Oregon Department of Forestry’s (ODF) Federal Forest Restoration (FFR) Program looks forward to playing a role in implementing Oregon’s 20-year Landscape Resiliency Strategy, which has identified over five million acres of forestland as a top priority for treatment due to high wildfire risk, and other ecological and social factors. 57% of these priority geographies are under federal jurisdiction. The FFR Program’s federal partnership and work with forest collaboratives will play a key role in helping realize the strategy.

The work of the FFR Program is also guided by the Oregon state law ORS 526.275 which created “…the policy of the state to pursue projects under the [Good Neighbor Authority] 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.”

For this biennium, the FFR Program will be releasing four fact sheets roughly every six months containing program updates, activities and outcomes instead of one comprehensive monitoring report released prior to the end of the biennium. After June 30, 2025, the program will publish a comprehensive report that captures all activities within the 2023-25 biennium.
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.²

### 40 agreements with 10 national forests (31 agreements) 3 BLM districts (6 agreements) Forest Service PNW Regional Office (3 agreements)

#### Activities on 10 national forests, 3 BLM districts

- **Restoration service projects**
  - 186,270 acres
    - 16,590 planned
    - 66,270 in progress
    - 103,401 complete

- **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

#### RESULTS:

##### Commercial Projects

- **73 Sales**
  - 24 complete, 18 sold, 31 planned
  - 57,760 acres
    - 35,344 planned
    - 14,109 sold
    - 8,307 complete

- **248.1 MMBF**
  - (million board feet)
  - 122.6 planned
  - 82.1 sold
  - 43.4 complete

##### Contract NEPA projects

- **14 Projects**
  - 10 complete, 2 in progress, 2 planned
  - 102,142 acres
    - 84,818 in progress or planned
    - 35,324 complete

- **Monitoring work**
  - Post-implementation vegetation management and stream restoration monitoring

- **Completed contract NEPA acres is 2,000 acres less than the previous report (December 2022) due to a correction made to the 42 Road CE from 5,000 acres to 3,000 acres**

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³ Completed contract NEPA acres is 2,000 acres less than the previous report (December 2022) due to a correction made to the 42 Road CE from 5,000 acres to 3,000 acres
2023-25 Biennium Update & Budget:

Highlights for the current 2023–25 biennium include:

- Implementation of the newly passed Senate Bill 872 (2023)
- Expansion of staffing from 29 to 44 positions
- Planning to complete over 80,000 Contract NEPA acres this biennium, which is double the amount completed since the program’s inception

$23.3M Total
» $8.6M (37%) State
» $14.6M (63%) Federal

The Program is expected to continue to leverage a significant amount of federal funds, either federal appropriations (including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or Inflation Reduction Act funds) or GNA timber sale revenue to achieve our mission and adhere to our guiding legislation. The majority of these federal funds are used for contracts or agreements for restoration planning, implementation or monitoring.

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 limited federal funding available, in the case of NEPA planning work.

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 872 passed the Oregon Legislature in the 2023 Regular Session and called on the Oregon Department of Forestry to “…endeavor to further shared stewardship to decrease wildfire risk across Oregon through increased partnership with federal agencies to expand activities under the [GNA]…through:

- Increased forest thinning
- Reducing ladder fuels and other hazardous fuel loading
- Restoring meadowland
- Increasing biomass utilization
- Increasing post-disturbance recovery and restoration activities”

This legislation reaffirms the commitment on behalf of the Oregon Legislature that the work of the FFR Program is relevant and necessary to achieve the state’s goals.

Leading the Way

Oregon is a leader among western states in the utilization of GNA. According to a Council of Western State Foresters report released in November 2023, ODF has treated more non-commercial and commercial acres under GNA than any other western state in the Nation. In addition to the program’s performance related to improving forest health, the FFR Program is contributing to rural economic development goals. The FFR Program’s state investments (~$3M/yr.) and GNA timber sales supported an annual average of 323 jobs and contributed $30.5 million to the regional economy in the previous biennium.

4 Pending Department of Administrative Services review and approval

5 Contract NEPA is a term for the state procuring a 3rd party contractor and leveraging in-house expertise to take on the comprehensive NEPA planning process required to move a restoration project from inception to shovel-ready; ensuring the project adheres to all the applicable federal laws and utilizes as little federal resources as necessary.

In July 2022, the 66-acre Four Corners GNA commercial thinning project area was completed on the Umatilla National Forest. The success of this project served as a springboard for larger restoration efforts on the forest. These include the 425-acre Davis GNA and the 506-acre Elbow GNA commercial restoration projects, 335 acres of non-commercial fuels reduction work, assisting with the planning of a future restoration project planning assistance via the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and additional commercial restoration GNA projects still in the planning phases.

From the FFR Program’s inception in 2013 through 2023, the state has invested $1,352,434 in restoration work on the Umatilla National Forest for grant funds supporting the Umatilla and Northern Blues Forest Collaboratives, NEPA planning support through the Planning of a future restoration project planning assistance via the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and additional commercial restoration GNA projects still in the planning phases.

The main goals of this project are to allow for the production of forest products to provide jobs and fiber for the local economy, increase stream-side vegetative diversity, and increase forest species and structural diversity.

The GM GNA project on the Willamette National Forest is currently being implemented and involves 220 acres of commercial thinning, 4.3 miles of road improvement, and 1.8 miles of fire line construction.

This project was a part of the Green Mountain Project Environmental Impact Statement, signed in July 2017, which identified forested stands to be treated that were overstocked, and lacked age-class diversity and associated habitat diversity. The main goals of this project are to allow for the production of forest products to provide jobs and fiber for the local economy, increase stream-side vegetative diversity, and increase forest species and structural diversity.