

# Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat Program



## What is the Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH) Program?

The SFISH Program is a grant program established by the Legislature in 2022 to help small forestland owners implement projects that result in an environmental benefit to fish or mitigate risks to natural resources arising from forest roads. The program can fund 100 percent of project costs. The program is administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The program helps small forestland owners from project start to finish.

- ODF verifies project eligibility, assesses environmental benefit of projects, provides funding, and helps develop project details.
- ODFW assists with identifying high conservation value sites and prioritizing projects for funding.

## What are the program eligibility requirements?

- Landowners must own less than 5,000 acres of forestland in Oregon.
- Landowners must harvest no more than an average yearly volume of 2 million board feet of merchantable forest products.
- Landowners must complete a Road Condition Assessment (RCA).

## What are considered high conservation value sites?

- Sites located in areas of known chronic sedimentation.
- Fish passage barriers.
- Stream crossings that have diverted the stream channel or have a high diversion potential.
- Areas where the road drainage system is not adequately disconnected from waters of the state.
- Roads with a perched fill presenting a significant hazard to a fish-bearing stream.





### What types of road improvement projects are eligible?

Projects benefiting fish covered under the Private Forest Accord Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan and falling into at least one of three project types.

- Replacement of culverts or fords that are no longer functioning or do not meet new design standards.
- Abandoned road repairs.
- Remediation of roads with a perched fill that present a significant hazard to fish-bearing streams.

### What fish species are covered under the Habitat Conservation Plan?

- All native salmon and trout (*Oncorhynchus spp.*)
- Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)
- Mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*)
- Pacific eulachon/smelt (*Thaleichthys pacificus*)
- Green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*)



### How does the program work?

- A small forestland owner applies for project evaluation and completes an RCA.
- ODF conducts a site visit to verify project eligibility and assess environmental benefits of the project.
- An eligible project is evaluated and prioritized in consultation with ODFW.
- The project is funded when it becomes a high priority.
- ODF helps the landowner develop project details and can help the landowner find a project sponsor if necessary.
- Project sponsors can help the landowner manage the project.

