
From Collaboration through Implementation:

A Partnership to Increase the Health of our National Forests



Photo credit: Sustainable Northwest

Oregon State Legislature Field Tour
October 22, 2014



From Collaboration through Implementation: *A Partnership to Increase the Health of our National Forests*

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Field Tour References

Agenda and Background Material

1. Day's Agenda
2. Field Stop Overviews provided by USFS
3. ODFs Federal Forest Health and Collaboration Package
 - a. Forest Restoration News – Selected highlights from the State's 2013-2015 Investment
 - b. Oregon's Leadership Role: October 2014 Update on ODFs Implementation Strategy
 - c. 2015-2017 Agency Budget Request Overview
4. Oregon Community-based Forest Collaboratives Summary & Map

Field Stop 1: West Bend Project

1. West Bend Project Map
2. Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project
 - a. Overview & Map
 - b. DCFP Steering Committee Roster
3. Interfor Corporation: Oregon Reserve Pine

Field Stop 2: SAFR Project

1. SAFR Project Map
2. USFS Briefing Papers
 - a. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
 - b. Malheur 10-year Stewardship Contract
3. Blue Mountain Eagle Article: Malheur Lumber Company
4. Waging Peace? Case Study published by OFRI
5. Summary of Deschutes County Telephone Survey

From Collaboration through Implementation: *A Partnership to Increase the Health of our National Forests*

Goal:

As a result of the Tour, Legislators will gain fresh insight into how the State of Oregon is working with local communities and collaborative groups to positively influence federal forest planning and operations, including implementation of 2013 Oregon Legislature's \$2.88 million investment in the Dry Side Federal Forest Health Program administered by the Department of Forestry.

Legislators will engage local collaborative group leaders including local elected officials, conservationists, timber industry personnel, other business leaders, and US Forest Service staff regarding the important role that the State has taken to support their local efforts and discuss possible next steps for a continued State role in accelerating forest health treatments on National Forests.

Themes:

1. Collaboration is building common ground among diverse interests and serving as a springboard for accelerated forest restoration.
2. Ecological, economic and social urgencies demand active forest health treatments.
3. There is a strong business case for a continued State role.

Objectives:

1. Understand and recognize Oregon's national leadership to increase the pace and scale of active forest restoration on National Forests.
2. See first-hand how the Legislature's Federal Forest Health investment is
 - Fostering partnership of local collaborative groups, the US Forest Service and the Department of Forestry to positively influence project-level planning and implementation.
 - Being invested to evaluate new business practices intended to reduce the cost and time of project-level planning.
3. Discuss the make-up, role and function of local collaborative groups; and the common ground that these diverse interests – including forest industry, conservation and local government leaders – are advancing to achieve simultaneous social, economic and environmental outcomes.
4. Visit an active forest harvesting operation to discuss the economic contributions of forest health treatments.
5. Identify and discuss additional roles, investments and efforts Oregon could use to amplify initial successes.

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Tour Route Overview:

The field tour will begin at the Sister's Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection Community hall (*see address below*) with coffee available at 9:30. The tour agenda will start promptly at 10:00 am with a welcome and overview by Alan Unger, Deschutes County Commissioner. A panel featuring the USFS Regional Forester, State Forester, local elected officials, and collaborative group participants will set the context for increased pace and scale of restoration. Lunch will be provided en route to the first field stop up on the Cascade Lakes Highway west of Bend. At this stop, we will visit a stand marked to be thinned and discuss the economic opportunities and social benefits of restoration treatments. The tour will proceed to a second field stop outside of Sisters where the US Forest Service, ODF and Deschutes County will lead a discussion about a partnership approach to have meaningful impact on forest health at the landscape-scale. The tour will conclude with a discussion of the State's continued role in partnership with the US Forest Service to increase the pace and scale of restoration across Oregon.

9:30 – 10:00 Coffee and Informal Conversation

Location: Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection Community Hall
301 Elm Street, Sisters, OR 97759

10:00 – 10:20 Welcome and Field Tour Overview

Alan Unger, Deschutes County Commissioner
John Allen, USFS Deschutes National Forest Supervisor
Doug Decker, ODF State Forester

10:25 – 10:45 Partnership for Accelerated Restoration

Federal and State leadership will provide opening comments and context for accelerated restoration and the partnership approach being implemented in Oregon. The topics and initial discussion will set the stage for the remainder of the day's dialogue.

Presenters: *Jim Pena, USFS Regional Forester*
Doug Decker, ODF State Forester

10:45 – 11:30 Perspectives from Collaborative Group Members

This panel will highlight a few perspectives from participants in collaborative groups.

Presenters: *Jim Walls, Lake County Resources Initiative*
David Stowe, Sierra Club
Zach Williams, Iron Triangle

Discussion: *20 minutes*

11:30 – 12:30 Travel to first field stop & lunch

12:30 – 1:30 West Bend Project: Grounding Collaboration in Action

At the first field stop, the Deschutes Forest Collaborative and Deschutes National Forest staff will translate collaborative agreement to a forest health treatment marked for

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implementation. In addition, collaborative group members and community leaders will discuss economic opportunities and social perspectives.

Moderator: John Allen, USFS, Deschutes National Forest Supervisor

*Presenters: Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project, led by:
Pete Caligiuri, The Nature Conservancy
Chuck Burley, Interfor Pacific
Sally Russell, Bend City Council*

Discussion: 20 minutes

1:30 – 2:30 Travel to second field stop

2:30 – 3:30 Landscape-Scale: Partnering for Greater Impact

This second field stop will occur in the context of an active logging operation. Discussion will feature how State funds are being used to leverage the USFS Eastside Restoration Strategy to plan and implement large scale projects.

Moderator: Jerry Ingersoll, USFS-Region 6 Natural Resource Director

*Presenter(s): Bill Aney, USFS, Eastside Restoration Coordinator
George Ponte, ODF, Central Oregon District Forester
Scott Melcher, Melcher Logging Company*

Discussion: 20 minutes

3:30 – 4:00 Oregon's Role in Accelerating Pace and Scale

The final session will concentrate on a continued leadership role for Oregon in partnering with local collaborative groups and the USFS to significantly increase restoration across the state. Presenters will lead a discussion regarding the possibilities using new tools for Oregon to play a key role in increasing implementation of forest health treatments.

Moderator: Brett Brownscombe, Governor's Office

*Presenters: Doug Decker, ODF, State Forester
Jim Pena, USFS Regional Forester*

Discussion: 10 minutes

4:00 – 4:15 Summary and safe travels!

Close-out comments:

- *Commissioner Alan Unger, Deschutes County Commission*
- *Members of the Legislature*

4:15 – 4:45 Return travel to Sisters

4:45 Adjourn for now!

State Legislators Tour

Deschutes National Forest, October 22, 2014



Background

The Deschutes National Forest encompasses 1.6 million acres of public land from the crest of the Cascades to the high desert landscape of juniper and sage brush. The Deschutes National Forest is one of the most actively managed National Forests in the Pacific Northwest. Approximately 60% of the Deschutes National Forest is designated Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and 75% is covered by Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Over the past 7 years, the Deschutes National Forest accomplished an annual average of:

- Timber sales and stewardship contracts totaling 55-60 million board per year.
- Treating 12-13,000 acres per year with timber sales and stewardship contracts.
- Ladder fuels reduction is achieved with these timber sales and stewardship contracts.
- Hazardous fuels reduction with prescribed fire, 5,000 acres per year.
- Hazardous fuels reduction with mechanical treatment, 10,000 acres per year.
- Total annual hazardous fuels reduction is 25-30,000 acres per year.

Stop #1: The Deschutes Forest Collaborative Project (DCFP) is a 257,000 acre area where a community driven collaborative is analyzing and forming recommendations to the Deschutes National Forest.

The West Bend environmental analysis is a product of recommendations from the Collaborative. The decision will result in the accomplishment of:

- Timber sales and stewardship contracts totaling 40 million board feet.
- Treating 15,000 acres in 3-5 years with timber sales and stewardship contracts.
- Hazardous fuels reduction on 18,000 acres.
- Approximately 75% of the West Bend landscape and analysis area will be treated.
- We are looking at the Yen IRTC which is in the CFLR area and part of West Bend.

Stop #2: SAFR or Sisters Area Fuel Reduction Project is a 25,000 acres area included in the DCFP; however, work in this project area was accomplished prior to the formal designation. The SAFR decision resulted in:

- Timber sales and stewardship contracts total 75,000 million board feet.
- Treating 13,000 acres in 5 years with timber sales and stewardship contracts.
- Hazardous fuels reduction on 17,000 acres
- Approximately 75% of SAFR landscape and analysis area will be treated.
- We are looking at Nova stewardship contract.

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FOREST RESTORATION NEWS

Periodic and brief updates on federal forest restoration from an Oregon perspective.



Restoration gains momentum, starts to show results

The Oregon legislature's \$2.88 million package to help ramp up eastside federal forest restoration is one sign of momentum toward this important goal, and the U.S. Forest Service has committed additional resources. Community leaders and non-profit groups are also hard at work, and we're seeing results. From projects on the ground to commitments for investments in mills and much-needed boosts for rural communities, things are happening for healthier eastside national forests.

Seasonal firefighters, state-federal partnerships get restoration projects moving

Seasonal firefighters employed by the Oregon Department of Forestry started immediately on restoration projects in the Malheur and Ochoco National Forests, once off the firefighting front lines. Funds from ODF's Federal Forest Health package are being used to keep these boots on the ground for another couple of months before snow arrives later this fall. Prior to the start of fire season, ODF was able to bring these seasonal positions on one month earlier than normal, and is currently exploring the potential for other state employee contributions under a Good Neighbor Authority passed as part of the 2014 Farm Bill.



LIDAR provides data for large forest health projects

As the Forest Service plans for large-scale forest health projects, a broader view of the landscape is necessary. Oregon Departments of Forestry and Geology and Mineral Industries staff took to the air, contracting a flight to scan 460,000 acres of forestland in the Blue Mountain region with this imaging technology. This scan will test new methods for acquiring stand-level and tree data, and demonstrates efficient planning projects already underway. To date, very little Forest Service land in the Blue Mountains has LIDAR coverage, while others like the Deschutes National Forest have been fully scanned.



Partnering for more investment in forest health

Responding to the Oregon legislature's recent investment in national forests, the Forest Service's Regional Office committed \$8.8 million on top of current annual budgets in the Blue Mountain region to accelerate implementation of forest health work. The Forest Service committed to a three-year period, and shares Oregon's commitment to innovative planning.

The Department of Forestry is also advancing a

budget package for the 2015-17 biennium to amplify partnerships with the Forest Service and local collaborative groups.

Restoring Oregon's national forests together

Commitment to partnership and a spirit of collaboration have steered the success of these projects, and on-the-ground work is both taking shape and producing results. Collaborative groups are key to this success, and the state's investment includes \$600,000 to support these groups in eastern Oregon. These groups are taking on the tough task of finding common ground on work that makes these real results possible.

Others can also receive these updates by e-mailing Tony Andersen at tandersen@odf.state.or.us

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Oregon Department of Forestry | 2600 State Street | Salem | OR | 97310

Responding to Governor Kitzhaber's 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 national forests. This commitment from state government has made Oregon a national model.

Strategic, matched investments with a projected return

- State funds target specific needs, barriers and potential efficiencies.
- State funds have leveraged \$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: \$552,000 awarded to local forest collaborative groups from northeastern to southwestern Oregon.

Required deliverables (examples): a) Move toward larger projects: 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 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 assistance prioritizing landscapes for treatment.

Status: Four contractors selected and working.

Expected outcomes (examples): a) Science support: stand history study in moist mixed conifer on the Ochoco National Forest (forest type where consensus more difficult to reach). b) Assessment of contractors' capacity to perform necessary 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. Move ahead projects with completed environmental analyses. Fund new data collection methods to increase efficiency in analyzing larger projects.

Status: In progress.

Outcomes (examples): a) ODF extended positions of about 10 seasonal summer employees to conduct pre-sale timber marking and layout work on the Malheur and Ochoco National Forests. b) Complete heritage required resource surveys on Lower Joseph Creek project (90,000 acres). Use of LiDAR imaging to obtain stand-level information on larger scale project (>150K,000 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 has enabled the Malheur National Forest to **triple timber output**.



2015-17 Agency Budget Request

Restoring Federal Forests (Policy Option Package 185)

Addressing an urgent need

About 60 percent of Oregon’s forests—18.2 million acres—are federally owned. Roughly 12 million of these acres are overcrowded, unhealthy, and prone to uncharacteristically intense wildfire. Restoration and management of these lands would provide **multiple, essential benefits, including healthier, more resilient forests and watersheds, reduced fire risk to communities and adjacent lands, and a boost to struggling rural economies.**

Building on the successes of a \$2.88 million investment in 2013-15, this \$6.55 million package would **expand the business partnership between the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the U.S. Forest Service, increasing ODF capacity to implement already-approved federal restoration projects.** It would **test methods to streamline required environmental reviews.** And it would **support local collaborative groups, which have brought together interests historically at odds—**essential to advancing large-scale restoration projects.

Building on a pioneering role

Oregon is a pioneer in fostering partnerships among public agencies and community groups, finding common ground, and leveraging federal funds and commitment—with tangible results in forest restoration. This package would **expand the pace and geographic scope** of these efforts. It would also use new federal **Good Neighbor Authority**, which allows state agencies to complete activities on national forests.

Advancing on two fronts

This package would:

- **Expand the state-federal business partnership**, augmenting ODF capacity for unit layout and other activities on approved Forest Service projects, and incorporating this capacity into normal ODF operations. ODF would also contract to test methods to increase the efficiency and reduce the cost of required environmental review of projects.
- **Support community collaborative groups** with competitive grants awarded through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Grants would provide technical assistance and other resources, amplifying these groups’ efforts to reach agreement on larger, more complex projects. Oregon’s 23 collaboratives have proved instrumental in finding common ground and building trust, allowing projects to proceed without litigation, and drawing federal restoration funds.

Fiscal impact

State and federal business partnership:	\$3 million
Collaborative support:	\$3 million
Administration	\$550,000
Total	\$6.55 million (Lottery Funds)

Positions

7.96 full-time equivalents, including extending 12 seasonal positions by four months each year.

To learn more

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Oregon's Community-Based Forest Collaboratives Statewide Summary

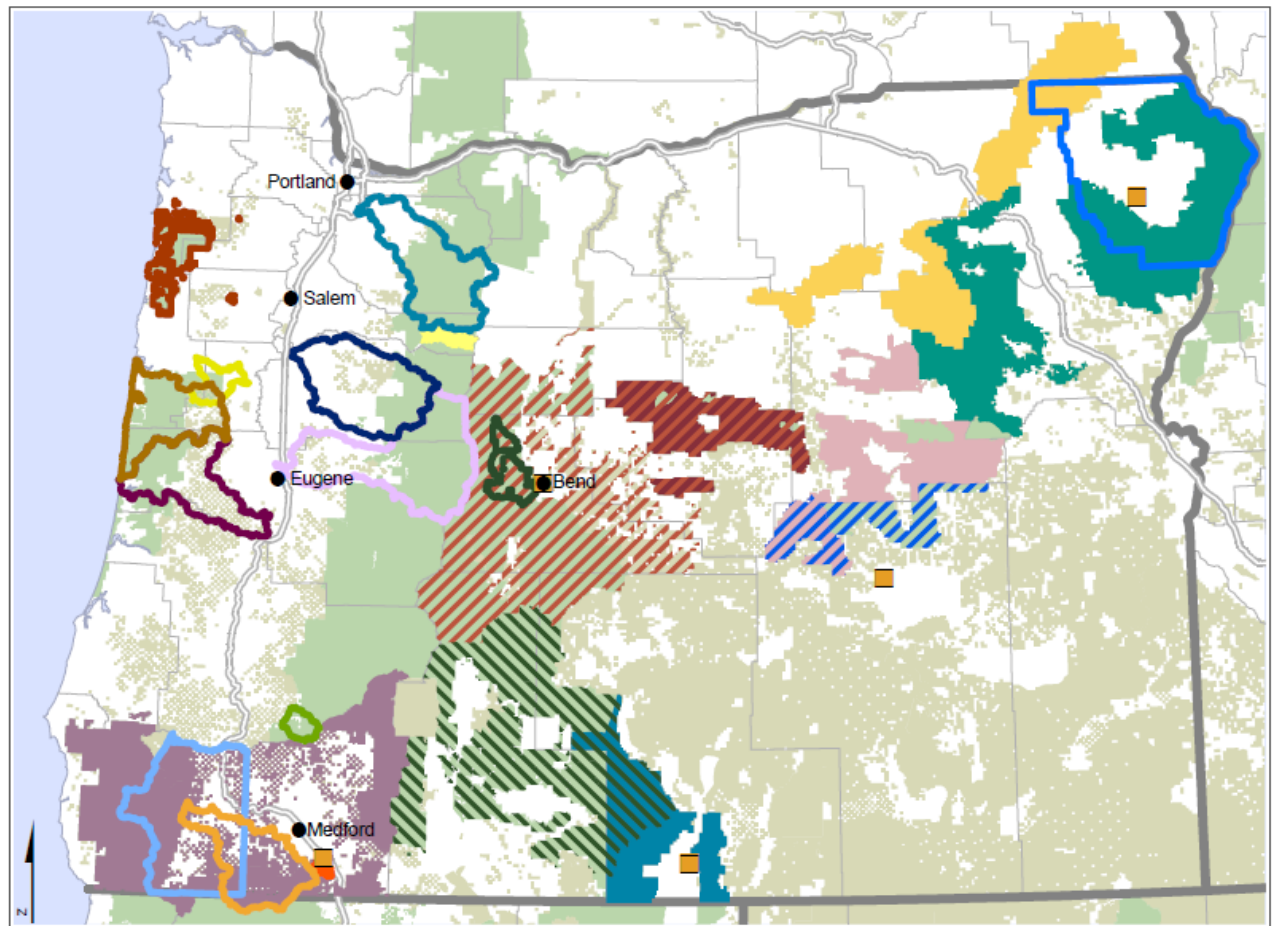
Community-based forest health collaboratives have been emerging across Oregon over the last twenty years. The emergence of these collaborative partnerships has been in large part to provide review and provide recommendations for Federal forest management activities occurring near their communities. Starting with a handful of pioneering local partnership efforts in the 1990s, the number of community-based collaboratives identified now exceeds twenty. As of 2012 there is at least one community-based collaborative group working with each of the 11 National Forests that are wholly, or in part, included within the State's boundaries.

In 2013, information for 23 collaborative groups was gathered and summarized in an "[Oregon State-wide Forest Collaborative Inventory](#)". Of the 23 collaboratives summarized in the Inventory, 14 are focused on "Dry Forest" landscapes and 9 are focused on "West-side Forest" landscapes.

Key findings about the 23 collaborative groups summarized in the Inventory include:

- The rate at which collaboratives are being created has increased substantially in the past decade.
- More than 170 organizations are engaged in the 23 collaborative groups.
- All 11 USFS National Forests and 7 of 9 BLM Districts in Oregon are engaged in collaboratives.
- Each collaborative is typically engaged with just one USFS National Forest; in contrast, each USFS National Forest is typically engaged with two or more collaboratives.
- All West-side Forest Collaboratives have an "All Lands" focus; in contrast, most Dry Forest Collaboratives focus on "Public Lands".
- Dry Forest Collaboratives are characterized by more involvement by State, County, City, Conservation/Environmental NGOs, Professional Association NGOs, Private Forest Products and Management Business, and Private Energy Business organizations than are West-side Forest Collaboratives.
- West-side Forest Collaboratives are characterized by more involvement by Watershed Councils and Soil and Water Conservation District organizations than are Dry Forest Collaboratives.
- Although not yet formally quantified, anecdotal comments by collaborative contacts strongly suggest that collaboratives have significantly reduced litigation of Federal land management actions.
- Funding is the most-commonly reported need for Oregon collaborative groups.

Figure 1. Map of Collaboratives



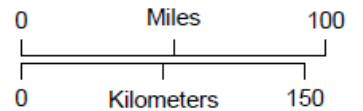
Data collected by EWP

Public lands collaboratives

- Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project
- Black Hills Collaborative Project
- Blue Mountains Forest Partners
- Central OR Partnerships for Wildfire Risk Reduction
- Harney County Restoration Collaborative
- Lakeview Stewardship Group
- North Santiam Forest Collaborative
- Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative
- Southern OR Forest Restoration Collaborative
- Umatilla Forest Collaborative Group
- Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Collaborative

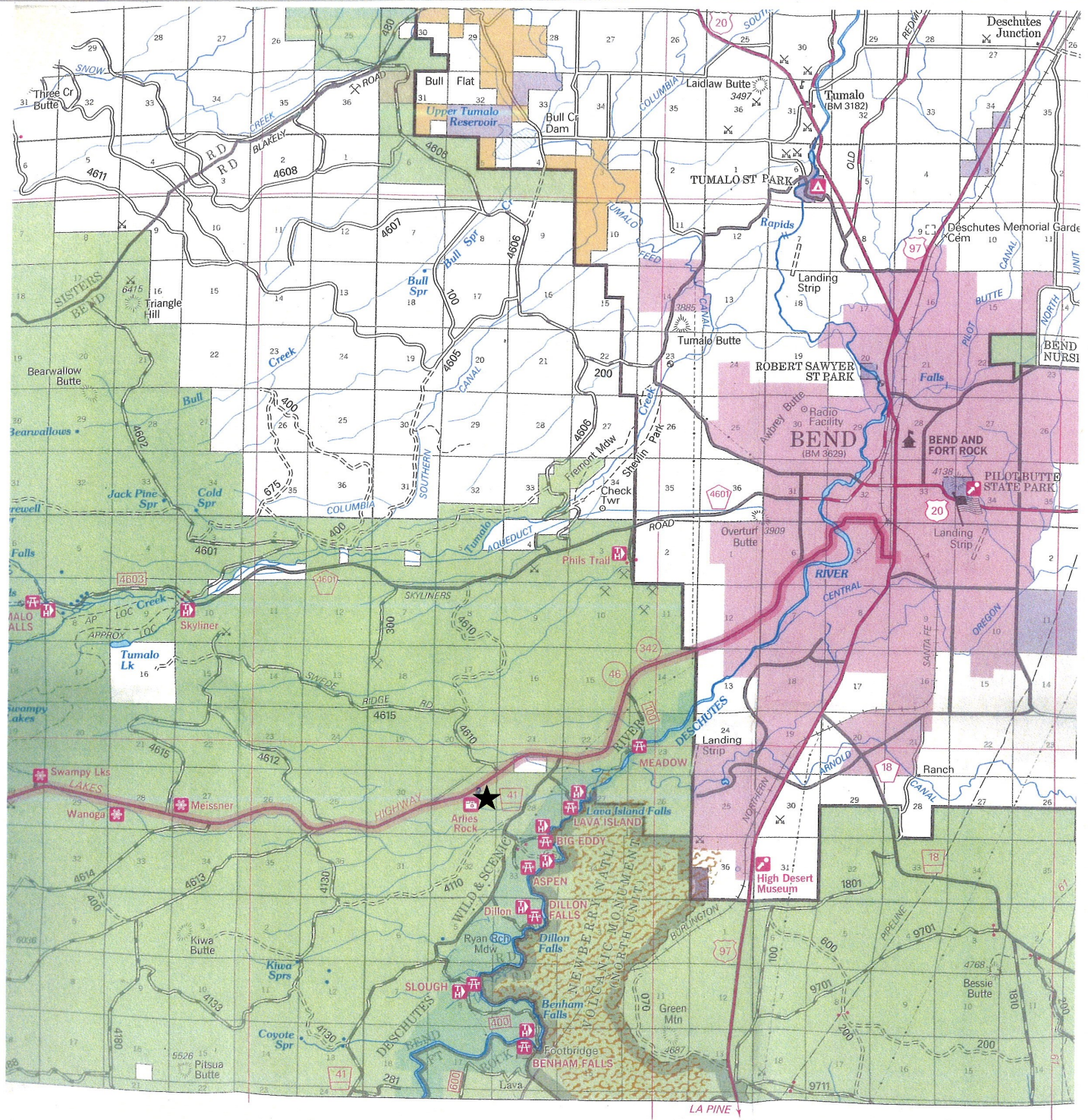
All lands collaboratives

- Alsea Stewardship Group
- Applegate Partnership
- Clackamas Stewardship Partners
- Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project
- Hebo Stewardship Group
- Josephine County Stewardship Group
- Marys Peak Stewardship Group
- McKenzie Collaborative Group
- Siuslaw Stewardship Group
- South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
- Sweet Home All Lands Collaborative
- Wallowa County NRAC



- Cities of over 50,000 people
- Community-based natural resource organizations
- Interstates
- BLM and other Federal lands
- US Forest Service lands

Field Stop 1: West Bend Project



★ **Field Stop #1 West Bend**

Go south on Bend Parkway (Highway 97). Take Reed Market exit and turn right onto Reed Market. Stay on Reed Market, you will go through 5 roundabouts. At the Mt. Washington roundabout go towards Mt. Bachelor on the Cascade Lakes Hwy. Go west for 7 miles after this last roundabout. Scenic byway turnoff (and Yen Timber Sale) and parking lot on your left.

Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project

Deschutes National Forest, October 22, 2014



Background:

Congress, under Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, established the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. This program sought to fund collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. In 2010, the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP) efforts secured a 10-year, \$10.1 million award to restore 145,000 acres of forest in Central Oregon. In the summer of 2013 the restoration area was approved for an expansion, bringing the total to approximately 257,000 acres and stretching from Black Butte and Bend to Sunriver and Mt. Bachelor.

Participants:

The Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project is guided by a 20-member Steering Committee made up of diverse interested stakeholders. The Steering Committee does not make decisions about the management of forestlands within the 257,000 acre Landscape, but strives to develop consensus recommendations that are then forwarded to the Deschutes National Forest (US Forest Service) with the support of the Collaborative.

The Deschutes National Forest has made a commitment to integrate collaborative recommendations into management activities. The Steering Committee oversees the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project and its restoration strategy and helps to prioritize and endorse restoration activities. The Steering Committee is the formal channel for the Collaborative to provide input to the US Forest Service on management decisions within the DCF Landscape including, but not limited to, CFLR fund allocation and restoration approaches.

Why is Restoration Needed?

The majority (76%) of the DCFP landscape is ponderosa pine or dry mixed-conifer forest, of which over 50% is in Fire Regime Condition Class 2 or 3. Too much of the landscape is in dense, closed canopy condition and mid-successional stands, which increases the potential of loss from large wildfires or insects and disease. Watersheds are impacted by channelization, roads, flow diversion, blocked fish passage and past vegetation management.

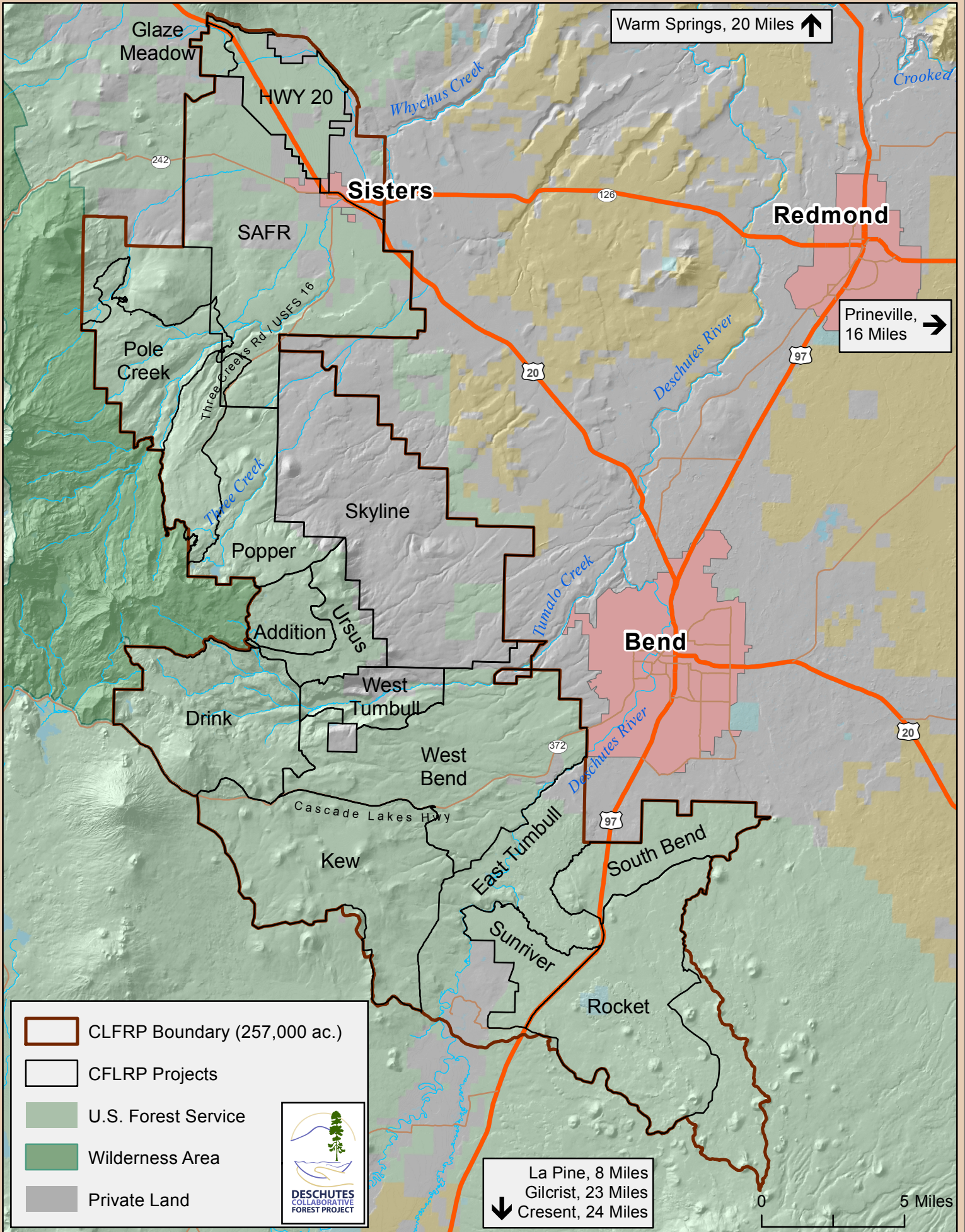
Goals are to:






- Return the forest to a resilient condition within a Fire Regime Class 1.
- Protect Wildland Urban Interface areas from uncharacteristic fires.
- Improve forest health in both Bend and Sisters municipal water source watersheds.
- Provide forest products to local industries.
- Protect high use year-round recreation areas and trails.
- Protect and enhance habitat for the northern spotted owl, re-introduce steelhead, white-headed woodpecker and other species of concern.
- Collaborate with community groups and organizations.

Accomplishments for Planned Restoration Treatments	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	TOTAL	Total Quantity Planned for Project	Percent Done
Thinning with Biomass (Acres)	2,478	2,193	1,350	644	*	6,665	27,500	24.24
Green Tons of Biomass	11,027	29,458	18,515	2,274	*	61,274	135,000	45.39
Volume Sold (CCF)	8,524	16,300	15,605	3,034	44,201	87,664	150,000	58.44
Non-Commercial Thinning w/associated Fuels (Acres)	6,879	983	1,486	1,356	*	10,704	16,000	66.9
Mechanical Fuels Reduction (Acres)	3,593	1,155	4,407	2,425	*	11,580	19,600	59.08
Prescribed Burning (Acres)	406	1,087	4,417	726	*	6,636	11,500	57.70
Fish Passage Enhancements (Enhancements)	1	0	2	2	*	5	7	71.43
Stream Channel Restoration (Miles)	1	16	8.7	6.7	*	32.4	32	101.25
Wetland Enhancement/Establishment (Acres)	1	0	5	3	*	9	55	16.36
Riparian Thinning (Acres)	706	0	0	0	*	706	100	706
Partnership In Kind Value	\$24,543	\$265,897	\$422,243	\$339,061	*	\$1,051,744	NA	NA
Road Decommissioning/Closure (Miles)	0	0.2	3.2	2	*	5.4	25	21.6
Invasive Plant Treatments (Acres)	900	972.7	1,421.9	1,140	*	4,434.6	9,800	45.25
Total Part and Full Time Jobs Supported - Commercial Forest Products (CFLN Funds Only)	No Data	2.2	39	11.6	4.5			
Total Part and Full Time Jobs Supported - Other Project Activities (CFLN Funds Only)	No Data	0.5	6.6	14.9	<.1			
Total Part and Full Time Jobs Supported - Commercial Forest Products (All Funds)	23.1	37.2	80.3	76.7	*	283.6		
Total Part and Full Time Jobs Supported - Other Project Activities (All Funds)	65.4	4.5	10.4	25.5	*	105.8		
Total Jobs Created	88.5	41.7	90.6	102.1	*	322.9		
Matching Funds Invested	\$2,510,931	\$893,782	\$1,296,053	\$794,000		\$ 5,494,766		
CFLN Funds Invested	\$498,403	\$660,493	\$627,403	\$821,455	\$878,376	\$ 3,486,130		
Carryover received in lieu of CFLN			\$246,378	\$ 377,987	\$268,281	\$ 892,646		
Total Invested	\$3,009,334	\$1,554,275	\$2,169,834	\$1,993,442	\$1,146,657	\$ 9,873,542		

*Data not yet available for 2014

Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project



-  CLFRP Boundary (257,000 ac.)
-  CFLRP Projects
-  U.S. Forest Service
-  Wilderness Area
-  Private Land



La Pine, 8 Miles
 Gilchrist, 23 Miles
 Crescent, 24 Miles

0 5 Miles



Steering Committee

The Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project is guided by a 20-member Steering Committee made up of diverse interested stakeholders. The Steering Committee does not make decisions about the management of forestlands within the 257,000 acre Landscape, but strives to develop consensus recommendations that are then forwarded to the Deschutes National Forest (US Forest Service) with the support of the Collaborative.

The Deschutes National Forest has made a commitment to integrate collaborative recommendations into management activities. The Steering Committee oversees the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project and its restoration strategy and helps to prioritize and endorse restoration activities. The Steering Committee is the formal channel for the Collaborative to provide input to the US Forest Service on management decisions within the DCF Landscape including, but not limited to, CFLR fund allocation and restoration approaches.

Contacts: Pete Caligiuri, 541-388-3020

Current Steering Committee membership:

Forest Products Industry (1-2)	Chuck Burley, Interfor
	John Williams, Quicksilver Contracting
Environmental (1-2)	Marilyn Miller, Miller Conservation Consulting
	David Stowe, Sierra Club
Community Wildfire Protection (1-2)	Ed Keith, Project Wildfire
	Tom Fay, Deschutes County RFD #2
Tribal (1)	Clay Penhollow, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Watershed / Water Resources (1-2)	Darek Staab, Trout Unlimited
	Bill Anthony, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
Local Government (1-2)	Alan Unger, Deschutes County Commissioner
	Jon Skidmore, City of Bend
State and Federal Govt. (1-2)	Jen O'Reilly, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	George Ponte, Oregon Dept. of Forestry
Recreation / Tourism (1-2)	Ruth Williamson, Deschutes Rec Assets Committee
	Sally Russell, Deschutes Rec Assets Committee
Private Landowners (1-2)	Chris Johnson, Cascade Timberlands, LLC
Researcher (1)	Ron Reuter, OSU Cascades
At Large (0-2)	Glen Ardt, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (retired)
	Loren Kellogg, OSU College of Forestry

NEW PREMIUM WOOD PRODUCT BUILDS OPPORTUNITY IN CENTRAL OREGON

August 2014

Interfor Corporation is proud to support the health of central Oregon's communities and forests through sustainable timber production and modern sawmill operations. We recently turned our Gilchrist Mill into a world-class specialty operation to produce our new top-of-the-line Reserve Pine products for the niche premium board market.

Interfor's Gilchrist Mill is the major economic driver for the Town of Gilchrist, supporting 450 direct and indirect jobs. It is also key to the long-term success of our Company.

We've invested more than \$15 million on upgrades since we bought the mill in 2004. This includes \$5 million in 2014 to turn Gilchrist from a commodity mill to a specialty mill so it can produce Interfor Reserve Pine, our entry into the niche premium board market.

By 2015, our premium Reserve Pine product line — which includes boards, paneling and decking — is expected to make up half of the total production at Gilchrist, and has the potential to create even more jobs in central Oregon.

Interfor Reserve Pine boards are a superior grade product made with slow-growing Lodgepole and Ponderosa Pine from the high plateau of central Oregon.

They are manufactured to Interfor's exacting standards by our dedicated team at Gilchrist using state-of-the-art high-speed moulder and precision planer heads that provide the accuracy needed to deliver a superb finish quality on both the faces and edges of each board.

There is strong market demand for top-of-the-line Pine boards, and early customer response to Interfor Reserve Pine has been extremely positive.

The Gilchrist Mill is in a strategic location to maintain the health of private and public forests in central Oregon. It has been recognized by the US Forest Service and environmental organizations as having a critical role in forest restoration activities in national forests. Two-thirds of the timber used by the Gilchrist Mill comes from federal lands.

For more information

Contact:
Chuck Burley,
Government Affairs Manager,
Pacific Northwest Operations
Tel: 541-433-3396



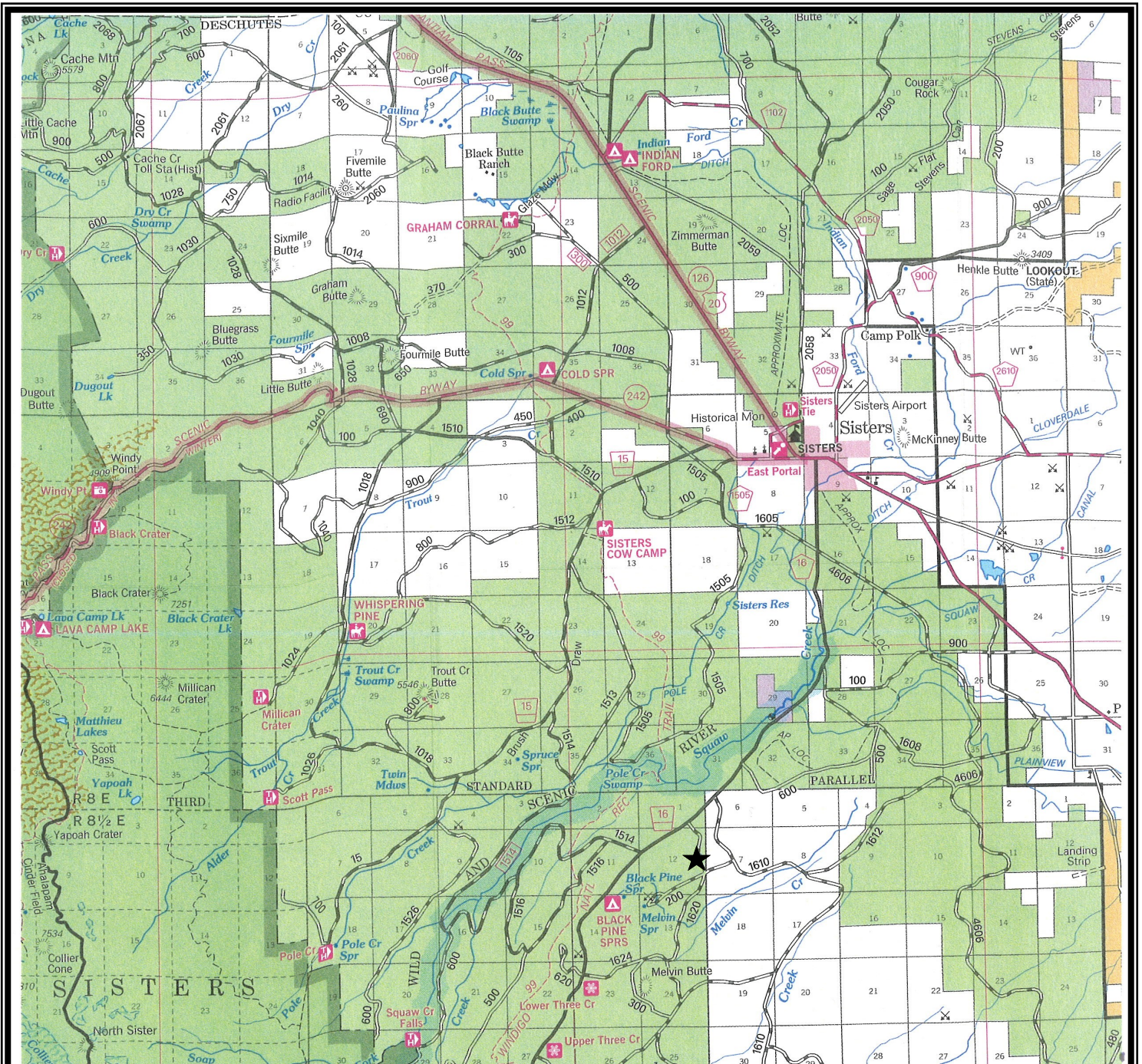
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Field Stop 2: SAFR Project



★ Field Stop #2 SAFR-Nova

Travel south on Elm Street (same street the Sisters Fire Hall is on). Elm Street turns into Forest Service Road 16. Travel south on Road 16 for approximately 6 miles. Turn left at orange flagging on Road 1620. Go 1 mile to parking spot for bus. (orange flagging)

Briefing Paper

Pacific Northwest Region – Regional Office

Topic: Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program in the PNW

October 2014

Background: Under Title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Congress established the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program. The intent of this program is to plan and implement large-scale, collaboratively developed forest restoration projects that put people to work in the woods, restore forests, and reduce long-term fire management costs. The legislation authorized up to \$40 million per year for implementation of these projects over 10 years, and appropriations bills have funded this work every year since 2010.

CFLR projects were selected nationally through a competitive process, with the help of a public advisory committee. In order to be considered, each project needed to have a long-term restoration strategy and a specific collaboratively-developed proposal for the life of the project that explained how treatments would meet the goals of the program, including a proposed budget, landscape area, and monitoring plan.

The PNW now has 5 of the 23 projects selected by the Secretary of Agriculture for CFLR funding:

- Deschutes Skyline, selected in 2010
- Tapash (Okanogan-Wenatchee NFs), selected in 2010
- Lakeview Stewardship Unit (Fremont-Winema NFs) selected in 2011
- Southern Blues Restoration (Malheur NF) selected in 2011
- NEW Forest Vision 2010 (Colville NF) selected in 2011

By law, CFLR funds can only be used for project implementation and monitoring (not for planning), and must be matched by other monies (regular FS appropriations, product value, partner contributions, etc.). For example, in FY13, the five projects in the region expended \$8.4MM of CFLR funds, matched by \$12.5MM, creating an estimated 533 jobs and a total labor income of \$49.1MM. From FY15-19, Oregon projects are scheduled to receive a total of about \$35MM in CFLR investments based on their approved proposals.

The CFLR program is resulting in changes on the ground. In 2014, the five projects reported restoring more than 25,000 acres of National Forest lands, reducing hazardous forest fuels on over 74,000 acres, and selling about 110MM board feet of commercial timber. Over the 10-year life of CFLRP, about 500,000 acres of Oregon forests are planned for restoration.

Long-Term Goals: One of the biggest benefits of CFLR is the engagement of public collaboratives in the management of their forests. The projects all have engaged and enthusiastic collaborative partners, as they see landscapes restored due directly to their work with the agency. The Forest Service is serious about making effective use of the CFLR resources and our partners' energies in restoring landscapes and working collaboratively.

Summary:

- The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program is funding collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration and monitoring of 5 priority landscapes in the PNW.
- CFLR leverages local resources with national and private resources, encourages the utilization of forest restoration by-products to offset treatment costs, benefits local rural economies, improves forest health, and engages the public in management of the National Forests.



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Briefing Paper

Pacific Northwest Region – Malheur National Forest

Topic: Malheur 10-year Stewardship Contract

Date: October 14, 2014

Background: In August 2012, Malheur Lumber Co. in John Day, Oregon, announced the planned closure of its mill, the only operating mill in the county. The closure announcement cited the lack of a predictable and adequate timber supply as the main reason for the shutdown. The announcement and local press with headlines of “Infinitely Saddened” galvanized a local, state and national examination of the options to forestall closure. These discussions acknowledged the need for a viable forest products industry infrastructure in Grant and Harney Counties as essential in meeting forest restoration objectives.

In late September 2013, after a series of public meetings, the Malheur National Forest awarded a 10-year Integrated Resource Service Contract (IRSC) to Iron Triangle, LLC of John Day. Within a 20-month period from the original closure announcement, the local headlines went from “Infinitely Saddened” to “It’s a Remarkable Turnaround,” giving great credit to the collaborative and the Forest Service Accelerated Restoration Program. This collaboratively designed contract met three objectives; it would accomplish crucial forest restoration work while providing a predictable/sustainable supply of forest products to local mills, and enhance the economic stability in Grant and Harney Counties. Iron Triangle’s proposal included supporting the majority of remaining timber industry infrastructure working in the area.

An important component of the initial solicitation was the decision that benefits to the local community (identified as Grant and Harney Counties) would be significantly more important than price. Iron Triangle’s bid emphasized the use of local labor and contractors, and maximized the benefit to the local communities. Another important consideration was the decision to put up to 70% of the Forest’s annual timber outputs into the contract. Support for the project also came from Title II funding from both Grant and Harney Counties, and the Oregon State Legislature passing of the Governor’s 2013-15 budget which included \$2.88 million for accelerated restoration on Federal lands.

Updates: On Sept. 10, 2014, Task Order #2 was awarded under the Malheur National Forest IRSC. This award continues to provide a predictable and sustainable volume of timber, increase employment and assist the local economy, while implementing crucial restoration work on the land.

This second Task Order supports restoration and commercial harvest on nearly 27,000 acres across the Malheur. Areas treated include the Upper Pine analysis area on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District and the Sugar (Soda Bear analysis area), Tin, and Cup projects (Galena analysis area) on the Blue Mountain Ranger District. Restoration activities include installation of a fish passage culvert; aspen thinning and fencing; road maintenance activities including closure, re-construction, and construction; pre-commercial thinning, and grapple and hand-piling of excess forest fuels. Commercial Harvest includes the removal of over 321,000 tons (54 mmbf) of saw log and biomass material.



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As the IRSC expands through subsequent Task Orders, a level of certainty continues to develop for local contractors, encouraging their investment in the infrastructure necessary to fully accomplish needed restoration work across the Malheur and other eastside Oregon forests. Benefits to the local community are occurring directly with the contractor/subcontractors, the local mill

BRIEFING PAPER - (continued)

(Malheur Lumber) and with other mills in the region as well. Benefits are also extended indirectly to local businesses and schools, with a corresponding reduction in the local unemployment rate.

Significant outcomes to date include: The first task order was awarded in October 2013 and work is ongoing, but significant outcomes to date are:

- Oregon Employment Department reported Grant County experienced an unemployment decline of 3.1 percent between September 2013 and March 2014. This was the sharpest unemployment drop of any county in the state during that time period.
- Malheur Lumber Company (a partner of Iron Triangle) added a second shift of employees (first increase since 1998).
- 12,000 acres treated using pre-commercial thinning, biomass removal and commercial harvest, restoring the forest to a more fire resilient state.
- The Forest has stepped up hiring, bringing in a diverse workforce to facilitate the contract's implementation.
- The timber target on the Malheur National Forest has increased from 29 mmbf in 2012, to 55 mmbf in 2013 and 65 mmbf in 2014. Another 10 mmbf increase is expected in 2015 for a total program of 75 mmbf in 2015 and beyond. This level of program increase is dependent on additional funding.
- Stewardship Authority uses the revenues from commercial products (timber) to fund other ecologically critical restoration activities like fish passage enhancements, non-commercial thinning and stream and spring restoration projects. These types of projects are also creating jobs, further stabilizing the economy in this rural area.

Contact:

Project related: Steve Beverlin, Malheur Deputy Forest Supervisor, 541-575-3073

Contract related: Jerry Ingersoll, R6 Acting Director Natural Resources 503-808-2955

Malheur mill adding 20-30 jobs in John Day

Scotta Callister

Published:

May 20, 2014 12:16PM



JOHN DAY – Malheur Lumber Co. plans to add 20 to 30 jobs at the John Day mill, going beyond a single shift for the first time since 1998.

Bruce Dausavage, president of parent company Ochoco Lumber, said the expansion is due to the strong collaboration efforts and the launch of the 10-year stewardship contract on the Malheur National Forest.

“This has really enlivened our opportunities for the future,” he said.

It’s quite a turnaround, he acknowledged, from “the doldrums” of two years ago.

Malheur Lumber, which currently employs 94 people, was on the verge of closing its sawmill in late 2012, stymied by a lack of timber off the federal forests. The possible shutdown of the only operating sawmill in Grant and Harney counties stirred a full-court press by local, state and federal officials to find a way to preserve what was seen as a vital tool for restoring the health of the forests.

The Malheur National Forest, in a push for accelerated restoration, last fall awarded a 10-year stewardship contract to John Day-based Iron Triangle LLC. The long-term contract offers more certainty for the mill and other local employers. Malheur Lumber is one of Iron Triangle’s community partners for the work.

The contract’s first project has loggers, haulers and other forest crews working on the south end of the forest. A second task order, as the projects are called, is expected to roll out soon.

Daucsavage says the next task order is expected to produce a substantial amount of pine.

He said the expectation of more work over a longer period has allowed the company to contemplate expansion and further investment in the mill.

“The wood is there, the promises have been fulfilled over the past two years,” he said. “We feel we have an obligation to do what we can do, to do what’s right, and see if we can put some people back to work.”

The company is in the process of adding a “small-log breakdown” mill that will handle smaller-diameter material from the stewardship work. The engineering and installation of that equipment will take time, but Daucsavage said the company hopes to have it operational sometime next winter, possibly by the end of the year.

It could take another nine months to complete the engineering and installation of that equipment.

Meanwhile, Daucsavage said this is a good time to begin hiring workers and training them for a variety of tasks. This will allow more cross-training, something that can be hard to do when times and staffing are tight, he said.

He said a variety of jobs will be offered, including some technical positions. The company will seek applicants first from the local area – Grant and Harney counties – in keeping with the community enhancement goals of the stewardship work.

Daucsavage said the mill won’t go to a full second shift at first, but will ease into the added operations to ensure that the high quality of the products is maintained.

Even without the small-wood mill ready to go, he said, there should be plenty of material to extend the operations beyond the current single shift.

“The markets are good, and the predictions for the future are optimistic,” he said. “We’re ready to rock. What we need now is the human resources to do this properly.”

The company also is growing on another front, adding a new drying process at the biomass plant that produces pellet fuels and related products. The upgrade could increase pellet production 30-40 percent, Daucsavage said, and could trigger a need for more workers there, too.

“The demand is very good for what we’re doing,” he said of the pellet mill.

The job plans drew applause from U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, who has championed the accelerated restoration plans for the national forest.

“This is great news for Malheur Lumber, for the residents of Grant County and for all of Oregon,” he said. “It is an example of the positive things that can happen by working together and investing in Oregon communities.

“I pushed the Forest Service to increase access to timber in the Malheur National Forest, knowing that the certainty it would bring would pay huge dividends in terms of the economic growth that comes with creating family-wage jobs in rural Oregon.”

- See more at:

<http://www.bluemountaineagle.com/article/20140520/ARTICLE/140529977#sthash.nKbrlNct.dpuf>

WAGING PEACE?

Partners forge solution to eastern Oregon's forest and mill crisis



The Forest Service faced worsening fire conditions in Oregon's Blue Mountains. An economic crisis loomed over the town of John Day. It took Forest Service leaders willing to innovate, a state government willing to pitch in, and a diverse group of stakeholders willing to cooperate. Ultimately, partners carved out a new solution – saving a mill and creating conditions for sustainable forests and communities.

THE CRISIS

In August 2012, Malheur Lumber Company announced it would close its John Day sawmill. The unemployment rate in Grant County was already 13.6 percent. Now 80 more people were about to lose their jobs.

“We couldn't find enough wood,” said Bruce Daucavage, president of the company that runs the mill, the last in a region where 80 percent of the forestland is federal.

This was awful news for Teresa Raaf, supervisor of the Malheur National Forest.

“Mills are vital to the restoration work we need to do,” she said. “A tool we needed was being swept aside.”

Raaf and her staff had been working to restore health to the forest, which was densely packed with small trees prone to bugs and uncharacteristic wildfire. This was the result of past logging and grazing practices, long-term fire suppression and a drop-off in active forest management. But their efforts were underfunded and not yielding many sawlogs.

A week later, U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden hosted the concerned parties at his office. Things started moving. Now, 18 months later, a unique 10-year Forest Service stewardship contract has been awarded. The mill is running, logging firms are hiring, and forest restoration is underway. Further, the state of Oregon is making unique investments in collaboratively developed work on federal land to advance the Malheur effort and other, similar endeavors.



Teresa Raaf,
Malheur National
Forest supervisor

“This is a holistic approach to stewardship. It's about sustainable communities – ecologically, economically and socially...”



Oregon Forest
Resources Institute

WHAT DID IT TAKE TO FIND A SOLUTION?

- The Forest Service completed an unprecedented contract in record time. “The staff did two years’ work in six months. There had to be alignment higher up,” Raaf said.
- In awarding the contract, “We made ‘benefit to the local community’ significantly more important than price,” said Steve Beverlin, Raaf’s deputy.
- State government invested money and staff. “We typically think, ‘Oh, that’s the feds’ responsibility,’” said Chad Davis, senior policy analyst at the Oregon Department of Forestry. “When we partner, we can get things done.”
- Conservationists were on board. A collaborative group called Blue Mountain Forest Partners, involving diverse stakeholders, had been working since 2006 on restoration, so trust existed. “No way that contract would have happened without the collaborative,” said Susan Jane Brown, staff attorney with Western Environmental Law Center and a member of the collaborative. “It was a bumpy road, but what we ended up with is better than a court injunction. The impacts can be more long-lasting.”

Raaf sums it up: “This is a holistic approach to stewardship. It’s about sustainable communities – ecologically, economically and socially. It’s great what happened here, but as leaders we should remember we can do this without people nearly losing their jobs. It shouldn’t take a crisis.”



The contract ensures both accelerated restoration and a reliable, sustainable supply of logs.



BY THE NUMBERS

Grant County workforce: **3,800**

Jobs lost if mill had closed:
70 to 90

Malheur National Forest acreage:
1.7 million

Acres of the Malheur in need of restoration: **900,000**

Grant County forestland owned by the federal government:
80 percent

Lumber needed annually to viably run John Day mill:
30 to 40 million board feet

Malheur’s annual timber target before the stewardship contract:
13 million board feet

Malheur’s annual timber target after the stewardship contract:
More than 55 million board feet

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Resources Institute**

CENTRAL OREGON FIELD TOUR – OCT. 22, 2014

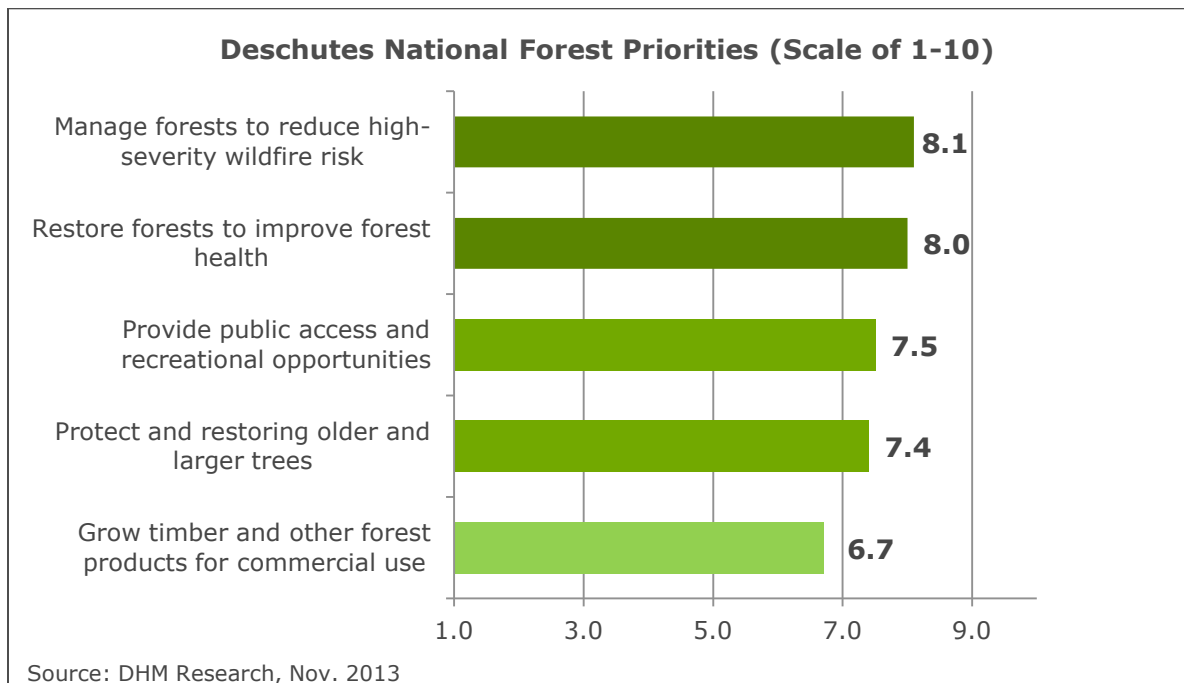
DESCHUTES COUNTY TELEPHONE SURVEY NOVEMBER 2013

In November 2013, Davis, Hibbitts & Midghall, Inc. (DHM Research) conducted a telephone survey of 300 registered voters in Deschutes County on behalf of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project to gauge public perceptions and awareness of forestry issues.

KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents rated the health of the Deschutes National Forest higher than eastern Oregon forests in general.
- Participants' top priority for the Deschutes National Forest was to manage forests to reduce high-severity wildfire risk.
- Respondents preferred that forest restoration decisions be based more on the expertise of forest managers than on public preference.

Respondents rated priorities for the Deschutes National Forest from "very low" to "very high."

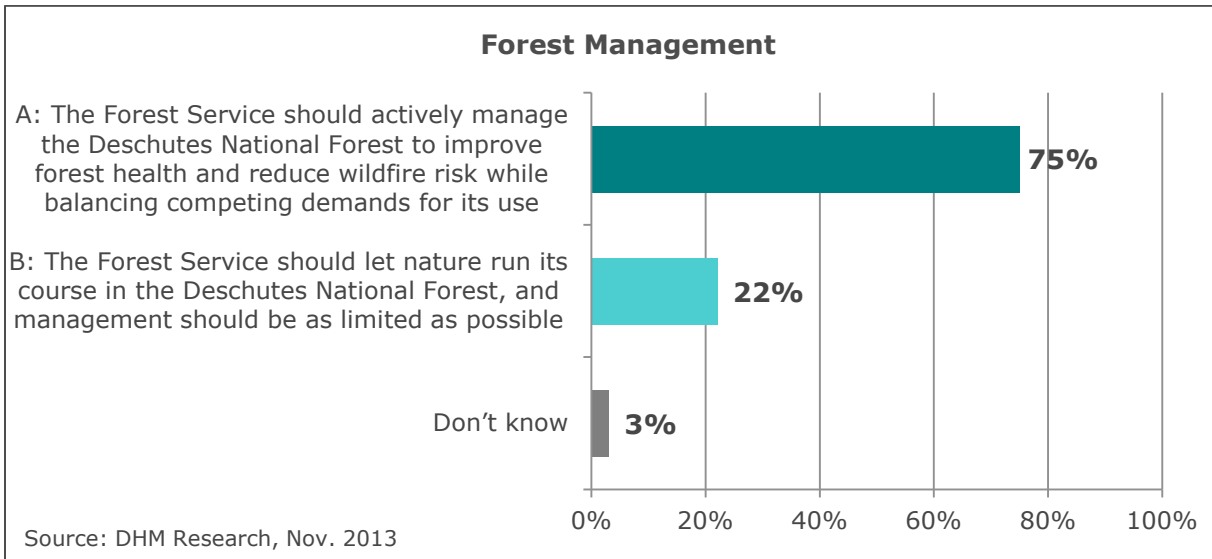


Respondents were read various forest management methods and asked whether they agreed with using each as a way to manage the Deschutes National Forest. The top-tier of preferred forest management methods all directly mentioned the issue of forest fires:

- *Thinning dense, overgrown forests to make them more fire-resilient (93% overall agreement)*
- *Using prescribed fire to remove underbrush and small trees when weather and forest conditions are appropriate (91% overall agreement)*
- *Burning underbrush and small trees in controlled burns to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire (88% overall agreement).*

Respondents were asked to decide between two opposing statements regarding which strategy they preferred the Forest Service employ for forest management.

CENTRAL OREGON FIELD TOUR – OCT. 22, 2014



OFRI TELEPHONE SURVEY
JUNE 2014

In June 2014, Davis, Hibbitts & Midghall, Inc. (DHM Research) conducted a telephone survey of 500 residents in the state of Oregon on behalf of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

KEY FINDINGS

Most residents understand the need for thinning to reduce forest fires and support doing so.

- Seven in ten (70%) agree that lack of thinning can make habitat vulnerable to fires.
- Similarly, 67% also agree that overstocked forests in eastern and southwest Oregon should be thinned to reduce wildfire risks.

