



Title: Federal Forests Coordination

Program: Forest Resources Planning

Description: Federal forests in Oregon are in crisis. Forest sector infrastructure in eastern Oregon is collapsing. About 13 million acres of federal forestland in Oregon are overstocked and in danger of uncharacteristic wildfire and/or insect outbreaks. Capacity in federal agencies to implement timber sales, stewardship contracts, and other projects has been declining since the early 1990's, and is inadequate to address the scope of work. In eastern Oregon, 38 wood product mills have closed since 1990, leaving only 10 sawmills. Maintaining and enhancing mill infrastructure is essential to address the work needed to improve federal forest health and maintain the viability of private forestlands in eastern Oregon. There are some local collaborative efforts that are underway that have shown promise in creating consensus for action. Some of these efforts are being led by organizations such as The Nature Conservancy. However, lack of direct state agency involvement has resulted in delays or critical misunderstandings. Oregon cannot chart a sustainable, productive future for its forests without increased involvement in federal forestlands.

This package will provide the Department and others with resources to actively engage in federal forest management, federal natural resources policy development, and certainty of timber supply to support Oregon mill infrastructure. Both the Governor and the Legislature have directed the Department and the Board of Forestry to lead the State of Oregon in promoting and implementing a state vision for the future management of federal forestlands in the state. The Federal Forest Advisory Committee (FFAC) was organized to develop this vision and create necessary actions to achieve the vision. This package reflects the work of the FFAC as well as the work underway through the Western Governor's Association.

Currently, just one Department position is available to work on these crises and to work on the wide range of complex issues and capacity needs. Oregon needs to enhance its involvement and influence in charting the future of federal forestlands and other federal natural resource policies in the state. This policy package will add six positions including one Principal Executive Manager D, one Natural Resources Specialist (NRS) 4, one Office Specialist 2 position, and one NRS 3 and two NRS 2 field positions to enhance federal forest policy and technical coordination.

Agency Focus Area: Seeking solutions on federal lands.

Expected Outcome/Benefit:

- Complete development of a unified State of Oregon vision of how federal forestlands should contribute to the environmental, economic, and social sustainability.
- Foster collaborative partnerships with federal natural resource regulatory and forestland management agencies.
- Develop and engage in local and other collaborative processes that have a high probability of reaching consensus for implementing long-term and large-scale active management needed to address forest health conditions.
- Directly assist the USDA Forest Service implement active fuels and vegetation management projects, including post-fire projects.
- Assist the USDA Forest Service and USDI BLM complete their planning processes to ensure that the unified State of Oregon vision is encompassed and the plans provide adequate and predictable revenues to counties and other local governments where federal forests are located.
- Promote stewardship contracts and other opportunities where state and local communities are empowered to demonstrate their stewardship of federal forestlands and are held accountable for the results. Actively partner with local community processes to develop projects and plans that have a high likelihood of implementation.
- Encourage the federal land management agencies to achieve their statutory objectives by actively managing forestlands, including the use of commercial timber harvests where appropriate.
- Promote active fuels and vegetation management, along with aggressive wildfire suppression, as key tools to manage forest health on public and private lands.
- Encourage state and federal agencies to closely monitor and aggressively act to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of air pollution and invasive, non-native species on Oregon's forests.
- Promote incentives for sound sustainable forest health restoration practices, including the development of market-based solutions to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires and insect and disease outbreaks.
- Develop and integrate analytical methods and scientific information to support the above objectives.

Position Details:

Principal Executive Manager D Federal Forests Program Manager	1 Position/ 1 FTE
Natural Resources Specialist 4 Federal forest Policy and Rural Community Health Expert	1 Position/ 1 FTE
Natural Resources Specialist 3 One Federal Forests Unit Field work coordinator/strike team leader	1 Position/ 1 FTE
Natural Resources Specialist 2 Two Federal Forests Unit Field Foresters	2 Position/ 2 FTE
Office Specialist 2	1 Position/ 1 FTE
TOTAL	6 Positions/ 6 FTE

Performance Measure(s):

- KPM #8 (proposed) Forest Stream Water Quality –
 - a. Percent of monitored stream sites associated predominately with forestland with significantly increasing trends in water quality.
 - b. Percent of monitored stream sites associated predominately with forestland with significantly decreasing trends in water quality.
 - c. Percent of monitored stream sites associated predominately with forestland with water quality in good to excellent condition.
- KPM #11 Fire Suppression Effectiveness – Percent of wildland forest fires under ODF jurisdiction controlled at 10 acres or less.
- KPM #13 Damage To Oregon Forests From Insects, Diseases, And Other Agents– Percent of forest lands without significant damage & mortality as assessed by aerial surveys.
- KPM #14 Forest Biomass Utilization-- Million bone-dry tons of forest biomass converted to biofuels, electricity or steam.

Forestry Program for Oregon links:

- Strategy A Promote a sound legal system, effective and adequately funded government, leading-edge research, and sound economic policies
- Strategy B Ensure that Oregon's forests provide diverse social and economic outputs and benefits valued by the public in a fair, balanced, and efficient manner
- Strategy C Maintain and enhance the productive capacity of Oregon's forests to improve the economic well-being of Oregon's communities
- Strategy D Protect, maintain, and enhance soil and water resources of Oregon's forests.
- Strategy E Contribute to the conservation of diverse native plant and animal populations and their habitats in Oregon's forests
- Strategy F Protect, maintain, and enhance the health of Oregon's forest ecosystems, watersheds, and airsheds within a context of natural disturbance and active management.
- Strategy G Enhance carbon storage in Oregon's forests and forest products

Legislative Concept links: Governor's Climate Change Initiative

Total Cost: \$1,010,000	Fund Source: General Funds 100%
Positions/FTE Count: 6 / 6.00	Position Type: Permanent Fulltime