Oregon's Response to Wildfire Risk

Mar Alask Alask

A Journey Towards Landscape Resilience

THURSDAY, July 17, 2024



Oregon's Response to Wildfire Risk "A Journey Towards Landscape Resilience"



THE 20-YEAR STRATEGY

The Future of Landscape Resiliency in Oregon



A Cohesive Approach Towards Landscape Resiliency

20-Year Landscape Resileincy Strategy

> Shared priorities and coordinated actions and investments

 \rightarrow

Healthy and resilient landscapes supporting Oregon's social, economic and ecological needs for future generations.

Shared Stewardship Governance and Engagement

7

Shared Stewardship Partnerships



Governor's Office



Oregon Department of Forestry



USDA Forest Service



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



Bureau of Indian Affairs



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



Bureau of Land Management



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Resilient Landscapes Actions



Resilient Landscapes Investments





Aligning Actions and Funding in High Priority Areas



Priority Next Steps

- Interagency Dashboard
- Regional Partnerships, Assessments, and Planning
- 2nd Landscape Resiliency Summit
- Securing Increased and Sustainable Funding



Extra Slides

Kickoff to Implemention

Documents ODF Progress Report 20-Year Strategy Booklet

Inaugural Summit Nov 1, 2023 Hood River

2024 Workplan Key Projects and Priorities for 2024



2023 SUMMIT

Oregon's Shared Stewardship Governance Structure

Strategic Leadership Group

Oregon Department of Forestry: State Forester Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife: Director Oregon Water Enhancement Board: Director United States Forest Service: Regional Forester Natural Resource Conservation Service: State Conservationist Bureau of Land Management: State Director Bureau of Indian Affairs: Regional Director

Sovereign Nations

Government-to-Government engagement concerning Strategy implementation funding and potential collaborative project opportunities.

Scientific & Resource Assessment

Provide scientifically based information to make resource decisions. Established iterative process.

Communications

Executes a multi-agency communication strategy. Provides clear, concise, and consistent messaging.

Agency Coordination & Implementation Group

Oregon Department of Forestry Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Oregon Water Enhancement Board United States Forest Service Natural Resource Conservation Service Bureau of Land Management

Interagency Tribal Liaisons

Elevate Tribal voices, sovereignty and culture into decision making.

Establish and maintain effective relations and communications and promote greater awareness and mutual understanding of activities and concerns.

Statewide Agency Group

Advise on implementation approaches, provide expertise, contribute to policy improvements, and help ensure efficient and effective investments.

Regional Engagement

 \rightarrow

Advance project planning and implementation. Identify regional needs, barriers, solutions and priorities. Support regional education and outreach efforts.

VISION

Healthy and resilient landscapes supporting Oregon's social, economic, and ecological needs for future generations.

Strategic Elements

- Reduce wildfire risk to communities
- Adapt ecological systems to persist in a changing climate
- Create functional aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems
- Support vibrant local economies
- Protect healthy watersheds and water resources
- Provide quality outdoor opportunities for all Oregonians
- Promote equity through the stewardship of landscapes

Shared Principles

<u>Principle 1</u>: Fund and support the development of locally led and collaboratively developed landscape assessments and plans that identify priority geographies and actions for landscape resiliency and wildfire risk reduction.

<u>Principle 2</u>: Commit to long-term participation and membership in the shared stewardship governance structure.





Shared Principles

<u>Principle 3</u>: Commit to supporting a science, information, and assessment network by providing information, expertise, and resources.

Principle 4: Commit to identifying and supporting capacity across Oregon by collectively working together to monitor and adapt to make this strategy successful.

Goals

GOAL 1

Landscape Condition

Shift the incidence, frequency, and severity of wildfires toward a desired condition by maintaining and restoring landscapes in Oregon that are resilient to extreme fire, drought, insects, and diseases.

GOAL 2

Governance & Engagement

Maintain a high functioning collaborative governance structure that allows for shared decision making; ensures fairness in distribution of benefits, costs, and risks; supports efficiencies and alignment across boundaries; engages Tribes, community and interest groups, scientists, and local partnerships and collaboratives; and is adaptable to changing conditions.

GOAL 3

Communication & Awareness

Increase public awareness of the inevitability of wildfire, the importance of understanding how to live safely with wildfire, and current progress towards landscape resilience and wildfire risk reduction.

•••



2

Goals

GOAL 4

Capacity & Readiness

Make collaborative planning and implementation capacity of agencies, Tribes, local partnerships, and workforce commensurate with the scale of wildfire risk reduction and landscape resiliency treatments needed across Oregon.

GOAL 5

Funding

Establish a diverse and stable funding portfolio of federal, state, and private sources commensurate with needs to achieve intended quality, pace and scale of resilience treatments and support the capacity and readiness of partner entities.

GOAL 6

Tracking, Reporting & Updating

Track progress and provide real time reporting that displays relevant information based on progress towards landscape resiliency goals and metrics, including investments, actions, and outcomes that can be displayed publicly. Update the strategy as new information becomes available and is deemed necessary.

Geographic Prioritization Process & Methodology



Wildfire Risk & Landscape Health Watershed Summaries



Refining the Results





Estimated Acres and Costs

| Ecosystem | Acres | Avg Treatment Cost per Acre | Estimated Treatment Cost |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Forest | 5.2 Million | \$1,000.00 | \$5.2 Billion |
| Rangeland | 7.9 Million | \$311 | \$2.5 Billion |
| Total | 13.1 Million | | \$7.7 Billion |

Regional Partnerships, Assessments, and Planning

Desired Outcome

- Framework that Strengthens Partnerships
- Supports Regional Prioritization and Planning
- Directs Resources towards Greatest Need & Opportunity
- Alignment with 20-Year Strategy

Regions

- 7 Regions
- Based on Eco-types
- Adjusted for Agency Administrative Boundaries

Scale:

Average: 8 Million Acres (4 million – 16 million)



Regional Landscapes

Desired Outcome:

- Regional Shared Stewardship Ethos
- Alignment with 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy
- Direct resources towards priority projects and actions.

Agency Leadership:

Tribal Nations:

• Tribal Lands

- ODF District Forester
- USFS Forest Supervisor
- BLM District Manager
- NRCS Basin Team Leader

Process:

- 1. Shared Stewardship Agreements / MOU's
- 2. Regional Assessments
- 3. Identify Priority Projects
- 4. Set Metrics, Identity Barriers and Needs
- 5. Develop Funding/Financial Plan
- 6. Direct Resources, Overcome Barriers

Partners:

- Tribal Communities
- Collaboratives and Partnerships
- Others





Landscape Project Area

Desired Outcome:

- Shared Priority Project Areas
- Areas of the Greatest Need
- Cross Boundary, Landscape Scale

Scale:

• 150,000 – 250,000 acres

Project Planning

- 5-Year Workplans, 20-Year Outlook
- Identified Metrics for Success
- Identified Priority Actions
- Implement using all available tools



For Illustrative Purposes Only