

Oregon Department of Forestry – 2021 Small Forestland Grant Program Call for Proposals

Overview

The 2021 Oregon Legislature passed, and the governor signed into law Senate Bill 762, which creates provisions for wildfire risk response, mitigation, and planning. Section 24 of this bill directs the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to establish a grant program to provide competitive grants to help small forestland owners reduce wildfire risks. The legislature approved \$5 million for projects that reduce wildfire risk by restoring landscape resiliency and reducing hazardous fuels (vegetation) on small forestlands.

This call is intended to fund forest fuel management activities on small forestland owner properties. Projects must be submitted by one of the listed project sponsors below. Funds will be allocated for work performed in the current 2021-2023 biennium (running July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023). Project work **MUST BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 15th, 2023, with final invoices and report received no later than June 30th, 2023.** Project work completed after June 15th, 2023, will not be reimbursed even if the project budget has not been expended in full.

Project Sponsors (applicants)

Project sponsors may bill up to 10% of the grant for indirect expenses. Project sponsors may engage Local ODF foresters or OSU extension agents to provide technical services including landowner outreach and treatment planning within the proposed project area. Project sponsor and technical services from OSU or ODF are not required expenses. At least 75% of project costs must fund fuel reduction treatment activities on small forestland owner properties. If a project sponsor requests ODF or OSU services, contact information for the service provider must be included in the application.

Project sponsors must be one of the following Organizations:

- Local watershed councils on Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) [2021 Map of Watershed Councils](#),
- Land trust that is a [member](#) of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts,
- 501(c)(3) Organizations,
- [Soil and Water Conservation Districts](#) organized under ORS chapter 568,
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Other state or local government entities

Project Eligibility

Projects must support “**small forestland owner(s)**” defined as an individual, group or federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon, who owns up to 160 acres west of the crest of the Cascade Mountains or up to 640 acres east of the crest of the Cascade Mountains. Projects may treat multiple private ownerships exceeding the above acreage as long as each forestland owner receiving treatment does not violate the definition above. Project submissions must also meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Project reduces the risk of high severity wildfire by treating hazardous fuels,
- At least 75% of project costs fund fuel reduction treatment activities on small forestland owner properties,
- Total project sponsor and ODF or OSU service costs do not exceed 25% of total project cost,
- Requested funding is more than \$10,000 and up to \$300,000,
- 25% leverage required. Sponsor in-kind expenses, landowner labor rates and other grant funds are eligible leverage sources.
- Project does not generate net revenue.

Funding Priorities

1. All projects must reduce the risk of high severity wildfire.

Additionally, projects that achieve one or more of the following priorities will score higher than those that do not.

2. Protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Watershed (HUC-6) wildfire risk class of high or extreme as displayed in the Overall Wildfire Risk watershed summary on Oregon Explorer found [here](#).
3. Project treats or protects multiple properties,
4. Treatments address additional resource concerns including one or more of the following: insects and diseases, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage, or enhances wildlife habitat,
5. Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity (<1/2 mile) to previous or planned fuel treatments,
6. Project protects or serves lands that house vulnerable populations. Vulnerable populations include individuals that are elderly, individuals with chronic health conditions, individuals that are economically disadvantaged, or properties outside of structural fire protection districts or ODF protected lands.
7. Lands with a forest management plan in place or located in one of the following planning areas:
 - i. Oregon Conservation Strategy's [Conservation Opportunity Areas](#)
 - ii. Natural Resource Conservation Service's [Conservation Implementation Strategy areas](#)
 - iii. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's [Focused Investment Partnerships](#) (Oak Woodland and Dry Type Forest Habitats)
 - iv. Priority treatment or focus areas listed in a [Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#) or County Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - v. [Oregon Forest Management Plan](#) – Uniform Plan
 - vi. Properties with a [Stewardship Agreement](#) or enrolled in the Healthy Forest Reserve Program
 - vii. Member of [Oregon's Tree Farm System](#)
 - viii. American Family Forestland's [Carbon Program](#) or [My Land Plan](#)
 - ix. Oregon Fish and Wildlife's [Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Plan](#)
8. Project utilizes non-traditional forest products (biochar, biomass, small diameter wood or firewood for example).

Fundable Activities

Activities must include one or more practices that reduce the likelihood of future wildfire severity including but not limited to the following:

- Direct costs associated with prescribed fire,
- Thinning,
- Mowing or mastication,
- Pruning,
- Slash treatments
- Chipping, hauling, pile and burn, biochar or other small diameter wood utilization,
- Treatment of invasive species including juniper encroachment,
- Other hand or mechanical treatments of forest fuels to prepare for future prescribed fire,

- Other forest management activities listed in owner’s Forest Management Plan intended to reduce the risk of wildfires,
- Landowner outreach efforts aimed at improving treatment connectivity or engaging vulnerable populations within the proposed project area.

Ineligible Activities

- Treatment on land where an individual or group owns more than 160 acres west of the Cascade Crest, or more than 640 acres east of the Cascade Crest.
- Activities that are not in compliance with the Forest Practices Act (ORS 527.610 to 527.770, 527.990 (1) and 527.992).
- Work within riparian management areas or other zones with a protected or sensitive status (e.g., wetlands, protected bird sites) and known locations of species listed under the Federal or Oregon Endangered Species Act lists, unless accompanied by a written plan for alternate practice.
- Planning activities that are not landowner outreach activities tied to the treatment of or reporting on hazardous fuel treatments within the project area.
- Reimbursement for previous forest or fuel management activities.
- Activities that cannot be accomplished before June 15th, 2023.

Project Selection & Criteria

Projects will be scored out of 100 points using whole numbers. This is a competitive process to earn funding for strategic investments to reduce wildfire risk. Projects that meet multiple criteria will be more competitive. Projects will be reviewed and scored by a scoring group including at least one representative from ODF, OWEB and representatives from federal agencies. Projects will be evaluated using the criteria below.

Priority	Proposal Scoring Rubric	Total Points
1	Clearly describes treatment activities and how future condition reduces risk of high severity wildfire	20
2	Project protects infrastructure, creates shaded fuel breaks along roadways, or is in a Wildfire Risk Class of High or Extreme (HUC 6 watershed)	15
3	Project treats or protects multiple properties	15
4	Proposed treatment(s) address insects and disease, drought mortality, invasive species, storm damage or enhances wildlife habitat	15
5	Clearly demonstrates collaborative approach including treatment proximity to previous or planned hazardous fuel treatments	10
6	Proposed treatment(s) benefit vulnerable populations or under protected properties	10
7	Treatment area references a forest management plan or is located within a priority planning area listed in Funding Priority 7	10
8	Project utilizes non-traditional forest products	5
	Maximum Score	100

Submission and Review Process

We encourage applicants to work with local fire response agencies within their planning area when developing project proposals. **Proposal Submissions are due to the email listed below by 5 pm PST on January 21st, 2022.** Eligible projects will be scored and prioritized for funding based on the scoring rubric above. Partial funding of proposals may be considered.

Submit Project Proposals to: odf.sfgp@oregon.gov
With the Subject Line "2021 SFG, name of project"

Eligible Applications will submit (3) documents, 1) project area map 2) budget worksheet and 3) a written proposal. Eligible written proposals will be sent as a PDF, be less than 2 pages long, and include bolded headings for the following:

- **Project Name**
- **Contact Information**
 - Applicant sponsor
 - ODF District representative, if applicable
- **Treatment location** (150-word limit)
 - Brief description of land ownership(s) and project location(s)
 - What HUC_6 Wildfire Risk Class the project falls within
 - Attach a Plan Map including a GIS shapefile for work area perimeter(s)
- **Description of Treatment Activities** (350-word limit)
 - Describe proposed treatment activities including who will be completing treatments (contractor, landowner, project sponsor or ODF). Quantify or explain how priorities 1, 2,3, and 4 are addressed.
- **Description of the anticipated benefit** (250-word limit)
 - Quantify or explain how priorities 5, 6, 7, and 8 are addressed.
- **Timeline** for implementation (75-word limit, Bullets preferred)
- **Budget** (150-word limit) and complete the provided Budget Worksheet
 - Briefly describe the fiscal structure of the project: grant amount requested, total project cost, percentages to sponsor (Sum of Cost Categories 1-5) and service provider assistance (ODF or OSU, 7). List Leverage sources and amounts. Complete the Budget Worksheet.

Map Requirements

PDF 8 ½ x 11 (sent with application as a separate attachment)

- **Scale**
 - should be 1:24,000 or greater and show enough of surrounding area that the review team can get a sense of relationship of the project to the surrounding area
- **Map Title**
 - Project Name, Sponsor Organization
- **Clearly show**
 - Project Area
 - Work area perimeter(s)
 - Roadways
- **Legend**
 - Features on the Map
 - Directional Arrow
 - Scale
 - Coordinate System used
 - Township and Range (label OK, map does not need to show)

Administrative Structure of Projects Involving Contracted Work

Applicants should pay their contractors and submit a request for reimbursement to ODF directly.

Project Reporting

Awarded projects will be required to fully execute the grant agreement with terms that are acceptable to ODF. Sponsors will provide a project update with submitted invoices and a final report in 2023 prior to final invoices being processed.

• **Project Updates**

- The “sample invoice” along with an email stating if the project is progressing as outline in the Grant Agreement Scope of Work. If modifications to the original agreement are anticipated, further communication with the program lead will be required.

• **Final Report**

- Treatment map including GIS shapefile (preferred) or GPS coordinates of treatment locations
- Maintenance Plan
 - List actions or maintenance plans as communicated to Landowner(s)
 - Provide before and after pictures
- Complete Invoice
 - See sample invoice
 - Itemized receipts (proof of payment) from contracted services
- Description of Accomplishments, Challenges
 - Including description of pre- and post-treatment site conditions relative to vegetative conditions
- List of and amounts for each organization receiving funding,

Notice of Public Record

All project submissions, funded project invoices, report content and GIS data are subject to public record requests and may be used in public reporting documents.

Application Process and Timeline

November 2021	CFP released
January 21, 2022	First Round Project Proposals pulled and reviewed
February 2, 2022	Outreach to awarded projects
Summer, 2022	First invoice due and project update required (TBD)
September, 2022	Second round proposals ranked and awarded (if necessary)
June 15 th , 2023	All treatment expenses incurred
June 30 th 2023	Final Invoice and Project Report Due

Small Forestland Grant Program Contacts	E-mail
Alex Rahmlow, Program Lead	alex.j.rahmlow@oregon.gov

Definitions

Project Sponsor

- Is one of the listed organizations that moves the project towards successfully achieving project goals. Sponsors will develop project applications, administer project finances, facilitate the development of project scope and anticipated outcomes. Sponsors will provide reports, monitor project progress and communicate with Grantor (ODF) as needed to ensure project accountability. If ODF or OSU technical assistance is not listed, sponsor activities should also include engaging forestland owners, contractors and partner organizations in the overall administration of project activities.

Leverage

- Funds that are simply a financial commitment toward the costs of a project from a source other than the granting organization. Leveraging can be achieved by a commitment from the grantee, from complimentary project investments, or partnerships which financially expand the requested grant amount. Matching funds including in-kind contributions, cash, and project revenue count toward the 25% leverage requirement.

Forest Management Plan

- Necessary information to implement forest management activities or prescriptions including evaluated stand condition, concerns identified, stand inventory and recommended alternative(s). Plan components should reference and/or demonstrate Best Management Practices for forest management.