



Federal Forest Restoration Program Overview

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Federal Forest Restoration Program: Overview

- Context and history
- Mission, guiding legislation, and program overview
- 2021-23 biennium progress update
- Case studies
- Accomplishments
- Look ahead
 - FY23 targets
 - FFR Vision
 - Risks & challenges
 - FFR POP



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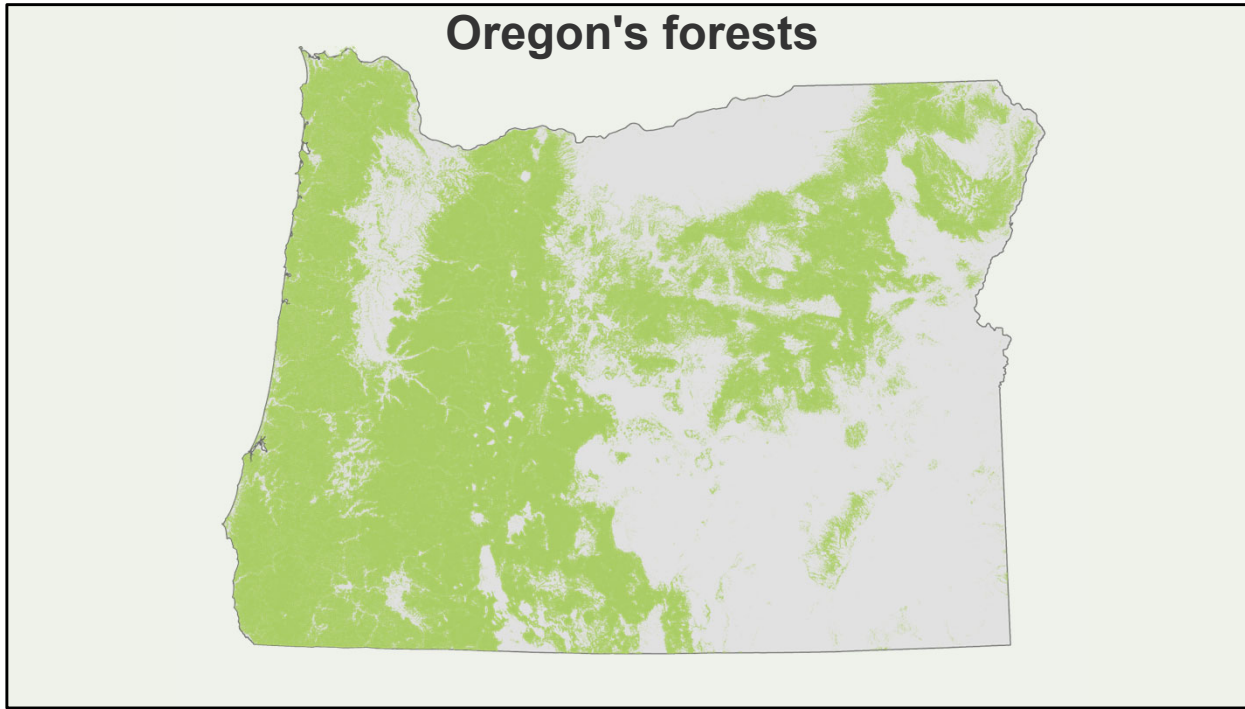


I will first be providing the context and history of the Department's involvement in federal forest policy and management, what led to the FFR Program's creation, why the Program exists, and what it does. I will share our mission and highlight the legislation that guides the Department's work related to federal forests.

I will give you an update on the implementation of the Program's work in the current biennium, provide some case studies or examples of our work from two areas of the state, and touch on some accomplishments of the Program since inception.

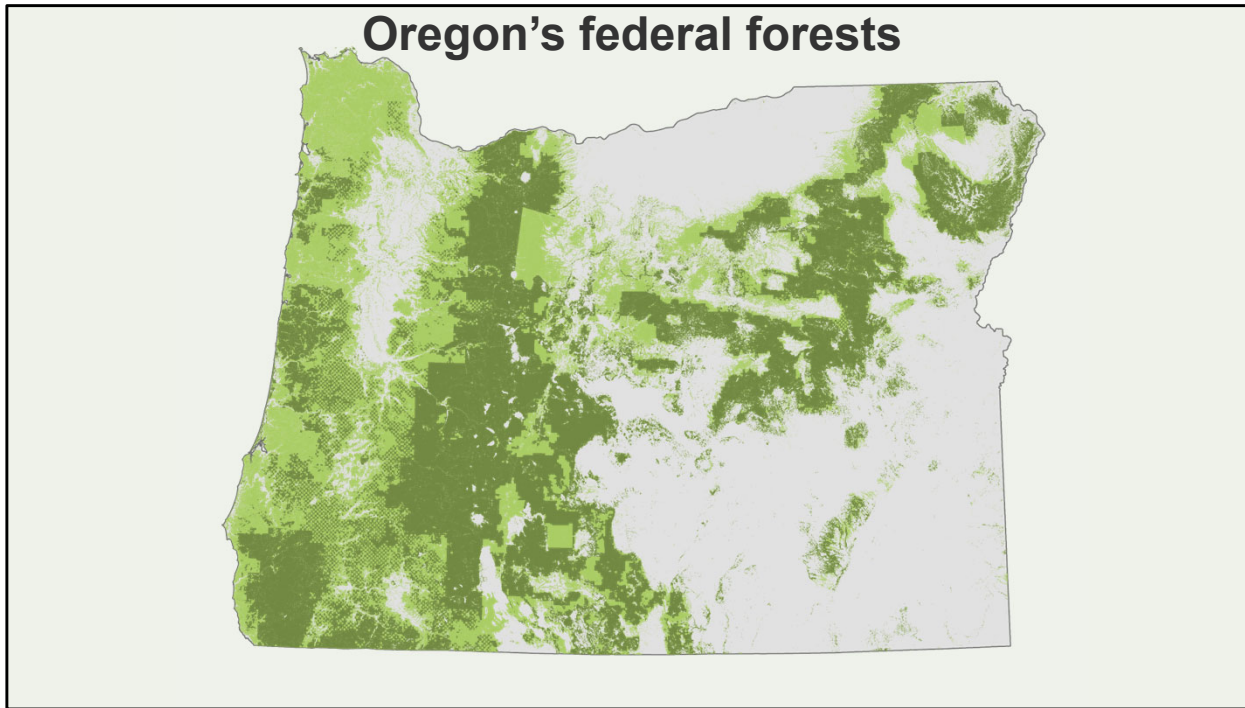
I will also provide a look ahead at some of the risks and challenges the Program faces, the current FY 2023 accomplishment targets, the Program's vision for the future, and the Policy Option Package that will help us realize that vision.

Oregon's forests



To set the context, this slide should look familiar to you, it shows the roughly 30 million acres of forestland in Oregon, approximately half of the land cover in the State.

Oregon's federal forests



In the dark green shows the 60 percent or over 17 million acres of Oregon's forests under federal ownership. The management and stewardship of these lands is critically important to all Oregonians, and because we know insects, disease, wildfire, wildlife, water and air do not know these boundaries, working across them to ensure healthy forest ecosystems, watersheds, communities, and economies is increasingly important.

Federal forests play a significant role in the Department's ability to fulfill its mission to protect, manage, and promote stewardship of all of Oregon's 30 million acres of forests.

Also, the Department's priority to provide fire protection on the mostly non-federal lands in the state, is affected by the landscape condition, access and fuel loads of the adjacent federal forests. Our federal forests are relied on by the communities that are the closest to them for recreation, employment, clean air and water, and management of them, we are learning, is more than any one organization can take on alone.

Federal Forest Restoration Program: Before



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These are some examples of the current condition of large areas of Oregon's federal forests. The photo on the left is an example of the over 7 million acres of National Forest in Oregon that are, according to the Forest Service, in an over-stocked, unhealthy state and at increased risk of stand replacing wildfire and insect & disease infestation.

The middle photo is an example of the unmaintained road infrastructure, susceptible to erosion and sediment delivery, and limiting the public access to their public lands. There is a \$3.5 billion dollar backlog of deferred road maintenance nation-wide, according to the Forest Service's FY 2023 budget request.

The photo on the right shows an example of the many miles of bermed and channelized streams, missing large wood or spawning gravel and limited structure. Which effects the habitat of Endangered Species Act-listed fish in these streams and water quality.

Citation: <https://www.fs.fed.us/farmbill/documents/DesignationLetters/Oregon20190416-508.pdf>

Citation: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/FS-FY23-Congressional-Budget-Justification.pdf>

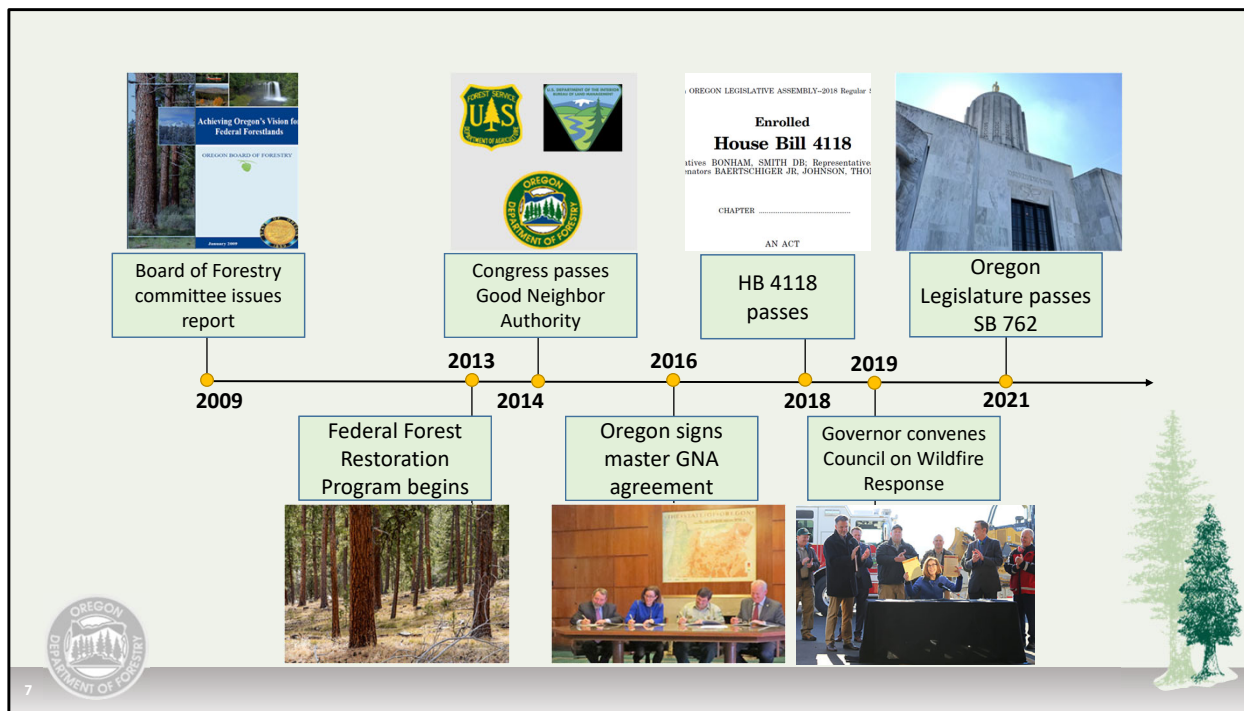
Federal Forest Restoration Program: After



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The FFR Program is working to restore these areas to, (left) thin forests to break up the connectivity of the fuel and move the forest toward a more resilient condition, (middle) maintain and improve the road infrastructure, (right) and restore aquatic habitat by bring large wood back to the stream and widening the flood plain.

These are just a few examples of what the FFR Program is doing to restore Oregon's federal forests, in partnership with federal agencies, sister state agencies, collaborative groups, forest sector partners, forest contractors and others.



You can trace the origination of the state’s involvement back to 2009 when the Oregon Board of Forestry, recommended that the state invest in a “Federal Forest Liaison Program” now known as the Federal Forest Restoration Program.

Four years later in 2013, the program was initiated by the state legislature with the mission of increasing the pace, scale and quality of restoration in Oregon’s federal forests.

Shortly after the FFR program was established, in 2014 Congress passed the Good Neighbor Authority in the Farm Bill, allowing the Forest Service and BLM to enter into agreements with States to perform hazardous fuel reduction, Insect and Disease treatments, or other restoration or watershed improvement projects on federal land.

By 2016, the FFR Program was expanded statewide and Good Neighbor Authority began to be used in Oregon to complete restoration activities on federal forestlands. The Master GNA agreement was signed by Governor Brown and the heads of ODF, ODFW, and Forest Service Region 6 providing a framework from which activities under GNA occurred on Forest Service lands in Oregon.

In 2018, House Bill 4118 was passed in the Oregon Legislature and made it a policy of the state to pursue projects under 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.

In 2019, the Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response was convened and released a series of reports and made recommendations that doubled down on the importance of working to create resilient landscapes on federal lands. The Council noted that of the 5.6 million acres at highest risk according to the Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment, 65% of those were under federal ownership and that over 90% of the acres burned over the past 3 decades has occurred primarily on federal lands.

Finally, in 2021 SB 762 passed, which made a commitment to reduce wildfire risk on all land ownerships, including federal, and with it came personnel that were added to the FFR Program.

These are a few events that frame the Oregon context for the states involvement on federal lands.

Mission and Legislation

Core Mission – Accelerate the **pace, scale and quality** of forest restoration to increase the resilience of Oregon’s federal forests.



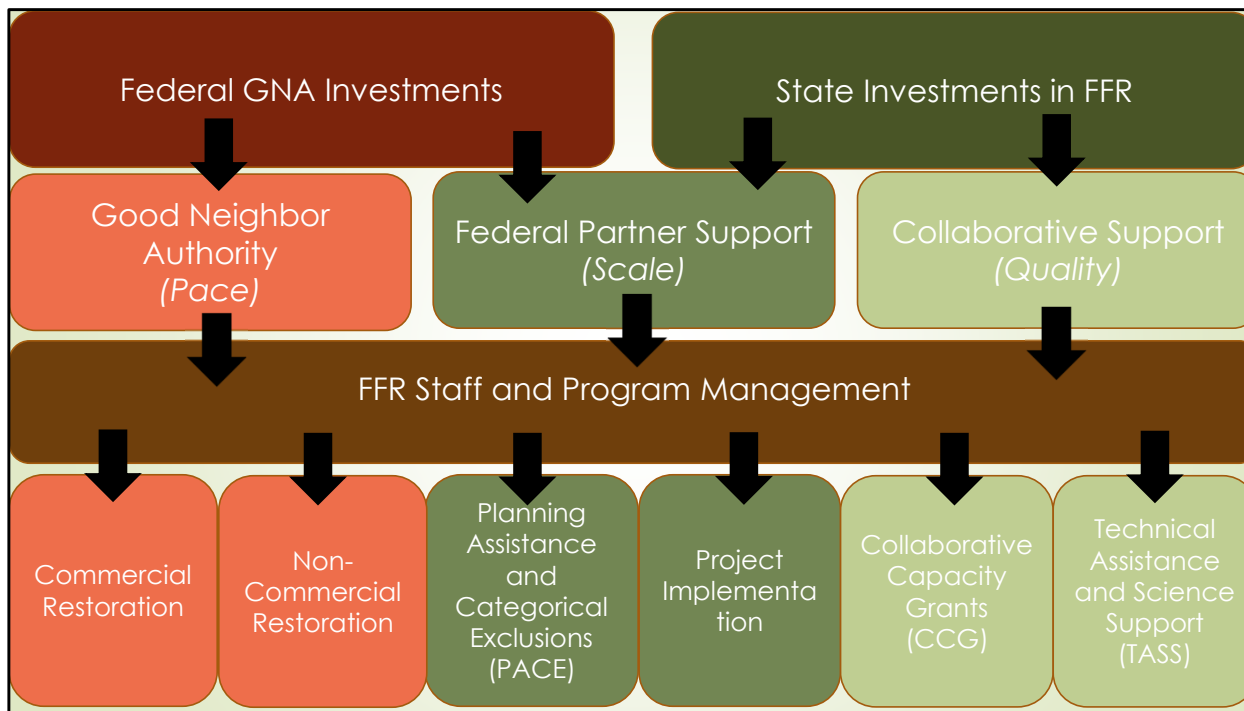
Guiding State Legislation (ORS 526.275) – “...a policy of the state to pursue projects under the [GNA] **that increase timber harvest volume, contribute to job creation, reduce wildfire risks to all lands, improve wildlife habitat and watershed health and stimulate local economies.**”



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Since the creation of the FFR Program in 2013 its core mission has been “Accelerate the pace, scale and quality of forest restoration to increase the resilience of Oregon’s federal forests, in a manner that leverages collaborative efforts and contributes to the long-term vitality of regional economies and rural communities.”

In 2018, HB4118 passed the Oregon Legislature and made it “...a policy of the state to pursue projects under 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.”



The FFR Program achieves its mission and fulfills the guiding legislation in HB 4118 with a blend of funding and three main Program components.

The Program has a combined \$14.8M biennial budget for the current 21-23 biennium. This \$7.4M/year budget is mostly for work executed by contracts, grants, and agreements, although some of the on-the-ground work is performed directly by FFR staff. I will detail the budget breakdown on the next slide.

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), Federal Partner Support, and Collaborative Support are the Program components that contribute to the FFR Program's mission to increase the pace, scale and quality of restoration on federal lands:

Good Neighbor Authority

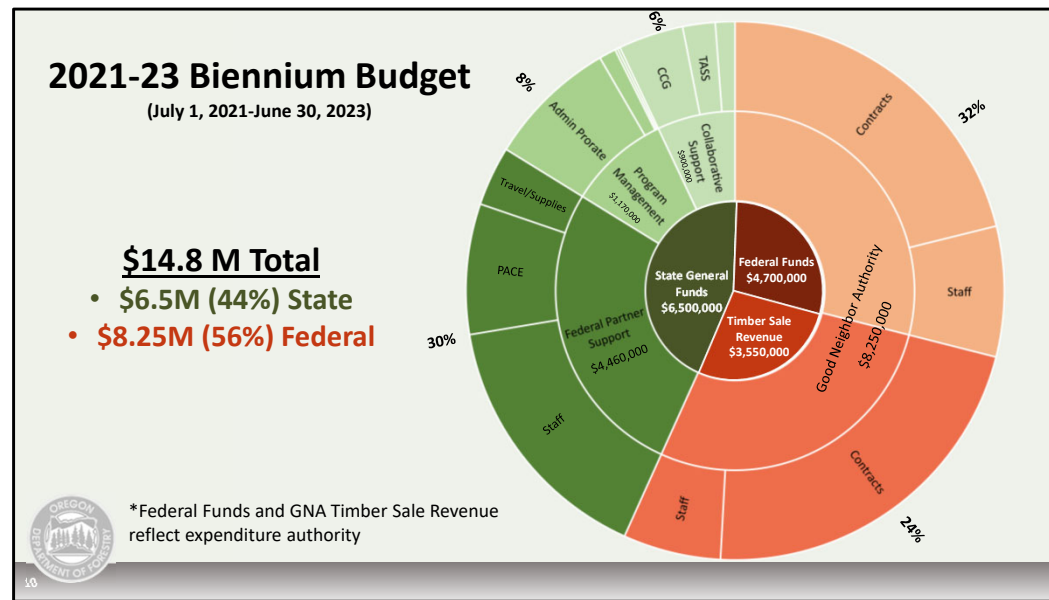
- Allows ODF to conduct 'authorized restoration services' on federal land
- It allows ODF to add capacity to the Forest Service and BLM to implement both non-commercial restoration, or service projects, and commercial restoration or projects that involve the sale of forest products and generate Revenue that can be reinvested into the Forest
- There is a wide variety of activities that ODF can perform under GNA, including NEPA planning, thinning, prescribed burning, fish passage projects or other aquatic improvement work, post-implementation monitoring, or other activities that have a restoration objective

Federal Partner Support

- This component is about addressing bottlenecks in the system for federal forest restoration and supporting the planning, preparation, implementation of projects on the ground
- We accomplish this through our Planning Assistance and Categorical Exclusions (PACE) initiative and ODF staff implementing restoration projects or project implementation
- PACE funded projects are intended to expedite restoration project planning through data collection, planning innovations, and contracted National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) categorical exclusions. The project planning necessary to create NEPA-ready acres is a key bottleneck to increasing restoration on the ground.
- Examples of PACE projects include NEPA survey efficiency projects such as Environmental DNA surveying; contract Categorical Exclusions; or stand-alone surveys that contribute to an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement such as heritage or botany surveys
- Project implementation— ODF has been using FFR staff, forestry crews and seasonal firefighters to conduct restoration work on federal lands since 2015. Examples of this include conducting chainsaw work, project layout, tree marking or contract inspection work.

Forest Collaborative Support

- Recognizing the key function of Forest Collaboratives is building agreement among federal forest stakeholder groups to allow projects to proceed through the NEPA process, build social license, and avoid litigation:
- ODF administers Collaborative Capacity Grants in partnership with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to provide direct funding to collaboratives to 1. Build a collaborative governance framework for younger collaboratives, helping with the development of a charter, operations manuals, or strategic workplans and 2. For more established collaboratives, to develop Zones of Agreement around a planning area or forest type. The ultimate goal of these grants is to increase the number, acreage and complexity of collaboratively planned projects in Oregon
- Technical Assistance and Science Support or TASS grants are designed to help forest collaboratives gain the technical or scientific expertise needed to build consensus to conduct science-based forest management, with help from an outside science or technical assistance provider. Examples of TASS projects are fire history & stand reconstruction studies; outreach, communications, and storytelling support; or post-implementation monitoring to support collaborative learning.
- And the FFR staff and program management supports all three components of the program. Program management contains our essential 3rd party monitoring work with the Ecosystem Workforce Program as well as the administrative prorate, DOJ consultation, and communications support.



This slide shows the split between Federal and State investments categorized into the components of the FFR Program.

Of note is that more than half of the funding for the Program’s work comes from Federal sources, either federal cash or GNA timber sale revenue. The majority of these federal funds are used for contracts or agreements for restoration planning, implementation or monitoring. A relatively small amount is used to fund Department staff time, however this proportion will increase in the next biennium because of a more robust project pipeline and fund shift that I will detail later in the presentation when I describe the FFR Policy Option Package.

The state general fund portion of the budget provides support for forest collaboratives, NEPA planning support in areas with little timber value, and FFR Coordinators and Unit Foresters. All of these are ineligible for federal funds or have little federal funding available, in the case of NEPA planning work.

Federal Forest Restoration Program: Why does it exist?

- Grounded in BoF work
 - *Achieving Oregon's Vision for Federal Forestlands* report
- Implementing the 20-year strategic plan
 - Healthy and resilient forests, across boundaries
 - Jobs and economic activity in rural Oregon
- Climate Change and Carbon Plan (CCCP)
- Mechanism to link Board priorities to federal forestlands



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Why does the FFR Program exist?

It exists to fulfill the recommendations of the 2009 BoF commissioned report, *Achieving Oregon's Vision for Federal Forestlands*, which established the Board's vision of how federal forestlands should contribute to sustainability.

Also, FFR Program is a means to operationalize and implement the forthcoming 20-year strategic plan, called for in the Shared Stewardship MOU and SB 762, in order to create healthy and resilient forests, vibrant local economies, and reduce wildfire risk to all lands

ODFs work to restore federal forests was also described as a way to both adapt to and mitigate climate change in the Board adopted Climate Change and Carbon Plan, specifically as a supporting action of the goal to "Accelerate the pace, scale, and quality of climate appropriate forest restoration"

And overall, the FFR Program is a mechanism to link other board priorities, such as adaptation and mitigation of climate change or development of new forest resource markets, to federal forests in Oregon.

Federal Forest Restoration Program: What does it do?

- Collaborative support
 - Grants to collaboratives
 - facilitators' salary; technical assistance
 - ODF staff participation
- Planning & project preparation
 - Surveys
 - Full contracted NEPA analysis
 - Preparation and layout
- Implementation
 - Timber sales, Rx burn prep and implementation, non-commercial thinning
 - Aquatic improvement
 - Invasive species treatments
 - Road improvement
- Monitoring



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What does the Program actually do?

Simply put, the Program contributes to the full portfolio of work that is necessary to achieve landscape resilience outcomes on federal land; the planning, implementation, monitoring and collaboration of these projects.

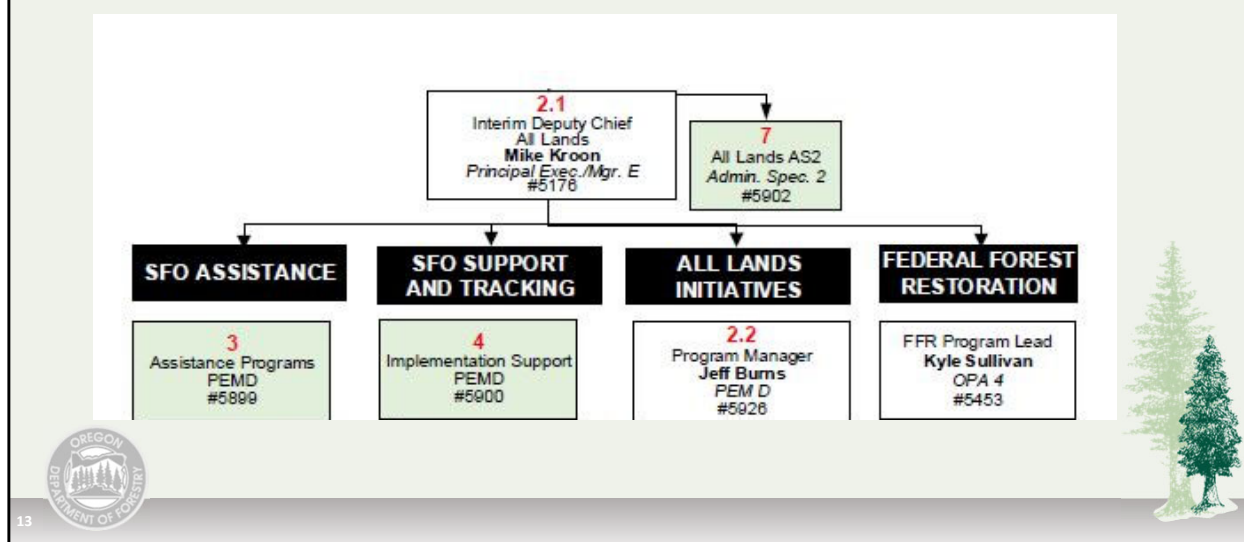
We support collaboratives by providing grants that support a facilitator's salary and technical assistance from third parties. Our FFR staff also engage, inform and participate with these groups.

We plan projects for implementation through surveys, analysis, field preparation and layout.

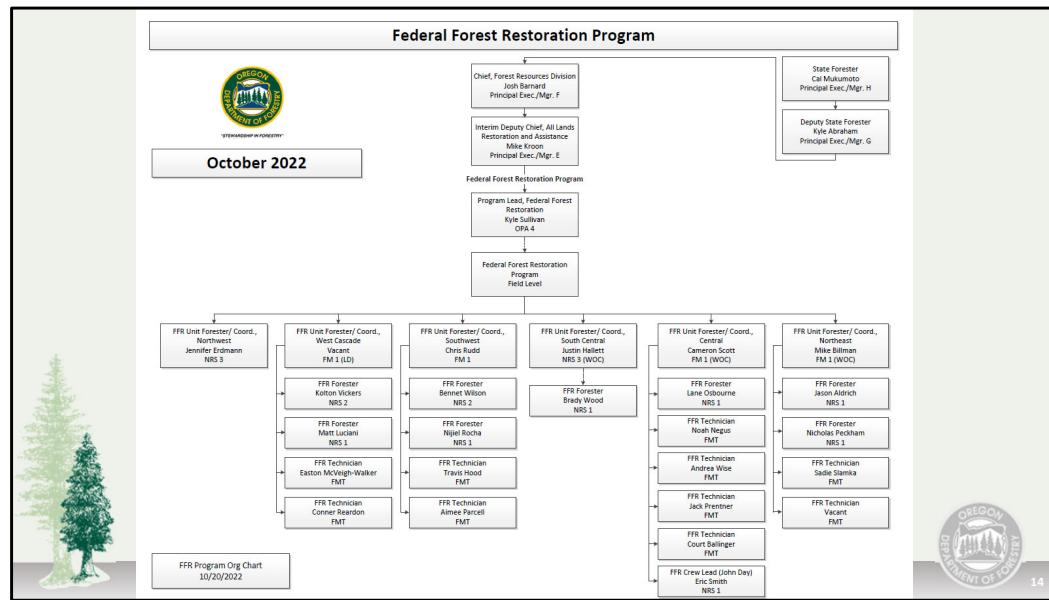
We then implement vegetation management, aquatic improvement, invasives and roads projects through contracting mechanisms, ODF staff or both

And we assist with post-implementation monitoring efforts that inform future projects and support collective learning of collaboratives.

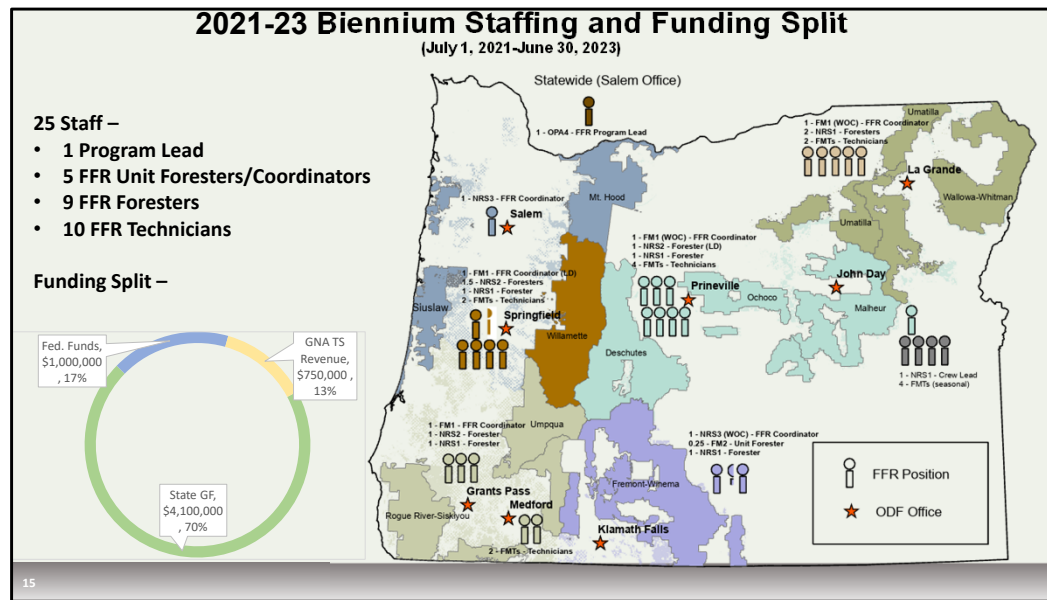
Federal Forest Restoration Program: Where does it live?



After the department reorganization in November of 2021, the FFR Program now sits within the Forest Resources Division and under the All Lands Restoration and Assistance Unit. This newly established All Lands Unit, led by Interim Deputy Chief Mike Kroon, contains the Small Forestland Assistance Office, Small Forestland Office Support and Tracking, All Lands Initiatives which manages the Department's federal grants and SB 762 grant programs, and the Federal Forest Restoration Program.



This is the full FFR Team, and how we are organized at ODF. The Program contains 25 permanent and 1 limited duration staff. We have one position based in Salem, my role, which manages the grant programs, budget, strategy, communications, and serves as a liaison to Forest Service Region 6, BLM state office and external federal forest stakeholders, and 6 field-based, and field-supervised Federal Forest Restoration Unit Foresters or coordinators that oversee the execution of the FFR program work within their assigned geography. We have 19 foresters and technicians who are the primary implementors of the Program’s work on federal forests in Oregon.



This shows the 25 staff and where they are distributed across the state. Where our staff work and the offices they are based in is determined by the actual ODF office locations, but also where there are federal partners willing to work with ODF, and where there is social license and collaborative support to perform work. We also consider where there is the greatest restoration need, as shown in wildfire risk and watershed condition prioritization mapping. And of course we also must consider the economic realities of a particular region. For example, we can only work in an area where there is sufficient funding via grant funds, appropriations, timber revenue, or some other funding source.

This slide also shows the funding split for personnel-only expenses, not our full budget. This distribution is currently 70% general fund, 17% federal funds (congressional appropriations, Forest Service trust funds) and 13% GNA timber sale revenues. The Policy Option Package, that I will describe later, changes this personnel funding distribution to roughly a 50% general fund, 25% federal funds, and 25% GNA revenue split. This change can be made because of available Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, disaster relief funds, collaborative forest landscape restoration program, or other congressional appropriations and available GNA timber sale revenues.

2021-23 biennium progress

- Collaborative grants
 - Collaborative Capacity Grants (CCG)
 - Technical Assistance and Science Support (TASS)
- Project planning (NEPA)
 - Planning Assistance and Categorical Exclusions (PACE) funds
- Hiring
 - Status
 - Reclassifications
- Communications and outreach
 - Video series
 - Press releases



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I will now provide a brief progress update for the current biennium and touch on our two collaborative grant program awards, restoration planning progress, hiring, and communications and outreach efforts.

Collaborative Grants

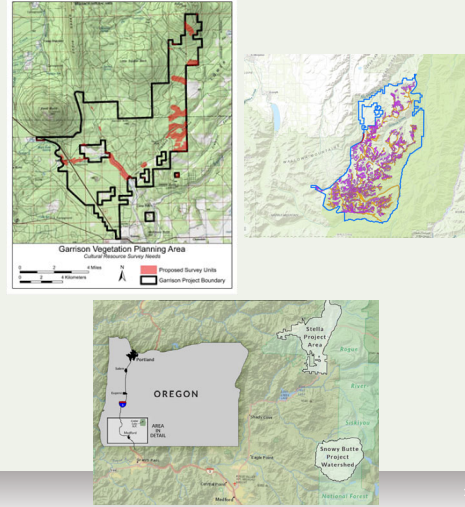
- Collaborative Capacity Grants (CCG)
 - Ultimate goal is to increase number, acreage and complexity of collaboratively planned projects
 - Brought together multi-stakeholder review team of 11
 - In Feb. 2022, provided \$477,000 to 8 collaboratives groups to develop zones of agreement and improve their collaborative governance structure



For our Collaborative Capacity Grants, managed in partnership with OWEB, we convened a multi-stakeholder review team of 11, comprised of sister state agency and forest service representatives as well as industry, environmentalist, county and research interests. We ultimately provided \$477,000 in grants to 8 collaboratives working to develop zones of agreement and improve their collaborative governance structure.

Project planning (NEPA)

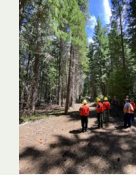
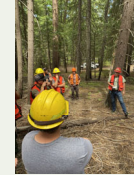
- Planning Assistance and Categorical Exclusion (PACE) funds
 - In December 2021, 9 projects were selected to receive \$620,000 that will result in surveys and analysis across 19,000 acres.
- GNA Revenue funds
 - Utilized for Bear Wallow CE (17,500 ac.)
- FS appropriated funds
 - Utilized for 42 Rd. CE (3,000 ac.)



We also invested heavily in our Planning Assistance and Categorical Exclusion or PACE initiative this biennium, selecting 9 projects that will result in 19,000 acres of surveys and analysis. Most of the 9 projects selected were for completing cultural surveys that are necessary to adhere to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; this was a notable bottleneck for the Forest Service this biennium. We also utilized GNA timber sale revenue to fund the completion of the 17,500 acre Bear Wallow categorical exclusion project and utilized Forest Service funds to contract the completion of the 3,000 ac 42 road CE project.

Hiring

- Growing workload=growing workforce
 - 9 -> 25 permanent staff this year
 - All-lands component
- Hiring 16 new positions
 - Challenges
- Improving structure
 - Upward reclassification of EOA FFR Coordinators
- FFR Program statewide training



The FFR Team grew from 9 to 25 permanent staff this year, which is a welcome increase to respond to the growing workload, but hiring 16 new positions with the right qualifications proved to be challenging this biennium. However, the Program is now fully staffed with a highly capable workforce that focuses on federal forestland work, but also facilitates restoration work on adjacent non-federal lands when opportunities exist.

Improvements to the field management structure of our Program have been made by processing an upward reclassification of our FFR Coordinators in Eastern Oregon Area. To accommodate for the additional new staff, we have organized statewide trainings to ensure our Team is has the skills necessary to excel in their work.

Communications and Outreach

Video Series



Press Releases

New report shows results of state, federal and local partners teaming up to restore Oregon forests and reduce fire risk

Jul 14, 2021

ODF awards \$100,000 to Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest to reduce wildfire risk in Medford's watershed

By Laura Hartz July 13, 2021 10:00 AM

Oregon Reports On Extent Of Federal Forest Restoration

Published July 14, 2021 at 10:02 AM PDT

LISTEN - 18:34

State of Oregon gives feds money to protect Medford watershed

Published January 20, 2022 at 9:30 AM PST

LISTEN - 22:22

C.O. featured in new Oregon Dept. of Forestry video series on restoring federal forests

In April, ODF released a video series, now posted to the Departments YouTube channel, that was a part of a broader communications strategy and was intended to describe the importance of the FFR Program's work to lay audiences. Also a part of the communications strategy was the release of a number of press releases that coincided with news worthy events such as the release of our comprehensive monitoring report or the announcement of our collaborative grant awards.

Fremont-Winema NF Example:

Paddock Butte GNA Timber Sale



Before Treatment



After Treatment

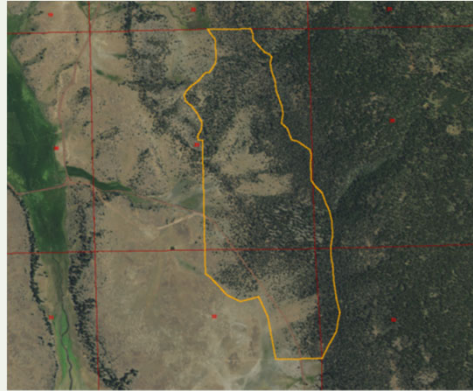


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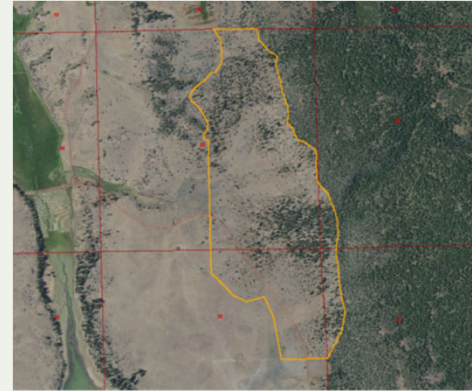
Now I will jump into two examples of the FFR Program's work from the Fremont Winema National Forest and Willamette National Forest.

These are photos taken before and after the treatment of ODF's first GNA timber sale in the state, called Paddock Butte GNA. Before treatment, this dry, mixed conifer site contained dense, slow growing ponderosa pine and encroaching juniper. With the goal of improving forest health and reducing the risk of stand replacing wildfire, ODF staff completed the preparation and administration of this project, which resulted in forest stands on the Fremont Winema National Forest that are more resilient to disturbance.

Fremont-Winema NF Example: Paddock Butte Juniper Removal



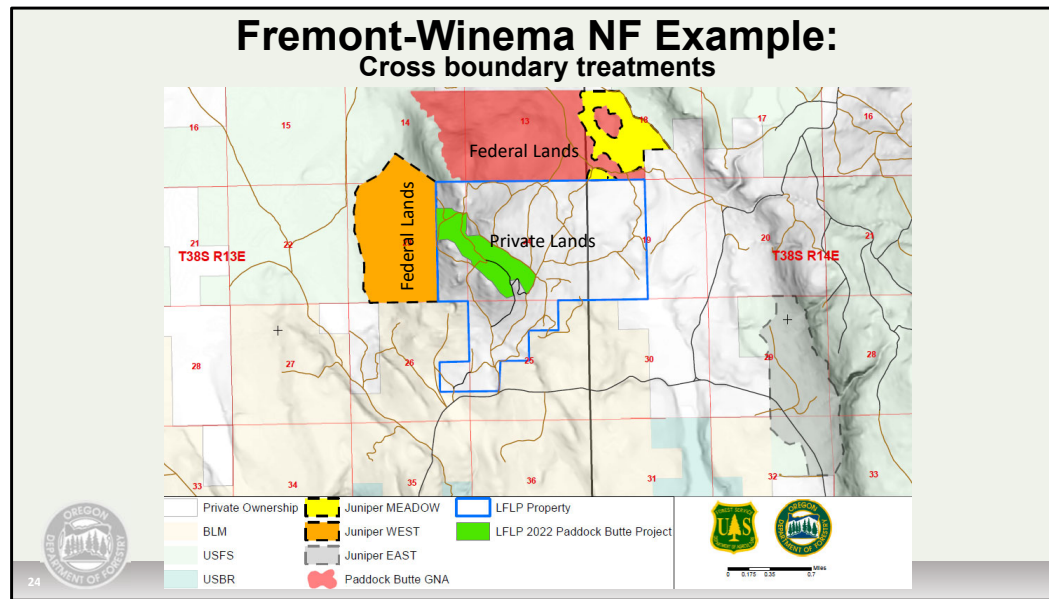
Before Treatment



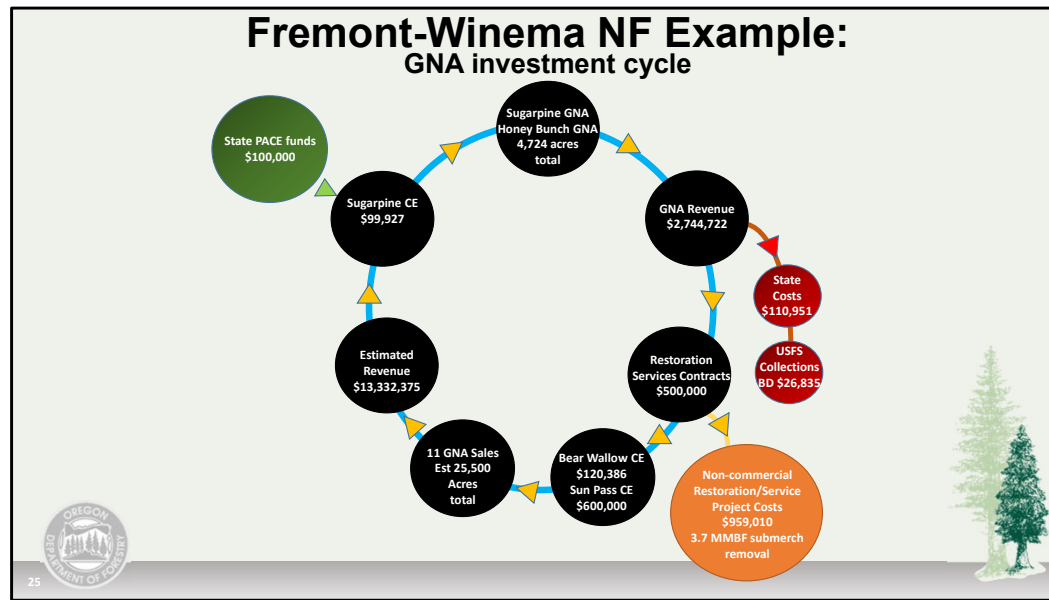
After Treatment



The 637 acre Paddock Butte GNA timber sale not only funded the ODF staff time and other costs necessary to prepare and administer the project, it also funded the treatment of an additional 1,100 acres on the Forest with the revenue generated from the commercial treatment. This slide shows an aerial photo before and after this non-commercial juniper removal treatment in the Paddock Butte project area.



In addition to ODF’s work on federal lands in this area, the Department also worked with the adjacent private landowners, the Livingston family, to develop a forest management plan for their property which they were able to implement with NRCS funds. The Paddock Butte GNA timber sale and juniper removal treatments on federal ownership combined with adjacent treatments on privately owned forestland, resulted in nearly 3,300 acres of forest health treatments. This project is an example of ODF pairing our work under the FFR Program with work on adjacent, non-federal lands.



This is a diagram showing the cyclical nature of Good Neighbor Authority projects on the Fremont-Winema national forest and how seed funds have the ability to set a cycle of restoration work in motion, in this case FFR PACE funds invested \$100,000 in the Sugarpine CE project.

ODF contracted NEPA analysis funded with \$100,000 of PACE funds, led to two commercial restoration projects, Sugar Pine and Honey Bunch GNA, that generated revenue to fund non-commercial restoration such as juniper removal projects and additional contract NEPA, Bear Wallow and Sun Pass projects. These two planning areas after NEPA analysis is complete are expected to treat over 25,000 acres and generate an estimated \$13 million in GNA Revenue.

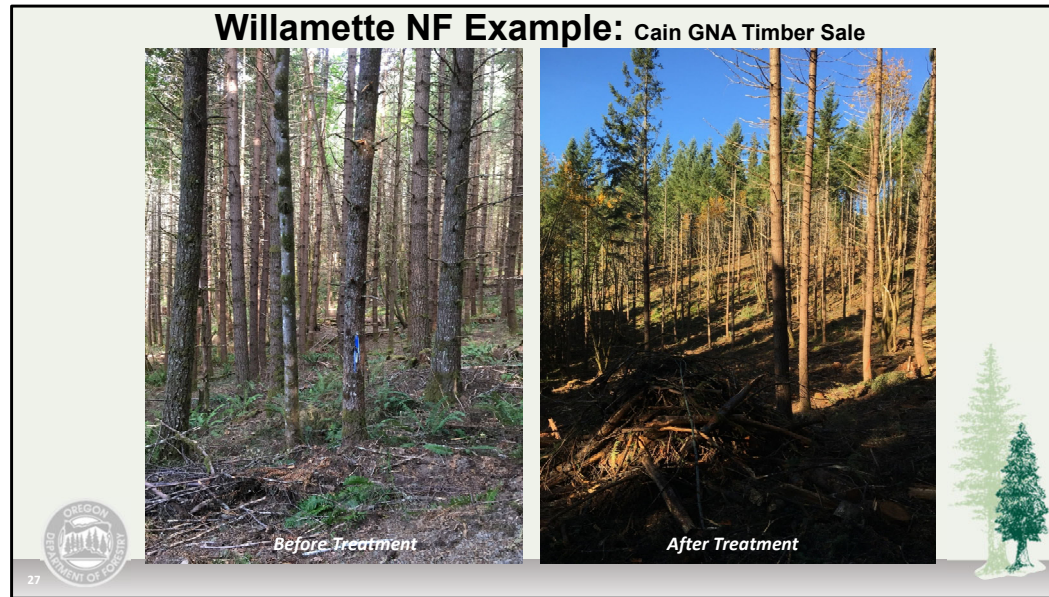
Willamette NF Example: Cain GNA Timber Sale



Moving to the Willamette National Forest, this slide is showing before and after treatment of another commercial thinning project prepared and administered by ODF FFR staff. This project involved the thinning in second growth Douglas-fir stands, road improvement, and skip and gap creation which are standard restoration treatments among west-side collaboratives.

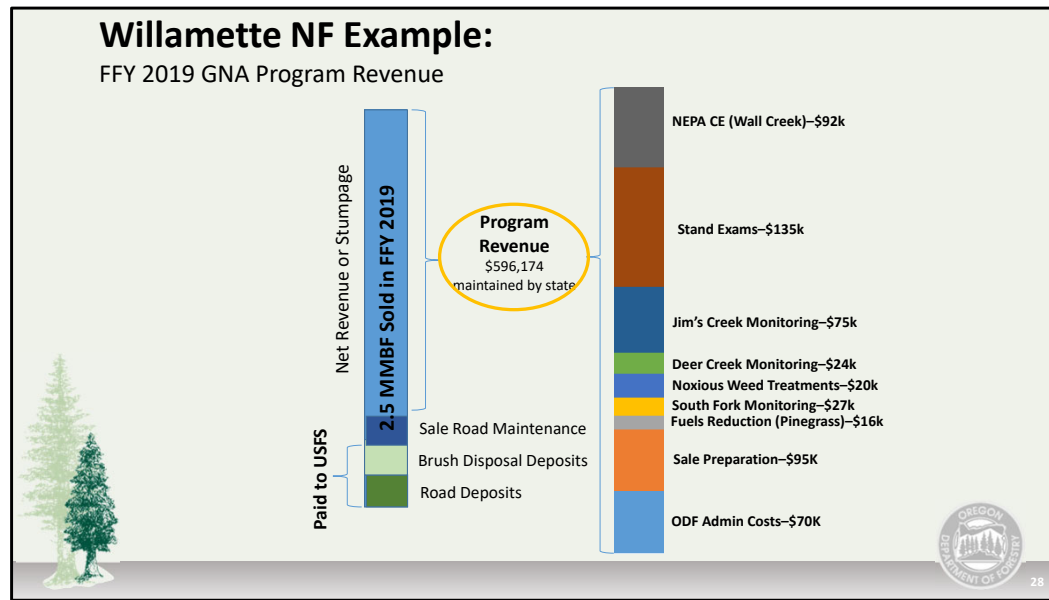
This small, 26 acre timber sale reduced stand density, leaving the largest and healthiest trees, made FS lands more resilient and improved stand health, and produced roughly half a million board feet of timber.

Willamette NF Example: Cain GNA Timber Sale



This is another picture of a stand before and after treatment. After the sale is sold and timber is hauled, revenue is generated that can be spent across the Willamette National Forest.

The next slide shows the GNA Revenue generated in federal fiscal year 2019 and how it was allocated.



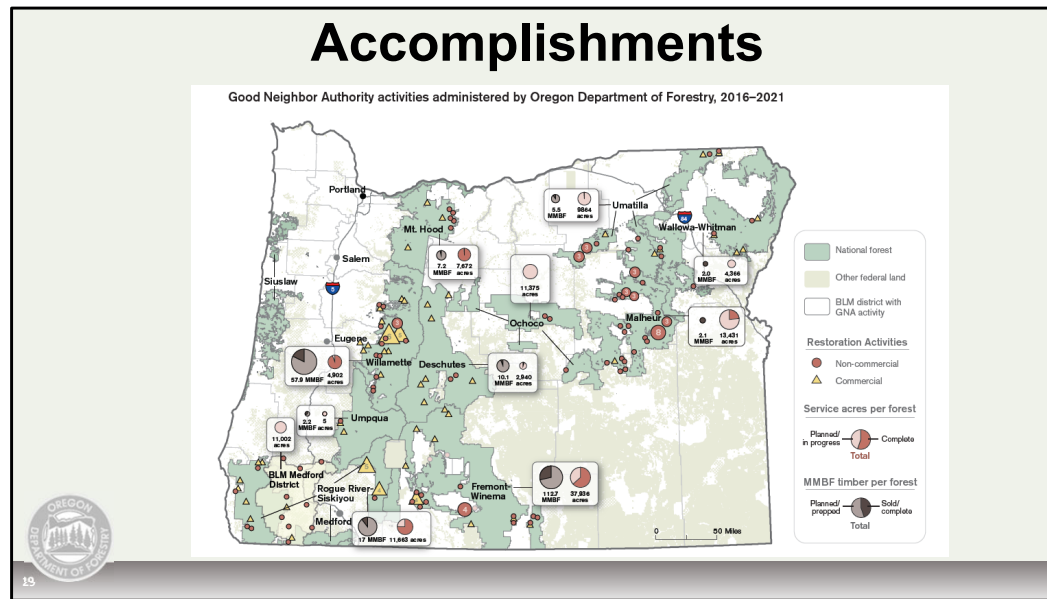
This is a visual of the GNA timber sales sold on the Willamette in federal fiscal year 2019. Two and a half million board feet were sold that year and about half of that was harvested and hauled. This generated almost \$600,000 in GNA Revenue for the Willamette National Forest.

A small portion was used to offset ODF's costs for personnel and supplies, in this case it was roughly 10% of the total Revenue available. The remaining was available to be used to fund restoration needs across the Forest.

A GNA Revenue workgroup consisting of Willamette National Forest and ODF leadership and staff recommended the selection of projects based on statewide selection criteria and local-level needs. Local forest collaboratives, in this case the Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative and McKenzie Watershed Stewardship Group, assisted with the development and prioritization of the list of projects to be funded with GNA Revenue and final project selection decisions were made jointly by ODF and Forest Service.

Contract NEPA, stand exams, non-commercial habitat improvement, and monitoring projects received funding which allowed the Forest to achieve additional restoration work they would not have otherwise accomplished and build social license by investing in post-implementation monitoring.

Accomplishments



This map shows where ODF has accomplished both commercial and non-commercial restoration work from 2016 through 2021.

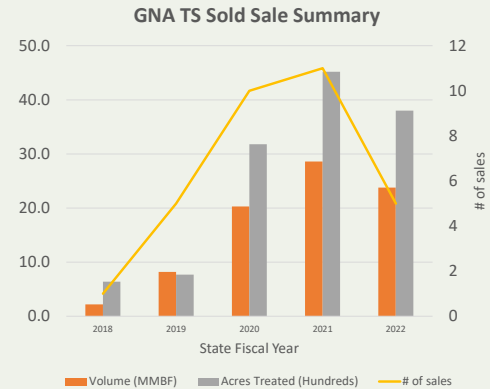
Today ODF has 30 active GNA Supplemental Project Agreements with the Forest Service, including 2 statewide agreements with the Region 6 office and 6 stand alone GNA agreements with the BLM.

There is \$10.9M of non-commercial restoration service work under agreement, with various expiration dates ranging from April 2023 and March 2026. This is an agreement where the Forest Service or BLM pays ODF, with federal appropriations or trust funds, to perform restoration work.

There is \$19.3M of commercial restoration work under agreement where ODF is reimbursed through the timber revenue generated by a GNA timber sale. The expiration of these agreements is in March 2026 and contains not only commercial restoration work or GNA timber sales, but also the non-sale related restoration projects funded with the revenue generated from the GNA timber sales. All commercial GNA agreements are with the Forest Service and are bound to an individual National Forest. There are no multi-Forest timber sale agreements at this time.

Accomplishments: Commercial Restoration

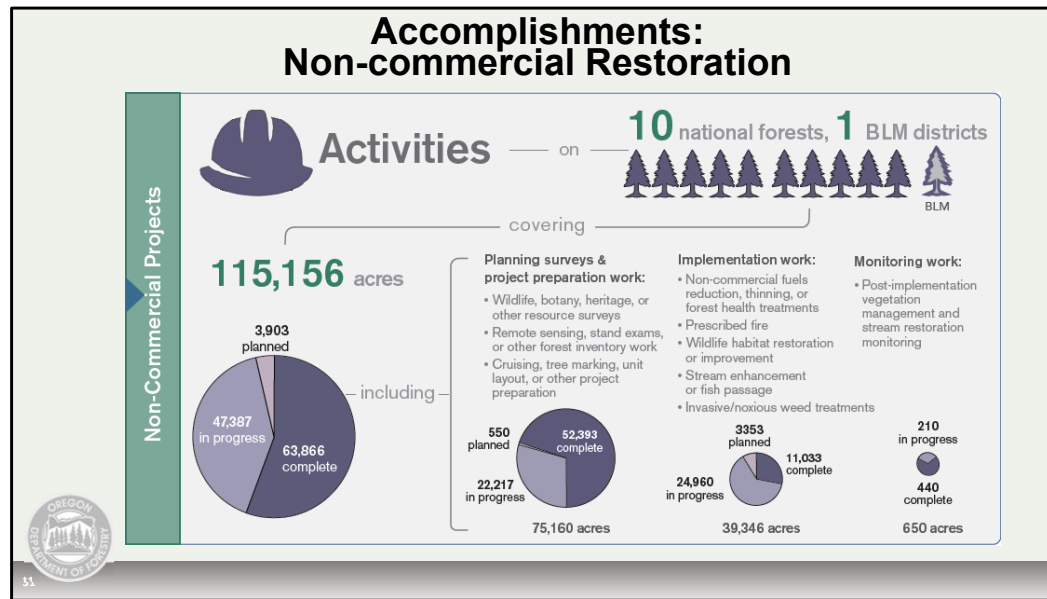
- To date, 32 GNA timber sales sold across 9 National Forests
 - Treating 12,000 acres
 - Generating 83 million board feet
- Forecasting an additional 30 GNA timber sales planned through state FY 2026
 - Treating an additional 26,000 acres
 - Generating 123 million board feet



ODF has sold 32 GNA timber sales across 9 National Forests since inception of the FFR Program. These commercial treatments will result in over 12,000 acres of treatments and generate 83 million board feet of sawlog volume to local economies over the life of those projects.

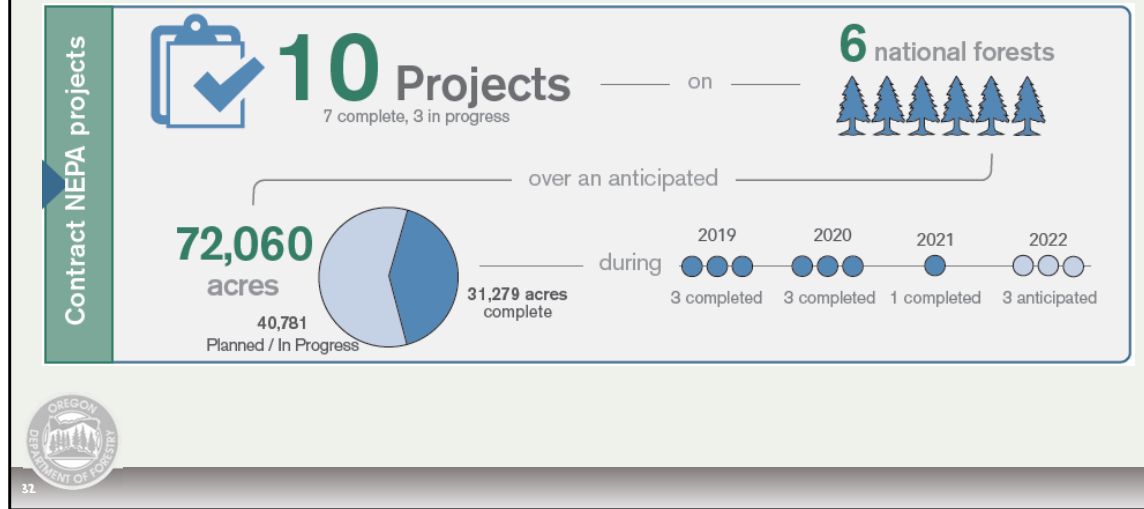
The FFR Program is forecasting an additional 30 GNA timber sales planned through state fiscal year 2026 that will treat an additional 26,000 acres and generate 123 million board feet.

Accomplishments: Non-commercial Restoration

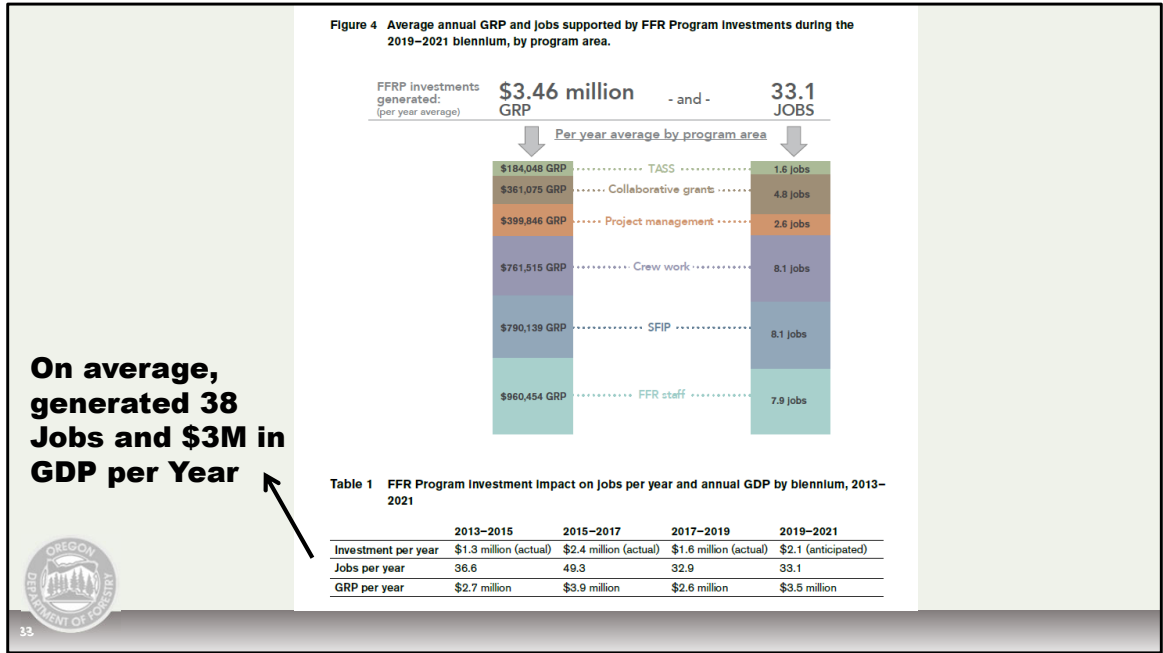


The Program has also accomplished a significant amount of non-commercial restoration work since 2016. We have completed 52,000 acres of planning and project preparation work consisting of resource surveys, stand exams or project layout. We have completed 11,000 acres of on the ground implementation work such as non-commercial thinning, prescribed fire preparation, or wildlife habitat improvement. We have also completed 440 acres of post-implementation monitoring work.

Accomplishments: Contract NEPA



We have also completed 7 full ODF contracted National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusion projects. These are projects that meet specific criteria that allow them to be excluded from a full Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement per NEPA. By working with our FS partners, ODF was able to move over 30,000 acres through the NEPA planning process on 6 National Forests.



For economic related accomplishments, third party monitoring and analysis of the FFR program has shown that the state investments in the program have generated an average of 38 jobs and contributed \$3 million to gross domestic product per year since the inception of the FFR Program.

FY 2023 FFR Program Targets

- **100 acres** of contract NEPA CE
- **23,000 acres** of NEPA surveys
- **19,000 acres** of non-commercial treatments
- **12,500 acres** of commercial treatments
- **47,000 MBF** volume sold
- **100 miles** of deferred road maintenance



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Transitioning to what is ahead of the FFR Program, here are the targeted accomplishments for the current 2023 fiscal year.

These performance targets were developed by our fiscal year operating plan process, and reflect a significant ramp up in the operations and performance of the FFR Program's work, which is a testament to the strong foundational work performed by the Department, the Federal Forest Working Group, and this Board in previous biennia, including the guidance and policy recommendations of the Board of Forestry Subcommittee on Federal Forests. These accomplishment targets are also a product of the FFR Program's commitment to fostering local collaborative group engagement, which builds the social license to perform needed forest health and restoration work and its investments in NEPA planning which allow sufficient project "shelf stock" to be implemented in the future.

I do want to highlight how significant these figures are. Just looking at the commercial and non-commercial treatment targets, which total 31,500 acres, they represent a 100% increase of the historical annual average acre accomplishments of the Program, which is 15,000 acres per year.

These forecasted accomplishments also highlight the tremendous value this work is generating from modest investments of general fund in the program. Again just looking at the commercial and non-commercial acres treated, these treatment levels represent a cost of \$103 per acre to the general fund, based on our roughly \$3 million per year budget. Any comparison to these costs with those associated with publicly funded grant programs will show a significant return on investment and highlight the value of the FFR Program's ability to leverage other fund sources.

FFR Program Vision

By 2029, ODF's Federal Forest Restoration Program contributes to achieving a 25% increase in restoration outputs on federal forests compared to a 2009-2012 baseline.



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So what is the vision for the FFR Program moving forward? By the end of the 2027-29 biennium, the FFR Program's vision is to be a significant contributor to achieving increased pace, scale and quality of restoration in Oregon and contributes to achieving a 25% increase in restoration outputs on federal forests compared to a 2009-2012 baseline. Our vision is also to coordinate stewardship activities on private and other non-federal lands to increase resilience at a watershed scale.

Risks and Challenges

- Litigation
- Wildfire
- Payments to counties
 - Mitigated by being additive
- Achieving 'pace and scale' while maintaining social license
- Environmental reviews are costly and time consuming
- Many projects do not 'pay for themselves'
 - Individual treatments can be costly



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Here are some risks and challenges to achieving our vision, the two primary risks are restoration project litigation and wildfire. There are currently two ODF contracted CE projects that have lawsuits filed against them and we have had roughly 4 active FFR projects either completely burned or somehow impacted by wildfire.

GNA timber sales and their perceived impact to federal timber payments to counties has been a political challenge we have faced in Oregon. However these concerns are mitigated by the additive nature of the FFR Program's work; when ODF plans and implements projects that are in addition to the Forest Service's program of work, these concerns are mitigated.

As the Program's work ramps up, achieving pace and scale while maintaining the public, stakeholder, and others constituent support will be a challenge moving forward.

Also, project cost will always be a challenge, environmental reviews are costly and time consuming, and many projects in Eastern and Southern Oregon do not pay for themselves and require additional investment of public funds.

Federal Forest Restoration Program: 2023-25 POP 108

- Maintains funding for Collaborative Capacity Grants (CCG)
- Fully funds TASS and PACE
- Increases staffing by 17 positions to 42 positions
 - Fund shifting existing staff from 70/17/13 to 50/25/25 (GF/FF/OF)
 - Adds 3 FTE to Salem
 - Adds 14 FTE to Field Offices



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Despite these challenges, the FFR Program has a path to achieving its vision for the future and the Board approved policy option package 108 will be crucial to the Program's success moving forward.

The package maintains funding for the collaborative capacity grants, fully funds the Technical Assistance and Science Support and Planning Assistance and Categorical Exclusion initiatives after these were partially reduced in the current biennium, and increases staffing in the program by 17 positions, bringing the program to 42 total positions.

These additional staff will come at a minimal cost to the general fund because of fund shifts associated with existing staff, available federal funds, and available other funds or GNA timber sale revenue.

Take aways

- ODF has achieved a lot on federal forests
- ODF federal forest workload is ramping up
- ODF federal forest workforce needs to expand
- FFR Program is a key piece of the future success of the Board and Department
 - Landscape resiliency and forest infrastructure goals
 - Shared Stewardship MOU and 20 year plan
 - CCCP goals



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Before I close out, some take aways from my presentation today. By any measure ODF's Federal Forest Restoration Program has accomplished a lot in partnership with federal agencies, collaboratives, and others on federal lands in Oregon.

The workload is increasing, exemplified by the current fiscal years' accomplishment targets, and is expected to increase as our new staff accumulate more experience, our Program gains efficiencies, and as recently passed federal legislation hits the ground.

To accommodate this increase in workload and continue to build out the FFR Program, our workforce needs to expand. Our additional positions added in Salem will enhance the delivery and organization of the Program and our new field-based positions will enable us to perform additional work and capitalize on available federal fund sources.

And whether its achieving landscape resiliency across ownerships, ensuring a robust forest infrastructure, implementation of the Shared Stewardship MOU and forthcoming 20 year plan, meeting the goals of the climate change and carbon plan, or any other Board or Department initiatives that intersect with federal forests, the FFR Program can be a key contributor and key to the Department's success in these areas.

Future reports and updates

- FFR Program update, issued annually
 - Next report coming December 2022
- Comprehensive biennial third-party monitoring report, issued biennially
 - Next report coming July 2023
- FFR Program quantitative accomplishments dashboard
 - Coming soon!



For additional information, the program will release its Good Neighbor Authority report in December, as required by statute.

We will also release our comprehensive biennial third party monitoring report in July of 2023.

And will be launching our new web-based dashboard website that shows the programs quantitative accomplishments over time very soon.