

Oregon Department of Forestry – 2023 Small Forestland Grant Program Call for Proposals

Overview

During the 2023 Legislative Session, ODF was allocated \$2.5 million dollars through House Bill 5020 for the Small Forestland Grant Program. This was a new project funding allocation, continuing work described in Section 24 of SB762 (2021) that directs the Oregon Department of Forestry to administer a grant program for the purpose of providing competitively awarded grants to support small forestland owners' properties by reducing wildfire risk and creating resiliency on the landscape.

This call is intended to fund forest fuel management activities on small forestland owner properties. Projects must be submitted by one of the listed project sponsors below. Funds will be allocated for work performed in the current 2023-2025 biennium and **reimbursed** as work is completed. Project work **MUST BE COMPLETED BY May 30th, 2025, with final invoices received no later than June 30th, 2025 (due to financial closeout timelines). Final Report and Final mapping will be required by June 9th, 2025.** Project work completed after May 30th, 2025, will not be reimbursed even if the project budget has not been expended in full.

Project Sponsors (applicants)

Project sponsors may bill up to 10% of the grant for indirect expenses. Project sponsors may engage Local ODF foresters or OSU extension agents to provide technical services including landowner outreach and treatment planning within the proposed project area. Project sponsor and technical services from OSU or ODF are not required expenses. At least 75% of project costs must fund fuel reduction treatment activities on small forestland owner properties. If a project sponsor requests ODF or OSU services, then the project sponsor will be managing work with those local districts/entities directly. All project funding will be reimbursed directly to the project sponsor, and they will be responsible to disburse funds to those other entities or local ODF districts.

Project sponsors must be one of the following Organizations:

- Local watershed councils on Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) [2021 Map of Watershed Councils](#),
- Land trust that is a [member](#) of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts,
- 501(c)(3) Organizations,
- [Soil and Water Conservation Districts](#) organized under ORS chapter 568,
- Oregon Department of Forestry and Associations
- Other state or local government entities

Project Eligibility

Projects must support "**small forestland owner(s)**" defined as an individual, group or federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon, who owns up to 160 acres west of the crest of the Cascade Mountains or up to 640 acres east of the crest of the Cascade Mountains. Projects may treat multiple private ownerships exceeding the above acreage as long as each forestland owner receiving treatment does not violate the definition above. Project submissions must also meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Project reduces the risk of high severity wildfire by treating hazardous fuels,
- At least 75% of project costs fund fuel reduction treatment activities on small forestland owner properties,
- Total other expenses for the project, including indirect and service costs are not to exceed 25%,
- Requested funding is more than \$10,000 and up to \$300,000,
- 25% leverage is strongly suggested. Sponsor in-kind expenses, landowner labor rates, fuels mitigation, other state funds are eligible with the exception of the Landscape Resiliency Grant Program. Leverage must be activities or expenses directly comparable to project grant funding activities or expenses and performed within the same timeline as the grant contract is

effective. All leverage activities will need to be accounted for via mapping or narrative, depending on the activity.

- Project does not generate net revenue.
- Equipment costs (over \$5,000 are applicable if it meets the intent of the grant to support small forestland owners in reducing wildfire risk through the restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous fuels on the owners' property, prescribed fire equipment is applicable, however fire suppression equipment is not applicable.) Anything under \$5,000 are considered supplies.

Funding Priorities

1. All projects must reduce the risk of high severity wildfire.

Additionally, projects that achieve one or more of the following priorities will score higher than those that do not.

2. Protects critical infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in the wildfire risk class of high or very high as displayed in the on Oregon Explorer found [here](#) in the Wildfire potential impacts, specifically the layer: Overall Potential Impacts.
3. Project treats or protects multiple properties (>3) and may additionally treat critical infrastructure. A full funding ask should be treating more than 3 properties.
4. Treatments address additional resource concerns including one or more of the following: insects and diseases, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage, or enhances wildlife habitat,
5. Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity (<1/2 mile) to previous or planned fuel treatments,
6. Project protects or serves lands that house vulnerable populations. Vulnerable populations include individuals that are elderly, individuals with chronic health conditions, individuals that are economically disadvantaged, or properties outside of structural fire protection districts or ODF protected lands.
7. Lands with a forest management plan in place or located in one of the following planning areas:
 - i. Oregon Conservation Strategy's [Conservation Opportunity Areas](#)
 - ii. Natural Resource Conservation Service's [Conservation Implementation Strategy areas](#)
 - iii. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's [Focused Investment Partnerships](#) (Oak Woodland and Dry Type Forest Habitats)
 - iv. Priority treatment or focus areas listed in a [Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#) or County Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - v. [Oregon Forest Management Plan – Uniform Plan](#)
 - vi. Properties with a [Stewardship Agreement](#) or enrolled in the Healthy Forest Reserve Program
 - vii. Member of [Oregon's Tree Farm System](#)
 - viii. American Family Forestland's [Carbon Program](#) or [My Land Plan](#)
 - ix. Oregon Fish and Wildlife's [Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Plan](#)
 - x. 20-year landscape resiliency Strategy <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/documents/olrs-progress-report.pdf>
8. Project utilizes non-traditional forest products (biochar, biomass, small diameter wood or firewood for example) and/or climate-smart practices.

Fundable Activities

Activities must include one or more practices that reduce the likelihood of future wildfire severity including but not limited to the following:

- Direct costs associated with prescribed fire,

- Thinning,
- Mowing or mastication,
- Pruning,
- Slash treatments
- Chipping, hauling, pile and burn, biochar or other small diameter wood utilization,
- Treatment of invasive species including juniper encroachment,
- Other hand or mechanical treatments of forest fuels to prepare for future prescribed fire,
- Other forest management activities listed in owner’s Forest Management Plan intended to reduce the risk of wildfires,
- Landowner outreach efforts aimed at improving treatment connectivity or engaging vulnerable populations within the proposed project area.

Ineligible Activities

- Treatment on land where an individual or group owns more than 160 acres west of the Cascade Crest, or more than 640 acres east of the Cascade Crest.
- Activities that are not in compliance with the Forest Practices Act (ORS 527.610 to 527.770, 527.990 (1) and 527.992).
- 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.
- Planning activities that are not landowner outreach activities tied to the treatment of or reporting on hazardous fuel treatments within the project area.
- Reimbursement for previous forest or fuel management activities.
Activities that cannot be accomplished before May 30th, 2025.

Project Selection & Criteria

Projects will be scored out of 100 points using whole numbers. This is a competitive process to earn funding for strategic investments to reduce wildfire risk. Projects that meet multiple criteria will be more competitive. Projects will be reviewed and scored by a scoring group. Projects will be evaluated using the criteria below.

Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Total Points
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition will reduce risk of high severity wildfire	20
2	Project work is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High to Very High in the QWRA risk assessment	15
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties (≥ 3) and may additionally treat critical infrastructure	15
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	10
5	Clearly demonstrates and identifies collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit socially and economically vulnerable populations, under protected properties, or further diversity, equity, and inclusion.	10
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 7 (above)	10
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products or climate-smart practices	5
9	All sections are filled out and measurable deliverables identified	5

	Maximum Score	100
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Submission and Review Process

We encourage applicants to work with local fire response agencies within their planning area when developing project proposals. **Proposal Submissions are due to the email listed below by 5 pm PST on November 3rd , 2023.** Eligible projects will be scored and prioritized for funding based on the scoring rubric above. Partial funding of proposals may be considered.

This document was reviewed and approved by DOJ on August 23, 2023