

# Landscape Resiliency Program 2023-2025 Report

**Oregon  
Department of  
Forestry**



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State Initiatives Grant Coordinator

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# INTRODUCTION

## Landscape Resiliency Program

This is the final report from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) on the Landscape Resiliency Program (LRP) for the 2023-2025 Legislative Biennium. Through this program and legislative direction, there has been significant work to mitigate wildfire risk on the landscape and build resiliency in our forests supporting the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy. This year \$10,000,000 was funded through the legislative process and of that amount, \$9,959,467 was spent on the landscape for mitigation and resiliency using many internal and external resources and leveraged work. This report shares the program's collaboration and landscape approach that has successfully been a primary program for the 20-year Landscape Resiliency Strategy and continues efforts to proactively protect the people and lands in the state of Oregon.



*Youth Corps reducing fuels for Northern Blues LRP project. Photo provided by Alyssa Cudmore.*

### Highlights:

- Total Footprint Acreage Goal: 28,753
- Total Footprint Acreage Treated: 33,117
- 3,770 RX burning acres treated,
- 10 meetings with partners and
- 1 demonstration of Rx Burning for communities,
- 17,600 activity acres of Herbicide treatment,
- Collaborative meetings, monitoring data, rapid assessment tool, and education on Rx Burning.



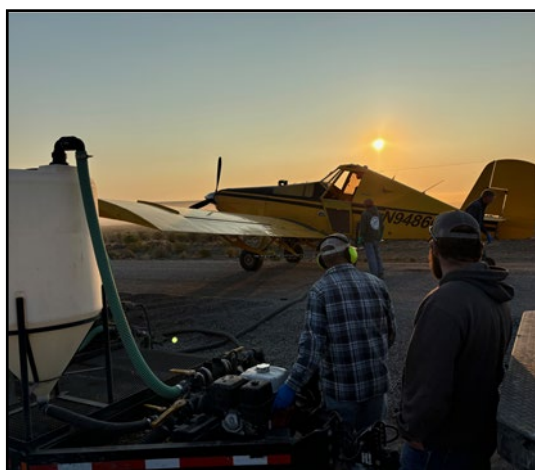




## Prescribed Burning

Prescribed Burning (Rx) is being looked at more often as an important tool in mitigating fuels and restoring the landscape to historically appropriate environments. In the Landscape Resiliency Program 2,828 acres of Rx fire were implemented on the landscape through the Klamath Tribes project as well as 1,700 acres in the High Desert Partnership Project. Additionally, 70 acres of prescribed fire were used as a demonstration in the town of Butte Falls' Community Forest in the River project. This demonstration will be developed into a documentary to share in media for expanding understanding and acceptance of Rx Fire on private lands. We expect more Rx Fire will be necessary on the landscape as the need for mitigation of extreme wildfire events increases. Encouraging landowner understanding and implementation is a crucial step towards utilizing this tool in the future.





Nick Schott from Schott Ag. Air, applying Rejuvra annual grass herbicide in the Beaver Tables Project area. Photo from Aaron Johnson (High Desert Partnership)

## EXPANDING WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION IN SE OREGON

### Contact:

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Aaron Johnston [aaron@highdesertpartnership.org](mailto:aaron@highdesertpartnership.org)

**Total Amount Funded:** \$3,800,900

**Spent:** \$3,800,900

**Total Footprint Acreage Goal:** 22,745 Acres

**Completed:** 25,528 Acres

### Deliverables:

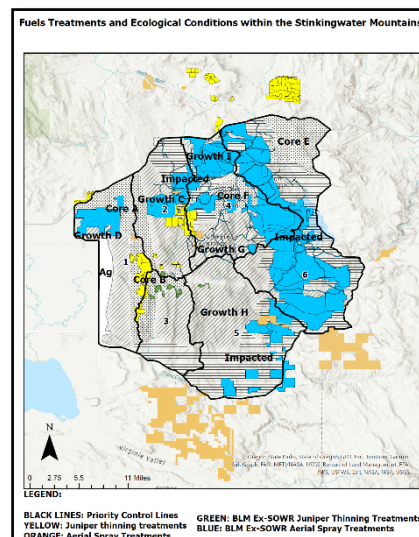
Goal	Accomplished
17,600 acres of Herbicide	16,765 acres of Herbicide
5,145 acres of Juniper treatment	8,763 acres of Juniper treatment
6 meetings annually with partners (12 total)	8 Harney County Collaborative Meetings
Provided data to USFWS & USGS for rangeland monitoring.	Provided data to USFWS & USGS for rangeland monitoring.



Juniper cutting project completed along the Stinkingwater Access Road, reinforcing a crucial control line. Photo provided from Aaron Johnson (High Desert Partnership)

**Match:** \$3,814,759: an additional 253 acres of Juniper was treated around a cell tower just north of Burns/Hines (not included in final acreage total). This increased landscape resilience and ensured better protection of a community asset.

**Summary:** Rangelands across the 350,000-acre Stinkingwater Mountains landscape will be more resilient to wildfire and less susceptible after treating 25,528 acres. Reinforced control lines are now present within this landscape that will aid in the containment of wildfire and provide more effective and timely suppression responses, and increase firefighter safety. Coordination with Rural Fire Protection Areas, landowners, and federal, state, & local organizations through the HCWC produced a more efficient and effective wildfire response. Harney County ranks as one of the most fire-prone counties in Oregon, and the work made possible by this program reduces wildfire risk for their natural landscapes and communities into the future.





# KLAMATH TRIBES FUEL REDUCTION AND FIRE RESILIENCY PROJECT

## Contact:

Steve Rondeau [steve.rondeau@klamathtribes.com](mailto:steve.rondeau@klamathtribes.com)

**Total Amount Funded:** \$1,992,852

**Spent:** \$1,992,852

**Total Footprint Acreage Goal:** 3,500

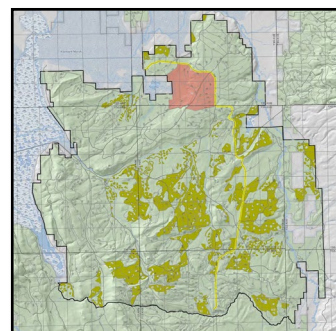
**Completed:** 4,553



Hand fuel treatments in the Bluejay stewardship area.

## Deliverables:

Goal	Accomplished
2000 footprint acres of Prescribed Fire	2,828 footprint acres of Prescribed Fire
1500 footprint acres of Hand Fuels Treatments	1,725 footprint acres of Hand Fuels Treatments



**Match:** None.

## Summary:

Due to the work performed in this grant, there will be reduced fire intensities and overstory resilience to wildfires. New growth of grass, shrubs and forbes are present following the treatments. In addition, thousands of slash piles along frequently travelled roadways were burned to re-enforce Potential Operational Delineations and serve as a barrier to ignitions and fire spread. Coordination and collaboration were



Prescribed burning within project footprint.

done with the external agencies US Forest Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs to ensure regulatory requirements were met and permitting through Oregon Department of Forestry were performed. Overall, 4,553 acres were treated using prescribed burning and hand fuels treatments. Project activities were restricted in the first year of the agreement to allow for development, hiring, and training of the tribal fire crew.

# NORTHERN BLUES: CENTRAL GRAND RONDE RIVER FUELS PROJECT

## Contact:

Alyssa Cudmore [alyssa@wallowaresources.org](mailto:alyssa@wallowaresources.org)

Travis Lowe [travis.d.lowe@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:travis.d.lowe@odf.oregon.gov)

**Total Amount Funded:** \$904,046

**Spent:** \$910,447

**Total Footprint Acreage Goal:** 925 acres

**Completed:** 1074 acres

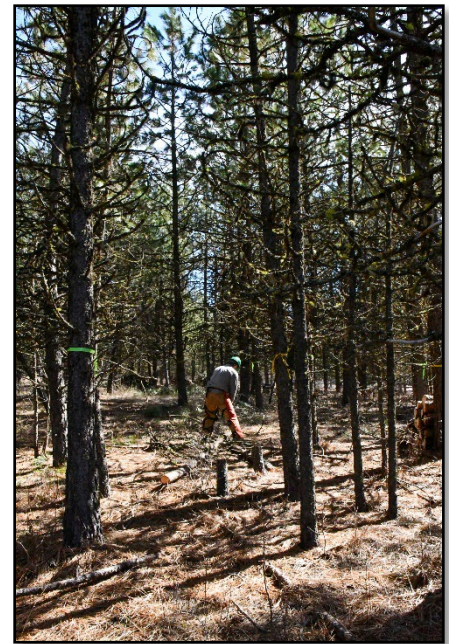
## Deliverables:

Goal	Accomplished
Rapid Assessment Tool, maps, reports, recommendations regarding forest conditions	Rapid Assessment Tool: 103,000 total acres (64,000 forested acres) delineated. GIS Shared Stewardship Hub Created.
925 footprint acres of Fuels Mitigation work.	1075 acres treated= 769 acres roadside fuels + 306 acres defensible space & fuels reduction

**Match:** \$471,350 treated 857 additional acres (not included in the total) on the Glass Project Area (UNF) within Central Grande Ronde Project Area. This complemented 1600 acres of non-commercial thinning on adjacent NEPA ready areas in Umatilla National Forest provided through CFLRP & NRCS, and through Wallowa Resources private funding for the Union County Coordinator. Additionally private landowner outreach, Firewise Community development and all lands coordination support was done in Union County through an agreement with the Union Soil and Water Conservation District to support a new position.

## Summary:

A portion of LRP funding supported La Grande ODF staff assisting the Umatilla National Forest with pile burning on adjacent federal lands. 1,074 acres of defensible space and strategic fuels reduction were implemented in partnership with 2 youth crews (NW Youth Corps and Oregon Youth Authority's RiverBend Crew), ODF-La Grande Fire Crew, 7 Union County contractors, and 21 landowners. OSU Rapid Assessment was completed for 39 landowners with 103,000 total acres (64,000 forested acres). Shared Stewardship Hub for Union County partners were created as a lasting resource to support future cross-boundary project planning and may be expanded regionally. Workforce development and training were provided by Union County OSU Extension's Forest and Fire Program, ODF-La Grande, and Wallowa Resources to NW Youth Corps and others. Hybrid outreach meetings were held with 100 landowners and



50 landowners signed up for rapid assessments. A Story Map was developed to share project goals, impact, and stories. Four new Firewise Communities are currently forming in Union County as a direct result of this work.

A working group (NRCS, ODF, OSU Extension, Wallowa Resources, Union SWCD, and others) is building on this pilot to develop a broader Landscape Assessment model.

The Central Grande Ronde Project aimed to enhance wildfire resilience across 201,000+ acres within an eNVC4 watershed in northern Union County by creating strategic fuel breaks that connected ongoing treatments across public and private lands. This project targeted overly dense, fire prone forests near high-risk communities such as Elgin and Spout Springs, and aligned with the Union County CWPP and Oregon's Forest Action Plan.

Using Oregon State University Extension's Rapid Assessment tool, this project engaged and bundled underserved landowners to coordinate fuels reduction treatments-including thinning, mastication, and prescribed fire. It also supported local workforce development by employing youth crews and providing opportunities for new and existing contractors.

Led by Wallowa Resources and the Northern Blues Restoration Partnership ( ODF-LaGrande, OSU Extension, NRCS, Umatilla National Forest, and Union SWCD), this cross-boundary effort aligned with NEPA-ready projects on the Umatilla National Forest and helped expand prescribed fire capacity, while advancing community protection and landscape-scale forest health.



# OAKRIDGE-WESTFIR LANDSCAPE RESILIENCY

## Contact:

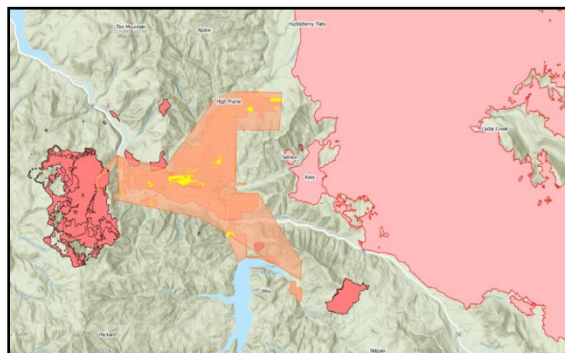
Sarah Altemus-Pope [director@swfcollaborative.org](mailto:director@swfcollaborative.org),  
Dustin Rymph [dustin@swfcollaborative.org](mailto:dustin@swfcollaborative.org)

**Total Amount Funded:** \$1,053,800

**Spent:** \$1,053,800

**Total Footprint Acreage Goal:** 300

**Completed:** 341



## Deliverables:

Goal	Accomplished
100 activity acres of mechanical treatments (in the 300 footprint ac.)	308.5 acres hand crew and machine FR work.
150 activity acres of hand crew treatments (in the 300 acres)	84 acres of alternative treatments
40 activity acres of Hand Pile Burning	40 activity acres of Hand Pile Burning
25 acres of fire adapted ecosystems	38 acres of Fire adapted ecosystems

**Match:** \$586,000: USFS Middle Fork RD additionally burned about 400 acres of pile burning and understory burning around the project area, providing at least \$400,000 in match for labor (not included in total). City of Oakridge purchased equipment with funds from OSFM to assist in the estimated 1000 hours of defensible space and fuels reduction work they do on City owned lands, providing \$60,000 in match for labor.

## Summary:

A modification was signed to increase mechanically treated acres and reduce hand crew acres. Treatments significantly improved suppression difficulty on Laurel Butte, the main ridgeline bordering the populations of Oakridge and Westfir. Invasive flammable species were abated in 100 acres of land, improving chances of fire adapted ecosystem restoration. Progress was discussed monthly during our Fire Safe Council meetings. Pile burning was planned in coordination with ODF. They work in close communication with Forest Service partners to exchange information on potential cross-boundary work. This project was implemented in tandem with our Oregon State Fire Marshal CWRR grant to plan and implement treatments within the communities.





# ODF SWO RIVER LRP

## Contact:

Ross Ballou [ross.r.ballou@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:ross.r.ballou@odf.oregon.gov)

**Total Amount Funded:** \$2,248,402

**Spent:** \$2,201,468

**Total Footprint Acreage Goal:** 1283

**Completed:** 1621

## Deliverables:

Goal	Accomplished
950 acres of Fuels Mitigation	1621 acres Fuels Mitigation
100 Home assessments	10 Home assessments
2 Community Outreach Meetings and 4 instructional workshops	2 Community Outreach Meetings
2 Community Prescribed Burns	70 acres Prescribed Burning (1 community demonstration, 35 acres pile burning)
2 Collaborative meetings-	2 Collaborative meetings



**Match:** An Additional 150 Acres of treatments on Butte Falls CA and 12 Forest Management plans written by Jackson Co Soil and Water Commission District (not included in total).

## Summary:

This project significantly improved landscape resiliency and reduced wildfire risk across treated areas. Removing surface and ladder fuels, increasing canopy spacing, and establishing defensible space near communities and critical infrastructure, has reduced the likelihood of high-intensity wildfire and improved suppression opportunities.

The adjacency of these treatments to the town of Butte Falls – particularly the broadcast and pile burns conducted within the Butte Falls Community Forest – has meaningfully increased local comfort and support for prescribed fire. This visibility, paired with strong outcomes, helped normalize the use of Rx fire as a tool and demonstrated its value in protecting the town from future wildfire threats.

From an implementation standpoint, the technical challenges of coordinating and executing prescribed fire operations pushed the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to grow internal capacity at the district level. Lessons learned in planning, staffing, coordination, and contingency management have already improved institutional readiness and will help ensure future prescribed fire projects under this body of work proceed more smoothly and efficiently. By aligning the work with ongoing treatments on adjacent BLM and Medford Water Commission lands – as well as with post-fire recovery from the South Obenchain Fire – this project contributed to a landscape-scale mosaic of fuels reduction that strengthens ecological resilience and creates a more defensible landscape in the face of future wildfire.