

## Oregon Department of Forestry – 2025 Small Forestland Grant Program Request for Proposals

### Overview

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is intended to fund projects that reduce wildfire risk through the restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous fuels on small forestland owner properties. Projects encouraged to be submitted by one of the project sponsors listed below.

Funds will be allocated for work performed in the current 2025-2027 biennium and **reimbursed** as work is completed. On the ground project work **MUST BE COMPLETED BY May 30, 2027 as work performed after this date will not be reimbursed. Final invoices, reports and mapping are required to be received by June 20, 2027. Exceptions to these due dates are only permitted with an ODF-approved extension or modification.**

Timelines:

Release of RFP: October 09, 2025

Live meeting on how to fill out application and answer questions: October 17, 2025

RFP Close Date: Nov 24, 2025

Scoring begins: Dec 1, 2025

Awardees informed of final results: The Week of December 15th, 2025

Grant Agreements Executed to begin work: January, 2025

\*Timelines subject to change should delays in the process incur\*

Scheduled appointments to ask questions about the grant application and program will be available to set up on the [Small Forestland Grant External Web site](#).

### Rights to Match:

Grantees will not be able to use Small Forestland Grant Program (SFGP) awards as match for other programs. ODF will retain all match rights for Small Forestland Grant Program funding.

### Authority, overview, and scope

The Small Forestland Grant Program has now been established as an ongoing program for the Oregon Department of Forestry. The 2025-27 biennium provided just over \$2.5 million dollars for the program. This continues work described in ORS 477.748, as amended by [Section 19 of SB83 \(2025\)](#), which directs the Oregon Department of Forestry to administer this grant program.

### Terms defined

- Project Sponsors: An organization that manages all the reimbursement of costs and reports for the project with ODF. Project sponsors may work directly with local ODF districts or external entities to accomplish project goals. All project funding will be reimbursed directly to the project sponsor, and they will be responsible to disburse funds as necessary.
- Leverage: Activities or expenses directly comparable to grant project activities or expenses and performed within the same timeline as the grant agreement is effective but not paid for out of the grant. Examples of Leverage may include sponsor in-kind expenses, landowner labor rates, fuels mitigation, or personnel time not coded to the grant.

Oregon Department of Forestry's purpose for this program is to administer a grant program to modernize and improve wildfire preparedness through three key strategies: creating fire-adapted communities,

developing safe and effective wildfire response, and increasing the resiliency of Oregon's landscapes pre- and post-wildfire. The program is one of the products from years of hard work by the Governor's Wildfire Council, the Legislature, and state agencies starting with [section 24 SB762 \(2018\)](#). This has been a successful program for the last 2 biennium (4 years).

In the 2021-23 biennium: 33 projects, 3,893 acres treated

In the 2023-25 biennium: 14 projects , 1,379 acres treated

After applications are scored and awardees are identified, agreements setting out the terms of the grant will be executed. Modifications may be approved that support the original intent of the project work.

### **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. For projects involving multiple forestland owners, total project area may exceed the foregoing acreages if each forestland owner receiving treatment is an eligible “small forestland owner” under the definition above.

Project application submissions must also meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Project reduces wildfire risk through the restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous fuels,
- Project must reduce the risk of high severity wildfire,
- At least 75% of project award must fund direct project treatment costs that reduce wildfire risk on the owners’ property,
- Indirect and administrative costs do not exceed 25%,
- Application funding request is between \$10,000 and \$300,000,
- Project does not generate net revenue.
- Equipment (Costs over \$5,000) must support small forestland owners in reducing wildfire risk through restoration of landscape resiliency and the reduction of hazardous fuels on the owners’ property. Prescribed fire equipment is eligible; fire suppression equipment is not. Equipment is only eligible with prior approval.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to include the following in their project application:

- 25% leverage is strongly suggested. All leverage activities will need to be accounted for via mapping or narrative, depending on the activity.
- Encouraged to have a project sponsor to apply for the grant. Sponsors can directly apply for the grant on their own behalf or on behalf of a group of individuals.
  - Project sponsors should 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/or Fire Protection Associations

- Other state or local government entities

Other sponsors not identified on this list will need pre-approval, such as HOA's that are not 501(c)(3), Etc.

## **Funding Priorities**

Highest priority will be given to projects that clearly demonstrate one of more of the following:

1. Protects critical infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in the red areas displayed in the [20-Year Strategy Priority map](#) found in the 2023 progress report.
2. Project treats or protects three (3) or more properties in same geographical area (i.e., within 1 mile of each other),
3. Project treats critical infrastructure,
4. Treatments address additional resource concerns including one or more of the following: insects and diseases, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage, or enhancement of wildlife habitat,
5. Treatment proximity to previous or planned treatments (scored based on proximity),
6. Project treats lands that have vulnerable populations. Vulnerable populations include elderly individuals, individuals with chronic health conditions, economically disadvantaged individuals, underserved populations, rural populations, tribal communities, individuals with disabilities, or those outside of structural fire protection districts or ODF protected lands.
7. Lands with a forest management plan in place or located in 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 an ODF [Stewardship Agreement](#) or enrolled in the NRCS 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 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 can 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
- Defensible Space management
- Chipping, hauling, pile and burn, biochar or other small diameter wood utilization
- Reforestation of climate adapted drought tolerant forest tree species that are less susceptible to damaging insects or diseases
- Treatment of invasive species including juniper encroachment, or species that are particularly susceptible to drought or insect damage/mortality
- 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
- Clearing evacuation routes
- Landowner outreach efforts aimed at improving treatment connectivity or engaging vulnerable populations within the proposed project area

#### **Ineligible Activities**

- Activities that violate 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 started or completed prior to the award of funds from the SFGP.
- Pre-award costs.
- Forest activities required by law.

#### **Project Selection & Criteria**

All applications will be scored in an impartial, fair, efficient, transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

This is a competitive process to earn funding for strategic investments to reduce wildfire risk. Projects that meet multiple criteria and address higher priorities will be more competitive.

Projects will be reviewed and scored by a scoring panel. Projects will be evaluated using the criteria below.

Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric (points are on a scoring scale)	Points
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future conditions will reduce risk of high severity wildfire	15
2	Project work is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High to Very High in the 20-year Strategy Priority Map	10

3	Project treats or protects three or more separate landowners	5
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	5
5	Treatment proximity to previous, current, or planned treatments (Immediately adjacent: highest points, within ½ mile: medium-high points, within 1 mile: medium-low points and within reasonable proximity: lowest points).	5
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit socially and economically vulnerable populations, under-served communities, or include a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. (A linked map or document that clearly identifies these population types will score higher).	5
7	Treatment area references the landowner has a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in application.	5
8	Treatment protects critical infrastructure (examples may be: hospitals, schools, community water infrastructure, or an emergency radio antenna)	5
9	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products or climate-smart practices	5
10	All sections are filled out and measurable deliverables identified	1
11	Leverage identified	1
12	Applicant had a previous SFGP grant that successfully met original or modified deliverables or is a new SFGP applicant	1
	Maximum Score	63

ODF reserves the right (1) to award funding at an amount different than the proposal request; (2) to make awards under this RFP for less than the full amount of available funding; or (3) to reject all proposals and make no awards under this RFP upon a finding by ODF that such cancellation would be in the best interests of the State.

### **Submission and Review Process**

We encourage applicants to work with local fire response agencies or associations within their planning area when developing project proposals. **Application Submissions are due on the online website below by 5 pm PST on November 24, 2025.**

Application Instructions: Found on the Program website below.

Application link: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/f6c340131ffd4f82a18d2f0392f09052>



Program Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/pages/small-forestland-grant-program.aspx>

Point of Contact: Jenna Trentadue, State Initiatives Grant Coordinator,  
[Jenna.a.trentadue@ODF.oregon.gov](mailto:Jenna.a.trentadue@ODF.oregon.gov), 971-428-7772

### **Other info**

**Tax Liability:** grant funds are considered taxable income unless a specific federal or state statute creates an exemption. ODF has a \$600 reporting threshold for payments for grants, but this is not the trigger for tax liability. Regardless of whether you receive a tax form, you are responsible for reporting all taxable income on your tax return. Please seek professional tax advice prior to grant funding to explore exactly how the grant award will affect your tax liability.

**Equal Opportunity:** ODF is an Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or any other class protected by state or federal laws in admission or access to our programs, services, activities, hiring, and employment practices.

### **Terms and conditions**

An awardee's failure to perform the RFP's scope of work or a contractor's failure to meet established performance standards will result in termination of the grant and future application eligibility will be suspended indefinitely or until further review.

**Reporting** ODF may ask for up to 4 reports during the grant period. The final report shall show funds expended and work completed, which includes match and/or leverage amounts and sources used. These reports shall include percent complete for each task in the funded grant agreement, describe work completed by the Grantee for each task in the Statement of Work, and summarize the progressive outcomes of the completed project, including a map with geospatially referenced polygon(s) of treatment locations and match work if applicable. If tasks described in the Statement of Work (Exhibit A) are not fully executed in the final report, Grantee will provide a written explanation of challenges impacting partial task completion.

**Access** If a grant is awarded, landowners must authorize ODF personnel to access their property to inspect treatment locations, and conduct subsequent monitoring surveys.

**Public Records** All proposals received shall become the property of ODF and may be available for disclosure pursuant to Oregon Public Records Law. Applicants are advised that confidential information should be clearly labeled and submitted separately from the remainder of the proposal. If an applicant believes that a specific portion of its proposal constitutes a "trade secret" under Oregon Public Record Law and is, therefore, exempt from disclosure, the applicant must clearly identify that specific information as a "trade secret" and submit it separately from the remainder of the proposal. Identification of information as a "trade secret" does not necessarily mean the information will be exempt from disclosure; ODF will make the determination of exemption from disclosure based on the nature of the information and the requirements of the Oregon Public Records Law.