



# Introducing the Oregon Department of Forestry

*Keeping forests healthy and working*

Summer 2018



This historic building in Salem has served as headquarters for the Oregon Department of Forestry since 1938. Labor to construct the State Forester's Office was provided by workers from the federal Works Progress Administration.

Oregon is one of the world's best places to grow trees. Forests cover about 30 million acres – almost half of the state – and are integral to Oregon's identity and wellbeing. The Oregon Department of Forestry works to protect, manage and conserve forests so they can continue to provide a range of economic, environmental and community benefits.

and agreements with public agencies across Oregon, the nation and British Columbia.

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## A strategic approach

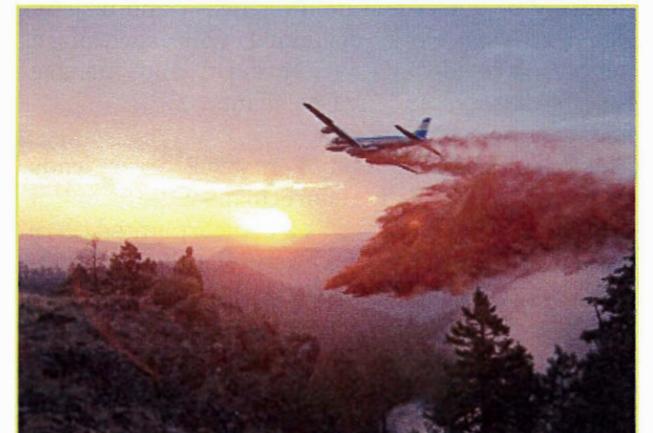
ODF's work supports key long-term goals for Oregon, including revitalization of rural economies, improving water quality, maintaining healthy, working landscapes and enhancing the quality of life for all Oregonians.

## Five principle businesses

### Fire Protection

The Fire Protection Division supervises ODF's top business priority: protecting forests from wildfire. As Oregon's largest fire department, ODF protects 16 million acres, a \$60 billion asset. These are privately owned forests, as well as some public lands, which include state-owned forests and, by contract, U.S. Bureau of Land Management forests in western Oregon. The ODF fire protection system, among the world's finest, responds to about 1,000 fires each year, extinguishing well over 90 percent at 10 acres or less (ODF's initial attack objective). Landowners and the state share costs, an acknowledgment of the public value of a complete and coordinated protection system.

The department is part of an extensive fire protection network that includes landowner resources, contract crews and aircraft, inmate crews,



Fire protection is ODF's highest priority, with a world-class continually improving system.

### Private Forests

The Private Forests Division promotes sound management of private forests, while maintaining high water quality on forestland. ODF's stewardship foresters enforce the Oregon Forest Practices Act and other environmental laws. A cornerstone of resource protection, the FPA requires post-harvest reforestation and scientifically supported measures like streamside buffer rules and forestry best management practices. The FPA encourages private forestland investment that is guided by a consistent regulatory environment. It underpins a social contract between landowners and the public, assuring responsibly managed private forests.

*To serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forests to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability.*



# Sustaining Oregon's Full Forestry Mission

*Protecting communities and forests as wildfire challenges grow*

ARB 2019-2021 Policy Option Package #100

## Overview

Positions the Department to face a growing wildfire workload while continuing its broader mission of supporting sound, sustainable forestry, which yields many public benefits. Provides additional firefighting resources.

## Background and summary

Climate trends and other factors have made fire seasons longer, more severe and more complex. The yearly average acreage burned on Oregon state-protected lands has more than doubled in the past 20 years, to 33,900. Wildfire consequences include smoke-related health risks, resource and property loss, soaring firefighting costs, evacuations, and disruption of travel, commerce, tourism and other activity.



An agency review and a Secretary of State audit have found that the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is not prepared to face today's fire demands while meeting its full suite of mandates. These include managing state-owned forests for many benefits, and protecting natural resources during timber harvest and other operations on private land.

Given firefighting's seasonal nature, ODF uses a "militia" approach, drawing employees with specialized skills from across the agency, particularly to help with the few fires that grow large and highly demanding. However, ODF currently can fully staff only two of its three large-fire teams. And some of the work is left behind as fire duty takes priority – such as supporting fuel reduction and forest health projects – which would mitigate future fire danger.



ODF seeks to add positions across its divisions, leveraging federal and general funds. In addition to the increased firefighting workload, many of these positions would increase fire prevention, forest resilience, fire adapted communities, and post-fire recovery as part of ODF's full mission. The budget package would also continue Oregon's proven investment in "severity" resources – crews and equipment that can be staged around the state where immediate fire danger is highest.

## Fiscal Impact

\$17 million for 55 permanent and 30 seasonal positions across all agency programs  
\$9 million in "severity" investments including:

- Additional contract firefighting resources
- Helitack program (for 2020 fire season)
- Contract for Next-generation large air tanker (for 2021 fire season)
- Multi mission capable aircraft with forward looking infrared technology

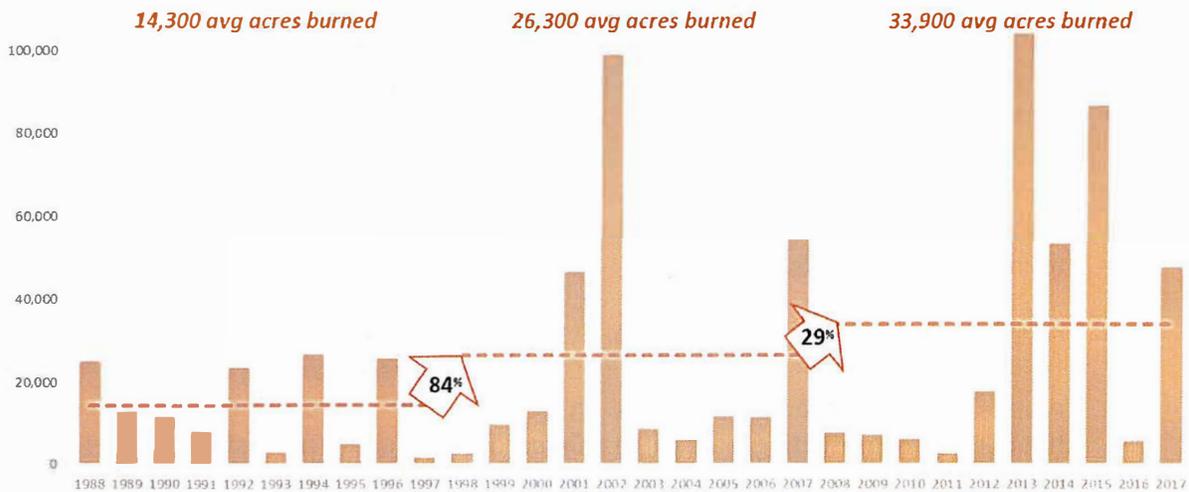


# Sustaining Oregon's Full Forestry Mission

*Protecting communities and forests as wildfire challenges grow*

ARB 2019-2021 Policy Option Package #100

ODF Protected Lands  
Average Acres Burned by Decade



The Makeup of ODF's Fire Militia in 2018

- Fire Protection 37%
- State Forests 29%
- Private Forests 26%
- Agency Administration 8%





# Fire Protection Division

**Healthy forests • Effective fire response • Protecting communities**

**Overview** *The request will sustain the Division's vital role in the complete and coordinated system that protects people, property and natural resources.*

## Background and Summary

Oregonians depend on sustainably managed forests for many things. Among these are forest products and the living-wage jobs they support; recreation; clean air and water; habitat for fish and wildlife; and scenery that attracts tourists and provides spiritual and emotional renewal to natives and visitors alike.



As the largest fire department in Oregon, Division staff work to minimize losses from wildfire to communities and private and public landowners. Emphasis is placed on extinguishing wildfires while they are still small. The division's strategies center on fire prevention, suppression, mitigating wildfire risk and ensuring adequate funding to maintain the ability to fight fires. This approach saves lives and property while protecting the environment and forest resources.



Longer and more intense fire seasons in recent years are significantly straining the agency's ability to achieve these objectives as more demands are placed on employees. Two decades ago, the agency was responding to fires that burned an average of 14,300 acres a year. Today that number has doubled to 33,900 acres.



ODF's "militia" approach to firefighting draws employees from across the agency. Inevitably, this means other work gets left behind, affecting the agency's ability to meet its mission to protect, manage and promote stewardship of Oregon's forests. Examples include projects designed to create fire-adapted communities and reduce future fire danger.



ODF seeks to add 22 fire specialists in fire information technology, prevention/investigation, training, aviation, multi-agency coordination, fire finance and crew managers for Dept. of Corrections fire crews, as well as 30 seasonal firefighters. It also seeks to add capacity to aviation resources to enhance aerial attack of wildfires. Air support is especially important in rugged and remote areas, where many lightning-caused wildfires begin.



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# Oregon Department of Forestry

## *Fire Militia*

### *Rallying ODF employees from across the agency*

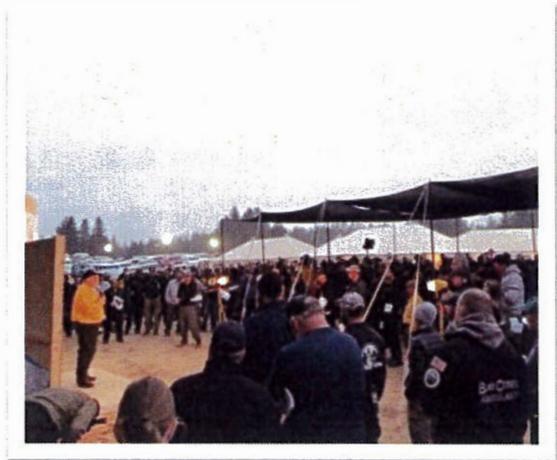
#### Overview

Wildland firefighting is seasonal in nature. More resources are needed during peak fire activity in the summer. To meet the demands for qualified large fire support personnel, ODF uses a "militia" approach that taps into staff throughout the agency. Longer and more intense fire seasons are straining ODF's ability to effectively fight wildfire while accomplishing core business.

#### Background



- ODF operates within a complete and coordinated system of fire protection, with federal, state, local and tribal agencies collaborating to prevent and suppress wildland fires.
- ODF uses a "fire militia" approach to staff wildland fires. When fire activity is high, the agency relies on a mix of permanent Fire Protection staff, seasonally hired firefighters, and staff temporarily reassigned from the agency's State Forests, Private Forests and Agency Administration divisions.
- All agency staff, regardless of their position, are encouraged to train and become qualified in firefighting or support roles. Non-protection employees comprise more than half of the teams (known as Incident Management Teams) sent to manage wildfires on lands protected by ODF.
- As staff rally to help the firefighting effort, much core agency business must either be postponed or shifted to other employees. Examples include: assistance to landowners for forest health projects, fuels mitigation projects to prevent forest fires, and recreation and education programs in state forests.
- In recent years, wildfires across the West have become more intense and complex. The average amount of land burned by fires is increasing above historic averages. And fires appear to be occurring earlier and later. This causes longer and more frequent deployments away from employees' regular jobs. Even more work must be postponed or shifted onto other staff, straining the agency's ability to fulfill core agency commitments to the people of Oregon.





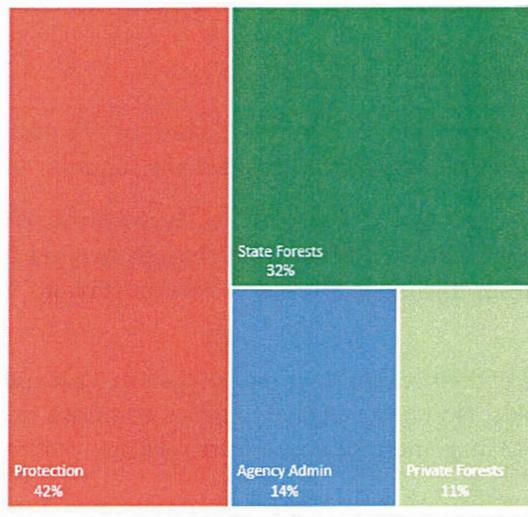
# Oregon Department of Forestry

## Fire Militia

### A Snapshot – The Militia in Action

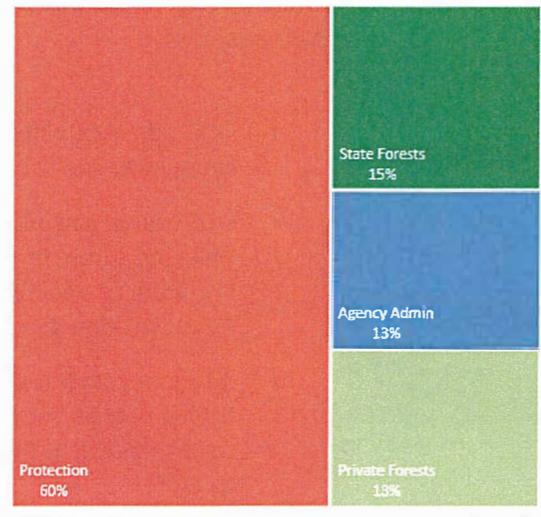
South Valley Fire Militia Composition  
on August 2, 2018

Agency Admin 14% Private Forests 11% Protection 42% State Forests 32%

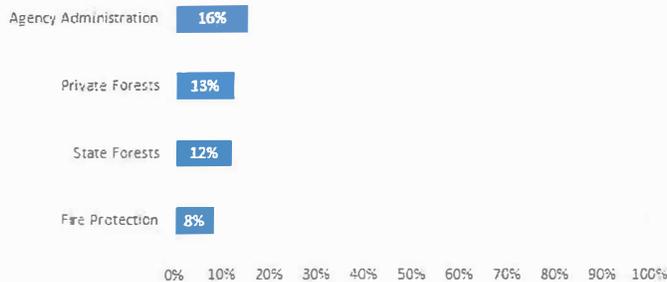


Garner Complex Fire Militia Composition  
on August 2, 2018

Agency Admin 13% Private Forests 13% Protection 60% State Forests 15%



Division Drawdown during 2 Incidents  
on August 2, 2018



### A Department Response

Each incident is unique and may affect the department and its operational units in different ways. What is not unique is the effect on the department's staff and ability to maintain its core work. As incidents increase and become more complex, the ability for the department's workforce to sustain militia and core business operations is strained.

### Next Steps

ODF seeks to add positions across its divisions to face the growing wildfire workload while continuing its broader mission of supporting sound, sustainable forestry, preserving the fire militia approach that has served Oregonians for more than a century.



# Private Forests Division

**Healthy forests • Effective fire response • Protecting communities**

**Overview** *The request helps the Division support the complete and coordinated fire militia approach while maintaining its ability to keep Oregon’s private forestlands healthy, intact and working for all.*

## Background and Summary

Oregonians depend on sustainably managed forests for many things. These include forest products and the living-wage jobs they support; recreation; clean air; drinking water; habitat for fish and wildlife; and scenery that attracts tourists and provides spiritual and emotional renewal to Oregonians and visitors alike.



Division staff work to keep forests intact and working to provide these benefits. A key objective is ensuring privately owned forests are responsibly managed under Oregon’s Forest Practices Act. Division staff provide technical assistance to forest landowners, protect clean water and wildlife habitat, detect and respond to forest health threats, support work to safeguard and improve our urban forests, and encourage responsible forest practices that increase wildfire resilience.



The Division’s ability to fulfill these responsibilities is significantly strained under the agency’s “militia” approach to firefighting, where employees from throughout ODF are pulled in to help fight wildfires. As longer and more intense fire seasons occur, more demands are placed on employees. Some of the work that gets postponed is fuel reduction and forest health projects designed to reduce future fire danger. This is the very work that saves lives and property while protecting the environment and forest economy.



ODF seeks to add 14 positions to the Private Forests Division, including 12 foresters specialized in wildland-urban interface issues. This will help maintain the agency’s ability to increase wildfire resilience in both private and community forests. By assisting landowners with responsible forest management practices, especially near urban areas, this will better protect Oregonians from smoke and other wildfire impacts. This also enhances the Division’s ability to contribute staff to ODF’s “militia” fire response while creating healthy, resilient forests across Oregon. With these added resources, the Division will be better able to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and public safety by promoting scientifically sound management of private forests

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# State Forests Division

**Healthy forests • Effective fire response • Protecting communities**

**Overview** *Positions the State Forests Division to contribute to fire prevention while maintaining its ability to manage state forests, protect forest resources, deliver important revenue to counties during fire season, and carry out projects that increase fire resilience.*

## Background and Summary

Oregon state forests are healthy and productive, providing clean air and water, recreation and outdoor learning opportunities, and diverse native fish and wildlife habitat. Timber from state forests provides much-needed revenue for local services and supports living-wage jobs in Oregon communities.



ODF's State Forests program is funded almost entirely by timber sale dollars. State Forests' staff administer timber sales, replant trees after harvests, build and improve campgrounds and trails, maintain habitat for fish and wildlife, and perform forest health projects that increase fire resiliency. The program also operates the Tillamook Forest Center and co-manages the South Fork Forest Camp with the Oregon Department of Corrections, delivering forest education and services to Oregonians.



The division is significantly strained by the demands placed on employees during longer and more intense fire seasons. ODF's "militia" approach to firefighting draws employees from across the agency, including the State Forests Division. Additionally, division staffing has fallen by 30 percent since the Great Recession. This means work is delayed or left behind, some of which – like supporting fuel reduction and forest health projects – would help mitigate future fire danger. This also puts Oregon's forests at risk for loss of many values, including steady timber sale revenue for local government and rural communities as well as tourism and recreation opportunities.



To increase the pace, scale and quality of restoration on federal lands, ODF is partnering with the U.S. Forest Service under the Good Neighbor Authority. State Forests' field staff are vital for this work, primarily developing and administering timber sales on federal land. Demands on State Forests' staff from increasingly severe fire seasons limit ODF's ability to implement projects that increase fire resiliency on federal lands.



ODF seeks to add 10 positions (7.5 FTE) in this Division as part of our Agency Request Budget. This will maintain the Division's contributions to the fire response "militia" without compromising our ability to manage state forests, deliver important revenue to counties during fire season, and carry out projects to increase wildfire resilience on federal forests.

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# Agency Administration

**Healthy forests • Effective fire response • Protecting communities**

**Overview** ODF's Agency Administration provides leadership, assessment, policy development, public involvement, communications and administrative systems support to the Board of Forestry and the agency, providing the foundation for effective implementation of the agency's core operations.

**Background and Summary** There are three primary components of Agency Administration.

- Agency Leadership and Management – In concert with the Board of Forestry, this function provides leadership and policy direction on all forestry matters in the state.
- Partnership and Planning – This component provides technical analysis and planning, as well as a wide variety of information on forestry issues within ODF, to other state, federal and local agencies and the public. It also focuses on partnership development and houses the Department's Federal Forest Restoration program.
- Administrative Services – This area consists of Information Technology, Human Resources, Public Affairs, Facilities Management, and Budget and Finance Services.

Administration's ability to fulfill its responsibilities as a valued partner in support of business operations is significantly strained under the agency's "militia" approach to firefighting, where employees from throughout ODF are pulled in to help fight wildfires. As longer and more intense fire seasons occur, more demands are placed on employees.

ODF seeks to strengthen several key areas within administration by adding capacity in all of its core administrative functions, including an accountant, procurement specialist, and an IT technical support position. In order to address the increased staffing, longer exposures to risk, and mitigate agency-wide workforce challenges, Human Resources will add HR and safety specialists and a strategic workforce planning position. The growing pressures to disseminate information on fires will be addressed by the addition of a fire information officer within Public Affairs. ODF also seeks to add a Government-to-Government policy analyst to maintain and foster collaborative partnerships with tribal nations, other agencies and with the state legislature.

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# ODF Multi-Mission Aircraft

## Cessna Grand Caravan EX

### Overview

Oregon Department of Forestry is seeking to replace the Cessna 414 which has been in service with the Department for over thirty five years.

### Aircraft Mission Profile

The agency has considered several aircraft replacement options for the Cessna 414, which would meet agency needs and provide additional mission capabilities statewide. In evaluating these options, it was determined that the Cessna Grand Caravan EX Multi-Mission Aircraft would be capable of performing a wide variety of day or night missions, helping the agency achieve the key performance measure of keeping 98% of fires at 10 acres or less.



<u>Multi Mission Capable Aircraft Cessna Grand Caravan EX</u>	
Aircraft Purchase Price	\$3,000,000
Infra-Red/Mapping/Air Attack Equipped Price	\$1,200,000
Total Cost	\$4,200,000

### Agency Mission Capabilities

- Lightning detection (daytime and nighttime) using infrared sensor
- Air Attack
- Large Fire Support (firefighter safety and perimeter mapping)
- Logistical Fire Support (rapid delivery of firefighting supplies)
- Firefighter Transport
- Forest Health Survey
- U.S. Forest Service Approved

### Other Agency Mission Capabilities

- Search and Rescue
- Law Enforcement Oregon State Police Agreement
- Disaster Relief

### Contact

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# Next Generation Airtanker

**Overview** Advance ODF's airtanker program to include a next generation airtanker.

**Summary** The federal airtanker fleet continues to be at levels well below the 40 plus airtankers on exclusive use contracts in the early 2000's. In 2002, several fatal aircraft accidents occurred and airtankers were grounded based on concerns of metal fatigue. As a result, the Oregon Department of Forestry entered into a contract for two, 3000 gallon, DC-7 Airtankers to make up for the reduction in available large airtankers through the national system.

For the 2018 fire season, the U.S. Forest Service had 14 Next Generation Airtankers on National Exclusive Use Contracts for rapid response. The additional 11 Next Generation Airtankers available through the Federal Call When Needed Airtanker Contract are anticipated to be over 50 percent more expensive and not readily available for Initial Attack missions.



In 2017, ODF completed a Request for Information on Next Generation Airtankers. Below is an estimated average cost for Next Generation Large Airtanker Services based on the information we received for airtankers that carry a minimum of 3000 gallons of retardant.

**Next Generation USFS Approved Large Airtanker Estimated Average Cost**

- Daily Availability \$34,500
- Flight rate \$7,750
- 75 Day Contract \$2,600,500

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The Private Forests Division actively participates in research to refine resource protection laws and management practices and contributes to ongoing research with private landowners, as well as with state and federal agencies.

Stewardship foresters consult with family and corporate landowners on forest management planning and voluntary projects including stream restoration, habitat enhancement, and invasive species control. Through cost-share programs, ODF encourages investments in private forestlands and prevention of forestland conversion to other land uses.

The Division also partners with universities and federal agencies to aerially survey 28 million acres annually to detect and monitor insect and disease damage. This work, combined with specialized surveys, provides data to prevent and manage insects, diseases, and invasive plants.

The Urban and Community Forestry Program leads and manages innovative efforts to meet the technical assistance needs of Oregon's 242 incorporated cities to help mitigate a wide variety of urban forestry problems, including storm-water runoff, pollution, degraded salmon-bearing streams, wildland-urban interface fires, urban temperature increases, and noise pollution. Addressing climate change challenges helps citizens work in their communities to connect local actions to global concerns.

To meet the technical assistance needs of Oregon's 242 incorporated cities, the Urban and Community Forestry Program leads and manages innovative efforts that can help mitigate a wide variety of global climate change issues through proper urban forestry management. Such efforts can diminish the environmental fluctuations of global climate change by reducing storm-water runoff, decreasing particulate air pollution, storing carbon, improving water quality and quantity in degraded salmon-bearing streams, lessening wildland-urban interface fires, discouraging invasive species, and lowering urban noise and temperature increases.

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Oregon is the nation's No. 1 producer of lumber and plywood while maintaining strong forest protection laws.

## State Forests

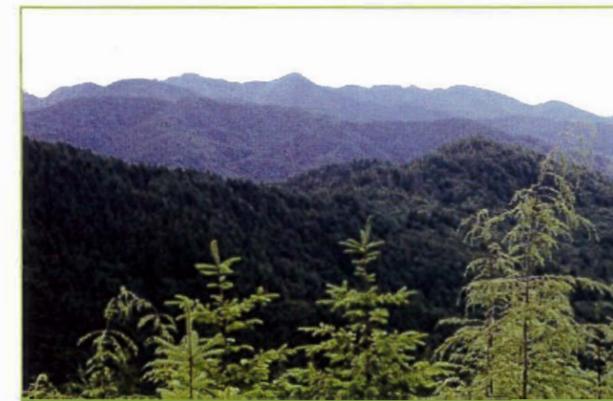
The State Forests Division manages nearly 730,000 acres of state-owned forests (about 3 percent of all of Oregon's forests). By law, forests under Board of Forestry jurisdiction are managed to secure the "greatest permanent value" of those lands to the state, providing sustainable benefits such as timber harvest, fish and wildlife habitat and recreation. Timber-sale revenue flows to counties where harvests occur to support local public services, such as law enforcement. ODF retains a portion of the revenue to pay the costs of managing the forest, including timber sale administration, tree planting and recreation.

State forest lands, especially those in the Clatsop, Tillamook, and Santiam state forests, provide an abundance of important recreational opportunities for Oregonians. These forests provide hundreds of miles of trails for off-highway vehicles, hiking and biking, as well as campgrounds and day-use areas, hundreds of miles of streams for anglers, and areas for hunting and wildlife viewing.

In the Tillamook State Forest, the South Fork Camp is a long-standing collaborative project with the Department of Corrections. The Camp provides a variety of services, including firefighting and recreation facility maintenance for the benefit of all Oregonians.

ODF also manages 33,073 acres of Common School Forest Land under contract with the State Land Board and the Department of State Lands. Under state constitutional mandate, these lands are managed to maximize revenue for schools.

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State-owned forests produce a broad range of economic, environmental and social benefits.

## Agency Administration

The Agency Administration Division provides high-quality leadership, assessment, policy development, public involvement, communications and administrative systems in support of the Board and agency, providing the foundation for effective implementation of the agency's core business functions.

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## Federal Forests

The Federal forest management and restoration program (FFR) increases the pace, scale and quality of restoration of Oregon's federal forestland. FFR awards grants and provides technical assistance to Oregon's network of local collaborative groups, partners with federal land managers to identify

more efficient ways to conduct project-level planning, and implements projects using the Good Neighbor Authority. FFR taps into capacity within the State Forest Division when this work involves administering a timber sale on federal land. Revenue from timber sales cover ODF costs to implement this work and fund additional restoration needs, including development of additional projects.

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## Leadership

The Board of Forestry is a seven-member citizen body nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the state Senate to oversee forest policy, provides overall guidance to the Department and appoints the State Forester.

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