

Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat Program



What is the Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat Program?

The Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat Program (SFISH) is a grant program established by the Legislature in 2022 to help small forestland owners implement projects that improve fish habitat and mitigate risks to natural resources arising from forest roads. The program provides up to 100 percent of the cost for eligible projects. The program is administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The program helps small forestland owners from project start to finish.

- ODF determines project eligibility and ranking, provides project funding, and helps develop project details.
- ODFW assists with identifying high conservation value sites, ranking projects, and developing project details.

What are the program eligibility requirements?

- Landowners must own less than 5,000 acres of forestland in Oregon.
- Landowners must harvest no more than an average of 2 million board feet of timber each year.
- Landowners must inspect their roads by completing a Road Condition Assessment.

What are considered high conservation value sites?

- Sites located in areas of known chronic sedimentation.
- Fish passage barriers.
- Stream crossings that have diverted the stream channel or have a high diversion potential.
- Areas where the road drainage system is not adequately disconnected from waters of the state.
- Roads with a perched fill presenting a significant hazard to a fish-bearing stream.





What types of projects are eligible?

- Projects must benefit fish species covered under the Private Forest Accord Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Replacement of culverts or fords that are no longer functioning or do not meet the Oregon Forest Practices Administrative Rules design standards.
- Abandoned road repairs that prevent sediment delivery to waters of the state or improve fish passage.
- Remediation of roads with a perched fill that present a significant hazard to fish-bearing streams.

What fish species are covered under the Habitat Conservation Plan?

- All native salmon and trout (*Oncorhynchus spp.*)
- Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)
- Mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*)
- Pacific eulachon/smelt (*Thaleichthys pacificus*)
- Green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*)



How does the program work?

- A small forestland owner completes a Road Condition Assessment and applies for project evaluation.
- A site visit is conducted to determine if the project meets program eligibility.
- An eligible project is evaluated and ranked in consultation with ODFW based on its benefits to fish and the amount of time the project has been waiting for SFISH funding.
- The project is funded when it becomes a high priority.
- The program helps the landowner find a project sponsor and develop project details.
- The project sponsor can help manage the project, including design, permits, and contractors.

