Clearwater Falls, Umpqua National Forest, National Archives

Ecosystem Workforce Program

FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM UPDATE

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

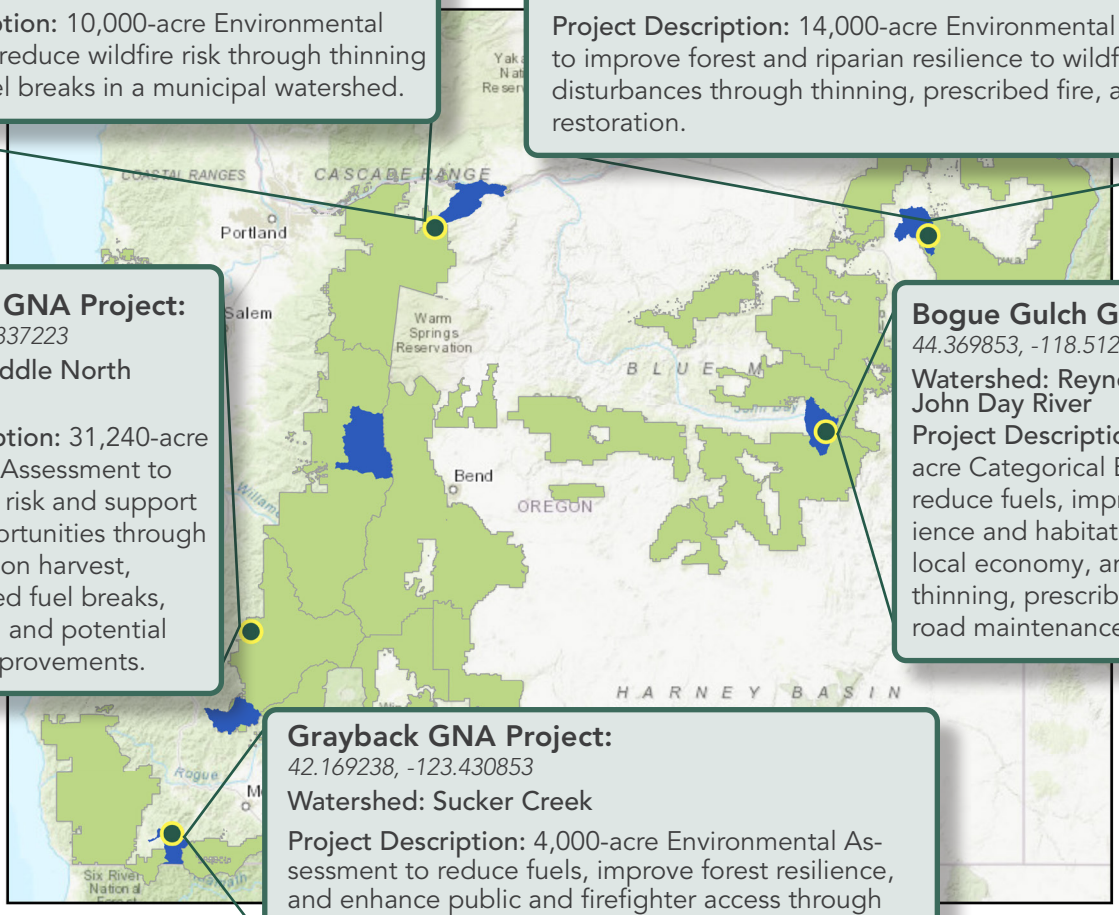
FACT SHEET 41 • JULY 2026

To support implementation of the 20-Year Landscape Resilience Strategy (20-YLRS), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) partnered with Oregon State University's Institute for Natural Resources (OSU-INR) and the University of Oregon's Ecosystem Workforce Program (UO-EWP) to conduct landscape evaluations in six initial priority watersheds[1]. This fact sheet shares information about current "A to Z" projects, landscape evaluations, ODF and partnering National Forest sales volumes, and a project spotlight on the Ochoco National Forest.

In-Progress "A to Z" Projects and Selected Priority Watersheds

The Dalles Watershed GNA Project:
45.461637, -121.453878
Watershed: Mill Creek-Columbia River
Project Description: 10,000-acre Environmental Assessment to reduce wildfire risk through thinning and shaded fuel breaks in a municipal watershed.

Unity Point GNA Project:
45.419281, -117.743294
Watershed: Indian Creek-Grande Ronde River
Project Description: 14,000-acre Environmental Assessment to improve forest and riparian resilience to wildfire and other disturbances through thinning, prescribed fire, and meadow restoration.



Thunder Cat GNA Project:
43.287717, -122.837223
Watershed: Middle North Umpqua River
Project Description: 31,240-acre Environmental Assessment to reduce wildfire risk and support economic opportunities through variable retention harvest, thinning, shaded fuel breaks, prescribed fire, and potential road access improvements.

Bogue Gulch GNA Project:
44.369853, -118.512827
Watershed: Reynolds Creek-John Day River
Project Description: 3,000-acre Categorical Exclusion to reduce fuels, improve resilience and habitat, support the local economy, and complete thinning, prescribed fire, and road maintenance.

Grayback GNA Project:
42.169238, -123.430853
Watershed: Sucker Creek
Project Description: 4,000-acre Environmental Assessment to reduce fuels, improve forest resilience, and enhance public and firefighter access through thinning and road maintenance.

[1] *20-YLRS watersheds are shown on the map in blue.*

Landscape Evaluations in 20-YLRS Priority Watersheds

What is this effort?

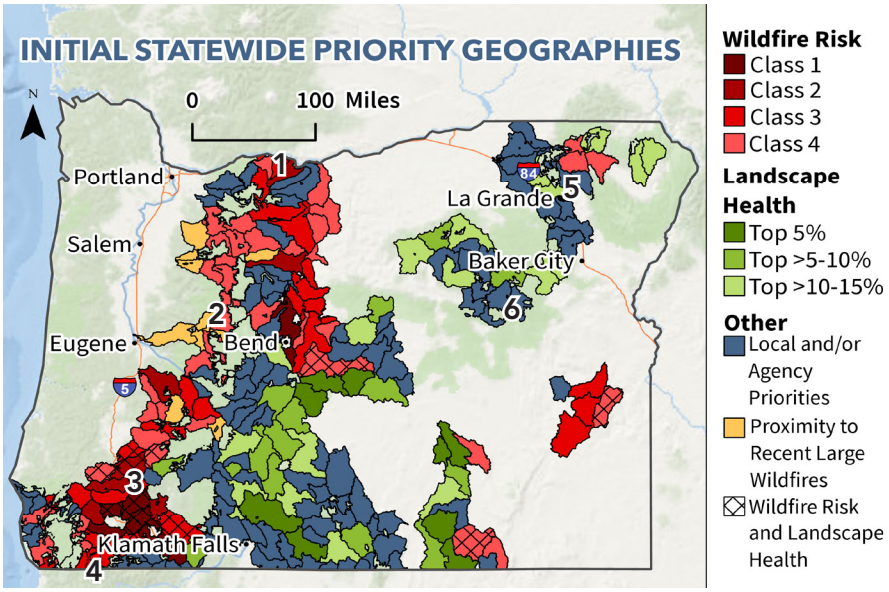
Oregon's 20-YLRS identified priority watersheds using a combination of assessments, including the Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment (QWRA) and a composite landscape health model. Those analyses, combined with adjustments for local priorities, existing project areas, and recent wildfires, produced a statewide prioritization map (see right) to guide forest restoration and landscape resilience treatments across ODF programs, including the Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFRP).

To support the 20-YLRS, six priority watersheds were selected for detailed landscape evaluations. These evaluations are designed to quantitatively assess current conditions, identify restoration needs, and establish treatment goals. This information can be used to track whether Oregon's forest restoration efforts are moving these priority watersheds toward more resilient conditions over time.

What are we measuring and assessing?

The evaluations compile and interpret existing spatial data to assess the current condition of each selected watershed. This includes land ownership, land cover, forest type and structure, vegetation composition, wildfire risk, insect and disease risk, federal land use allocations, threatened and endangered species considerations, operational delineations and wildfire control opportunities, restoration needs, wildland-urban interface locations, previous wildfire, and key social and economic considerations such as proximity to forestry contractors and workforce, mill access and road density, and revenue potential from public lands treatments.

The work also includes prescription and treatment goal development. For each landscape, the evaluation will recommend treatment types and target ranges so future actions can be measured against defined goals.



Data Sources: Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment (2018), Landscape Health: Institute for Natural Resources (2023)

Why landscape evaluations?

Landscape evaluations give ODF a consistent way to assess current watershed conditions, identify restoration needs, and define treatment goals that can be used to track whether landscape resilience efforts in Oregon's forests are moving these watersheds toward more resilient conditions over time. They are designed to move beyond broad statewide prioritization and provide landscape-specific information that can better evaluate whether ODF is achieving the goals of the strategy.

The six focal watersheds	"A to Z" GNA project
1. Mill Creek-Columbia River	The Dalles Watershed
2. Headwaters McKenzie River	Tie
3. Upper Cow Creek/Elk Creek	SW Tiller Fuel Break
4. Sucker Creek	Grayback
5. Indian Creek-Grande Ronde River	Unity Point
6. Reynolds Creek-John Day River	Bogue Gulch

Why these six watersheds?

ODF-FFRP, OSU-INR, and UO-EWP cooperatively selected six HUC-10 or larger landscapes based on three criteria: 1) the area contains an existing or planned "A to Z" GNA project, 2) it has relatively high treatment need according to the departure assessment, and 3) it helps represent forest types from different regions of Oregon. This ensures the initial set of evaluations is tied to real implementation opportunities while also reflecting geographic and ecological diversity across the state.

What will the end product be?

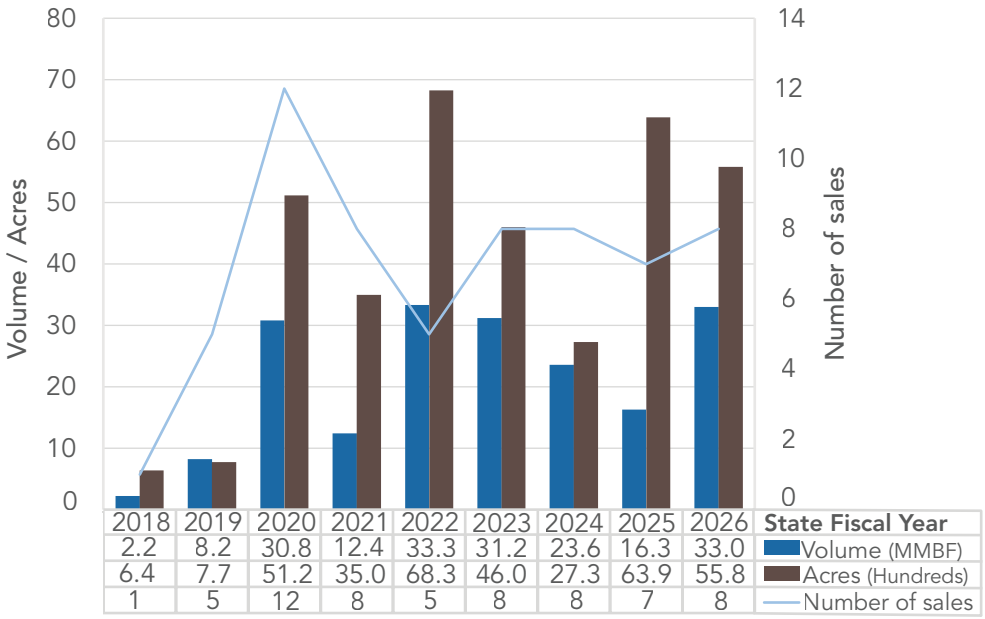
This effort will produce six fact sheets, one for each selected watershed, summarizing the landscape evaluation and recommended treatment targets based on restoration needs and departure analysis. It will also update ODF's Collective Groups Map Viewer and add a layer showing the six landscape evaluation areas, with links to the evaluation PDFs.

How will it be used?

The end product is intended to help ODF and its partners translate statewide resilience priorities into landscape-scale action. The evaluations and fact sheets will provide a clearer basis for identifying restoration needs, setting treatment targets, tracking progress, informing future project development, and supporting implementation in priority watersheds.

ODF GNA Sold Volume Summary

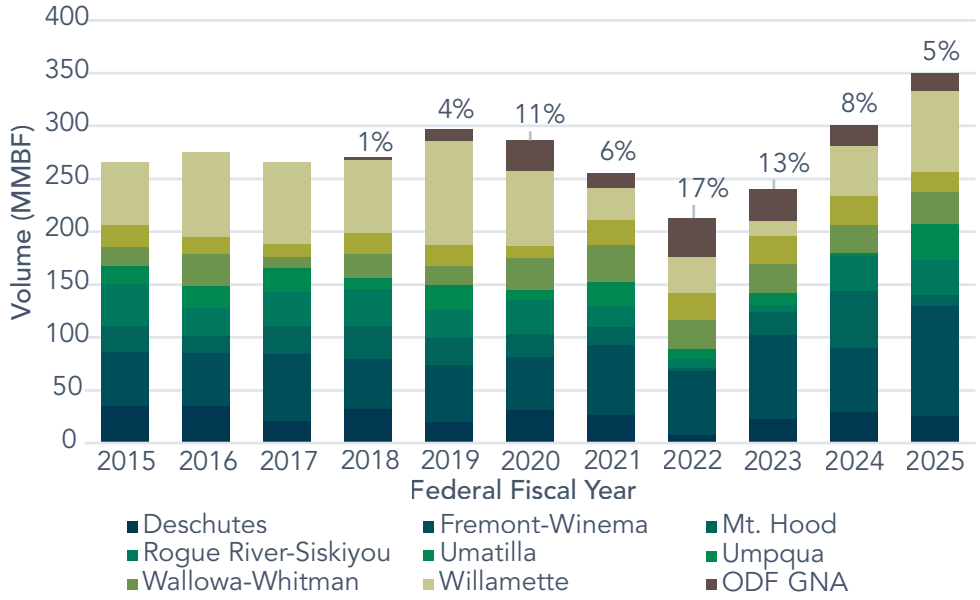
The following graph shows sold volumes in million board feet (MMBF), acres in hundreds, and number of sales from 2018-2026.



State Fiscal Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Volume (MMBF)	2.2	8.2	30.8	12.4	33.3	31.2	23.6	16.3	33.0
Acres (Hundreds)	6.4	7.7	51.2	35.0	68.3	46.0	27.3	63.9	55.8
Number of sales	1	5	12	8	5	8	8	7	8

Sawlog Volume Sold from Partnering National Forests

The chart shows ODF GNA sawlog volumes (2015–2025) in brown, with each year's percent of total volume labeled.



New Staff Member

Michele Palmer

Environmental Planning Coordinator

We are very excited to welcome Michele Palmer to the ODF Federal Forest Restoration Program team!

Michele will manage the FFR Program's NEPA planning project portfolio, serving as a project lead and bringing the technical expertise needed to serve as an integrated member of interdisciplinary teams supporting project planning and compliance. Michele brings a wealth of knowledge on NEPA planning and the federal planning process to this newly created position. Her role will be critical to the FFR Program's continued success in accelerating the restoration and resilience of Oregon's federal forests and advancing Oregon's 20-YLRS.

Project Spotlight: Replanting the Crazy Creek Burn

The 2024 fire season burned hundreds of thousands of acres across the Ochoco National Forest, including areas affected by the Crazy Creek, Rail Ridge, and Wiley Flat fires. The scale of the damage created an urgent need for reforestation and additional capacity to support the forest's recovery. In spring 2025, the Ochoco National Forest approached the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFRP) about expanding the state's role in post-fire reforestation. Through the Good Neighbor Authority, ODF agreed to plant and protect 424 acres within the Crazy Creek Fire burn area during the 2026 planting season.

Although ODF had previously supported reforestation across thousands of acres by inspecting federal planting contracts, the Crazy Creek project marked the first time ODF wrote and administered a state planting contract on federal forestland. The project demonstrates how state and federal partners can work together to increase the pace and scale of restoration following severe wildfire.

The Forest Service purchased the ponderosa pine seedlings and protective materials and stored them at the Ochoco Ranger Station. ODF's Prineville-based staff completed field reconnaissance, laid out the planting units, and wrote, awarded, administered, and inspected the contract. The contract covered eight units and resulted in more than 74,000 seedlings being planted and protected. Each seedling was fitted with rigid Vexar netting to reduce browsing damage from elk and deer and improve its chances of becoming established.

Before administering the state contract, ODF personnel also helped the Ochoco National Forest implement the largest planting contract in the forest's history. That effort covered approximately 3,000 acres across the Crazy Creek, Rail Ridge, and Wiley Flat fire areas and included the planting of more than 500,000 seedlings. ODF personnel led one of the Forest Service planting crews and supported contract implementation and inspections to help ensure the work met quality standards. The state-administered Crazy Creek contract expanded the total area reforested during the planting season by an additional 424 acres. By providing staff capacity, contract administration, and on-the-ground support, FFRP helped the Ochoco National Forest accomplish more restoration work than it could have completed on its own.

The Crazy Creek project provides a model for future partnerships. Through the Good Neighbor Authority, ODF can help federal partners address urgent restoration needs, support forest recovery, and improve the long-term resilience of Oregon's federal forests.

Contributors: Kyle Sullivan-Astor, Michael R. Coughlan, Stephanie Schneider, Harold Stevens, and Lane Osborn. Design by Marissa Sorlie. Photo Credits: Lane Osborn, FFR Operations Forester. Funded by Oregon Department of Forestry.