



2017 – 2019 BUDGET BACKGROUNDER



Developing Budget Additions

An Overview

The Oregon Department of Forestry is currently developing 2017-19 budget proposals based on priorities established by the Governor and the Board of Forestry.

Through July 2016, ODF will evaluate proposals to fund services or initiatives beyond the regular base budget. These possible budget additions reflect ODF's current thinking on a variety of critical issues. The agency recognizes the state's difficult budget climate and will seek public input prior to submitting any proposals to the Governor's office.

Mission Summary

The Oregon Department of Forestry's mission is to serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forests to enhance environmental, economic and community sustainability.

Fire Protection

Fire Season Severity Resources. This concept proposes General Fund dollars for supplemental firefighting resources for use during high fire danger periods. The funds are not proposed as part of ODF's budget, but rather would appear as a Special Purpose Appropriation in the Governor's Budget. This concept recommends the increase to the Severity Program over previous budgets based on increasingly complex fire conditions in Oregon. This item will be moved to the Emergency Board budget later in the process.

Complete and Coordinated Fire Protection System Capacity. This concept proposes additional capacity to address the increasing complexity of Oregon's fire seasons, with a focus on evolving the protection system in three key areas: Aviation Operations, Fire Finance and Training. One full-time aviation position is proposed to support the administration demands on the Fire Protection Division's 17 aviation contracts, recently advanced through the 2013 Wildfire Protection Act. One full-time fire finance field coordinator is proposed to address fiscal accountability from the increasingly expensive fire seasons. Responsibilities for this position include fire billing coordination, audit coordination, Severity Program financial tracking, cost-share agreements, FEMA coordination and serving as an incident business advisor. Three full-time Area training coordinators are proposed to expand the state's ability to respond with greater access to trained wildfire personnel, both internal and external to ODF, including landowners, forestry workers, contractors, and other agency partners.

Rangeland Protection Association. This concept proposes to continue the \$1.2 million General Fund investment from the 2015 Legislature to the Rangeland Protection Associations (RPAs) as an agency budget pass-through. These dollars are targeted to increase the effectiveness of RPAs in the execution of their rangeland fire-suppression response, protect sage grouse habitat and strengthen rural community viability. Additionally, the proposal requests 0.5 FTE for the rangeland coordinator position to make it fully funded by General Fund. This position currently receives 0.5 FTE in federal funds.

State Forests

Recreation, Education and Interpretation. This concept proposes public funding for some public benefits that are provided by State Forests. State Forests' recreation, education and interpretation programs benefit Oregonians. This package will provide for investments in resources needed to administer these programs, including personnel, trail systems, campgrounds and infrastructure.

Budget Backgrounder Developing Budget Additions

Private Forests

Support Sustainable Family and Community Forestry. This concept proposes new capacity to enhance the agency's efforts to meet forestry challenges across ownerships and land uses in wildland/urban interface areas and communities. This proposal integrates services in a coordinated program that promotes sustainable forest management, conserves forest values, reduces the effects of forest fragmentation, and improves water quality by expanding field assistance available to forestland owners, partners and local governments in developing areas and communities. ODF field foresters will provide technical assistance to landowners and communities, deliver and administer incentive programs for clean water and sound forestry practices, implement the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, promote voluntary conservation measures, address current and emerging invasive species problems, and administer the Forest Practices Act.

Continuous Business Improvements. This concept proposes to ensure the long-term commitment to continuous business improvements in the Private Forests Division by investing in ODF's ability to gather, store, maintain and report information related to Forest Practices administration, civil penalties administration, GIS data, and technical assistance to landowners including forest management plans, voluntary measures and Safe Harbor Agreements.

Water Quality, Forest Roads, and Landslide Areas. This concept proposes additional capacity in the Forest Practices monitoring program to ensure effectiveness of rules and best-management practices in protecting water quality related to forest roads and landslide-prone terrain, and to address associated scientific and policy issues.

Administration

Federal Forest Restoration Program. This concept proposes to transition Oregon's unique investment in federal forest restoration to ODF's base budget. Based on the success of the previous two biennia, the FFRP will support local collaborative efforts and establish ODF as an implementation partner to restore Oregon's federal forests. The FFRP will maintain capacity for ODF in eastern Oregon, developed in previous biennia, and build additional capacity west of the Cascades to coordinate project implementation locally. Activation of the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) will significantly expand ODF's role to achieve forest restoration goals. The FFRP will leverage state funding with additional federal fund limitation to activate the GNA in Oregon.

Human Resources Capacity. This concept proposes to address long-term workload issues in support of employee Police and Fire benefits, Family Medical Leave Act/Oregon Family Leave Act, classification, policy development and recruitment, and seasonal firefighting.

State Forester's Office Building. This concept proposes to fund restoration of the State Forester's Office building in Salem to ensure business operations for key staff.

Klamath-Lake Guard Station. This concept proposes to replace two existing (but deteriorating) guard stations in the Klamath-Lake District with a single new guard station.

West Oregon District – Toledo Facility Replacement. This concept proposes to replace the aging ODF Unit Office Facilities Compound located in Toledo. This project is currently under evaluation for inclusion in a larger co-locate project with the Oregon Department of Transportation.

For more information

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