

# "Increasing Pace, Scale, and Quality"

Photo credit: Marcus Kauffman



## FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM UPDATE

2016–2022 ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

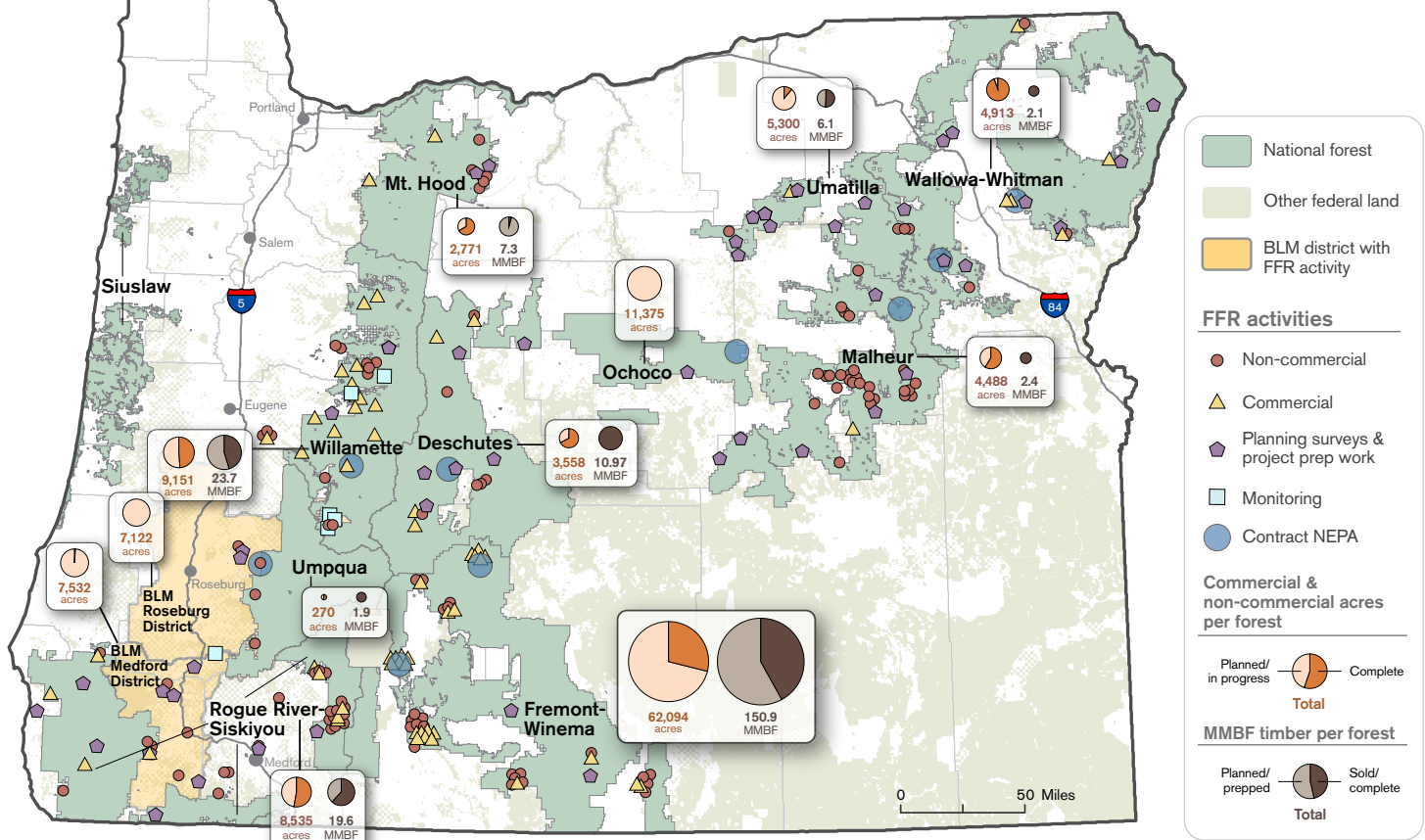
FACT SHEET 27 • DECEMBER 2022



Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program is continuing its work partnering with federal land managers, who manage 60% of Oregon's forests, to address the 5.6 million acres of Oregon's forests in need of landscape treatments to reduce threats such as insect, disease, and stand-replacing wildfire,<sup>1</sup> and create economic opportunities and jobs in the natural resources sector.<sup>2</sup> With 65% of the highest risk acres occurring on federal lands,<sup>3</sup> efforts to create landscapes resilient to disturbance must involve federal lands in a meaningful way.

Following decade-to-decade increases in severe wildfire seasons on all lands in Oregon, and culminating with the 2020 fire season which killed 11 people, burned more than 1.3 million acres, destroyed 3,522 buildings, cost over \$130 million in direct suppression costs and \$6.24 billion of indirect costs in loss of structures, infrastructure, timber and grazing resources,<sup>4</sup> there was a call to work to proactively to restore the health and resilience of forests to reduce future wildfire intensity, reduce air pollution, improve wildlife habitat, maintain water quality and quantity, and preserve recreational opportunities. This report summarizes the state's activities to mitigate the effects of severe wildfires and create healthy federal forests in Oregon. The report also fulfills the requirement of ORS 526.276 to report activities and outcomes of ODF's work on federal forestlands in Oregon.

### Federal Forest Restoration Program Projects, 2016–2022



<sup>1</sup> The Governor's Council on Wildfire Response November 2019: Report and Recommendations: <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/Docs/GovWildfireCouncilRpt-FinalRecs.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Cassandra Moseley and Max Nielson-Pincus, "Economic Impact and Job Creation from Forest and Watershed Restoration: A Preliminary Assessment" (Ecosystem Workforce Program Briefing Paper #14; winter 2009; Institute for Sustainable Development, Eugene, OR).

<sup>3</sup> December Final Mitigation Committee Report: <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/documents/governors-council-mitigation-committee-report.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office 2020 Fire Season Report: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/201911/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/227139>

# ODF's work on federal lands in Oregon:

The Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program uses the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) as a tool, in addition to other tools such as Cooperative Agreements, to work with federal forest management agencies in Oregon. The GNA is a tool in the toolbox to achieve the State's vision for federal forestlands.<sup>5</sup>

**31 agreements** — with — **10 national forests** (24 agreements) | **2 BLM districts** (5 agreements) | **Forest Service PNW Regional Office** (2 agreements)

## Restoration service projects

**Activities** on **10 national forests, 2 BLM districts**

covering **149,916 acres**

including:

- Planning surveys & project preparation work:**
  - Wildlife, botany, heritage, or other resource surveys
  - Remote sensing, stand exams, or other forest inventory work
  - Cruising, tree marking, unit layout, or other project preparation
- Non-commercial work:**
  - Non-commercial fuels reduction, thinning, or forest health treatments
  - Prescribed fire
  - Wildlife habitat restoration or improvement
  - Stream enhancement or fish passage
  - Invasive/noxious weed treatments
- Monitoring work:**
  - Post-implementation vegetation management and stream restoration monitoring

Project Status Breakdown:

- 149,916 acres total:** 11,442 planned, 73,262 in progress, 65,212 complete
- Planning surveys & project preparation work:** 932 planned, 26,723 in progress, 43,774 complete (71,429 acres)
- Non-commercial work:** 7,074 planned, 44,349 in progress, 20,788 complete (72,211 acres)
- Monitoring work:** 650 complete, 683 in progress (1,333 acres)

## Commercial Projects

**64 Sales** on **9 national forests**

16 complete, 19 sold, 29 planned

over an anticipated **56,664 acres** and **225.1 MMBF** (million board feet)

Project Status Breakdown:

- 56,664 acres total:** 3,994 complete, 35,903 planned, 16,767 sold
- 225.1 MMBF total:** 117.9 planned, 87.4 sold, 19.9 complete

## Contract NEPA projects

**12 Projects** on **7 national forests**

9 complete, 3 in progress or proposed

over an anticipated **74,577 acres** during

Project Status Breakdown:

- 74,577 acres total:** 37,363 in progress or planned, 37,214 complete
- Timeline:**
  - 2019: 3 completed
  - 2020: 2 completed
  - 2021: 1 completed
  - 2022: 3 completed
  - 2023: 3 anticipated

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/working/documents/achieving-oregons-vision-for-federal-forestlands-report.pdf>



# 2021–23 Biennium Update:

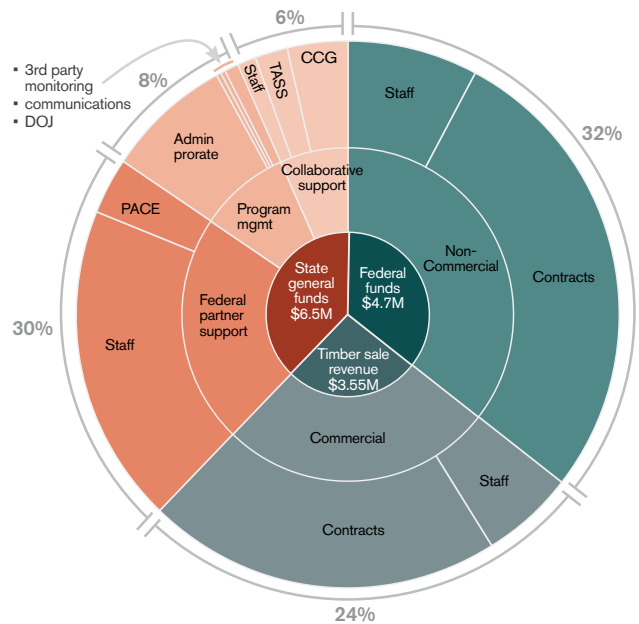
Changes and updates for the FFR Program for the current 2021–23 biennium include:

- \$6.5 million in state investments in the program is expected to leverage \$8.25 million in federal funds and project revenues
- Expansion of staffing from 9 to 25 permanent staff
- A new Master Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreement signed with USFS lasting through 2032

## \$14.8M Total

» **\$6.5M (44%) State**

» **\$8.25M (56%) Federal**



## Forest Collaborative Support:

*“CCG funding supported the development of zones of agreement that resulted in annual fuels group meetings which enhanced community wildfire protection planning, partnering on projects, and the development of common communication efforts in the Rogue Basin.”*

- Terry Fairbanks, Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC) Facilitator



Members of SOFRC meet in a field trip. Photo credit: Terry Fairbanks

## \$725,000 to support Oregon forest collaboratives

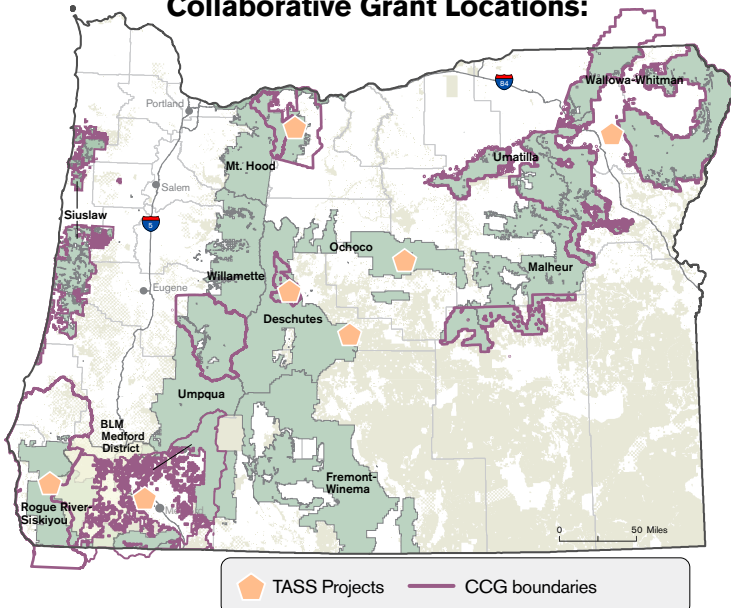
\$476,829 in Collaborative Capacity Grants (CCG) provided to 8 groups

- Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative
- Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
- Wasco-Hood River Forest Collaborative
- Wild Rivers Coast Forest Collaborative
- Harney County Forest Collaborative
- Northern Blues Forest Collaborative
- Oregon Central Coast Forest Collaborative
- Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project

\$250,000 in Technical Assistance and Science Support (TASS) to 7 projects

- A carbon storage potential study on the Malheur National Forest
- 2 fire and forest reconstruction studies on the Mt. Hood and Rogue-Siskiyou National Forests
- The Oregon Forest Collaborative Network, which convenes collaborative leaders across the state for efficient information sharing & higher functioning collaborative groups
- A user-made roads and trails assessment on the Deschutes National Forest
- Tethered-logging research on the Ochoco National Forest
- Road and sediment delivery analysis on the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest

## Collaborative Grant Locations:



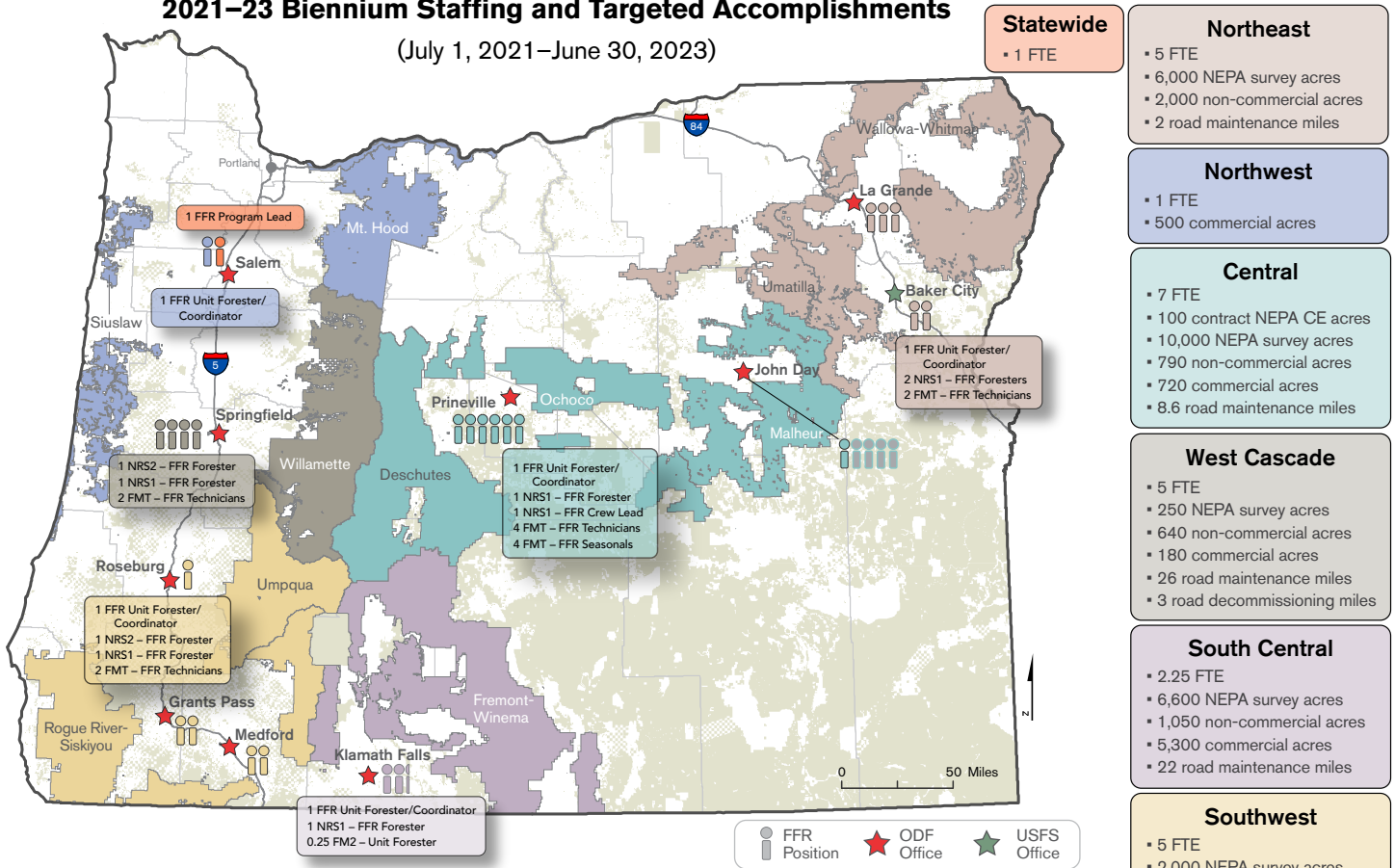
Members of SWFC meet in a field trip. Photo credit: Kyle Sullivan-Astor

*“ODF TASS grants and GNA funding have helped collaborative members better understand the role of fire in the Rigdon landscape. Studies by UO and OSU provide context for why mechanical restoration is necessary to recreate the conditions to reintroduce fire and for native understory and fire dependent species to thrive in a warmer, drier climate.”*

- Sarah Altemus-Pope, Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative (SWFC) Facilitator

# 2021–23 Biennium Staffing and Targeted Accomplishments

(July 1, 2021–June 30, 2023)



<b>100 acres</b> contract NEPA CE	<b>24,000 acres</b> NEPA Survey	<b>19,000 acres</b> non-commercial treatments	<b>7,100 acres</b> commercial treatments	<b>47,000 MBF</b> volume sold	<b>100 miles</b> deferred road maintenance
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## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: PADDOCK BUTTE

The Paddock Butte GNA project on the Fremont-Winema National Forest was the first commercial Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) project in Oregon and is adjacent to private forestland. In 2018, with the support of state FFR project implementation (crew) funds, this project was initiated using ODF's capacity. With the goal of improving forest health and reducing the risk of stand replacing wildfire, ODF completed the project 637-acre project in 2020. The revenue generated from Paddock Butte GNA provided funding for the treatment of an additional 1,100 acres of non-commercial juniper removal and leveraged NRCS to conduct treatments on the adjacent privately owned forestland. A total of 3,300 acres of combined treatments on both federal and private lands are planned to be completed in this cross-boundary project area.



Before treatment

After treatment

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: KAHLER DRY FOREST

The Kahler Dry Forest Restoration project on the Umatilla National Forest, first initiated in 2011, was supported by the Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program in a variety of different ways and has touched almost every component of the FFR Program. First through a Collaborative Capacity Grant to the Umatilla Forest Collaborative (now the NBFC), who engaged early in the planning of the project. This collaborative was also selected to receive a Technical Assistance and Science Support (TASS) grant in the 2017-19 biennium. The Kahler project also received Planning Assistance and Categorical Exclusion (PACE) funds in 2013-15 and Crew funding in the 2015-17 biennium (respectively). In 2021, a portion of the E-board funding ODF received allowed ODF to partner with Sustainable Northwest to continue implementation of the dry forest restoration work in this project area.



Before treatment

After treatment

Contributors: Kyle Sullivan-Astor, Michael Coughlan, Naomi Serio. Funded by Oregon Department of Forestry.