



Promoting and practicing sustainable forestry

2009 – 2011 BUDGET BACKGROUNDER



Developing Budget Additions

An Overview

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is currently developing budget proposals, based on priorities established by the Governor and by the Board of Forestry, through its *Forestry Program for Oregon*. The Governor's priorities include addressing climate change and challenges related to water quality and supply. Healthy, sustainable forests can help significantly with these issues, and we are considering this in building our budget.

Through July, ODF will be working on proposals for budget additions – requests to fund services or initiatives beyond the regular base budget – for submission to the Governor and his staff. Many of these proposals are continuing to evolve, and the department seeks public input during this process.

Fire Protection

Wildfire Reduction Act. This proposal provides investments “up front” to increase capacity in districts that experience the highest occurrence of large fires, and to maintain or increase availability of air attack and move-up resources during the periods of highest fire threat. The concept calls for additional investment of state General Funds, with the goal of reducing the number of fires that escape initial attack to become large and very costly. An accompanying legislative concept also proposes restructuring of the way in which the state and landowners share the costs of wildfire suppression.

Added capacity for district fire operations. Provides five seasonal positions to manage contracted airplanes and helicopters during periods of highest fire danger; a rangeland association coordinator; and one position to provide year-round support and maintenance for fire cache work.

Increase District per-acre, large-fire deductible. This proposal provides landowner assessment dollars and state General Funds to cover the higher deductible. Per-acre assessment rates would increase from 8 cents to 10 cents for timber acres, and from 4 cents to 5 cents for grazing acres.

Fire season severity resources. This request seeks General Funds for supplemental firefighting resources to be used during period of highest fire danger. The funds would not be in ODF's budget, but would make up a requested special purpose appropriation in the budget the Governor recommends to the Legislature.

Fire protection contract administration. The proposal seeks two staff for Interagency Fire Suppression Crew Contract development, administration and compliance monitoring.

State Forests

Protecting working forests, land acquisition. ODF has proposed legislation allowing the agency to pursue a one-time transaction in Eastern Oregon that would bring into public ownership (in exchange for limited, specific transfer of development rights) blocks of forestland that otherwise would likely be divided into smaller pieces. The land would be managed to provide a broad range of benefits. (Proposal in preliminary stages)



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State Forests (Cont.)

General forestland acquisitions to protect special resources and mitigate climate change. A separate proposal would provide for acquisitions of smaller forested parcels with unique habitat or other values, in proximity to existing state forestland in Western Oregon. Both acquisition proposals would be funded with timber sale revenues.

Improve forest management plans. This proposal would enable the agency to support continued implementation of plans for the Tillamook, Clatsop and Elliott State Forests.

Services for Urban, Interface and Family-owned Forests

Reinventing the Private and Urban Forestry Programs. This proposal addresses needs in urban growth boundaries and fills the gap between the two programs by helping landowners, cities and counties address forestry issues in the interface, and by improving retention of forest values during development. It also provides capacity to address issues affecting the sustainability of family forestlands, and to develop valid compliance and effectiveness monitoring / auditing of management practices on private forestlands.

Private Forests

Sudden Oak Death monitoring. This proposal provides capacity for continued aerial and ground monitoring of the spread of the disease, while further strategies to fight SOD are developed.

Watershed Research Cooperative. This proposal seeks funding to continue involvement in cooperative research projects involving the protection, maintenance and enhancement of soil and water resources in forests.

Administration

Board and Department resource policies, and high-quality information. This proposal provides capacity to support:

- involvement in **land use planning**.
- involvement in **federal forest management** and development of federal natural resources policy.
- promoting **forest biomass use** for renewable energy and restoration of forest health.
- evaluating alternative landscape management strategies for achieving **sustainable forest management**, and forests' mitigation of and adaptation to **climate change**.
- intensifying monitoring of **water quality** trends on forestland.

Improving business systems and enhancing technology capacity. Two proposals would continue the evaluation and improvement of business systems and support state enterprise-level information technology projects, including required security improvements and data / records management.

Human Resources capacity. This proposal would increase staffing and capacity for issues including succession management, recruitment and hiring, and training.

Business Services capacity. This request seeks needed staff to address procurement and facilities management needs, to mitigate agency risks, and to meet workload demands resulting from added state and federal requirements.

Allocation of agency-wide administrative costs. This package revises methods for financing agency administrative costs in support of the Fire Program, and redistributes administrative costs across all programs so that they are more closely proportional to workload.

Capital construction. This proposal would address capital construction needs at the Western Lane and Forest Grove offices, the State Forester's Building in Salem, and the Tillamook Forest Center (a donation-funded education shelter is proposed).