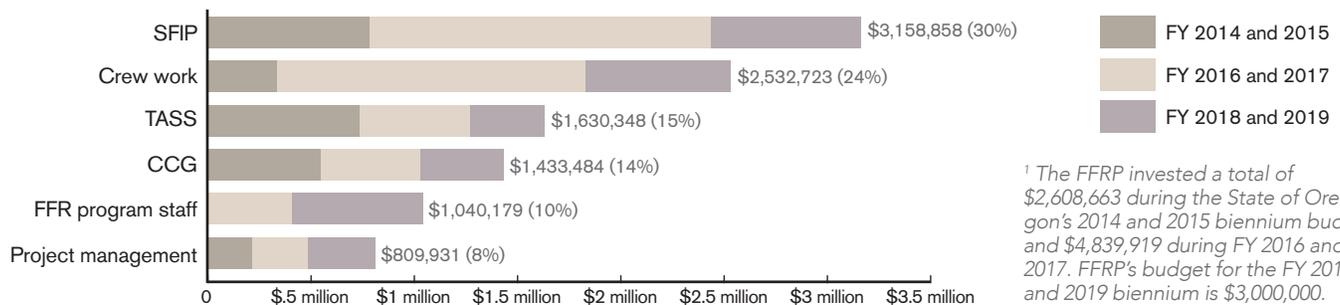
## FY 2014–2019 CUMULATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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 in 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 prepare and implement 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 support and enable restoration work on federal lands (e.g., facilitation, coordination).

**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.

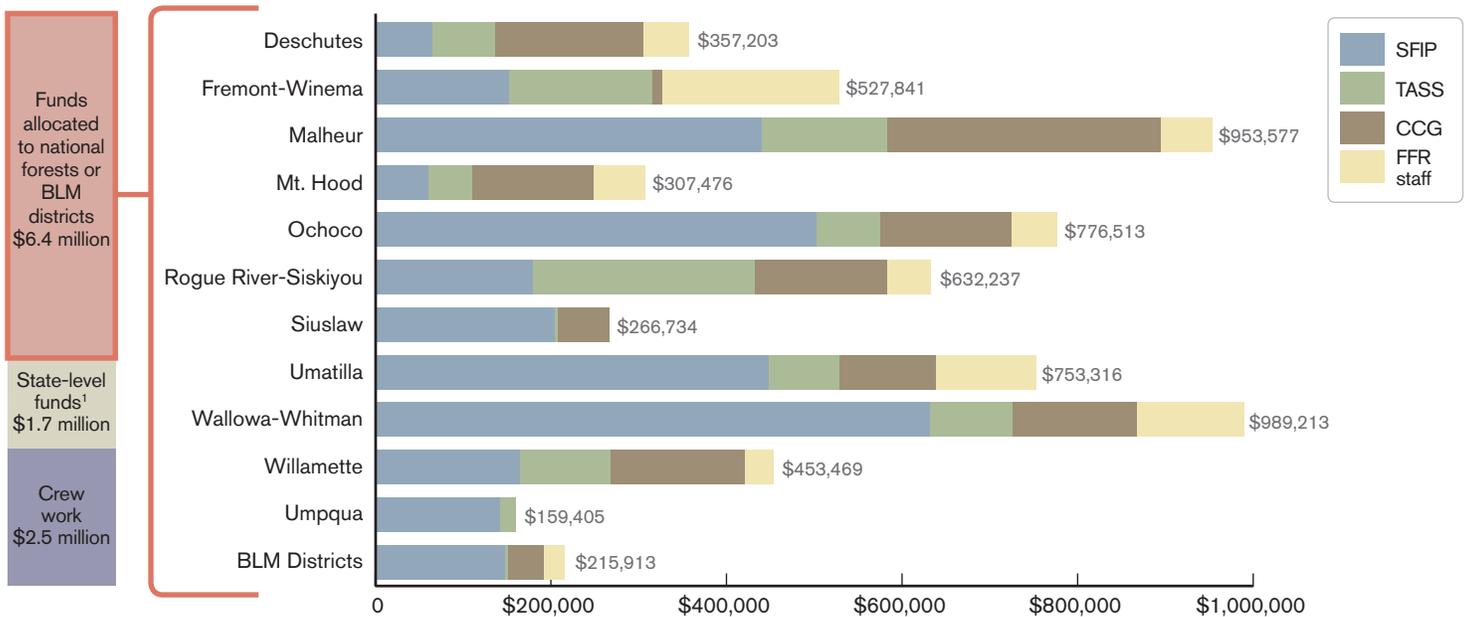


UNIVERSITY OF OREGON



University of Idaho  
Policy Analysis Group

## 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.

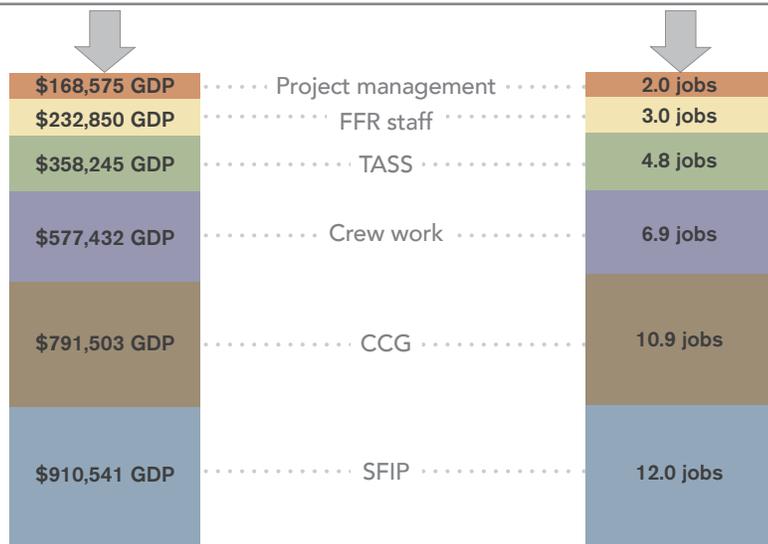
**FFRP INVESTMENTS GENERATED**  
(per year average)

**\$3.04 million**  
GDP

- and -

**39.6**  
JOBS

**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 wildfire 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.

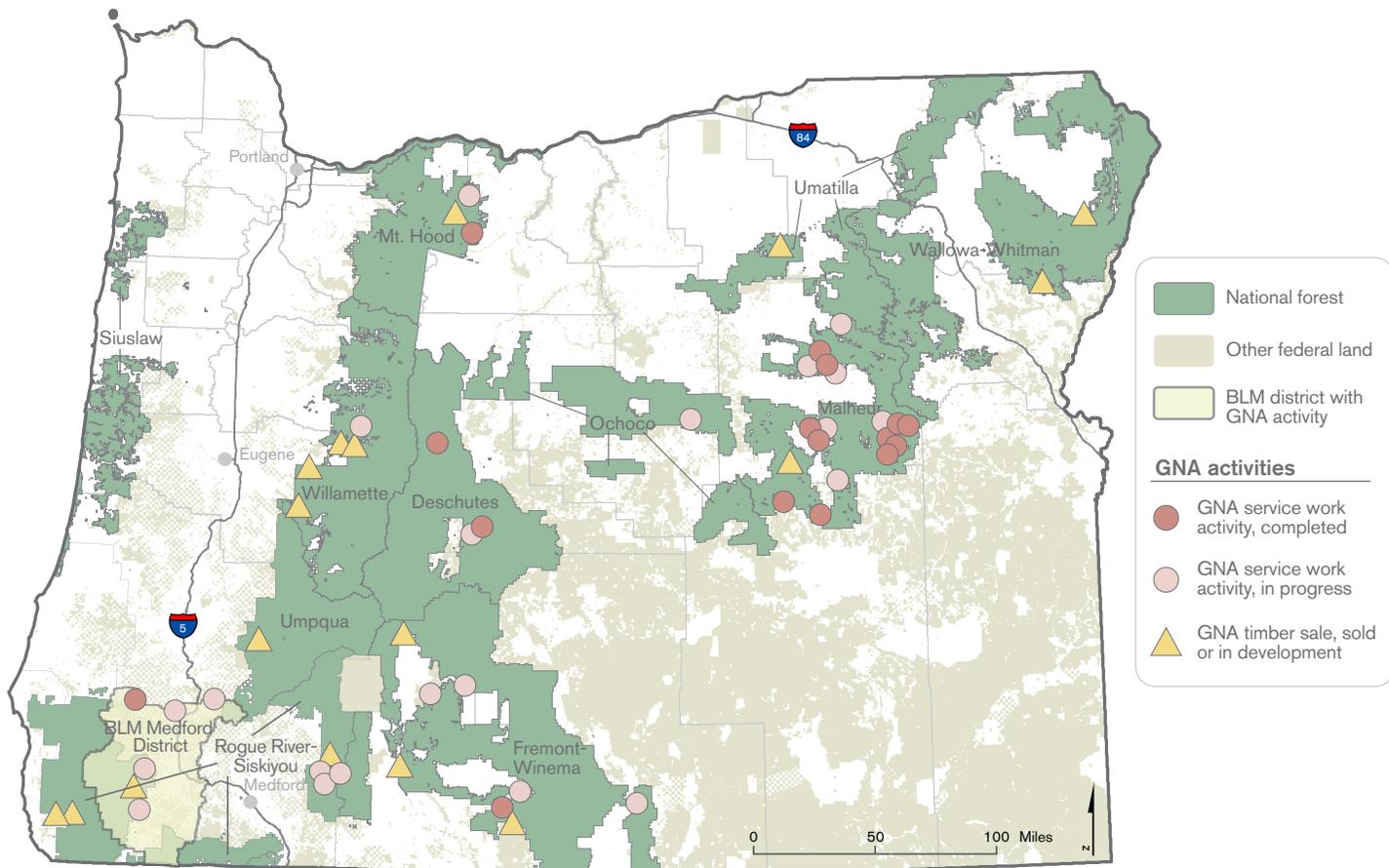


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Oregon State University  
Extension Service

## 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.