



2019 – 2021 BUDGET BACKGROUNDER



Developing Budget Additions

An Overview

The Oregon Department of Forestry is currently developing 2019-21 budget proposals based on priorities established by the Governor and the Board of Forestry.

Through July 2018, 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 item will be moved to the Emergency Board budget later in the process.

Agency Wide

Agency Strategic Initiative: Protecting Oregonians, Forests and Communities from Wildfire. Oregon is experiencing increased severity, complexity and duration of its fire seasons, which has challenged ODF's ability to respond to the wildfire workload and sustain its other core businesses while proactively protecting Oregonians, forests and communities from wildfire. Fire protection demands have taxed all ODF programs, creating significant challenges and affecting the ability to accomplish core business functions in Fire, State Forests, Private Forests, Federal Forests and Agency Administration. This challenge is due to the militia (all-hands-on-deck) approach to fighting fire, which means some services are not delivered and there are risks associated with that outcome. Both the 2016 Fire Program Review and 2016 Secretary of State Performance Audit identified agency sustainability as a critical issue to be addressed.

As a result, the Agency is developing one policy option package to address agency sustainability across all of its core businesses. This Agency Initiative addresses people (positions) and training capacity needs, along with wildfire protection system investments that aim to respond to and mitigate the risk of large wildfires across Oregon's landscape. The additional capacity provides for adequate response to increasing extended attack and large fire incidents. The capacity will also contribute to increasing the resilience of Oregon's forests and preparing/improving fire adapted communities.

Budget Backgrounder Developing Budget Additions

State Forests

Sort Sale Other Funds Limitation Increase. The Oregon Department of Forestry manages State Forest Lands to provide economic, social and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon. ODF covers management costs almost entirely with timber sale dollars. As part of ongoing business improvement initiatives, log sort sales have emerged as a means to increase financial outcomes. ODF sells traditional timber sales to a single purchaser and they hire the logger. With sort sales ODF hires the logger and sells log, by species, length, grade, and diameter to multiple purchasers. This approach aligns with industry standards, increases our bidder pool, and geographically expands our log market. These outcomes increase revenue generation to the Department and to the counties. This approach requires ODF to complete project work, such as road construction, prior to selling the timber. ODF reimburses the project work by the timber sale revenue when the logs are sold. The Department is seeking increased authorization for these types of activities.

Administration

Agency Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement. During the 2017 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 1067 passed requiring the Agency to include at least 2.0% of the current replacement value of the Agency's buildings and infrastructure for deferred maintenance in the Agency Request Budget.

For more information

Bill Herber, Administrative Services Division Chief
503-945-7203
Bill.Herber@oregon.gov

James Short, Budget Director
503-945-7275
James.Short@oregon.gov