

Responding to Governor John Kitzhaber's 2013-2015 recommended budget, and building on a Board of Forestry advisory group's vision, the 2013 Legislature allocated \$2.88 million to help increase restoration of unhealthy, fire-prone federal forests. This is a pioneering approach for state government, and a leadership moment for Oregon.

Strategic, matched investments with a projected return

- State funds target specific needs, barriers and potential efficiencies.
- State funds are leveraged by \$8.8 million from the Forest Service to accelerate forest restoration in the Blue Mountains region.
- From a 2012 economic assessment: Every **\$1 million** invested in restoration returns **\$5.7 million** to local economies. **Every dollar** spent on restoration potentially **avoids \$1.45** in fire suppression costs.

Three areas of investment

1. Grants to local collaborative groups to convene diverse interests and agree on restoration projects

Focus: Increased social agreement, increased project scale and complexity.

Status: \$552,623 awarded in 13 grants to local forest collaboratives, spanning from northeastern to southwestern Oregon.

Required deliverables (examples): a) Develop statement of purpose and need for a 30,000-acre dry-forest restoration project. b) Retool collaborative process to match the increased pace and scale of accelerated restoration on the Malheur National Forest.

2. Scientific and technical support for collaboratives

Focus: Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) engages contractors for specific needs, such as monitoring; training on federal laws; and science support, including around prioritizing landscapes for treatment.

Status: Four Contractors selected to provide range of services.

Expected outcomes (examples): a) Science support: stand history study in moist mixed conifer on the Ochoco National Forest. b) Local workforce: assessment of forest contractor's ability to perform activities necessary in forest restoration treatments across the Blue Mountain region.

3. Business partnership with the Forest Service to find efficiencies and test new practices

Focus: Targeted in the Blue Mountains. Advance projects with completed environmental analysis and fund new data collection methods to achieve process efficiencies for larger-scale analyses.

Status: In progress.

Expected outcomes (examples): a) Increased implementation: ODF extended positions of 8 seasonal summer employees to conduct pre-sale timber marking and layout work on the Malheur and Ochoco National Forests. b) Planning efficiencies: Complete heritage resource surveys on Lower Joseph Creek project (90K acres) and use of LiDAR to obtain stand-level information on larger scale project (>150K acres).

Results and potential: Leverage Forest Service Eastside Restoration Strategy—with a team planning **three projects, each greater than 100,000 acres, across multiple national forests**—and a 10-year stewardship contract that will enable the Malheur National Forest to **triple timber output**.