

Oregon Department of Forestry - Federal Forest Restoration Program Call for “A to Z” Planning Assistance Projects 2025-27 Biennium

Overview

The goal of Oregon Department of Forestry’s (ODF) Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program is to increase the pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration work to improve the resilience of federal forests managed by the Forest Service and BLM across Oregon, in a manner that leverages collaborative efforts and contributes to the long-term vitality of regional economies and rural communities.

ODF has supported a wide range of activities through the FFR Program to increase the capacity, efficiency, and effectiveness of federal agencies and collaborative groups in their efforts to restore Oregon’s forests. The availability of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-ready acres is one of the key limiting factors for increasing the pace, scale and quality of restoration.

Oregon statute directs ODF to “...pursue projects under the [GNA] that increase timber harvest volume, contribute to job creation, reduce wildfire risks to all lands, improve wildlife habitat and watershed health and stimulate local economies [and] to give priority to projects that: (a) Consist of additive activities; (b) Maximize economic benefit to this state; and (c) Recover the state agency costs of implementing the projects.” (ORS 526.275(2)).

Pursuant to this statutory direction, ODF-FFR Program plans to prioritize its planning assistance investments in projects that are additive, maximize economic benefit to the state, and recover ODF’s costs of implementing the projects.

To align our investments with this direction, planning assistance this biennium will prioritize contracting NEPA projects intended for implementation by ODF under the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). These investments will focus on NEPA contracts for “A to Z” projects, similar to those highlighted in the [FFR Program Report, July 2025](#). An “A to Z” project supports the Forest Service in unplanned or out-year planning areas and, once the decision is signed, is implemented by ODF through the GNA. This approach demonstrates clear additionality for ODF, allows federal staff to focus on other priority projects, and creates an opportunity for ODF to recover its costs.

ODF has up to **\$3,000,000 to contract services to support planning assistance projects for the 2025-27 biennium**. This amount is a combination of \$1.5M in state general fund and \$1.5M in secured federal funds (23-GN-11062754-022) to fund planning assistance projects in the 2025-27 biennium.

Types of Projects Considered

The focus for these planning assistance projects is to invest in comprehensive NEPA projects that will subsequently be implemented by ODF via GNA. Previous examples include:

- Southwest Tiller Fuel Break EA – Umpqua National Forest
- Kinney and Humbug CEs – Willamette National Forest
- Hootnanny CE – Mt. Hood National Forest
- 54 North EA – Umatilla National Forest
- South Catherine CE – Wallowa Whitman National Forest

Funding, Size and Timing of Projects

The source of funds for these planning assistance projects is state general fund and federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds and are provided to ODF via a statewide Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA). ODF will manage and procure the contractors that will provide the planning assistance services using state contracting systems. These funds are not intended to be used to pay for federal employees, federal contractors, or Forest Service Enterprise Teams.

ODF anticipates awarding 2-4 projects ranging from \$750,000 to \$2 million. Projects must be complete by 6/30/2027.

Submission and Review Process

Forest Service staff should work directly with ODF Federal Forest Restoration Program Unit Foresters/Coordinators or the FFR Program Lead to submit project ideas. Please see below for the appropriate FFRP staff representative based on geography. Please work early and often with your FFRP staff while developing your project concept. While FFRP staff can provide insights into program priorities and help to develop project concepts, writing and submitting a project proposal is the responsibility of the applicant. **Project concepts are due by 5 pm PST on January 15th.**

To apply for Planning Assistance funds, complete an application form at the link here:

<https://forms.office.com/g/tRmyzfGdxz>

Time Line for Planning Assistance Project Solicitation, Award, and Implementation

October 30, 2025	Call for Projects Released
End of October to Mid-January	Discuss Project Ideas with FFR Program Staff, Develop Proposal
January 15, 20235	Proposals Due
January 2026	Review of Proposals
February 2026	Contracts developed and executed
February 2026 to June 2027	Conduct and Complete Projects (Note: includes 1 full field season)

Criteria and Priorities for Project Selection

Criteria	Maximum Points
A to Z project - project involves comprehensive ODF assistance with a planning area where implementation under Good Neighbor Authority will occur on over half of the planning area	20
Project expedites current NEPA planning area timeline, as shown in Forest 5-year plans, by one federal fiscal year or more	20
Project falls within Oregon's Landscape Resilience Strategy priority landscapes	20
Projects supports future commercial vegetation management, particularly Good Neighbor Authority projects	20
Project is adjacent to Tribal or private small forestland owner (<5,000 ac.) land or leverages adjoining treatments to Forest Service land	10
Project is complementary to existing or previous ODF investments	5
Projects that demonstrate match or leverage	5

Federal Forest Restoration Program Contacts:

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