



Promoting and practicing sustainable forestry

2009-2011 BUDGET REQUEST



Full-Range Landowner Services

An Overview

Oregon's privately owned and urban forests are highly diverse, including large industrial ownerships, family woodlands of many sizes, and treescapes in cities, suburbs and rural residential areas. They provide values for all Oregonians, including watershed protection, economic activity, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and capacity to absorb gases that cause global warming.

As Oregon grows and urbanizes, increasing numbers of forest tracts are being converted to other uses, or face pressure for such conversion.

This proposal focuses and streamlines activities to create a single point of contact for all ODF forestland services to landowners. The integrated program would provide resource protection and landowner assistance services to 10.7 million acres (35 percent of Oregon's forest land) under private ownership, and to 242 incorporated cities and many non-profit community organizations.

This proposal advances efforts to create "one stop shopping" for landowners, providing services to help them manage their forests successfully, and encouraging them to continue to keep their lands in forest use.

Challenges present opportunities

Historically the Department of Forestry structured delivery of services by category, for example: forest practices, forestry assistance or urban forestry. The transition to the integrated Stewardship Forester provides the landowner customer a single point of contact for all ODF Private Forests services. This approach requires stewardship foresters to possess skill sets tailored to specific geographic locations and mixes of ownership, such as this area (*at right*) near Damascus in Clackamas County.



A three-part solution

This budget proposal adds the resources necessary to provide services for the full range of forestlands in Oregon, considering public values and expectations for resource protection. The package has three components, each focused on a geographic or ownership mix that requires a unique skill set from on-the-ground foresters:

- Supporting family forestlands.
- Compliance monitoring of forest practices.
- Sustainable forestry in urban, residential and wildland / urban interface areas.



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Supporting family forestlands

The Private Forests Program would gain the capacity to address issues affecting the sustainability of family forestlands in Oregon. **Stewardship foresters would have increased opportunity to provide one-on-one technical assistance, to deliver and administer incentive programs, implement the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, and administer the Forest Practices Act.**

Additional capacity would also help family forestland owners meet the requirements of independent organizations that certify forests as responsibly managed; and develop an easement program for protecting working forests. Infrastructure would be developed to connect landowners with sources of incentive financial assistance dollars. This portion of the proposal would add 11 positions.

Forest practices compliance audits

This component seeks to add capacity to establish a rigorous compliance monitoring / auditing program. Program outcomes would contribute directly to an Agency Key Performance Measurement and accurately measure compliance with reforestation and other important rules. Results would facilitate targeted education, enforcement, or adaptive management actions and allow compliance trends to be measured over time. Capacity would be restored in several stewardship forester and unit forester positions to participate in compliance audits, which would be combined with ongoing training programs.

Specialists would collect data regarding private forest management practices and landowner compliance with, and effectiveness of, the Forest Practices Act. Capacity would be provided by the addition of a Monitoring Specialist position, a Training Coordinator, and three Field Monitoring Coordinators.

Sustainable Forestry in Residential and Wildland / Urban Interface Areas

This component would build capacity for ensuring the stewardship of forest resources within and around urban growth boundaries and rural residential zones. Key customers would include local governments, small forestland owners and community organizations. These services would benefit the 78 percent of all Oregonians who live in urban landscapes. Products delivered include technical, financial and educational assistance in urban forestry, administration of the Forest Practices Act, and fire planning assistance within urban growth boundaries and rural residential zones.

With current staffing, ODF cannot adequately help Oregon cities maintain public safety, stimulate economic activity and maintain environmental protection. This component would establish five new Community Stewardship Forester positions throughout the state, one land use planning policy analyst / technical coordinator and restore two existing Community Stewardship Technical Specialist positions that were reduced due to federal budget reductions in the last biennium, for a total of six new positions.

Budget Backgrounder Full-Range Landowner Services

What's proposed

Funding would be tailored to the types of landowners served. The complete package seeks about \$5.3 million - \$3.3 million in General Funds (GF), \$1.3 million in Other Funds (OF - Forest Products Harvest Tax) and \$ 0.7 million in Federal Funds (FF).

- **Supporting Family Forestlands:** \$2 million – 60 percent GF, and 20 percent each OF and FF. Eleven positions are requested.
- **Forest Practices Compliance Audits:** \$1.8 million - 60 percent GF and 40 percent OF. Five positions would be created.
- **Sustainable Forestry in Residential and Wildland / Urban Interface Areas:** \$1.5 million – 60 percent GF, 30 percent FF, and 10 percent OF. Five new Community Stewardship Forester positions would be established throughout the state and one land use planning policy analyst / technical coordinator providing program resource direction and technical assistance, totaling six new positions.

The comprehensive policy option package total cost is \$ 5,270,944 and creates 22 positions (27.5 FTE)

Expected outcomes and benefits

The effectiveness of each initiative would be measured by a new Key Performance Measurement. Proposal outcomes include:

- Increased proportion of Oregon cities actively managing urban and community forest resources (currently 34 percent).
- Increased private acreage in compliance with the Forest Practices Act.
- Increased acreage of lands managed under stewardship agreements, independent certification, or other management plans, including wildlife conservation plans.
- Increased investment in voluntary projects to create healthy forests and watersheds, such as the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

To learn more

Peter Daugherty, Deputy Chief – Private Forests Division
(503) 945-7482
pdaugherty@odf.state.or.us

Kevin Weeks, Agency Affairs Program
(503) 945-7427
kweeks@odf.state.or.us