



# 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6.55 million (Lottery Funds)</b>

### Positions

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

### To learn more

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