

# OREGON FOREST RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Presented to the House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Oregon Forest  
Resources Institute

# What is the Oregon Forest Resources Institute?

- Created by the Oregon Legislature in 1991.
- Support Oregon's forest products industry *and* the wise stewardship of natural resources for the benefit of Oregonians (ORS 526.605).
- General Authority (ORS 526.640):
  1. increase public understanding of forestry and its public benefits
  2. support education within the forestry sector
  3. conduct research and help facilitate continued improvement in wood utilization
  4. provide publications and other materials relating to the Institute's work



# OFRI's structure – three primary programs

- OFRI's programs provide educational materials and programming for the general public, K-12 teachers and students, and forestland owners.
- The agency does not receive state general fund money. It is funded by a dedicated portion of the forest products harvest tax.
- The State Forester appoints 11 of the 13 members of OFRI's governing board of directors and certifies that the agency's annual budgets are prepared and adopted in accordance with statute (ORS 576.416).



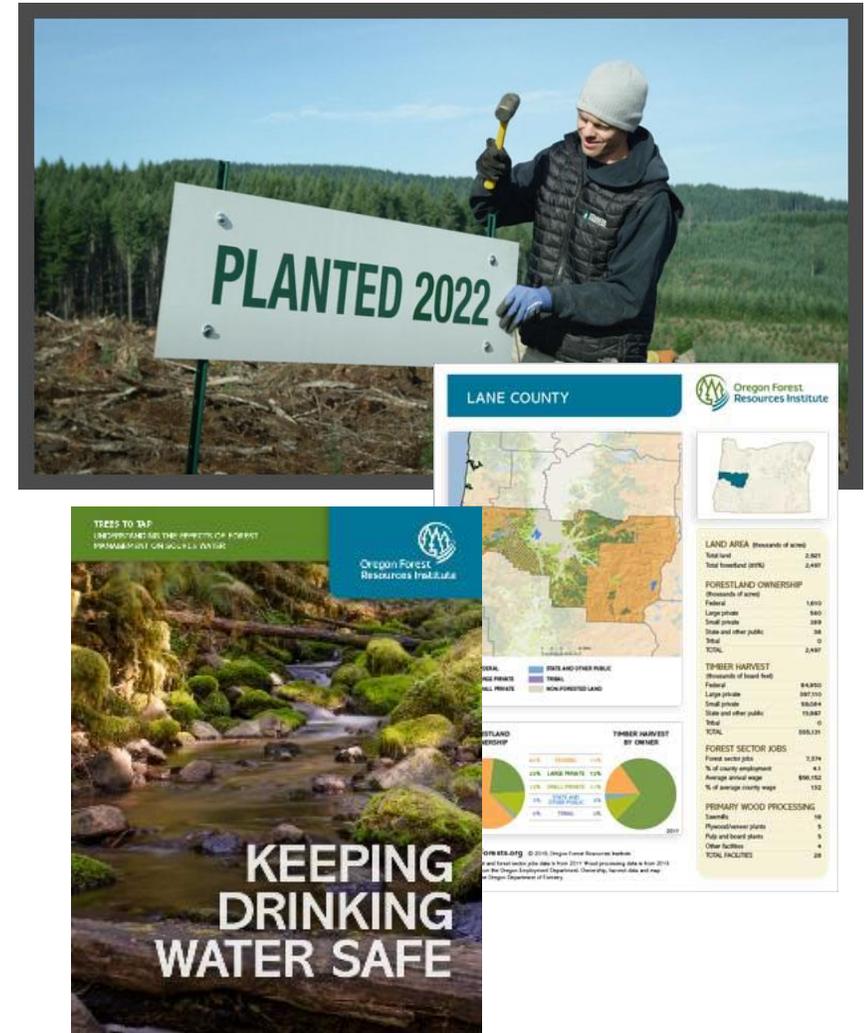
# OFRI funding

- OFRI's funding comes from a statutorily-dedicated portion of the forest products harvest tax.
- Over the past decade harvest tax revenues collected (on a quarterly basis) to fund the agency have been between \$3.17 and \$4.04 million per year.
- The harvest tax rate—currently \$1.12 per thousand board feet—and budget are set annually by the OFRI Board.



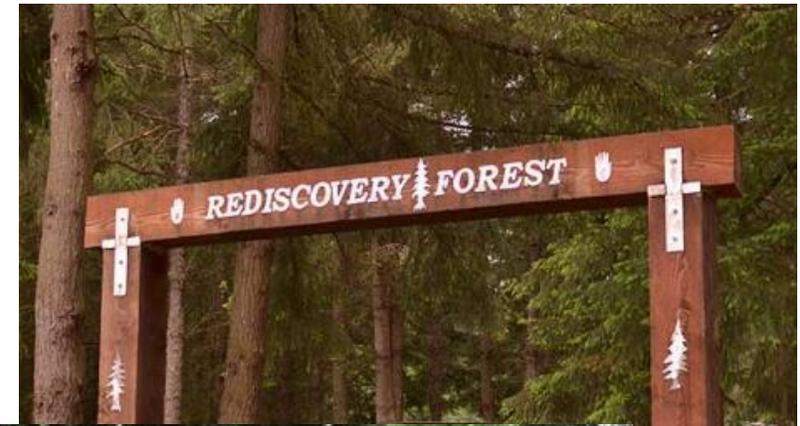
# Public education

- educational statewide media
- special reports and publications
- sector economic data
- county-by-county economic analyses
- website resources
- public interpretive signage
- public awareness research



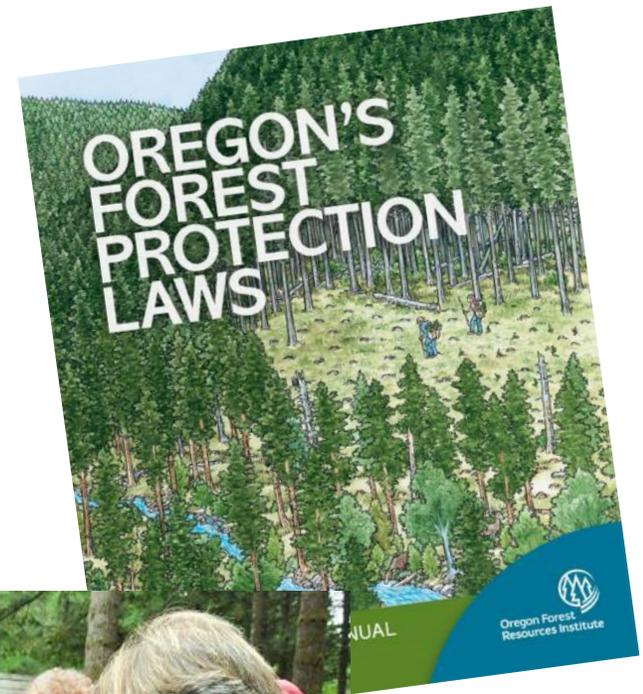
# K-12 education

- classroom materials and curriculum
- teacher training
- career and technical education (CTE)
- classroom programs
- field programs
- 15-acre teaching forest
- bus reimbursement for schools



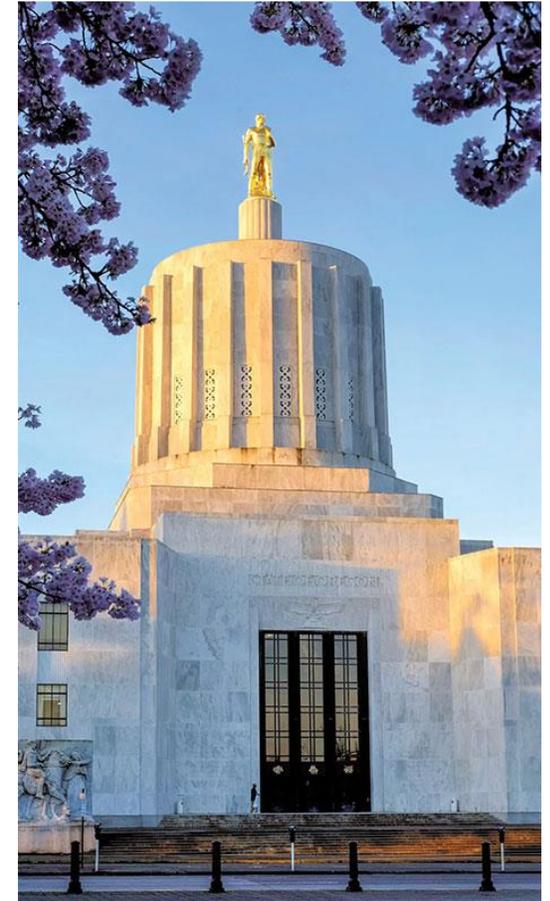
# Landowner education

- publications, videos and resources
- forest protection laws reference manual
- Partnership for Forestry Education (PFE)
- support for multiple OSU/OSU Extension forestland owner educational programs
- wildlife management tours, workshops and publications



# 2021 Secretary of State audit

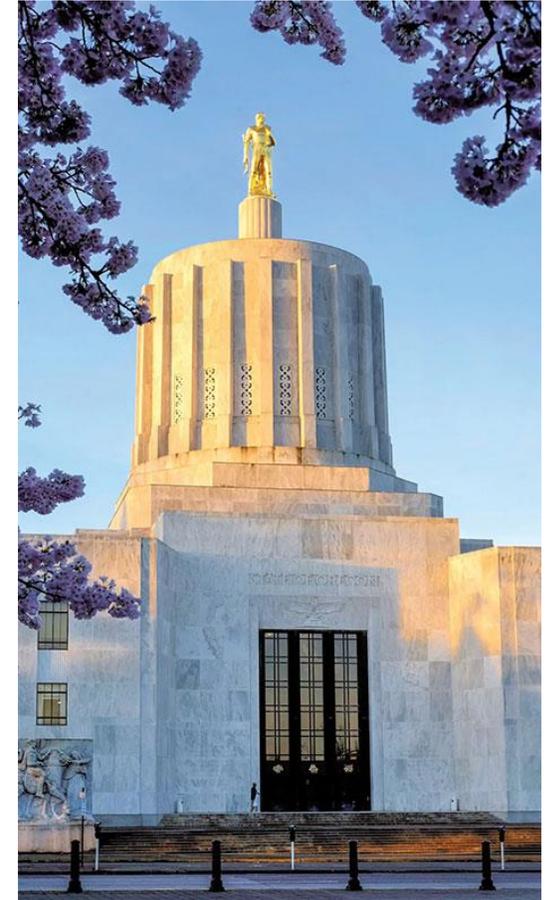
- In 2020-21, the Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division conducted a performance audit of OFRI.
- 10-month process—completed July 2021
- The audit produced five recommendations for the agency.
- Agency immediately began implementing suggested changes.



# Recommendations and OFRI response

## Five recommendations:

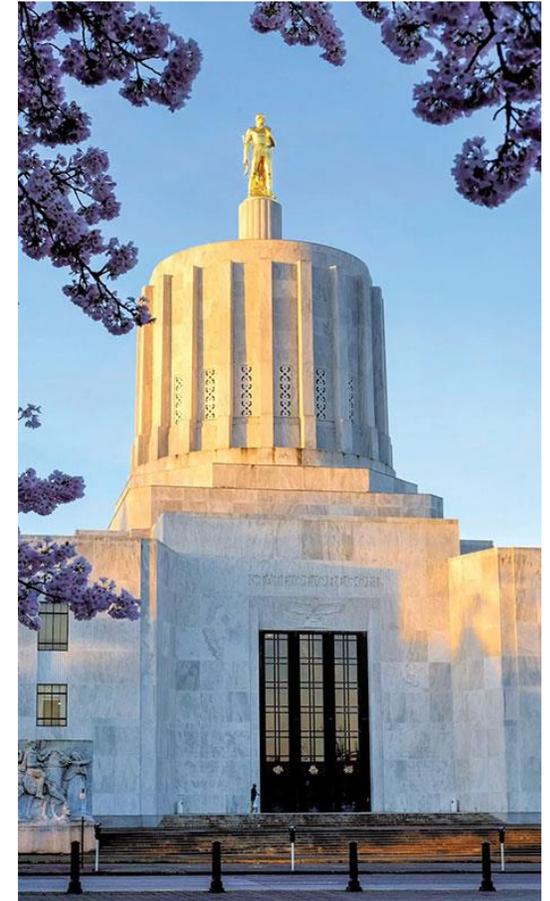
1. Revise and clarify OFRI's enabling statute to be consistent with principles of good governance.
2. Develop a policy/guidance for staff and board members to ensure OFRI avoids activities prohibited by statute.
3. Improve internal controls.
4. Improve transparency and involve a broader array of stakeholders outside the industry.
5. Conduct a comprehensive review of OFRI statutes and determine which statewide policies apply to OFRI—in consultation with DAS and DOJ.



# Looking ahead to 2023:

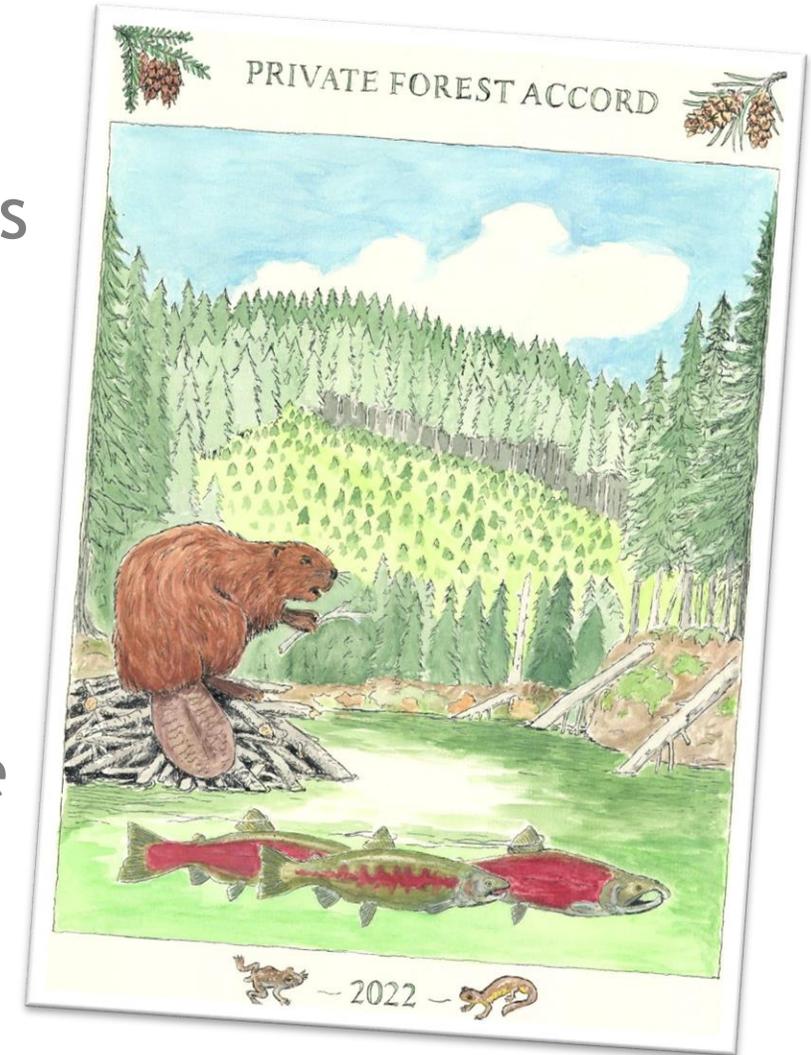
## Complete remaining audit actions:

- new OFRI five-year strategic plan
- recruit and hire staff to support policy and procedures documentation, and for other operational changes that resulted from the audit
- ongoing training for OFRI board and staff



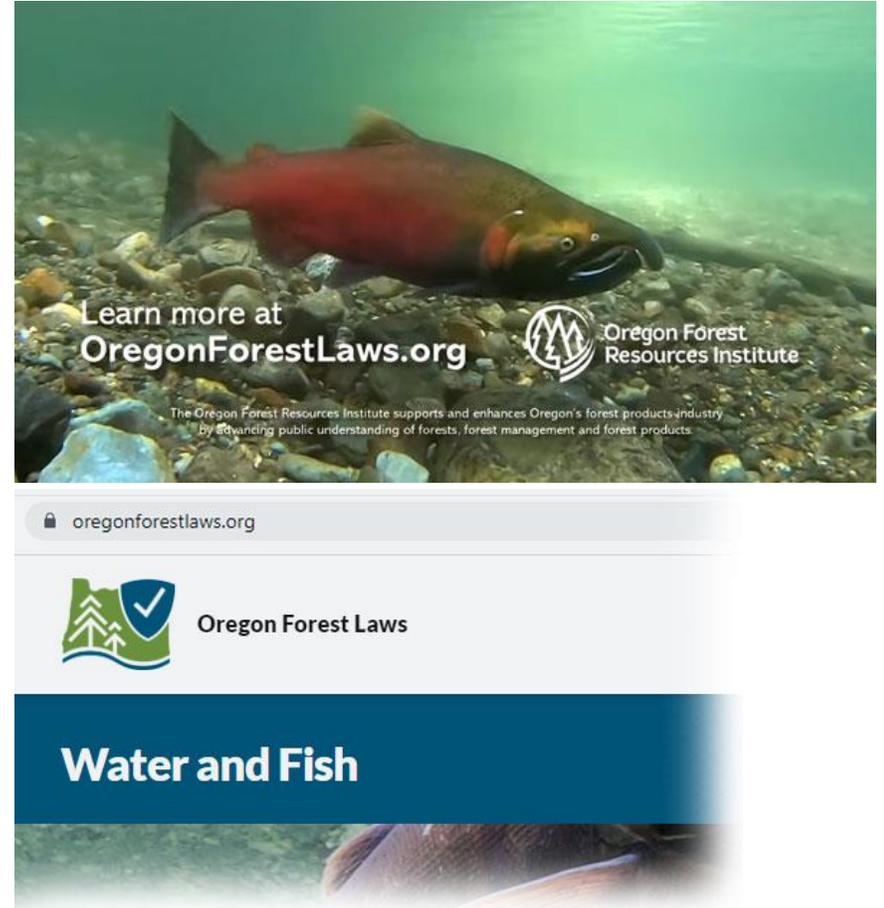
# Private Forest Accord for 2023

- significant changes to Oregon forest practices
- significant educational needs as a result of the changes to forest practice regulations
- OFRI is part of collaborative efforts to help educate a wide range of audiences about the changes in forest practice rules



# Public education

- educational media across the state on television and online
- dedicated website detailing changes to Oregon's forest practice laws
- upcoming special report on the new PFA-related regulatory changes
- planned video series



# Landowner education

- landowner fact sheet series about the changes stemming from the PFA
- forest tours for forestland owners to observe and discuss changes
- sponsorship and support for landowner training and partner outreach



# Operator and manager education

- new edition of *Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual* currently in development (multi-year process)
- co-host of training sessions for forest managers and operators (ex. webinars, workshops)



# Thank you!

Jim Paul  
OregonForests.org

*Related websites:*

*[LearnForests.org](http://LearnForests.org)*

*[KnowYourForest.org](http://KnowYourForest.org)*

*[OregonForestLaws.org](http://OregonForestLaws.org)*

*[TheForestReport.org](http://TheForestReport.org)*



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