

Oregon Department of Forestry – Partnership and Planning Program
Call for Projects
Improving the Resilience of Oregon’s Forests

Overview

The Oregon Legislative Emergency Board (E-Board) has approved Oregon Dept. of Forestry’s (ODF) request for \$5 million to work collaboratively across boundaries to continue ODF’s Shared Stewardship approach for implementing land management activities that improve community resilience to wildfire and restore and maintain resilient landscapes on all ownerships. Recognizing that over half of Oregon is forested with varying levels of Wildfire Risk, Wildland Urban Interface, and public and privately managed lands, the scope and scale of restoration will require an equally diverse set of stakeholders and projects. This call is intended to expand the existing work of ODF’s Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program as well as support restoration and resilience projects on Non-Industrial Forest Lands by identifying projects that use a Shared Stewardship approach to restore and maintain landscapes across boundaries, throughout Oregon. Funds will be allocated for work performed in the current 2019-2021 biennium (running July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021). Due to state budget rules, project **WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 30, 2021**, not just obligated in contracts or agreements. Any work completed after June 30, 2021 will not be reimbursed even if the initial project budget has not been expended in full.

Eligibility

ODF has supported a wide range of activities through the Partnership and Planning Program to increase the capacity, efficiency, and effectiveness of forest restoration, health and fire resiliency. These requested E-Board funds have the potential to be **leveraged by both Internal and External Partners** and organizations for the long term benefit of the mission to increase the resilience of Oregon’s forests.

Projects that are eligible to receive this funding are very broad, but generally fit into two categories:

- **Implementation:** On-the-ground execution of shovel-ready projects on public or private lands, or Federal projects that have been through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that involve thinning (commercial and non-commercial), fuels and defensible space treatments, restoration projects that contribute to forest health/fire resilience, or other projects that contribute to a landscape more resilient to disturbance or improves watershed health.
- **Planning:** Surveys, data collection, or other analysis that accelerates the completion of planning for forest restoration projects. This can also involve ODF contracting all or portions of the surveys, analysis, and documentation necessary for a project to be Categorically Excluded from needing an EA or EIS. Wildfire Planning projects on non-federal lands are also eligible.

***In addition the following eligibility requirements must be met:** the project cost is a minimum of \$10,000 and projects do not include equipment purchases totaling over \$1,000.

Criteria for Project Selection

Projects submitted for funding can be for implementation (performing a shovel-ready project) or for planning (surveys and analysis contributing to a NEPA decision or wildfire planning projects on non-federal lands) and will be evaluated using the selection criteria below. Projects will be evaluated based on a tiered approach with projects that fit the criteria of Tier 1 receiving higher priority than projects that fit the criteria of Tier 2, and so on. Projects that meet multiple criteria will be more likely to receive funding. **Projects that involve implementation of work will be prioritized over planning projects.**

Tier 1: Projects that contribute to a Shared Stewardship approach that cross multiple boundaries.

Tier 2: Projects within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) that reduce fuels and mitigate wildfire risk.

Tier 3: Projects that implement a NEPA decision or other plan that was collaboratively developed with local Forest Collaborative groups or projects identified in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Tier 4: Projects or investments that expand on existing agreements such as GNA or Joint Chiefs, or leverage existing wildfire risk reduction projects.

Tier 5: Projects that demonstrate an established plan for implementing proposed activities before June 30th 2021.

Submission and Review Process

Applicants should work with relevant state and federal agencies when developing project proposals. We encourage applicants to continue to work with FFR Coordinators and ODF field staff when developing project proposals. **Project proposals with itemized costs are due to the email listed below by 5 pm PST on February 3rd, 2021.** Eligible projects will be prioritized for funding based on the selection criteria above. Partial funding of proposals will be considered.

Submit Project Proposals to: alex.j.rahmlow@oregon.gov
With the Subject Line "Funding Request to ODF Partnership and Planning Program"

Project concepts should be simple and brief. Eligible concept proposals should be approximately a page long, submitted in Word format and include:

- Contact information of the applicant
- Project name, location information, NEPA planning area (if applicable), and land ownership
- Describe which Tier(s) the project falls into (150 words max)
- Itemized project cost including estimated acres treated, planned, or other outcome metric
- Brief statement of needs and goals for the project
- Brief description of the project activities proposed, what services will be contracted (if any), and how those activities address the need for the project (150 words max)
- Brief description of the anticipated benefit or impact of the project. Please quantify or explain how the project contributes to creating resilient landscapes and fire-adapted communities (200 words max)
- Plan and timeline for implementation (completed via a contract terminating 6/15/21, administered by ODF personnel, etc.)

Administrative Structure of Projects Involving Contracted Work

The E-Board funds were allocated by the Oregon Legislature to ODF for the current 2019-2021 biennium.

Projects that require contracted help can be administratively structured in one or more of the following ways:

- 1) The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) can use a contractor that is already under a federal IDIQ or other contract to provide services and can develop a Collections Agreement with ODF to be reimbursed after the contractor has completed work and the federal agency has paid them.
- 2) Applicants can request that ODF procure the contractors to perform the desired work using state contracting systems and act as the contract manager.
- 3) Applicants can elect to use their own contracting system and submit a request for reimbursement to ODF directly.

Timeline for Projects

February 3, 2021

February 8, 2021

June 30, 2021

Project Proposals Due

Outreach to awarded project

All project expenses incurred

Program Contacts:

P&P Program Contacts	Phone	E-mail	Program Area
Jeff Burns	503.945.7346	jeff.d.burns@oregon.gov	Partnership and Planning Program
Joe Arbow	541.480.6940	joseph.m.arbow@oregon.gov	Federal Initiatives Unit Landowner Assistance including Defensible Space projects
Alex Rahmlow	458.201.1174	alex.j.rahmlow@oregon.gov	Cross Boundary Partnership, Recovery, NRCS and Watershed Council projects
Kyle Sullivan	541.285.8685	kyle.m.sullivan@oregon.gov	Good Neighbor Authority, NEPA and other Federal Forest Restoration Projects