



Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
Senate Bill 762 Forest Resiliency and
Restoration Investments Working Group
Collaboration Principles

For any collaborative process, the participants should establish procedures to govern the work group and its members. Such agreement increases success and decreases meeting time by assuring a good faith process that explores competing needs and leads to balanced recommendations to the sponsor.

I. Background

Senate Bill (SB) 762, sections 18–20, (Reduction of Wildfire Risk) requires the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to implement a treatment program to reduce wildfire risk on public and private forestlands and rangelands, within communities near homes and critical infrastructure, through restoration of landscape resiliency and reduction of hazardous fuels.

The bill requires ODF to consult and cooperate with Oregon State University Extension, state and federal agencies, counties, cities, other units of local government, Indian tribes, public and private forestland and rangeland owners, forest collaboratives, and other relevant community organizations to select projects for treatment. The bill establishes minimum criteria for project selection and design and prohibits commercial thinning on specified protected lands.

ODF will design and implement the program to ensure the process is consistent with established legislative objectives. ODF will support project selection, monitoring, and evaluation, administer grants and agreements as well as report on program outcomes. This will be done through consultation and cooperation with participants, ample public notice, and allow reasonable opportunity for public input when identifying and selecting landscapes.

The bill outlines reporting requirements for ODF to provide the status of the program development and implementation by January 15, 2022, and again upon completion of projects by June 30, 2023.

II. Scope & Charge

The Forest Restoration and Resiliency Investment Work Group (WG) is not a policy-making body or rules committee. It is an advisory Work Group. The WG is charged with providing perspective, input, and collaboration to ODF to develop a Program for SB 762 sections 18 through 20. ODF will rely on WG results to inform criteria and recommendations surrounding SB 762 sections 18 through 20 for its allocation of landscape resiliency and hazardous fuel reduction funds. The WG is not charged with making recommendations on the 20-year strategic plan or the small forestland grant program described in Section 24, though results from the WG are intended to help inform the strategic plan.

The WG is charged with developing a list of criteria for project selection as well as identifying priority landscapes delineating geographical areas for the WG to approve based on:

- Lands in the four highest eNVC risk classes identified in the United States Forest Service report titled “Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment: Methods and Results” and dated April 9, 2018; and
- inclusive of federal lands with treatment projects currently approved under the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and
- treatments that are protective of human life, property, critical infrastructure, watershed health and forest or rangeland habitat restoration; and
- part of a collaborative partnership with agreements across diverse forestland or rangeland stakeholders that use an expansive, landscape-scale approach to address underlying causes of poor wildfire resilience and elevated risk of wildfire or that establish innovative approaches to addressing the underlying causes that could be implemented on a larger scale; and
- to the extent practicable, identify and support projects that are designed to:
 - Evaluate varying types of fuel treatment methods.
 - Leverage the collective power of public-private partnerships and federal and state funding, including leverage of the coordination of funding to support collaborative initiatives.
- optimize the receipt of federal government investments that equal or exceed department investments; and
- design of the projects involves existing forest-based and range-based contracting entities; and
- design of the project complements programs and projects of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and other state agencies where possible.

III. Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles will be used in the Forest Restoration and Resiliency Investment Work Group regarding SB 762.

- Objective, scientific, quantifiable data is the cornerstone of recommendations.
- Recommendations will pertain exclusively to the requirements of Sections 18-20 of Senate Bill 762.
- Members are encouraged to reach out to additional stakeholders for technical support and to improve consensus.
- To the extent possible, solution-based input will be prioritized over the identification or discussion of barriers.
- Incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and climate smart forestry into recommendations.
- Develop criteria, assess proposals, and award funding.
- ODF will follow state Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and governmental accounting and principles of grant management (no decision space).

- Ensure a welcoming meeting environment where all members can participate.
- Ensure a safe environment for alternative opinions to be expressed.
- Conduct meetings in a manner to foster collaborative decision-making and consensus building.

IV. Membership

The following members will provide their diverse perspectives on identifying strategic landscapes that are ready for treatment, developing program and project selection criteria and reviewing and recommending applications for awards.

Organization	Work Group Member
The Nature Conservancy	Pete Caliguiuri
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Andrew Owen
Oregon State University	EJ Davis
United States Forest Service	Dana Skelly
Oregon Wild	Chandra LeGue
Association of Oregon Loggers	Amanda Astor
Bureau of Land Management	Paul Tigan
Sustainable Northwest	Dylan Kruse
Ashland Fire	Chris Chambers

Each member is allowed to assign an alternate by providing written notice to Jeff Burns in advance of the meeting the primary member will miss jeff.d.burns@oregon.gov.

Oregon’s nine federally recognized Tribes have been invited to participate as Technical Advisors for the Group and welcome and available to provide expertise throughout the process.

ODF staff Jeff Burns & Alex Rahmlow (Partnership & Planning Program), Kyle Sullivan (Federal Forest Restoration Program Lead), Jenna Trentadue (National Fire Plan Coordinator), Jason Pettigrew (Stewardship Forester) and others will be present during the meetings as technical advisors, but they are not part of the WG.

V. Subcommittees

ODF, with WG input, will evaluate the need for subcommittees, factoring in resource considerations, but none are planned at this time.

VI. WG Material and Support

ODF will develop Agendas for each meeting. Meeting agendas and meeting materials will be sent electronically to WG members in advance of the meetings and will be posted on the project website.

Meeting agendas, summaries, and supporting documentation will be posted on the following webpage: www.oregon.gov/odf

Technical input from agencies, organizations, or individuals with specialized expertise will be available to the WG as issues or needs arise. Each agenda may, at the discretion of the WG, provide an opportunity for Technical Advisors to present information and options.

VII. Tentative Work Plan/Schedule

The WG will meet according to the draft work plan outlined below, which is subject to change. There is an expectation that the Work Group will meet in October to develop a request for proposals (RFP) that will include specific criteria for successful projects.

Meeting 1: September 15, 2021

- Introductions
- Review timeline
- Work Group expectations and principles of collaboration
- Review SB 762, Sections 18-20
- Discuss high priority landscapes
- Example of success - Eboard process
- Meeting evaluation / wrap up

Meeting 2: Week of Oct. 4th

- Continue informational discussion Q&A
- Begin developing program and project selection criteria
- Next steps and homework
- Meeting Evaluation / Wrap up

Meeting 3: Week of Oct. 18th

- Introduce proposed draft language for RFP
- Next steps and homework
- Meeting evaluation / wrap up

Meeting 4: Week of Oct. 25th

- Finalize RFP language and open proposal dates
- Review scoring and awarding process
- ODF grant agreement process and timeline
- Next steps
- Meeting Evaluation / wrap up

VIII. Public Comment

There will be public comment opportunities throughout the process. Comments from the public will be limited to emails addressed to odf.restoration@oregon.gov. Public comments will be summarized in advance of the meetings so they can be circulated to the entire WG for their consideration.

Summary of WG Recommendations: The meeting summaries will serve as the record of WG recommendations and supplemented by the addition of WG member statements who elect to submit additional information by the deadline to be established at the last WG meeting. ODF will package this information in a final report to the WG. This documentation is intended to make improvements to ensure a transparent, sustainable, and robust process that can be called upon for future efforts.

IX. Additional Provisions

a) Potential Conflicts of Interest:

- The WG members are obligated to conduct business in a professional, honest, and fully transparent way. Considering the wide range of professional and private interests embodied in the Work Group, we ask that you take the appropriate opportunities to disclose any potential conflicts of interest each time the issue giving rise to the conflict of interest is discussed or acted upon.
- When the WG moves into the reviewing, scoring and ranking grant proposals phase, we will revisit potential or perceived conflicts of interest and provide detailed instructions on awarding applications.
- WG members always have the opportunity and are encouraged to privately discuss any issues that may be perceived as conflicts of interest with the facilitator outside of scheduled meetings.