

# NATIONAL PRIORITIES SECTION –Update Report

## STATE OF OREGON 2015

The 2008 Farm Bill, under Title VIII – Forestry, amends the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, to include the requirement that each state develop a long-term, state-wide assessment and strategies for forest resources. These assessments and strategies focused on three national priorities:

- Conserve and Manage Working Forest Landscapes for Multiple Values and Uses
- Protect Forests from Threats
- Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests

These documents were developed with a comprehensive team of stakeholders to address cross-boundary, landscape scale actions that would be the most efficient activities to address issues of concern developed for the assessment phase of the Forest Action plan.

This document serves as a record of activities taken by all Oregon’s stakeholders to address **Strategic Actions** taken as part of Oregon’s Forest Action Plan and will be updated annually.

Oregon’s Forest Action Plan identified a large number of *Opportunities* to help achieve each of the National Priorities. The following summary lists several examples of **Strategic Actions** that were implemented during the past five years. This report includes a **summary of implementation highlights and challenges discovered from the past five years, and identifies data needs or new issues revealed since Oregon’s Forest Action Plan was completed.**

## National Priority 1. Conserve Working Forest Landscapes for Multiple Values and Uses

OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
<p>Assist farm, ranch and family forest landowners in their management of wildfire risk.</p>	<p>Provide technical and financial assistance in forest management planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation highlights</li> </ul> <p>The National Fire Plan (NFP-2001) and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA-2003) encouraged communities to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's) as the primary planning mechanism for assisting landowners with understanding, managing, and reducing wildfire risk on their properties. Every county in Oregon has a CWPP, and many counties have smaller scale, community-level CWPP's. These planning documents include a Wildfire Risk Assessment, a Wildland Urban Interface Boundary, and a list and description of communities at risk to wildfire. CWPP's also contain prioritized action plans to address fuel reduction, structural ignitability, wildfire risk awareness, and suppression and response needs.</p> <p>These CWPP's are the repository for wildfire mitigation actions to be taken at the County and community-level, and have guided over \$10 million dollars' worth of investments made toward fuels reduction, prevention outreach and education and enhancements to response capabilities over the past 5 years.</p> <p>The Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy (CWS) built on the parameters set for the NFP and HFRA, and provided additional guidance for more effectively planning for, preventing, and responding to wildfires by building: Fire Resilient Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities, and Coordinated Emergency Response. Oregon was selected to showcase 2 Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy Pilot projects in the Northeast Oregon Blue Mountains area and the Southwest Oregon Ashland area, with a federal investment of \$800,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ The majority of the CWPP's in Oregon are 5 years or older, and there is a dire need for funding and capacity to ensure that CWPP's remain relevant and up to date. In addition, the 2013 Western Wildfire Risk Assessment provides much-needed updates to the wildfire risk assessment data to be used in local Wildfire Risk Analyses and WUI/Community at Risk designations.</li> <li>□ Because the majority of Oregon's CWPP's are outdated, the CWS is slow to be understood and utilized at the local level.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implementation focus for the next five years</li> </ul> <p>The focus over the next 5 years will be to build capacity for CWPP/CWS updates and utilization of the best available wildfire risk assessment data. This will be accomplished on two fronts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) ODF is partnering with the Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience to integrate the CWPP and Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning processes to reduce duplication, increase participation, and enhance funding opportunities to maintain updated mitigation planning documents.</li> <li>2.) ODF Salem and field staff will work in collaboration with Oregon State University to build an enhanced Wildfire Risk Assessment Tool the University's Oregon Explorer interactive web program. This Wildfire Risk Assessment Tool will provide a platform for displaying the WWRA, and will allow the user to draw upon a variety of wildfire and other natural resources, land cover, and demographic datasets to generate information and</li> </ol>

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		<p>reports designed to assist with local CWPP updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify data needs or new issues</li> <li>□ As drought continues to affect western landscapes, integrating drought and climate change data into future versions of wildfire risk assessments will be critical.</li> <li>□ The West Wide Risk Assessment was a regional assessment conducted over the entire Western States, and will soon be outdated. Oregon will need to begin planning for an updated Wildfire Risk Assessment in the next 5 years.</li> </ul>
<p>Assist family forestland owners with their management of forests.</p>	<p>Provide technical and financial assistance in forest management planning.</p>	<p>Over the past 5 years ODF stewardship foresters have provided technical assistance to family forestland owners. Accomplishment areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing forest stewardship plans</li> <li>• Improving timber stands</li> <li>• Reforestation and afforestation</li> <li>• Improving wildlife habitat including improving riparian areas along fish bearing streams</li> </ul> <p>Challenges include continuing with the traditional one-on-one technical assistance delivery method with declining federal funds and no state funding allocated to serve family forestland owners. Currently we are put in a position where we have to decide to utilize our funding for stewardship plans or field assistance.</p>
	<p>Support the Oregon Tree Farm Program as the state's landowner recognition program.</p>	<p>ODF has provided a small amount of financial support to the Oregon Tree Farm Program (OTFP) over the past five years. A few stewardship foresters are certified as tree farm inspectors, however as funds have diminished for this type of work, few stewardship foresters are able to devote time to certifying family forestland owners to the OTFP. Unless additional state or federal funding becomes available to support ODF's efforts with the OTFP, we will not be able to maintain involvement.</p>
<p>Assist family forestland owners with the intergenerational transfer of lands for forestry use.</p>	<p>Integrate family succession planning with forest management planning to secure the intergenerational transfer of family forestlands.</p>	<p>Not a focus at this time</p>
	<p>Seed bank and seedling network that provides access to genetically-improved seed and high quality nursery stock.</p>	<p>Grant funding support through the Forest Stewardship Program has declined sharply over the past years. However a variety of reforestation-related assistance in support of Oregon's family forest landowners has been accomplished:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educated landowners and nurseries about the use of various seed types for reforestation using one-on-one contacts, short articles, email, presentations, and internet websites.</li> <li>• Managed the Oregon Forest Tree Seed Bank, acquiring high quality, high genetic gain forest tree seed lots for the benefit of small woodlot owners.</li> <li>• Via the Oregon Forest Tree Seed Bank, provided landowners and nurseries with high quality, high genetic gain forest tree seed, and offered a wide variety of seed for sale to more than 40 private nurseries in the PNW.</li> <li>• Managed the continuing development of a western larch seed orchard in northeast Oregon, including intensive management of the site to promote early flowering and seed production.</li> <li>• Provided Stewardship Foresters with information about the appropriate limits of seed movement via one-on-one</li> </ul>

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		<p>contacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produced the annual directory of “Sources of Native Forest Tree Seedlings,” a publication that directs family forest landowners to nurseries growing seedlings appropriate for their lands.</li> <li>Provided technical consultation, coordination, and oversight for the tree improvement and gene conservation programs at the J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard.</li> </ul> <p>At this time, with declining Forest Stewardship grant funding, there are no funds allocated to supporting the state geneticist and tree improvement technical assistance and outreach to family forestland owners. Limited funds are used to continue the development of the Western Larch seed orchard.</p>
Expand markets for the utilization of forest residues for biomass energy and other end uses.	Quantify the availability of forest residues and other small diameter forest material and the cost of removal for implementing landscape wildfire fuel treatment projects.	Not a focus at this time
	Identify Forest Investment Zones to test strategies for building business and community capacity to support the adaptive and sustainable management of federal forests	Not a focus at this time
Encourage private and public investment to conserve private forestland.	Purchase the development rights to working private forests that are important, strategic and threatened with conversion to non-forest use to ensure forest use in perpetuity.	Not a focus at this time
	Participate in a pilot Transferable Development Rights Program involving the conservation of high priority forestlands.	Not a focus at this time
	Develop a Conservancy Portfolio of forestlands that compliments the current state-owned forest land base managed for Greatest Permanent Value.	<p><u>Forest Legacy Program (FLP)</u>  <i>Implementation Highlights</i> – The Gilchrist Forest acquisition project (\$3.0 million in fiscal year (FY) 2013 FLP funding) is scheduled for closing on or before September 30, 2015. The Department also secured up to \$1.5 million in FY 2013 funding for the Blue Mountain Heritage conservation easement project in Union County. This project is piloting the Department’s development of a working forest conservation easement on family forestlands. Closing is expected in 2016. The Department is well positioned to secure \$3.0 million in FY 2016 acquisition funding for Wallowa County acquisition of the East Moraine Wallowa Lake tract in Wallowa County as the project is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> nationally in funding priority.</p> <p><i>Implementation Challenges</i> – Ensuring project readiness is a challenge. The Department has learned from the Blue Mountain Heritage conservation easement project that more upfront market analysis and due diligence should be performed during application development to ground truth the landowner’s expectation of value to be received. The gap between landowner expectations (i.e., selling price) and yellow book appraisal value (which defines the Department’s offer price) is perceived by the landowner to be wide, which has made it difficult to move forward with</p>

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		<p>project development including the completion of the yellow book appraisal. As such, project implementation is taking more staff and field unit time than anticipated.</p> <p>The inherent “field of dreams” structure to the Forest Legacy Program (i.e., build the project and the money will come) is another challenge. The Department requested de-obligation of \$4.5 million in FLP funding for the Skyline Forest conservation easement project when it became clear the landowner was not a willing seller after the downturn in the economy commencing in 2008. Further, the Department decided not to apply for \$3.0 million in appropriated FY 2015 funding for the Hood River Forest and Fish Conservation easement project as the property changed ownership and the new owner was not interested in pursuing the conservation easement as proposed by the previous owner.</p> <p><i>Implementation Focus</i> – The Department has put applicants on notice that it will not partner to hold conservation easements on new projects. This will have the result of favoring the submittal of acquisition projects to be held by another state or local government (i.e., such as the East Moraine Wallowa Lake project) as most conservation easement applications tend to favor the Department holding the easement. Exceptions do arise such as the FY 2017 Spencer Butte conservation easement application (Lane County) where the City of Eugene has expressed willingness to hold the easement.</p> <p>In general, the Oregon Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee has not developed a geographic or resource focus to the Forest Legacy program. The Committee prefers to cast a wide net and let partners bring projects forward. In this sense, the Department is facilitating access to Forest Legacy Program funding based on the needs and priorities of partnering organizations such as land trust and other conservation organizations.</p> <p><i>Data Needs</i> – The Department needs to complete its descriptions of Forest Legacy Areas – which define geographic areas of eligibility for program funds. A lack of geographic information systems (GIS) capacity within the Private Forests Division has prevented completion of this work. The work remaining is quantifying the area of forestland within a Forest Legacy Area and attributing the forestland as to owner group (private industrial, family forest) as well as Forest Action Plan priority landscapes for Landscape Wildfire Risk, Forestlands Vulnerable to Losing Timber Markets and Fish and Wildlife conservation.</p> <p><i>New Issues</i> – The Department has been implementing the Forest Legacy Program as a means to pilot the Department’s development of a working forest conservation easement template for both private industrial and family forestlands as well as to facilitate the development of projects by partners. It has become clear that various state natural resource agencies such as Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Forestry need a coordinated infrastructure to fund the monitoring, enforcement and stewardship costs of holding conservation easements. Lacking such a state government infrastructure, the acquisition and holding of easements create unfunded responsibilities with respect to monitoring and enforcement and a lack of technical and financial assistance to help landowners manage the properties toward the conservation values called for in the easement.</p>
	<p>Develop innovative approaches to reduce forest fragmentation and dispersed and low impact residential and other building development in rural-urban forest areas.</p>	<p>See discussion on Forest Legacy discussion, page 4.</p>

## National Priority 1. Conserve Working Forest Landscapes for Multiple Values and Uses

OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
Actively manage and control invasive species to reduce spread and undesirable impacts.	Provide technical and financial assistance in forest management planning.	See “Assist family forestland owners with their management of forests”, page 3.
	Remove disincentives regarding Oregon Forest Practices Act notification requirements that may be preventing landowner control of invasive plant species.	Not a focus at this time
	Develop cost-share financial assistance programs to implement specific actions for the management and control of invasive species on private family forestlands.	Not a focus at this time
	Establish tools to track the location, size, status and impact of priority invasive species.	See “Overall framework for implementation of resource strategies for invasive species”, page 8.

## National Priority 2. Protect Forests from Harm

OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
Maintain and improve state and local capacity in fire protection.	Provide financial, technical, and other assistance to State Foresters to organize, train and equip rural fire departments to prevent and suppress wildfires.	<p>Voluntary Fire Assistance</p> <p>For fire suppression and response activities, ODF provides financial and technical assistance to rural fire departments through grant programs, Mutual Aid Agreements, and coordinated training programs and exercises.</p> <p>The USFS Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program (VFA) specifically provides funding to build the capacity of rural fire departments to respond to wildland fire events. Funds are available for equipment, personal training, and personal protective equipment. The VFA programs provides an avg., of \$200-\$350K annually to rural fire protection districts.</p> <p>ODF has been working closely with landowners of rangeland in eastern Oregon and the Board of Forestry to develop Rangeland Protection Associations (RPA). There are now 20 RPA's throughout eastern Oregon and during the 2015 session, the Oregon Legislature adopted new laws to continue assisting and helping fund RPA's in their development.</p>
	Maintain state and local agency capacity in preparedness, prevention and suppression of wildfires including the development of new and improved fire control technologies, effective organization and interagency sharing of fire suppression resources.	In response to recent severe fire seasons, the Oregon Legislature passed the Wildfire Protection Act (WPA) in 2013 that does three things to increase the agency's capacity in preparedness, prevention and suppression of wildfires. The WPA includes provisions to increase severity dollars that allow firefighting resources to be prepositioned and ready prior to events. The WPA also provides dollars to help offset the high cost of fire preparedness on the East side of Oregon along with phasing in the sharing of large fire costs with the General Fund and landowner funds.
Actively manage forests at risk of uncharacteristically severe wildfire.	Increase the level of federal investment in active management practices that reduce forest fuels as a means to change the severity and extent of wildfire consistent with the environmental purposes of these forest lands.	In early 2013, the Board of Forestry formed a sub-group to focus on issues of federal forest policy and to help our Board connect with the Governor's Office, the Congressional Delegation, the Oregon Legislature and others on this critical topic. Since that time there has been much success in certain areas including the Oregon Legislature providing funding for active management on federal lands.
	Integrate federal and non-federal forest management to address insects and disease outbreaks, fuel loadings and other problems crossing ownership boundaries.	<p>Partners in the Blue Mountains of northeast Oregon and southeast Washington have turned the threat of wildfire into a chance for new collaboration. In 2013, implementation of the Northern Blue Mountain Cohesive Wildfire Strategy pilot project was initiated to address the three Cohesive Strategy goals: resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities and efficient, effective wildfire response. The pilot project seeks to bring strategic alignment to the efforts of stakeholders across nearly 3.5 million acres of Forest Service lands covering two national forests, more than 2 million acres of private land protected by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Washington Department of Natural Resources and approximately 2 million acres managed or protected by a variety of entities including the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Rural Fire Protection Districts.</p> <p>By collectively identifying goals and priorities for forest restoration, fuels reduction, and other work, implementation is focused on landscapes rather than ownership lines. This collaboration among stakeholders has resulted in the 75,000 acre "East Face" planning area for forest restoration activities across multiple land ownerships. "East Face" was identified through the West Wide Risk Assessment as a high priority area where uncharacteristically severe wildfire</p>

## National Priority 2. Protect Forests from Harm

OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
		<p>could occur. This project is truly an “all lands/all hands” landscape approach that includes nearly 40,000 acres of federal lands on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, 30,000 acres of private lands owned by over 100 different landowners and about 5,000 acres of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&amp;W) lands. A goal of the project will be to reduce fire extent, severity &amp; hazard across all ownerships through integrated forest treatments.</p> <p>The “all hands” aspect of this project is exemplified in the multiple agencies and landowners involved. The NRCS is providing financial assistance for non-industrial private landowners to conduct precommercial thinning and fuels reduction while ODF is providing the technical forestry assistance to the private forest landowners. To date, precommercial thinning has been completed on nearly 1500 acres of private land with another 3,200 acres under contract for treatment involving over 50 landowners. Through a cooperative agreement ODF is also providing forest management planning on ODF&amp;W ownership. The first 200 acre timber sale contract on ODF&amp;W lands has been awarded with the work to begin within the next year. This will mark one of ODF&amp;W’s first forest management efforts on their forestland in northeast Oregon since the land was purchased in the 1970’s. The USFS, working through the newly formed Wallowa Whitman Forest Collaborative Committee, has completed their “purpose and needs analysis” on the East Face project and are on schedule to have a final decision on their proposed forest treatments in late 2016.</p>
Restore the role of disturbance in forest ecosystems to improve upland and aquatic habitats.	Plan, conduct and monitor landscape scale thinning, slash treatment, prescribed burning and other treatment projects on private lands to restore the role of wildfire in forest ecosystems and to improve forest health and resiliency.	Not a focus at this time
	Develop forest management actions consistent with geomorphologic and ecological processes – such as flooding and landslides – that result in desired aquatic habitats.	Not a focus at this time
<p>Overall framework for implementation of resource strategies for invasive species.</p> <p>Eradicate <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> (the invasive pathogen causing sudden oak death).</p>	<p>Program development in forest invasive species education and outreach, prevention, early detection, rapid response, eradication, risk assessment, survey and monitoring, containment and restoration.</p> <p>Detection, eradication and post-treatment monitoring of all sites infested with <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>.</p> <p>Cost-share assistance and other incentives (biomass utilization) for</p>	<p><u>Coordination</u> – The Oregon Department of Forestry’s invasive species program works closely with the <u>Oregon Invasive Species Council</u> – a 17 member body set up in Oregon Statute (Oregon Revised Statute 570.755), of which 10 are appointed and serve two-year terms, and seven are ex-officio members. Appointed members represent a cross-section of Oregon agricultural government and business interests, and can include tribal sovereign nations and local governments as well as ports, aquaculture, and the pet, seed, nursery, and shipping industries. Ex-officio members are the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, <b>Oregon Department of Forestry</b>, Oregon Marine Board, Portland State University and the Sea Grant Program at Oregon State University. The scope of the Council is all invasive species taxa affecting Oregon’s natural resources and economic sectors including forest ecosystems and the forest sector. The Department currently (2015) serves as Chair of the Council.</p> <p>The Council’s <i>education and outreach</i> efforts focus on alerting Oregonians on the need to protect Oregon from invasive species. Highlights include the Council’s annual Report Card on how well the State of Oregon is performing on the invasive species front, the Council’s 100 Worst List which is designed to focus outreach, education and</p>



## National Priority 2. Protect Forests from Harm

OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
<p>Prevention of and early detection and rapid response to new introductions of invasive species.</p>	<p>conducting <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> host elimination prevention treatments.</p> <p>Research and laboratory support for <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> – fungicide treatments, biology and spread, risk maps, and host genetic resistances.</p> <p>Annual cooperative aerial survey of insects and disease.</p>	<p>prevention on the most unwanted invasive species yet to arrive to Oregon or whose current introduction is limited to a small, containable range. Other highlights include the Council’s high school media contest, annual awards campaign and partnership with Oregon Public Broadcasting’s “Silent Invasion” and “Stop the Invasion” programs. <i>Prevention</i> highlights include the Council’s development and promotion of regional and national outreach campaigns such as “Buy It Where You Burn It” (to prevent the movement of invasive species through firewood), “Squeal on Pigs” (to report sightings of feral swine), “Don’t Let it Loose” (to educate pet owners about not releasing unwanted pets and plants into the wild) and “Clean, Drain and Dry” (to prevent the movement of aquatic invasive species on boats and other recreational watercraft). <i>Reporting and mapping</i> highlights include the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline, Oregon Weedmapper, iMapInvasives, Pest Tracker and the US Geological Survey’s Nonindigenous Aquatic Species information page.</p> <p><u>Risk Assessment</u> – Specific to Oregon’s forests, the Department maintains lists of important forest invasive species as a means to prioritize outreach, prevention, early detection, control and management efforts. The first list is a “prevent” list, which includes organisms that have not been detected or are not currently widespread within the state but could cause significant harm if established. The second list is a “control” list, which includes organisms that are present in Oregon and currently causing significant ecological or economic harm to forest ecosystems. The remaining species are kept on a “watch” list, either because they are already widely established, but don’t appear to be damaging, or their negative effects are currently unknown. A “special” list was also created for four species that could easily be transported on firefighting equipment.</p> <p><u>Early Detection</u> – Since 2001, the Department has served as the lead agency for conducting sudden oak death (SOD) survey and detection efforts in Curry County. Sudden Oak Death – which kills tanoak in Oregon -- is caused by the invasive pathogen, <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>. Since 2013, the Department has coordinated the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine’s emerald ash borer trapping (EAB) program for western Oregon. The emerald ash borer is a non-native wood boring insect that has yet to be detected in Oregon but has the capacity to cause widespread mortality of Oregon’s native ash as well as in non-native ash species widely planted in urban and suburban landscapes. Recognizing that the (EAB) trapping program needs augmentation, the Department in 2014 assisted with Oregon State University Natural Resources and Forestry Extension Services’ piloting of the “Oregon Forest Pest Detector Program”. Other partners include the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), USDA Forest Service, and USDA APHIS. The purpose of the program is to train arborists, landscapers, and others on the early warning signs of EAB and another potential invasive wood borer, the Asian long horned beetle. The Department also assists ODA with the annual survey for invasive gypsy moths by placing pheromone traps at all EAB trapping sites. In 2013, the Department deployed traps detected two moths near Grants Pass; the only detections for gypsy moth statewide.</p> <p><u>Survey and Monitoring</u> – For 68 years running, the Department has cooperated with the USDA Forest Service in conducting an annual aerial survey of Oregon forestlands for insect, disease and abiotic damage. In 2001, the cooperative aerial survey first detected SOD in Oregon. In 2014, the Department conducted a special aerial survey for the invasive forest weed, gorse. Gorse has many traits undesirable to both agriculture and forestry operations in western Oregon: it can quickly out shade and kill conifer seedlings; it is an undesirable forage species that can quickly invade and dominant pastures, and constitutes a wildfire hazard due to its propensity to burn. The survey covered 300,000 acres in Coos and Curry counties and mapped 6,230 acres of gorse. The purpose of the survey - which was requested by cooperators in the region - was to document areas of rapidly growing populations so as to prioritize where</p>

## National Priority 2. Protect Forests from Harm

OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
		<p>response was needed.</p> <p><u>Containment</u> – The Department is responsible for conducting eradication treatments around new SOD infestations detected on non-federal land. This is part of a multi-agency effort to slow disease spread within Curry County. Disease spread is managed through an ODA designation of a SOD quarantine. The quarantine requires infested sites outside of a designated Generally Infested Area to undergo eradication treatment, prohibits the movement of infected material outside of the quarantine area, specifies the best practices to apply when moving host plant material from infested sites and sets forth requirements for disease free certification when moving uninfected host material to areas outside the quarantine. Other cooperators are the USDA Forest Service, the US Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State University, the USDA Agricultural Research Service Horticultural Crops Research Unit and affected private forestland owners. Sudden oak death continues to intensify and spread in Curry County. Most new infestations outside of the Generally Infested Area are on non-federal land including one detection that triggered a 2015 expansion to the quarantine area.</p> <p><u>Strategies – Next Five Years</u> - The Department will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue SOD survey, detection and monitoring efforts in Curry County and serve as the lead for implementing eradication treatments of new infestations on non-federal lands.</li> <li>• Work with agency partners and stakeholder interests in the evaluation of the SOD slow the spread program including the development of alternative strategies for further discussion with the Governor’s Office, the Board and the Oregon Legislature.</li> <li>• Develop an early detection and rapid response program for the emerald ash borer and Asian long horned beetle so these invaders do not become established in Oregon. This will involve expanding the pilot Forest Detector Program statewide, evaluating the cost and efficacy of the USDA APHIS EAB trapping program and how this program can be tailored to fit within the Forest Detector Program and developing an Oregon response plan for eradication efforts.</li> <li>• Provide technical assistance to Department field units, private forestland owners, and other interests on the prevention, control and management of forest invasive species.</li> <li>• Develop or adapt Best Management Practices for priority invasive species in need of management and control using Integrated Pest Management principles.</li> <li>• Participate in field trials and applied research involving forest invasive species control with an emphasis on biological control agents for establish forest weeds like Scotch Broom.</li> <li>• Continue our role on the Oregon Invasive Species Council.</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges</u> – The biggest challenge to working in the invasive species arena is the enormity of possible threat to Oregon’s natural resources and the economies that depend on them. For example, the Department’s prevention and control lists of unwanted forest invasive species runs into the hundreds. And this does not even take into account that the biggest threat may be from invasive species that have yet to be identified or known as was the case when SOD was first detected in Oregon. (As a result of not knowing the species responsible for SOD originally, Oregon could not access federal response funding and capacity through USDA APHIS.)</p>

## National Priority 2. Protect Forests from Harm

OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
		<p>Underlying this challenge is a lack of funding and capacity to proactively and systematically conduct outreach, education, prevention, early detection and rapid response to new forest invaders. The biggest constraint is the lack of adequate emergency funds to quickly respond to the detection of a new forest invasive species such as EAB or Asian long horned beetle. Current emergency funds include a modest fund administered by the Oregon Invasive Species Council and a response fund specific to detections within the plant nursery sector.</p> <p>The first step the Department can take toward addressing this challenge is to draw from the lessons learned with SOD and evaluate and formalize the Department’s capacity with respect to invasive species preparedness and response including: (1) more explicitly defining the criteria where ODF should be the lead agency in responding to a new detection of an unwanted species, (2) an accounting of the tools we have at our disposal to support response (i.e., control districts, incident management structure), (3) an accounting of existing funding mechanisms available and (4) the gaps (including funding) that compromise agency preparedness to respond.</p>

### National Priority 3. Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests

OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
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### National Priority 3. Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests

OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
Secure an equitable share and stable source of public funding for fire protection.	Explore and pursue significant improvements to the structure and funding of the Oregon Department of Forestry’s budget.	<p>In response to recent severe fire seasons, the Oregon Legislature passed the Wildfire Protection Act (WPA) in 2013 that does three things to increase the agency’s capacity in preparedness, prevention and suppression of wildfires. The WPA includes provisions to increase severity dollars that allow firefighting resources to be prepositioned and ready prior to events. The WPA also provides dollars to help offset the high cost of fire preparedness on the East side of Oregon along with phasing in the sharing of large fire costs with the General Fund and landowner funds.</p> <p>In addition to the WPA, during the 2015 session, the Oregon Legislature requested a review of how large fires are funded and agreed to participate in the process. This committee will review the funding structure for large fires and make recommendation to the Legislature in 2016.</p>
Expand public outreach and education about wildfire prevention measures.	Expand outreach and education about wildfire prevention in the wildland urban interface to reduce the wildfire risks to homes and private property.	<p>Prevention and preparedness activities are developed and implemented in a collaborative manner to ensure consistency in messaging and efficient use of resources. At the state level, the WUI Prevention Team (consisting of ODF, the State Fire Marshall’s Office and Keep Oregon Green) develops wildland fire safety and prevention messages and other tools targeted toward diverse user groups that are distributed to local entities for use during Wildfire Awareness Month and Fire Season. This team also plans a coordinated a bi-annual WUI Prevention Conference designed to bridge the gap between structural and wildland fire prevention and response efforts.</p> <p>ODF has been working closely with landowners of rangeland in eastern Oregon and the Board of Forestry to develop Rangeland Protection Associations (RPA). There are now 20 RPA’s throughout eastern Oregon and during the 2015 session, the Oregon Legislature adopted new laws to continue assisting and helping fund RPA’s in their development.</p> <p>In addition, the Oregon Forestland Urban Interface Act of 1997 (SB 360) requires forest landowners to create defensible space and self-certify this work with ODF in order to limit potential liability for fire suppression costs.</p> <p>At the regional/county level, Fire Prevention Cooperatives provide a means for coordinated prevention education efforts. These Cooperatives work with schools and other use groups to educate the public about fire prevention.</p> <p>At the local community level, the National Fire Protection Agency’s Firewise Communities USA program provides an avenue for making neighborhoods more wildfire resilient. ODF and the local RFPD work with these communities to understand their hazards and develop an action plan. The NFPA recognizes communities’ efforts to become more fire adapted by giving them, the Firewise designation. Oregon currently has 87 recognized Firewise Communities.</p> <p><i>Implementation challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There are communities at risk to wildfire in the state that do not have organized fire protection, which makes fire prevention and response efforts exceedingly difficult.</li> <li>▪ Consistent funding from Forest Service is always an issue because there is a great demand for suppression funding, especially in rural areas.</li> <li>▪ SB 360 is not being implemented in a number of Oregon Counties due to lack of funding and local understanding/support for the program.</li> </ul>

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OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
		<p><i>Focus for the next five years</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to work with unprotected communities through the Firewise Program to become self-reliant in order to prevent, respond and recover from wildfires.</li> <li>▪ Administer a fair and equitable process to distribute the VFA funding in areas of highest need and risk.</li> <li>▪ Work collaboratively with RFPD’s to ensure that they have the training and equipment necessary to effectively respond to a wildfire event.</li> <li>▪ Continue to work with counties and the legislature to gain the funding and support necessary for SB 360 implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>Assist communities in hazardous fuel treatment planning, implementation and monitoring.</p>	<p>Plan and conduct fuel breaks, thinning, pruning, landscape modifications and other hazardous fuel reduction projects that modify or break up the fuels in such a way as to lesson catastrophic fire and its threat to public and firefighter safety and damage to property.</p>	<p>Please see page 9, “Actively manage forests at risk of uncharacteristically sever wildfire”</p>
	<p>Conduct inspections; demonstration projects; fire safe groups; training and education of homeowners and others about providing space around homes and structures that will limit the wildfire spread to provide a safer environment for defending homes and structures.</p>	<p>Please see page 13, “Expand public outreach and education about wildfire prevention measures”</p>
<p>Assist communities in hazardous fuel treatment planning, implementation and monitoring.</p>	<p>Provide technical and financial assistance in Community Wildfire Protection Planning.</p>	<p>Please see page 2, “Assist farm, ranch and family forest landowners in their management of wildfire risk”</p>
<p>Develop a variety of end use markets for forest products and environmental services.</p>	<p>Develop end use markets for small diameter trees, slash and other forest residue as a means to make needed fuel treatment practices pay for themselves; thereby expanding the level of investment in fuel treatment projects.</p>	<p>Not a focus at this time</p>
<p>Maintain forest cover and connectivity within rural-urban forest areas.</p>	<p>Ensure active management of urban forests through inventory, planning, tree care, management and monitoring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief summary of implementation highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ODF’s U&amp;CF program has made education a top priority. We pioneered the Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI) concept back in 1994 – providing an intensive crash-course in urban forestry for municipal employees. We are now partnering with the Washington DNR on this course, offered every other year to city employees who have tree related responsibilities. Over 150 people have completed the course. Over the last</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
	<p>Foster homeowner, public community and local or regional government understanding of the importance of Oregon’s urban-rural forests to habitats along streams, wildlife corridors and parks and other open space.</p>	<p>five years, we have shifted this course from a place-based one to a hybrid course – partially place-based and partially online. This has cut travel costs for employees and helped strengthen the curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ODF’s U&amp;CF program has also cooperated with Oregon State University to establish the first online undergraduate and graduate urban forestry degrees fully available online anywhere in the U.S. Students from around the US and the World can earn a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in Natural Resources with an Urban Forestry emphasis.</li> <li>• A brief summary of implementation challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Funding continues to be an issue, as the adjusted-for-inflation value of the federal investment in Oregon is now less than it was in 1991.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identify the implementation focus for the next five years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ODF is exploring new online courses in a variety of urban forestry topics to help educate an even broader group of urban forestry and natural resource professionals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identify data needs or new issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ODF recently (2014) completed its 10 year urban forestry city survey. This information will help us target educational needs even further. One area we don’t know much about is in regards to Tree Boards – the citizen advisory boards that help cities manage their urban forests. No national study of tree board members has ever been attempted. This information would be of great value if the US Forest Service would sponsor such a study. It makes no sense to limit it just to Oregon – every state has this same issue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Develop diverse markets for Oregon’s timber and remove market barriers for wood products.</p>	<p>Develop an Oregon Wood First Program to raise awareness among designers, architects, builders, code officials and various levels of government of the opportunities to use Oregon wood to meet green building standards.</p>	<p>Not a focus at this time</p>
<p>Maintain and enhance important fish and wildlife habitats on forestland.</p>	<p>Develop block grant cost-share programs to implement conservation actions from private family forestlands consistent with regional and statewide conservation plans like the <i>Oregon Conservation Strategy</i>, the <i>Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds</i> and <i>Native Fish Conservation Plans</i>.</p>	<p>Not a focus at this time</p>
	<p>Encourage the use of Stewardship Agreements as an incentive for achieving needed conservation outcomes on private forestlands that exceed regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>Limited focus as resources become available.</p>
<p>Maintain habitat features and</p>	<p>Effective administration, educational</p>	<p>See “Monitoring and research on water quality and best management practices for forestlands”, page 16.</p>

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OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
conditions for fish and wildlife residency and movement.	assistance, enforcement and landowner recognition of Oregon Forest Practices Act resource protection measures.	
	Provide technical and financial assistance in forest management planning.	See “Assist family forestland owners with their management of forests”, page 3.
Maintain and improve programs that support voluntary conservation actions.	Improve data management, coordination and sharing between various conservation partners to support voluntary conservation.	ODF is in the process of conducting a voluntary measures survey to identify improvements made to aquatic, riparian and upland habitat, as well as roads and stream crossings under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The survey will determine the types of voluntary measures that are most frequently implemented, identify barriers to implementation/reporting and tell the success story of voluntary measures on forestlands in Oregon
Develop ecosystem services markets or market based payment mechanisms for conservation.	Participate in the development of innovative market based ecosystem services programs.	Not a focus at this time
Reduce runoff from impervious surfaces in business and residential urban areas.	Ensure active management of urban and urban-rural forests to maintain tree canopy cover, parks and open space to reduce impervious surface area and intercept storm water runoff.	Not a focus at this time
Monitoring and research on water quality and best management practices for forestlands.	Compliance auditing and effectiveness monitoring of the Oregon Forest Practices Act water protection rules with respect to their role as best management practices designed to meet Oregon’s water quality standards for temperature, sediment and toxicity.	<p>The Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA) contains a set of best management practices and prescriptive rules in the areas of reforestation, harvesting, forest road construction and maintenance, slash disposal, chemical application, riparian area and wetland protection, and specified resource site (wildlife habitat) protection. Department policy attempts to gain compliance with the FPA through a program that maintains an effective balance of science and technology-based rules, incentives, educational and technical assistance, and uniform enforcement. The purposes of FPA administration are to help landowners meet their objectives while complying with the rules, educate responsible parties who have violated rules to avoid future violations, and repair to the extent possible damage that has occurred. Department Stewardship Foresters provide on-the-ground administration and enforcement of the FPA by inspecting priority operations for compliance.</p> <p>The department has hired an independent contractor, who collected data in 2013 and 2014. These initial efforts focus on key FPA rules for roads and harvesting that are suitable to numeric evaluation. This audit provides data that demonstrates the effectiveness of the department by indicating how well forest operators are complying with the rules, and indicate the implementation of the Forest Practices Act across the landscape.</p> <p>Challenges: Forest operations that are found to be in violation of FPA statutes and rules are the result of landowners’ lack of knowledge or unwillingness to follow the law. The availability of Department field foresters has a direct bearing on landowner knowledge, and a somewhat indirect bearing on a landowner’s willingness to follow the law. As new rules are developed and new operators/landowners become active, the department will work with landowners, operators, and educational partners to provide adequate education to maintain a high level of compliance.</p>



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OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
		<p>Future Actions: The department needs to continue to support operator training and education to maintain high compliance. The FPA compliance audit will be an annual occurrence. Future discussions will include a review of additional BMPs and rules to include in the audit.</p> <p>Conduct long-term paired watershed studies throughout Oregon that evaluate the environmental effects on water and fish of contemporary forest management practices now in use on younger intensively managed forests.</p>
<p>Maintain and restore forest riparian and wetland conditions on agricultural and range lands.</p>	<p>Provide technical and financial assistance in management planning.</p>	<p>Limited focus as resources become available.</p>
	<p>Coordinated resource management planning —one stop web based tool kit that meets agricultural, forestry and fish and wildlife management planning requirements (e.g., core template, —add-ons templates by resource emphasis, geographic information system (GIS) plan development and tracking tools.</p>	<p>Not a focus at this time</p>
	<p>Steer cost-share programs to implement specific water quality protection measures such as restoring geomorphological stream functions, riparian forest conditions, wetlands and off channel habitats on agricultural, range and private family forestlands.</p>	<p>Limited focus as grant funding opportunities become available.</p>
	<p>Update the 1995 Memorandum of Agreement between the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Department of Agriculture regarding the regulation of pesticide use on state, private and local government forestlands.</p>	<p>Not a focus at this time</p>
	<p>Develop Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships to monitor current use forest pesticides in surface waters, identify streams with elevated pesticide concentrations, develop and implement voluntary best management practices to correct problems and conduct following</p>	<p>Since 2010, two new Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) areas have been established that provide a picture of pesticide use on forestland. In one area, monitoring began in 2010 with input from local forestland owners and monitoring was refined based on input from forestland owners and additional analytes are now being tested for.</p> <p>In 2013, the overall PSP program was fully funded by the Oregon Legislature, allowing the PSP program member agencies to evaluate possible expansion into new watersheds. Just recently a new PSP watershed was established, bringing the total number of current PSP watersheds to nine. This new watershed will provide information about several land use categories including forestland.</p>

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OPPORTUNITY	GOAL	STRATEGIC ACTION
	<p>monitoring to measure results with respect to water quality improvements.</p>	<p>Overall, the PSP program has been highly successful in terms of reducing off-target movement of pesticides and gaining support from local groups.</p> <p>Future work includes keeping up with new pesticides entering the marketplace and developing exit strategies/success stories where PSPs have proven successful.</p>