Restoration projects on national forests often have far-reaching economic effects that extend beyond local areas around the national forests. To better understand the distribution of economic effects from restoration projects on eastern Oregon national forests, we examined timber sales and service contract records for timber harvesting and forest and watershed restoration treatments on the national forests between 2009 and 2014. We found that service contractors and timber buyers across the state benefit from restoration on eastern Oregon’s forests with a large number of contractors and buyers located in the Willamette Valley and southern Oregon.

More than 450 businesses located across Oregon have performed forest and watershed restoration treatments on eastern Oregon national forests since 2009. Businesses in the communities surrounding national forest restoration sites received about half of all restoration work. Those businesses most frequently performed heavy equipment work and mechanical thinning. Remaining work was performed by businesses across the state. Those businesses most often performed labor intensive work like hand thinning and tree planting or mechanical thinning using specialized equipment.

More than 125 Oregon businesses—timber mills, logging companies, and individuals—have purchased timber from eastern Oregon national forests since 2009. About 76% of sold timber volume was purchased by businesses in communities around the national forests. Westside Oregon businesses purchased about 8% of eastern national forest timber, primarily from the Deschutes and Fremont-Winema national forests. Timber from eastern Oregon national forests is used to make lumber, plywood, poles, firewood, woodchips and other products.

(Circles in each map represent municipalities, and the value of all service contracts or timber purchases to contractors or buyers in that municipality)