



Ecosystem
Workforce
Program

OREGON'S FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

FACT SHEET 12 • SUMMER 2017

The Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFRP) is a partnership between the state, federal forest managers, and public lands stakeholders to support forest restoration and economic opportunity on federal forest lands across Oregon. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) asked the Ecosystem Workforce Program, University of Oregon (EWP), to conduct post hoc monitoring of the FFRP. This fact sheet highlights select preliminary findings.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Direct Statewide Investments

Starting in 2013, the Oregon Legislature funded the FFRP to: (1) enhance state and federal coordination; (2) support collaboratives directly through competitive grants; and (3) target technical assistance and science support to collaboratives. During the 2015-2017 biennium, the State invested nearly \$5 million in the FFRP to continue the three program areas.

State-federal implementation partnerships are designed to accelerate the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management NEPA analysis and pre-sale work necessary to implement projects. The state-federal partnerships accounted for approximately 75% of the total 2015-2017 biennium FFRP budget, including about half to support NEPA analysis on 10 national forests and half for pre-sale work on 53 timber sales on 8 national forests, as well as NEPA and pre-sale work on 4 BLM districts. We highlight select example projects here.

- Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data were combined with standard field exams to contribute to pre-NEPA archeological and vegetation surveys on 10 national forests. Using LiDAR data increases efficiency of planning and aids collaboratives in identifying zones of agreement.
- ODF crews worked approximately 9,000 hours on 3 pre-sale projects on the Malheur National Forest to work towards increased timber targets.

- ODF crews contributed to federal coordinated landscape restoration projects, for example the Joint Chiefs' Greater La Pine Basin Cohesive Strategy Project. Prior to the 2017 fire season, ODF crews conducted fuels reduction in response to fire managers' requests for greater workforce capacity.

Collaborative capacity grants provided funding to forest collaboratives, focused on building social agreement and supporting project planning. ODF awarded 16 grants to 17 collaboratives constituting nearly 12% of the 2015-2017 biennium FFRP budget. Collaboratives used the grants to leverage an additional nearly \$930,000 from partners. We highlight select example projects here.

- Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project created a decision support tool to identify tradeoffs with wildlife habitat conservation and aid in identifying zones of agreement and project planning.
- Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative hired a part-time coordinator who led the group through stewardship contracting project recommendations on the Middle Fork Ranger District.
- Willowa Whitman Forest Collaborative completed planning on the East Face Project (47,000 acres; ROD issued, \$2 million in contracts issued) and the Lower Joseph Creek Project (100,000 acres; ROD issued, layout underway, contracts to be issued FY 2019), and initiated planning on the Sheep Creek Project (30,000 acres; anticipated ROD 2018-2019).



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Technical assistance and science support provided trainings, workshops, monitoring, scientific study, and other technical assistance to collaboratives. Investments constituted nearly 12% of the 2015-2017 biennium FFRP budget. Technical assistance providers identified needs through consultation with ODF and collaboratives. We highlight select example projects here.

- Providers conducted collaborative learning workshops at the Pacific Northwest Region, State of Oregon, and local-landscape scales with >400 total participants.
- Funds supported the creation of the Forest Dashboard to publicly track and share accomplishments on national forests over time.
- Workforce assessments helped to understand the types of restoration contracts and timber sales offered on national forests, capacity of local contractors, and challenges facing collaboratives in developing strategies to increase local economic opportunity.
- Providers investigated spatial patterns in forest landscapes and documented historical forest conditions to guide collaborative landscape-scale restoration planning.

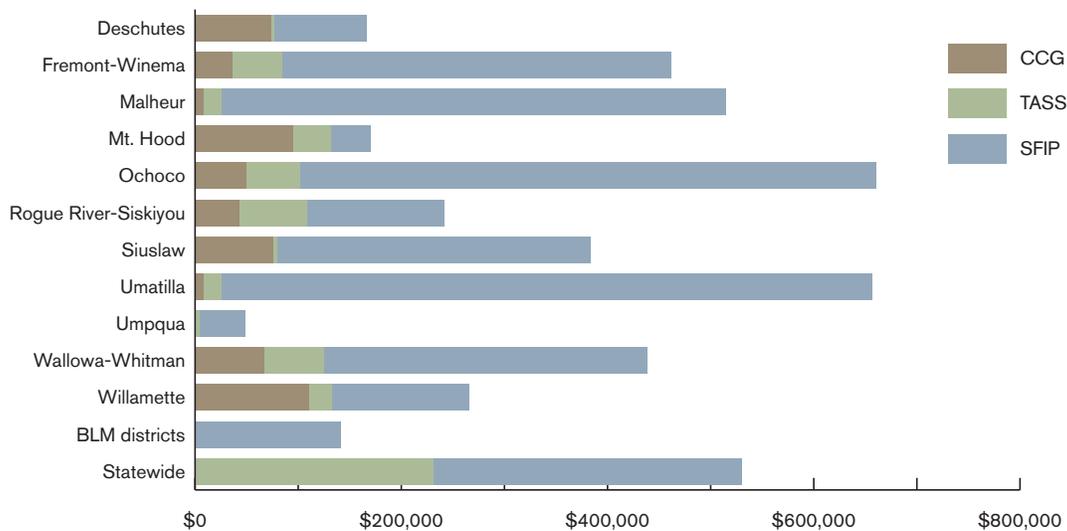
Regional Trends in Eastern Oregon. EWP examined trends in watershed restoration, timber sales, and restoration service contracts on eastern Oregon national forests, comparing measures from federal fiscal years 2011 to 2013 against 2014 to 2016. We highlight select example findings here.

- Eastside forests sold an annual average of 186 mmbf of timber from FY2014 to FY2016. The volume of saw-timber sold increased 7% during FY2014-FY2016 compared to FY2011-FY2013, and the volume of non-saw-timber sold decreased 13% during the same period.
- Fuels reduction activities increased 15%, and watershed health activities decreased 38%, between FY2011-FY2013 and FY2014- FY2016. Treated acres do not represent total area, because specific acres are typically treated repeatedly, but the change indicates a trend in overall restoration activity.
- During the FY2015-FY2016 period, forest restoration service contracts and timber sales supported an estimated 1,186 jobs annually and generated \$196 million of economic activity annually in eastern Oregon counties.

CONCLUSION

FFRP investments contribute to decision-making and planning of restoration as well as accelerating timber sales. Because the FFRP targets multiple stages of active forest management, efforts reported in this document are likely to only have their full effect over the next several years. In addition, restoration progress on federal forests results from multiple ongoing programs working towards similar goals as the FFRP. Complete results expanding on the preliminary findings reported here will be available in July 2017.

Federal Forest Restoration Program funding by national forest, 2015–2017 beinnium



Notes:

- * Statewide projects under TASS include workshops open to all collaboratives and/or projects targeting a regional or state-level audience.
- * Statewide projects under SFIP include funds to the Federal Forest Working Group, SFIP program administration, and this FFRP monitoring work.
- * Four BLM districts received funding through three SFIP projects: Medford, Roseburg, and Salem-Eugene (joint project).