

# Oregon Department of Forestry - Request for Proposals for Senate Bill 762 Landscape Resiliency Program

## Overview

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) is implementing an investment program to reduce wildfire risk on public and private forestlands and rangelands, within communities, and near homes and critical infrastructure with a focus on forest and rangeland restoration and landscape resiliency treatments.

The State Legislature has allocated funding to work collaboratively across boundaries to continue Oregon's Shared Stewardship approach for implementing land management activities that improve community resilience to wildfire and restore or maintain resilient landscapes **across all land ownerships**.

Funds will be allocated for work performed in the 2023-2025 biennium (running July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025). At this time (subject to change), **PROJECT WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 15, 2025**, not just obligated in contracts or agreements. Any work completed after June 15, 2025, will NOT be reimbursed even if the initial project budget has not been expended in full. However, invoicing and reimbursements requests may occur up to 15 days after June 15, 2025, for completed work.

**Submit Project Proposals via application link (below) by 5 pm PST on Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact [Jenna.a.trentadue@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:Jenna.a.trentadue@odf.oregon.gov).**

\*\*Due to timing of this grant application and legislative session, some changes may be asked to be made to the application after the close of the biennium June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 before final scoring\*\*

**To apply go to this link: <https://arcg.is/1jzfWW0>**

\*\*A fillable pdf version of the application can be made available if needed. The application may also be available in other languages upon request.\*\*

## Eligibility

Landscape scale projects that are eligible to receive funding must focus on implementation of ( $\geq 75\%$ ) costs and may include ( $<25\%$ ) of planning and/or project treatment long-term effectiveness monitoring to be completed by June 15, 2025:

**Implementation:** Implementation is to be focused on forest and rangeland restoration and resiliency projects across all public or private lands. Implementation is on the ground treatments that reduce wildfire risk and hazardous fuel reduction improve forest or rangeland health or provide resiliency to fire events.

**Planning and effectiveness monitoring:** Planning for projects that will help develop and report on forest or rangeland projects (that meet program criteria). Monitoring of project treatments that support long-term effectiveness.

**Ecosystem Workforce Program (EWP) will be providing monitoring of the LRP program. Applicants and grantees are required to participate in any EWP requests.**

## **Program rules**

- Not less than 75% of the landscape scale project costs will be allocated to wildfire risk and hazardous fuel reduction to improve forest or rangeland health or provide resiliency to fire events.
- Each application is **strongly** encouraged to meet a 75% grant fund/ 25% matching fund ratio. Applications that include a match will be prioritized. Match can include cash and/or “in-kind” contributions.
- The grant request is a minimum of \$300,000.
- Projects may not include equipment purchases totaling over \$15,000.
- The application must be submitted and managed by a local, state, Tribal or federal government entity or non-profit such as a watershed council, forest/rangeland collaborative or association that can provide oversight.
- The grant request must be submitted on the current 2023 Competitive Grant Application Online or via fillable template (upon request only).
- Projects must incorporate the best available science describing proactive restoration and wildfire risk reduction strategies and tools.
- Any anticipated project income must be stated clearly in the budget and budget narrative and may be used as match or reinvested into the project with a clear deliverable identified (additional acres treated, additional outreach material, etc.) before project closeout of June 15, 2025. Project income that cannot be reinvested will result in a reduction of the General Fund award and will go back to the treasury.
- All activities taking place on private, or state land must comply with the Forest Practices Act (ORS 527.610 to 527.770, 527.990 (1) and 527.992), including work within riparian management areas or other zones with a protected or sensitive status (e.g., wetlands, protected bird sites) and known locations of species listed under the Federal or Oregon Endangered Species Act lists, unless accompanied by a written plan for alternate practice.
- This grant will not be available to use as match for grantees for other programs. ODF will keep all rights to the funding for the Landscape Resiliency Program as match, as this program may be necessary to leverage support for other Federal Grant funding.

## **Implementation Treatments** (not all inclusive):

- At least 75% of project funds must be spent on treatments that reduce wildfire risk and hazardous fuel to improve forest or rangeland health or provide resiliency to fire events.
- Fuel breaks that may or may not include roadside treatments.
- Mechanical and non-mechanical forest and rangeland fuels reduction that may include removal of slash through piling and burning, chipping, mulching, grinding, etc.
- Prescribed fire preparation and/ or implementation (Projects should have a contingency plan if burn window is unsuccessful)
- Invasive species treatment / Native species planting
- Road maintenance necessary to the project may be allowed, but must be stated clearly in the budget and budget narrative with a clear deliverable identified (additional acres treated, additional fire line constructed, etc.) Maintenance may also be used as match.

## **Planning and Effectiveness Monitoring Activities** (not all inclusive):

- Up to 25% of project costs may be expended on planning and/or on the ground treatment effectiveness monitoring.
- Projects that evaluate the effectiveness of fuel treatments and produce findings before July 2025.

- Strategic cross-boundary wildfire response analyses from fuel reduction activities
- Projects evaluating local landowner readiness to engage in fuel reduction activities across Oregon.
- Engage in on the ground treatment monitoring of projects to produce useful information on which to base recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.
- A component of planning may include public outreach and education **DIRECTLY** related to the proposed treatment that is deemed necessary for public and nearby landowner buy-in for project success.

**Ineligible Projects** (not all inclusive): Preparedness and suppression capacity building, such as purchase of fire department equipment (alternatively, consider VFA, DHS, and FEMA grant programs)

- Small business start-up funding
- GIS and database systems
- Construction/infrastructure (building remodel, bridges, road construction, water development)
- Educational materials that don't directly relate to project implementation
- commercial thinning on U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management lands in the following categories:
  - Inventoried roadless areas.
  - Riparian reserves identified in the Northwest Forest Plan or in federal Bureau of Land Management resource management plans.
  - Late successional reserves, except to the extent consistent with the 2011 United States Fish and Wildlife Service Revised Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*).
  - Areas protected under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, national recreation areas, national monuments or areas protected under ORS 390.805 to 390.925 as a state scenic waterway.
  - Designated critical habitat for species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission under ORS 496.172, unless commercial thinning is already allowed under an existing environmental review or recognized habitat recovery plan.
  - Federally designated areas of critical environmental concern or a federally designated wilderness study.

### **Criteria for Project Selection**

Projects will be awarded based on reviewing, scoring, and ranking applications using the selection criteria below by the Landscape Resiliency Program Work Group. Projects that meet multiple criteria will rank higher.

**Projects will score and rank as higher priority when they are:**

- On lands in the four highest eNVC risk classes identified in the United States Forest Service report titled "Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment: Methods and Results" and dated April 9, 2018. Link [here](#). Projects outside this boundary are still eligible but may not have priority.
- Inclusive of federal lands, with treatment projects currently approved under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Projects adjacent to federal lands will also be considered higher priority.
- Focus on treatments protective of human life, property, critical infrastructure, watershed health and forest or rangeland habitat restoration.

- Part of a collaborative partnership with agreements across diverse forestland or rangeland stakeholders that use an expansive, landscape-scale approach to address underlying causes of poor wildfire resilience and elevated risk of wildfire or that establish innovative approaches to addressing the underlying causes that could be implemented on a larger scale.

**Applications should, to the extent practicable, design projects to:**

- Show innovation and evaluate varying types of fuel treatments.
- Demonstrate success in reducing fuels, increasing fire resiliency, and protecting communities.
- Leverage the collective power of public-private partnerships and federal and state funding, including the coordination of funding to support collaborative initiatives that address the underlying causes of elevated forestland and rangeland wildfire risk across ownerships.
- Optimize the receipt of federal government investments that equal or exceed department investments.
- Involve existing forest-based and range-based contracting entities.
- Complement programs and projects of the **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board** or other state agencies as needed.
- Involve the **Oregon Conservation Corps Program** to the maximum extent possible, for community protection projects located in the wildland-urban interface.
- Enhance opportunities for collaboration from stakeholders holding a wide variety of perspectives regarding forest and rangeland management and provide opportunities for significant involvement by communities in proximity to project sites
- Contribute to a [Shared Stewardship](#) approach that crosses multiple jurisdictional boundaries.
- Expand on existing agreements such as Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), Joint Chiefs Projects, Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP), OWEB Focused Investment Partnership or leverage existing wildfire risk reduction projects.
- Embrace climate smart practices where possible. Refer to ODF's [Climate Change and Carbon Plan](#) if needed.
- Focus efforts near traditionally underserved, socially vulnerable, or historically marginalized communities where available.
- Have a detailed established plan for implementing proposed activities that will be completed before the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 deadline.

The Oregon Department of Forestry prioritizes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and has articulated our commitment in our Agency Vision, Values and Goals. For more information click [here](#).

**Submission and Review Process**

- Applicants should work with relevant state and federal agencies when developing project proposals. We also encourage applicants to work with ODF field staff and other local partners when developing project proposals.
- Eligible projects will be prioritized for funding based on the selection criteria above. Partial funding of proposals will be considered. The grant request must be submitted via the current 2023 Competitive Grant Application [link](#) or pdf (if requested) which includes a map, budget and description of project area.

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**Expectations:**

- There will be requirements for reporting on project progress up to 4 times throughout the life of the grant period.
- GIS data will be a reporting requirement of the grant. Assistance and tools for reporting will be provided for this info if needed.
- Requirements for the grant are subject to change prior to final scoring due to Legislative final decisions occurring in June 2023.

**Program Contacts:**

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