

# Federal Forest Dashboard:

Management and Restoration Indicators for Six National Forests in Eastern Oregon

- **Purpose:** To track management and restoration of federal forests and inform stakeholders, policy makers and the public.
- Forest indicators for **six national forests** in Eastern Oregon: *Deschutes, Fremont-Winema, Malheur, Ochoco, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman.*
- **2017 report:** 2009-2015 data (*wildfire data 1984-2014*)
- **Update:** New data through 2017 (*wildfire data through 2015*)

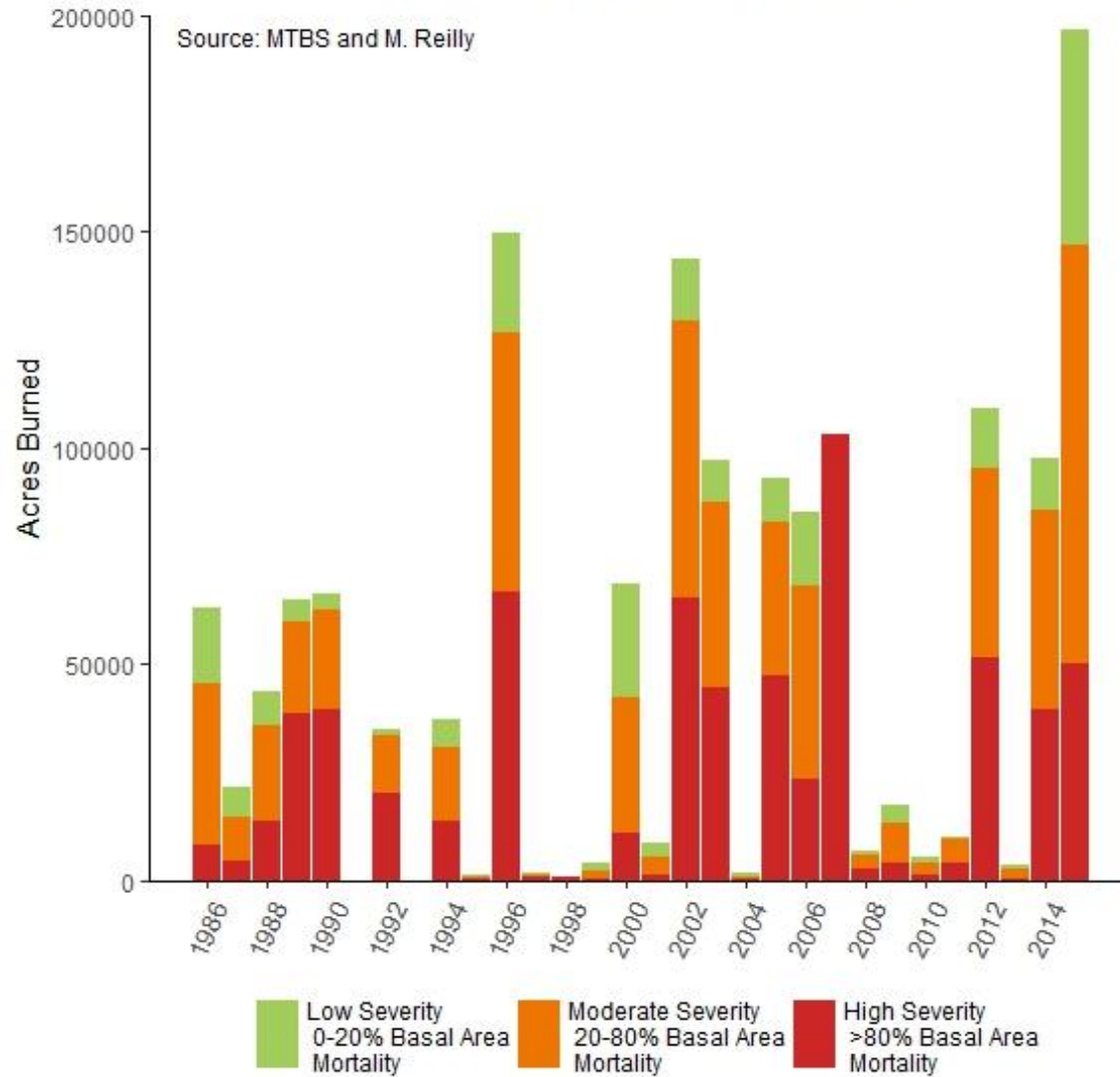
# Indicator: Area and Severity of Wildfire

## 2017 Report Takeaways

- An average of 17,000 acres burn at high severity each year.
- Four of the five most severe fire seasons since 1984 have occurred in the past 14 years.
- Wildfire severity has varied greatly over the past 30 years, with relatively more acres burning at moderate and high severity in recent years.
- Fires of all severities are natural and important parts of Oregon's forest ecosystems.

# Updated Indicator:

Figure 1: Area and Severity of Wildfire

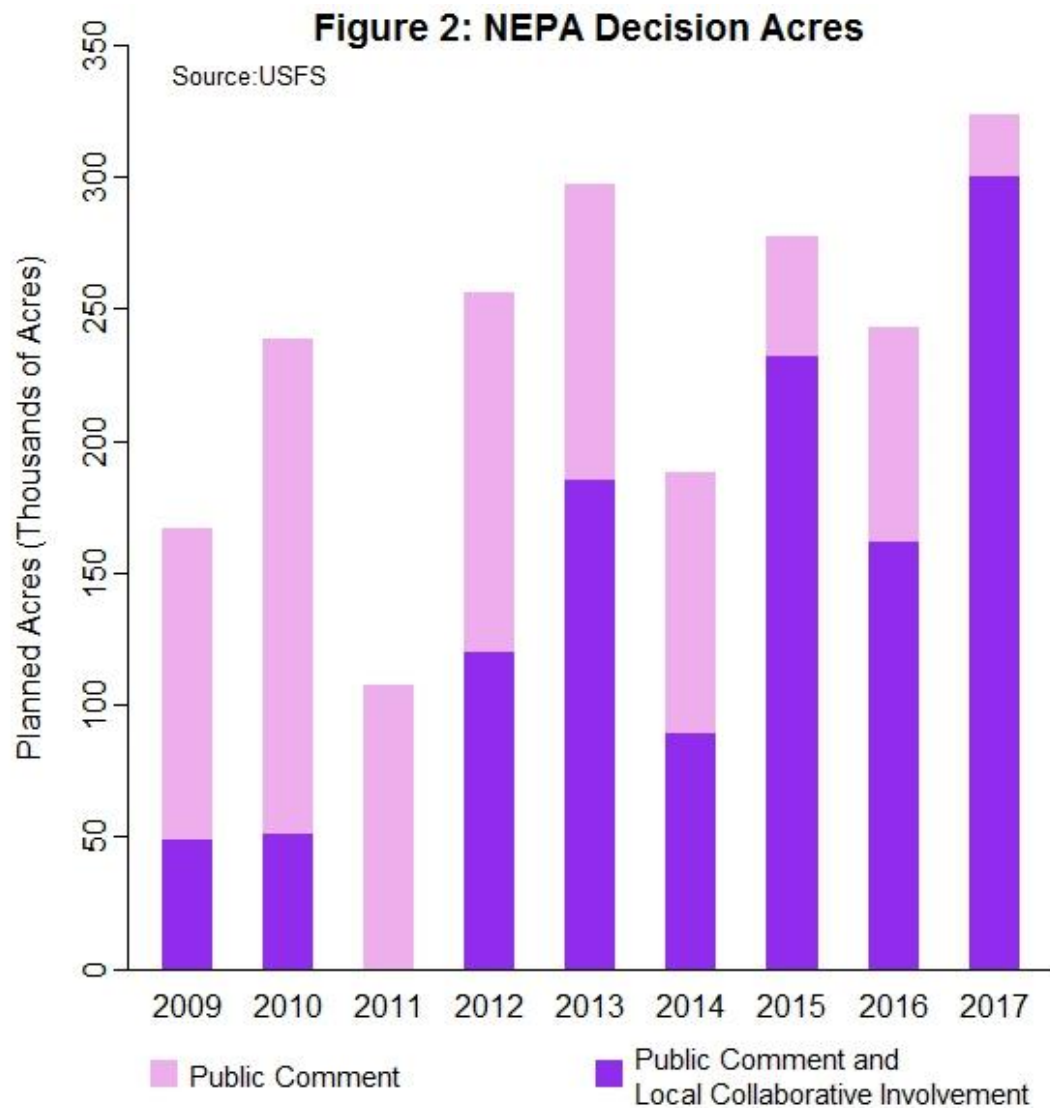


# Indicator: NEPA Decision Acres

## 2017 Takeaways

- The total annual average of acres with signed NEPA decisions was 45 percent greater between 2012 and 2015 than between 2009 and 2011.
- Since 2009, 48 percent of acres with signed NEPA decisions have incorporated input from local collaborative groups.
- USFS tends to work with collaborative groups on larger planning projects. Average decision area: 24,000 acres with collaborative; 10,000 acres with public comment-only projects

# Updated Indicator:



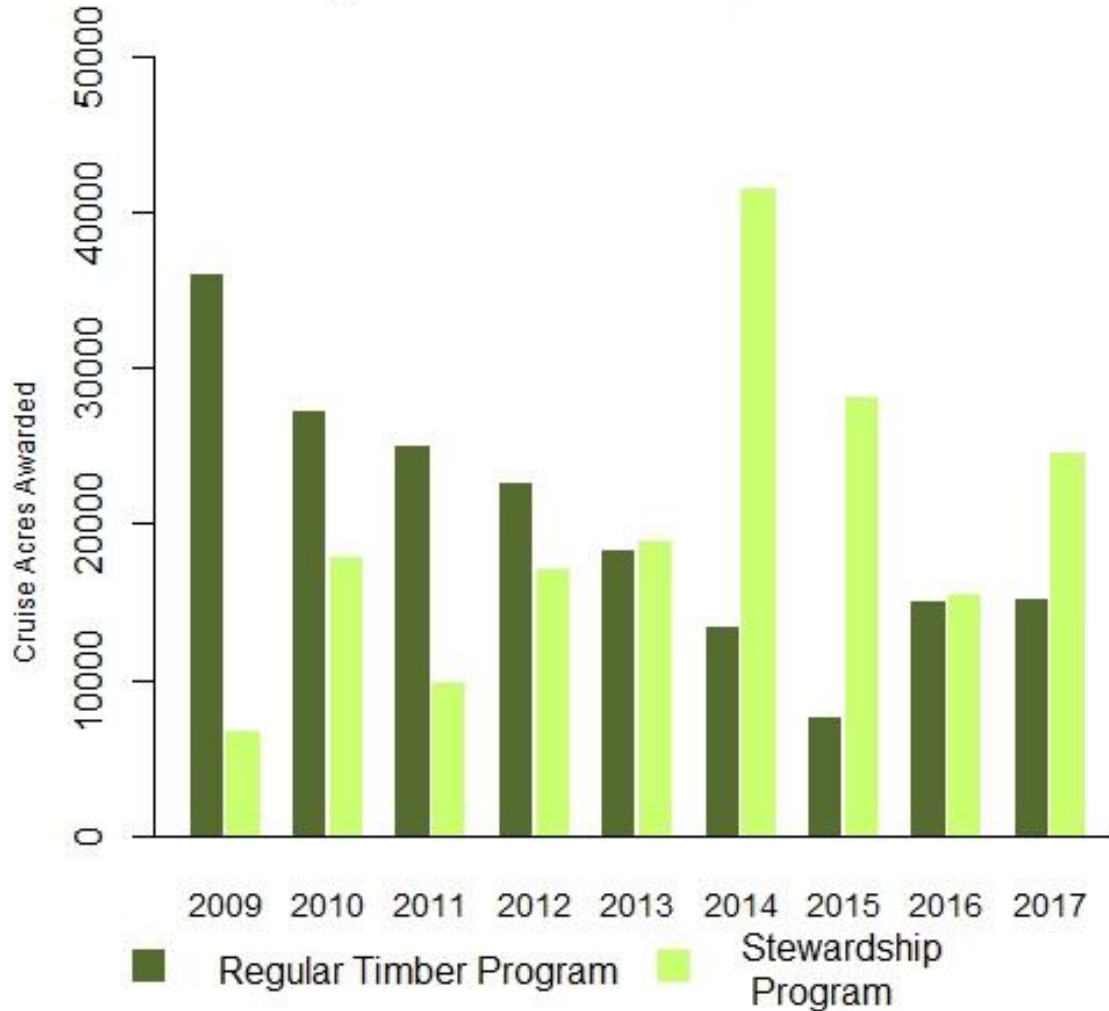
# Indicator: Stewardship Contracts

## 2017 Takeaways

- Stewardship authority, permanently authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill, provides additional tools to federal managers to do more forest restoration.
- Recently, more timber harvest acres have been offered through stewardship contracts than traditional timber sales.
- In many stewardship contracts, the agency uses the value of the timber to accomplish additional restoration projects.

# Updated Indicator:

**Figure 3: Stewardship Contracts**



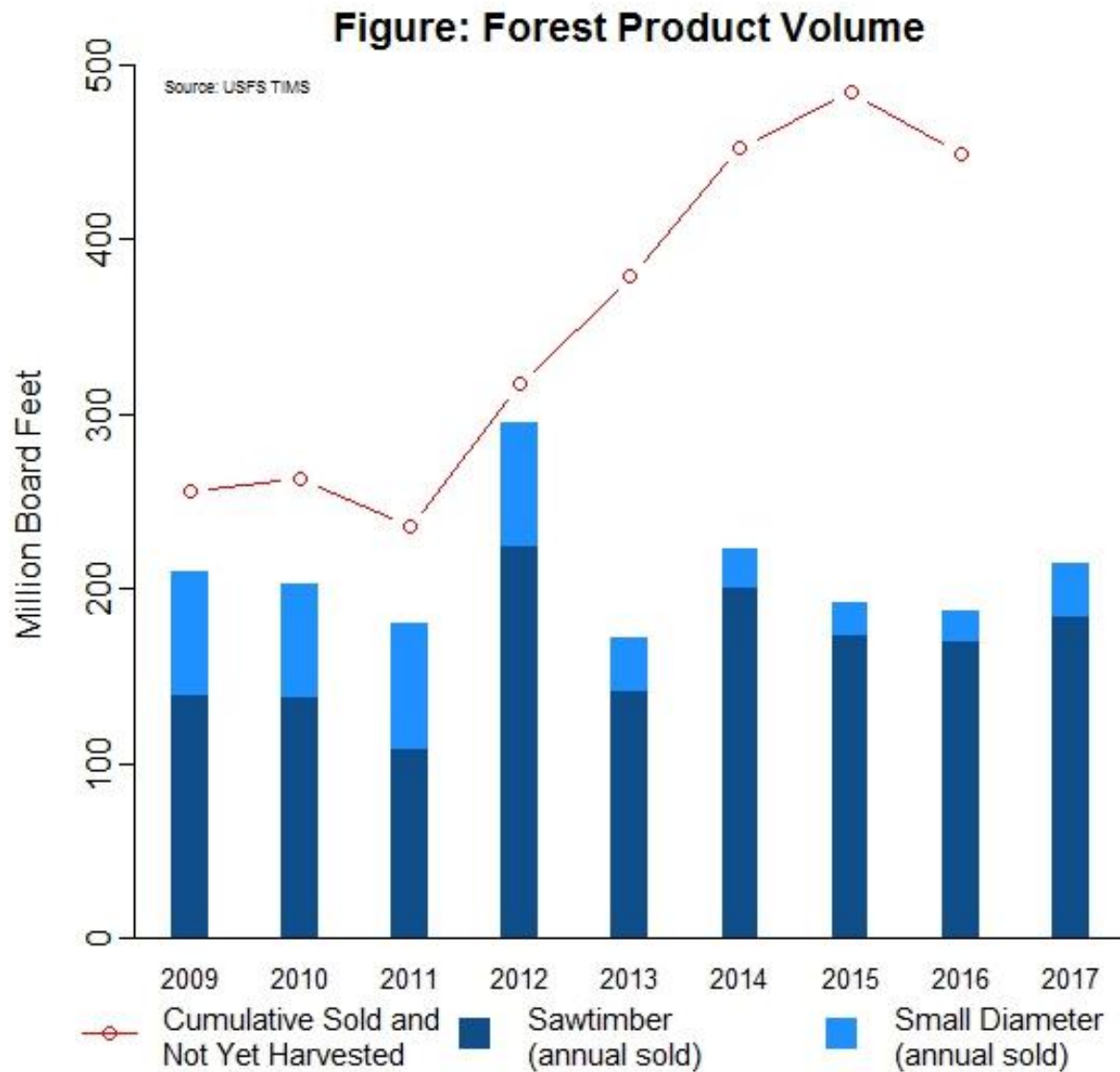
# Indicator: Forest Product Volume

## 2017 Takeaways

- The volume of timber sold from eastern Oregon national forests has consistently increased from a low in 2013.
- The amount of sold—but yet unharvested—timber has been increasing since 2011. Harvest is allowed up to 5 years after a sale.
- Most timber sold from national forests is sawtimber. It is typically more valuable than small-diameter timber, which is used for posts, poles, chips, and commercial firewood.



# Updated Indicator:



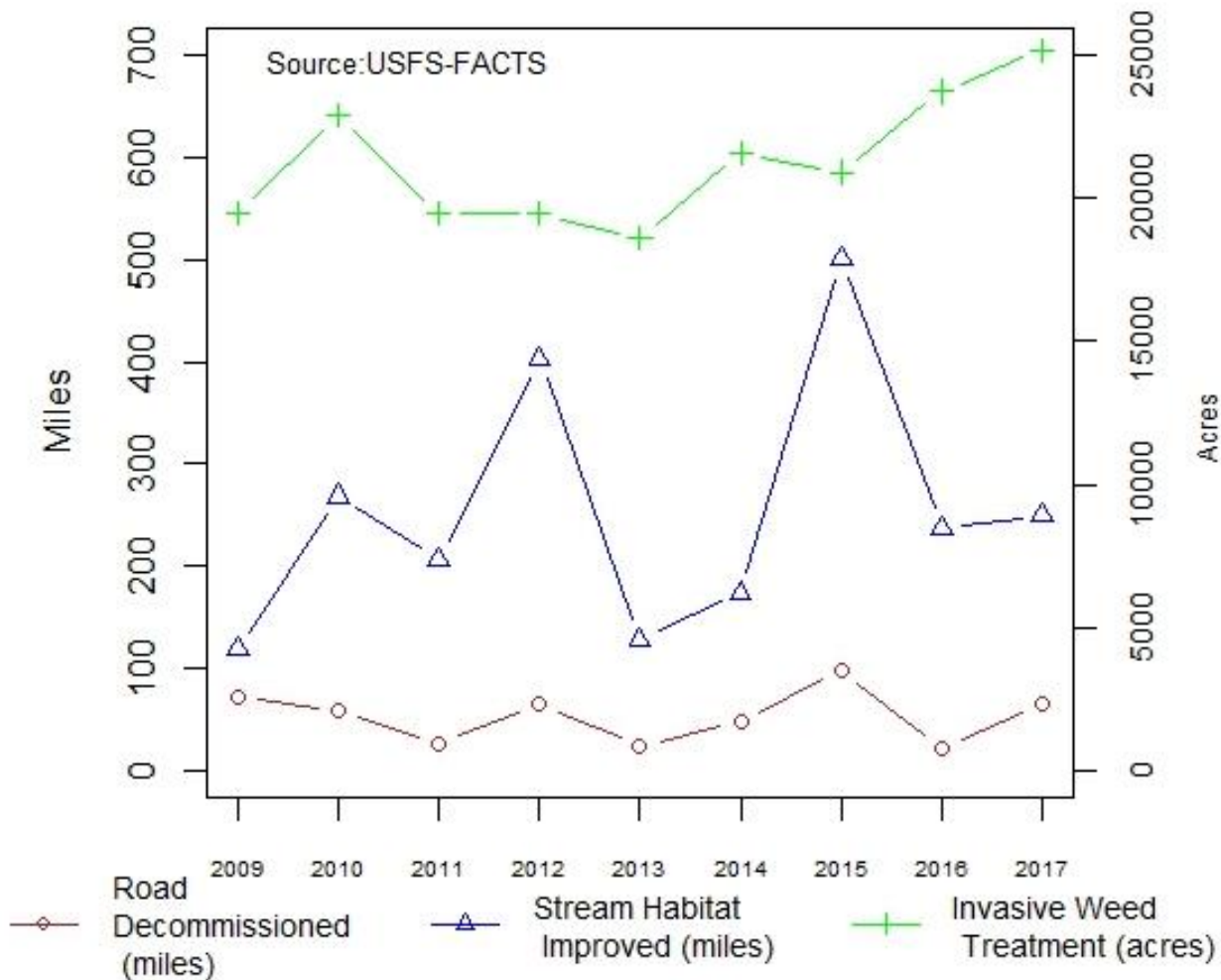
# Indicator: Watershed Projects

## 2017 Takeaways

- Changes in forest health and resilience are difficult to see in annual measurements. Research is needed to address this challenge and to inform adaptive management.
- The data available for restoration outputs suggests a relatively stable level of annual restoration work across these six National Forests.
- At present there is no good way to describe project outcomes in terms of improved forest health and resiliency.

# Updated Indicator:

## Figure 5: Watershed Projects



# Indicator: Forest Acres Treated

## 2017 Takeaways

- In the last six years, about 35,000 acres have undergone commercial treatment with timber harvests annually.
- Pre-commercial thinning has varied significantly from year to year. Extensive treatments in 2009 and 2010 reflect American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.
- The number of acres treated with prescribed fire was greatest during the ARRA years, and has increased for two years from a low in 2013.

# Updated Indicator:

Figure 6: Forest Acres Treated

