

2023 Small Forestland Grant (SFG) Frequently Asked Questions

What is the timeline for this round of proposals?

- A. This round of proposals will be open from September 19, 2023 to November 3, 2023. Awards will be announced December 2023. Awarded projects will work on their grants agreements directly after and on the ground work will proceed until completed May 30th, 2025.

I am a landowner with 10 acres. Who should I contact if I'm interested in the (SFG) program?

- A. You should contact your local [ODF field office](#) and ask if there are project sponsors developing an application in your area. You can also contact local project sponsors directly.

Who is eligible to be a project sponsor?

- A. See the list of eligible "Project Sponsors" on the SFG Call for Proposals. These sponsors must be a defined entity with the ability to accept funds from the state including at a minimum a Tax ID with a mechanism to accept funds.

Is there a limit to the number of applications a sponsor can submit?

- A. There is no limit to the number of applications a sponsor can submit.

What is the average grant amount awarded for the Small Forestland Grant program?

- A. Eligible grant awards will be between \$10,000 and \$300,000. In similar grant programs, grant amounts span the range of eligibility. A median grant cost between \$90,000 and \$200,000 is anticipated.

I work for a local Soil and Water Conservation District and have a landowner who owns two properties west of the Cascade Mountain crest. One tax lot is 150 acres and the other is 20 acres. Can this landowner receive funding?

- A. No. Because the landowner owns more than 160 acres west of the cascade mountain crest, they do not meet the definition of a small forestland owner. Grants must go to landowners with no more than 160 acres west of the Cascade Mountain Crest, or no more than 640 acres east of the Cascade Mountain Crest.

I worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and my local ODF office a couple of years ago. I still have slash piles that have not been burned. I never received funding for burning the slash piles. Is this practice eligible under the Small Forestland Grant program?

- A. Yes, direct costs from prescribed fire are allowable under the Small Forestland Grant program. If you have not received a previous payment for this practice, it would be eligible in this program.

I work for a local watershed council and have been working with some landowners to reduce the risk of wildfire and improve oak habitat in the Willamette Valley. I want to use some cut material to make biochar. The area shows up as only having "low risk" in the map, should I apply?

This project appears to address multiple resource concerns. It is also within a strategic planning area (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Focused Investment Partnership for Oak Woodlands). It has a non-traditional forest product being produced from the project (biochar). It also has multiple properties

engaged and ready for treatment. It looks like this project could get high scores in a number of categories. You should apply.

I am a project sponsor working with a landowner to conduct commercial and non-commercial thinning. The landowner plans to conduct the commercial thinning in May of 2025. Is this an eligible practice?

- A. Although commercial thinning can be a part of a project, all revenue generated from a project needs to be re-invested into project activities before the grant period closes. You would not have time within the grant period to re-invest revenue before May 30, 2025. You should see if the landowner can conduct the commercial operation much earlier, or the commercial thinning would be an ineligible practice.

I work for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and want to apply to the Small Forestland Grant program to conduct habitat restoration for Mule Deer on a number of private properties in southern Oregon.

- A. The primary goal of the Small Forestland Grant program is to reduce high severity wildfire risk. Mule deer habitat restoration has a lot in common with activities to reduce wildfire risk. You should contact your [local ODF office](#) to discuss if this project could be designed to meet multiple restoration objectives.

I work for a local Land Trust in Eastern Oregon. I want to apply for a Small Forestland Grant to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire on some of my land. I also want to spend time outreaching to neighboring landowners to see if they would like to receive funding to do the same. Is this project eligible?

- A. If the Land Trust owns less than 640 acres, you can apply. As a project sponsor, the Land Trust can expend up to 10% of the project cost. This can include landowner outreach to identify more landowners to join in the project. You can also contact your [local ODF office](#) to see if they may be able to help. ODF offices can charge up to 15% of the project cost to provide landowner services, including outreach.

Can project revenue be used as leverage/match?

- A. Yes. All revenue generated from the project must be reinvested into project activities listed within the grant agreement's Scope of Work and be implementable prior May 30th, 2025.

ODF has an active, federal grant project to reduce wildfire risk that will spend \$100,000 to conduct fuel treatments on private properties. This project has more landowners interested than funds available. ODF is working with a local project sponsor to apply for a \$20,000 Small Forestland Grant. The project sponsor only wants to request 1% of the project cost, because ODF will be doing all of the work. Can they apply for a Small Forestland Grant?

- A. Yes. The \$100,000 can be listed as leverage. The project sponsor will still be responsible for managing the grant if they are the applicant. ODF can charge up to 15% of the project cost to provide the project sponsor with as much support as possible. ODF should be careful that the landowners receiving Small Forestland Grant funds do not violate the definition of a small forestland grant owner and they follow federal and state grant rules, laws and requirements.

Are there age class requirements for fuels to be eligible?

- A. Although there are no restrictions on age classes eligible for treatments, treatments removing trees to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire often focus on prescriptions increasing canopy separation from the ground. Common prescriptions including thinning from below, reducing suppressed or intermediate tree density, pruning, and/or selectively reducing surface fuel continuity and density (brush treatments for example). In addition, practices not in compliance with the Forest Practices Act are not allowable activities.

Are there other grant programs available if I don't qualify for this one?

- A. Yes, there are a number of ODF managed grant programs with a goal of supporting forest management activities on private properties. A list of ODF grants can be found on their [Grants and incentives page](#). For large, cross-boundary landscape scale projects focused on reducing hazardous fuels, see ODF's [LRP](#). The NRCS has a number of forestry related [funding opportunities to provide landowner assistance](#). Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board also administers a variety of [grant programs](#).

How do I find the risk rating for my project area?

- A. If you are applying through the online portal, the risk map is the base layer for your Project Boundary section. See Instructions to identify what color is what level of risk. If applying manually, the SFGP relies on wildfire potential impacts, specifically the overall Potential Impacts [layer](#) in Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer: <https://tools.oregonexplorer.info/OE HtmlViewer/index.html?viewer=wildfireplanning> . In the left side of the screen select "Go To Layers". Unclick Watershed summaries. Then in the upper right-hand corner with the magnifying glass to the right, enter an address from the area. This should populate and address in the left-hand bar. Click on this and it will zoom to that place on the map. In the left bottom corner select Layers. Then click the box for Wildfire Potential Impacts which will create a drop down. Click the box for the Overall Potential Impacts which will bring up the ratings on the map and identify what level of risk you are in.

How does this grant tie into the new Oregon State Fire Marshall's defensible space guidelines?

- A. If defensible space is part of your grant application planned activities, familiarizing yourself with the new defensible space standards are recommended. All landowners who participate should be informed as well. These resources may be helpful: <https://www.oregon.gov/osfm/Documents/Defensible%20Space%20Checklist.pdf>
<https://oregondefensiblespace.org/creating-defensible-space/>

This document was reviewed and approved by DOJ on August 23, 2023