



Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
Senate Bill 762 Forest Resiliency and
Restoration Investments Work Group
September 15th, 2021

Work Group Members: Amanda Astor, Chris Chambers, Emily Jan Davis, Dylan Kruse, Dana Skelly, Paul Tigan, Andrew Owen, Pete Caligiuri, and Chandra LeGue

Technical Advisors: Dr. Christopher Dunn, Mari Kramer

ODF Staff: Jeff Burns, Ryan Gordon, Alex Rahmlow, Al DeVos, Derek Gasperini, and Megan Ehnle

Ryan Gordon opened the meeting with his welcoming comments. Jeff Burns reviewed and walked the group through the [Forest Restoration and Resiliency Investment Program Implementation Timeline](#) and the [Collaboration Principles documents](#).

Discussions that arose:

Chris Dunn asked about the compressed timeline to completing the projects by 2023. Jeff reminded the group the funding will go away after the biennium. Dana mentioned the non-fed funding and asked if there was a way to build on other process and consolidate any previous submissions to aid the constituents. Dylan mentioned building on agreements in place or consider existing agreements to be as efficient as possible. Chandra mentioned as long as those meet the criteria the workgroup will develop. Amanda mentioned that the contract work – non general funded – could go on after the biennium.

Emily Jane asked about the allowable costs and the decision space the workgroup would have with those parameters. Jeff mentioned that following the USFS guidelines has been past practice but is not limiting. Amanda asked if the charge of the SB 762 was fully represented within the established workgroup. Jeff stated that to keep group size manageable and meet the compressed timeline the intent is to bring in subject matter experts in the efforts along the way to assist in the process.

Alex Rahmlow walked the group through the [summarized version of SB 762 – section 18 – 20](#).

Discussions that arose:

Chris asked about the reporting measures and believes that should be address up front and built into the process. Amanda asked about clarity on treatment types outlined in the bill and if there are other considerations with the specific treatment types, Alex confirmed

that we will be sticking to the bill language but provide the group with that decision space.

Chris Dunn walked the group through his presentation the [Introduction to Quantitative wildfire Risk Assessments](#).

Discussions that arose:

Dylan asked about the size of HUC 10 watersheds, and what is the appropriate scale? Chris said the HUC 10 are 100k to 200k acres and showed the HUC 12 map to compare the two. Chandra asked if we could refine the HUC size to incorporate other areas and what the flexibility is in the bill language and mentioned considering projects on non-federal land – therefore not needing to be NEPA ready. Andrew mentioned the spatial layers that will represent NIPF land. Dana mentioned also adding exotic plant layers and mentioned those assets such as the bull run watershed, that would be irreplaceable to also consider. Amanda mentioned the smoke inhalation factor may not be factored in and how to reduce the time that fire is on the landscape, as well as considering ingress and egress improvement opportunities. Chris Chambers stated that this is the 2017 version of the map and if an updated version would be available to this workgroups charge? In short Chris Dunn said no, but there could be some overlays to share as ancillary data – but until the end of the biennium it will not be ready. Dylan mentioned an overlay of NRCS, OWEB, existing ODF projects, and NEPA ready acres would be amazing. Dana stated education and prevention efforts, as well as community preparedness efforts would be highly beneficial to serving our communities better. Amanda believes the language of the bill is that we should prioritize projects in those areas identified in this map, but that doesn't preclude us from choosing projects or developing selection criteria with more recent data and fire perimeters in mind. Alex stated there are four risk classes to consider. Pete informed the group he highly recommends the recent special series in the journal Ecological Applications, and in particular the article titled "[Adapting western North America Forest to climate change and wildfires: ten common questions](#)". Dana commented that the rough thing with most of the research coming out lately is that it doesn't consider changing management approaches to wildfires and noted the changes to the current climate and how to prepare and look ahead. If we have treatments proactively placed to increase decision space, that fundamentally changes so much of the discussion. So much discussion is as if it is fire use or traditional suppression with no middle ground.

Alex Rahmlow walked the group through the [Partnership and Planning Call for Projects](#) for the Eboard process.

Discussions that arose:

Andrew asked about the contractor's availability and Alex confirmed that was an issue but manageable with the size of the Eboard grant program and the utilization of those contractors already in place. Andrew mentioned that even with a -6 (a blanket prescription removing all trees less than 6 inches) there will still be crown fires. Chandra mentioned that was a good point, but there is a lot of research and data that shows the effectiveness of treatments closest to homes and communities for preparedness and prevention that we can utilize. Dana agreed with Chandra but was speaking to the ESA issue articles primarily, and stated they will be doing an updated version this fall for the recent fire season.

<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/66d4c2df8be04e55b70661643a500c99>

Wrap up: Dylan shared his appreciation for the meeting format and stated with this group will be able to hit the ground running and with the timeline we're working within we will need to lean into the projects that are already in place. Emily Jane Davis mentioned unit capacity and how there is no layer that can show the limitation of staff capacity to support and implement the project work.

Next steps:

[FRRIP webpage](#)

Schedule future meetings with Doodle

List of existing projects