



**Oregon Department of Forestry
2009-11 30% General Fund Reduction Plan Summary**

2009-11 General Fund

Total Agency General Fund at 2009-11 Essential Budget Level: \$ 44,963,795
 Total 30% General Fund Reduction: - \$ 13,489,140 -123 Positions -147.74 FTE

Results: More wildfires with higher cost, damage and public safety risk; inability to administer forest protection laws; and eventual loss of forestlands and the benefits they provide to Oregonians

Limited options. General Fund in the Department of Forestry for 2009-11 is situated in the Private Forests and Fire Protection Programs. The only other General Fund resources are in capital debt service for Certificates of Participation, and a portion of the agency's State Government Service Charges. These funds cannot be used for reduction planning at the agency level.

The 30% reduction is taken strategically, with the first 23% coming from the Private Forests Program, and the remaining 7% from the Fire Protection Program. There are not enough total General Fund dollars in the Private Forests Program alone to make the full 30% agency reduction.

The Private Forests Program reduction, when combined with matching Other Funds (Harvest Tax), constitutes an 80% reduction in the program, eliminating 50 of the current 57 field stewardship foresters, resulting in elimination of most direct services to forest landowners, watershed councils and state and local governments related to administration of the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA). These 50 employees are also highly trained and experienced wildland firefighters.

Minimal FPA enforcement. Continued adequate enforcement of reforestation requirements, conducted using a very broad compliance monitoring approach, would be the highest priority; however compliance monitoring for other best management practices would be significantly reduced. The remaining program would principally provide federal grant assistance to landowners, federal forest health project work, broad-scale reforestation monitoring, and limited insect and disease monitoring.

Broader impacts on regulation. Consequences include substantially reduced ability to administer Oregon's current regulatory approach to resource protection on private forestlands under the FPA, added costs to landowners in maintaining third-party certification of their forests, potential loss of federal funding to assist small woodland owners due to decreased field capacity, and significant increases in the cost and loss of forest resources to wildfire. Finally, the ability to rely on the Oregon Forest Practices Act as a 'one-stop-shopping' approach, providing efficient intergovernmental regulatory compliance regarding the federal Clean Water Act, fish passage, pesticide use, etc., would be highly impacted, creating the potential for increased government and landowner costs almost immediately.

Lands currently managed with forestry as the leading use will likely see added costs over time, which could lead to greater risk of conversion of working forestland to other uses. In the future, private forestlands would not provide the suite of environmental, economic, and social benefits that Oregonians currently enjoy.

The Fire Protection Program reduction, when combined with matching Other Funds (Landowner Assessments), constitutes a 14% reduction in the program, eliminating staffing for 71 of 220 initial attack engines, and all three local district fire suppression helicopters. The overall reduction is equivalent to eliminating fire protection on 2.2 million of the 16 million protected acres in the state, an area the size of the Department's Central Oregon District, with a value-at-risk exposure of approximately \$10 billion.

Higher General Fund costs. Conservatively, an additional \$7 to \$15 million would be spent annually on large fire suppression (\$15-\$30 million per biennium) during "average" fire seasons, most of which, under current law, would come from the state General Fund. During severe fire seasons such as 2002, 2005 and 2007, these costs could easily exceed \$50 million, similar to the experience in Washington, California, Idaho and Montana during those years.

Additionally, Oregon's one-of-a-kind fire suppression insurance policy of \$25 million annual coverage, along with the current Bureau of Land Management Western Oregon protection contract, worth \$6 million annually, could become very difficult, if not impossible, to retain.

Additional fire impacts from State Forests cuts. The State Forests Program (Other Fund) is also implementing reductions that will directly impact the Fire Protection Program. Due to declining timber revenues, the State Forests Program is estimating a 30-40% budget reduction for 2009-11. Approximately 65 or more permanent and 35 seasonal positions will be eliminated. Historically these positions have played an important role in assisting with local fire suppression efforts and supporting statewide mobilization for large fire management.

Failure to meet legal mandate. The bottom line with these fire protection reductions is that the statutory requirement to "provide adequate protection" would not be met (ORS477.210(1)), and private and public forest resources, along with public safety and property, would be at great risk.



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Today/Current	2009-11 Cut	What's Left	Outcome/Impact
23% Department Reduction - Private Forests Program			
<p>GF Total: \$ 12,110,029* OF Total: \$ 7,510,785* Total: \$ 19,620,814*</p> <p>Positions: 94* FTE: 94.97*</p> <p>The Private Forests Program provides resource protection and landowner assistance services on Oregon's 10.7 million acres under private ownership.</p> <p>The Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA) provides a 'one-stop-shopping' approach for intergovernmental regulatory compliance towards protecting water quality, sensitive wildlife habitat and other environmental values during forest operations.</p> <p>The program's forest health unit monitors trends in forest insect and disease levels. The program also leads the Sudden Oak Death eradication effort.</p> <p>Licensed geotechnical engineers plan, manage for, and mitigate the potential impacts of landslides in forested areas on public safety.</p> <p>The Program supports salmon recovery and the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.</p> <p>* General Fund and Harvest Tax only. The program also has some federal funding and some fire protection funding.</p>	<p>GF Total: \$ 10,116,857 (-84%) OF Total: \$ 5,487,531 (-73%) Total: \$ 15,604,388 (-80%)</p> <p>Positions: 31 (-33%) FTE: 80.04 (-84%)</p> <p>Eliminates the majority of technical, educational and operations services provided to landowners, state, and local governments related to the administration of the FPA, with reforestation requirements being an exception.</p> <p>Eliminates 50 of ODF's 57 stewardship foresters around the state, and eliminates all technical specialists in program staff and the field that support the FPA.</p> <p>Eliminates program effectiveness monitoring, substantially reducing the ability to assess adequacy of the best management practices. Also, significantly reduces the Insect and Disease program, limiting the ability to assess forest health and to conduct Sudden Oak Death eradication efforts.</p> <p>Eliminates all staff geotechnical engineers and department capacity to plan, manage for, and mitigate the potential impacts of landslides in forested areas on public safety.</p> <p>Eliminates all staff support to Federal salmon recovery planning and the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.</p>	<p>GF Total: \$ 1,993,172 OF Total: \$ 2,023,254 Total: \$ 4,016,426</p> <p>Positions: 63 FTE: 14.93</p> <p>Maintains minimal field capacity—about three stewardship foresters state-wide for FPA administration—to respond to the most serious public complaints and enforcement issues, and conduct a minimal audit of operations.</p> <p>Maintains minimal Insect and Disease program capacity to administer the Sudden Oak Death eradication program and conduct forest health and reforestation surveys in alternating years.</p> <p>Maintains minimal policy support necessary to continue to assess adequacy of statutes and rules and support to the legislature.</p> <p>Maintains minimal program resources necessary to rebuild the program in the future.</p>	<p>Substantially reduced ability to administer Oregon's current regulatory approach towards resource protection on private forestlands under the FPA.</p> <p>Added costs to landowners in maintaining third party certification of their forests.</p> <p>Loss of stewardship foresters may lead to loss in Federal funding, due to decreased field capacity.</p> <p>Increase risks of conversion of working forestland to other uses.</p> <p>Significantly reduced support to the fire militia by Private Forests Program employees.</p> <p>Reliance on the FPA as a 'one-stop-shopping' approach towards efficient intergovernmental regulatory compliance such as the federal Clean Water Act compliance, fish passage regulation, pesticide use compliance, etc., would be diminished, creating the potential for increased landowner costs in the longer-term.</p>



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Today/Current	2009-11 Cut	What's Left	Outcome/Impact
7% Department Reduction - Fire Protection Program			
<p>GF Total: \$26,015,119* OF Total: \$37,189,600* Total: \$63,204,719*</p> <p>Positions: 579* FTE: 311.52*</p> <p>16 million acres of forest land protected</p> <p><u>Initial Attack Capacity</u> Engines- approximately 220 engines state wide</p> <p><u>Helicopters and Air attack Platforms</u> - 3 District helicopters and one fixed wing observation ship.</p>	<p>GF Total: \$3,372,283 (-13%) OF Total: \$5,734,904 (-15%) Total: \$9,107,187 (-14%)</p> <p>Positions: 92 (-16%) FTE: 67.70 (-22%)</p> <p><u>In General</u> For the Fire Program the 7% reduction represents a 14 % total reduction to the base level of protection provided today. Importantly, due to the use of seasonal firefighter positions, this cut is a full 22% reduction in firefighter position capacity. Also, it is already recognized that, at current funding levels, without these reductions, the program is underfunded approximately 11% due to the effects of climate change, inflation, the impact of the Wildland-Urban Interface, and hazardous fuels buildup.</p> <p>71 Initial Attack engines companies would be eliminated due to elimination of seasonal fire fighter positions that make up the engine crews.</p> <p>All district contracted aircraft funds are eliminated. This eliminates helicopters in Douglas, Southwest Oregon and Klamath Lake Districts. The reduction eliminates an observation ship in Central Oregon.</p>	<p>GF Total: \$22,642,836 OF Total: \$31,454,696 Total: \$54,097,532</p> <p>Positions: 487 FTE: 243.82</p> <p><u>Reduction Effect</u> To attempt to minimize impact of the reduction firefighting resources will be reduced proportionately statewide. If concentrated, the reduction would be the equivalent to totally eliminating fire protection on the 2.2 million acres, which is the size of the Department's largest protection district, the Central Oregon District.</p> <p>149 initial attack engines would remain staffed. More than a 32% reduction in initial attack engine availability.</p> <p>No contracted aircraft would remain in the Districts, only Call When Needed aircraft if available would be accessible at higher rates. Huge impacts to initial attack in the high fire districts.</p>	<p>The overall level of fire protection will be reduced by 14%, resulting in larger fires, more human caused fires, and greater suppression costs. Implementation of this reduction will put the Western Oregon BLM protection contract at risk, including revenue of \$6 million annually. Additionally, with the lower level of protection, maintaining the state's wildfire insurance policy, which provides \$25 million coverage in suppression costs, is uncertain. Impacts also include public and firefighter safety and significant natural resource loss.</p> <p>Initial attack will be significantly reduced. Districts will not be able to contain multiple fire starts from lightning at initial attack. Firefighter safety and resource loss will be compromised due to the lack of second arrival engines. Fires will grow large and cost the state and forest landowners millions of additional dollars.</p> <p>Will impact the ability to suppress fires and provide necessary safety equipment for front-line remaining fire fighters.</p>



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<p><u>Service and Supplies for Fire Fighting Tools and Equipment-</u> Various items within each district and headquarters.</p>	<p>Reduction of over \$500,000 in funding for safety equipment, fire fighting tools and professional services (annual expenses for preparedness).</p>	<p>These reductions will impact fire fighter readiness impacting initial attack times and how aggressive firefighter actions will be.</p>	<p>Response times and fire suppression action delayed resulting in larger fires with more suppression costs.</p>
<p><u>Fire Detection and Dispatching</u> Approximately 25 staffed lookouts</p>	<p>The reduction eliminates staffing for 15 fire lookouts (60% reduction)</p>	<p>Staffing will remain for 10 fire lookouts.</p>	<p>Safety of field staff impacted, Reduction will create increased detection times, increased fire response times both impacting the</p>
<p>18 Detection Cameras</p>	<p>Eliminates half of the funding for this program along with additional funding for new sites.</p>	<p>Staffing for camera detection centers reduced</p>	<p>Department's ability to catch fires while small.</p>
<p>Approximately 40 Dispatch Staff</p>	<p>Eliminates 8 dispatching positions</p>	<p>Approx. 32 dispatch staff remain.</p>	<p>Dispatch reductions impact the Department's ability to order and dispatch adequate resources - outcome will create larger, more expensive fires and impact firefighter safety.</p>
<p><u>Fire Prevention</u> The Department's fire prevention program provides for public and industrial fire prevention including fire investigation and cost recovery</p>	<p>The reduction will eliminate Industrial fire prevention funding in 18 positions and 5 fire prevention specialists and information officers across the field districts.</p>	<p>Fire prevention will be accomplished to the extent possible through remaining fire suppression staff.</p>	<p>There will be a higher probability of increased fire starts from forest activities and the general public. These fires tend to be the most expensive to suppress. With fewer resources there will be a lower probability of successful cost collection leading to higher costs for the state and landowners.</p>
<p><u>Management and Administration</u> Approximately 40 full time positions statewide in fire protection.</p>	<p>Elimination of the Headquarters Business Manager, Office Manager and 2 other administrative staff. 3 District Office administrative staff will be eliminated.</p>	<p>33 Field and HQ Staff administrative staff remain</p>	<p>Poses great risk for quality control of fire billings and reduces the ability to make fire payments and maintain legal and rule accounting requirements at the state and federal levels. It is important to note administrative staff is already operating at a sub-standard staffing level in all programs and this will only increase fire finance issues and billings with federal and landowner cooperators.</p>
<p>* General Fund and Fire Patrol only. The program also has federal funding and other program Other Funds, both limited and non-limited.</p>			