

**State and Private Forestry
FY 2010 Western Competitive
Resource Allocation
Single-State Project Proposal**

Filename	
OR_Endorsement	
Administration Information	
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$249,375
Matching Share:	\$255,645

Applicant Information	
State Forestry Agency:	Oregon Department of Forestry
Contact Person:	Peter Daugherty
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Project Information			
Descriptive Title of Project:	Uniform Forest Resource Plan and Endorsement System		
Names of Partnering Agencies / Organizations:	American Forest Foundation/Oregon Tree Farm System, Association of Consulting Foresters, Forest Stewardship Council, Northwest Natural Resource Group, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon State University Extension, USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA-Forest Service Cooperative Forestry.		
State(s):	Oregon	Congressional Districts:	Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Counties:	All 36 Oregon Counties	Forest Service Regions:	6

Total Leverage							
Please specify each 3 rd party contributor (partnering organizations and agencies, including other Federal) and the dollar value of each contribution. Please DO NOT show grant requested funds in this table.							
Contributors: (Please specify by name)	AFF-OR Tree Farm System	Assoc. of Consulting Forester	NW Natural Resource Group	OR Forest Resource Institute	OR Small Woodlands Assoc.	OR State Univ. Extension	TOTAL
Value of Contributions:	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$150,000

Project Budget					
	Grant Share (\$ requested)	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	TOTAL	
		Cash ¹	In-Kind ²		
4	Personnel / Labor:	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$84,000	\$184,000
	Fringe Benefits:	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$36,000	\$79,000
	Travel:	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
	Equipment:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Supplies:	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$22,000
	Contractual:	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
	Construction:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Other:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Indirect Costs:	\$11,875	\$18,145		\$30,020
	TOTAL:	\$249,375	\$105,645	\$150,000	\$505,020

Project Duration	
5	What is the duration of this project? <input type="checkbox"/> One Year <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two Years <input type="checkbox"/> Three Years

National Relevance	
6	Conserve Working Forest Landscapes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect Forests From Harm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Public Benefits From Trees and Forests <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Project Description	
7	<p>Maximum 5500 Characters Including Spaces – Clearly summarize the proposed project, including goals, objectives, measurable outputs, outcomes, and how grant funds will be used towards successful completion of the project.</p> <p>Synopsis: This project will develop and pilot a uniform resource plan and endorsement system. The uniform system will facilitate a common approach to resource management planning and leverage services of existing planning entities, including Oregon Department of Forest (ODF), American Forest Foundation/Oregon Tree Farm System (AFF-OTFS), Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Northwest Natural Resource Group (NNRG), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA), Oregon State University Extension (OSU), USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA-Forest Service Cooperative Forestry (FS-COOP). This approach integrates the planning efforts of multiple resource entities, improving coordination and reducing duplication.</p> <p>The project will develop a mutually supported uniform base plan content, which includes information common to all management plan standards. The project will also develop a criteria-based endorsement system, which specifies additional content and/or level of detail required for a particular endorsement such as: 1) an ODFW wildlife habitat conservation and management plan, 2) NRCS Forest Management Activity Plan, 3) ODF (USDA-FS) forest stewardship plan, 4) AFF-Tree Farm certified plan, and 5) FSC-certified plan.</p>

¹ 'Cash' is the value of any qualifying match the applicant pays for such as cash, staff time, supplies, or equipment.

² 'In-Kind' is the value of any qualifying match contributed by a non-federal 3rd party contributor such as donated time, supplies, or equipment.

The project will also pilot, evaluate, and implement the new system in the three regions in Oregon, using the recently developed coached planning process. An existing group of cooperators has successfully piloted this mentor-based planning approach, which actively engaged professional foresters and volunteers to mentor forests owners. The coached planning process uses county-based GIS systems to provide photos, maps and other data to assist forests owners develop practical management plans. The project will evaluate the base plan and endorsement system for developing new plans and updating existing plans.

This project supports the theme of conserving working forests by facilitating social and economic incentives to encourage retention of important forested landscapes. Most incentive programs require management plans and some, e.g., carbon markets like the Chicago Climate Exchange, require certified forests. The endorsement system will facilitate certification by endorsement criteria recognized by third party certifiers such as American Forest Foundation (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) certified) and Forest Stewardship Council. The project will enhance public benefits from trees and forests by facilitating improved management on family forestlands, which occupies ecologically important, lower elevation settings, often near urban/residential areas. In the Willamette Valley, much of the remaining valley's hallmark habitat type, Oregon white oak, exists on family forestlands (more than 263,000 acres). The project protects forest from harm by facilitating plans that improve forest health and reduce fire hazard.

Background: Oregon has been helping landowners develop management plans since the 1970s. Landowners need written management plans to meet certification, incentive programs, and regulatory demands. Less than 10% of Oregon's woodland owners have written plans, covering 17% of Oregon's family forestland acres (~ 800,000 out of 4,668,000 acres). Thousands of family forestlands owners need written plans and certification. The Forestry Program for Oregon identifies family forestlands as an important provider of societal values, as they have diverse forests and objectives. The Oregon Board of Forestry has identified outreach to family forestland owners as a key strategy for the Department, and has established a Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) to address the issues. The recent CFF sponsored symposium identified engaging the wider community of family forestland owners and economic challenges of family forestland owners as two of the top 10 issues facing family forestland owners.

Operational Component Deliverables – This project will:

- Convene Oregon summit conference and develop acceptable base plan format and endorsement system (base plan content will meet 2009 Forest Stewardship Program National Standards and Guidelines).
- Develop a criteria-based endorsement process, which specifies how to receive an endorsement from participating entities (e.g., AFF-OTFS, FSC, ODFW, and NRCS).
- Develop a Standardized interagency endorsement (e.g., MOU) agreement to expedite recognition of plans.
- Document barriers and solutions to developing a uniform base plan and endorsement system.

Educational Component Deliverables – Management planning, particularly coached planning is essentially an educational process. This project will:

- Pilot the draft uniform resource plan and endorsement system in each of the three regions in the state, using the established coached-planning process.
- Use adaptive approach to the final base plan format, replacing inefficient mechanisms with simple / easily duplicable mechanisms.
- Document and summarize lessons learned from the pilot. OSU Extension will develop an independent evaluation process as part of pilot design.

This project provides a streamlined process to increase efficacy of management planning and to reach more family forestland owners. The process will empower family forestland owners to manage forestlands to improve return to landowners and benefits provided to society.

	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>This project integrates the State and Private Forestry stewardship-planning program with all other forest management-planning efforts. The project will expand on an existing collaborative effort and integrate management plans from Oregon Department of Forestry, ODFW, AFF-OTFS, FSC, NRCS, FS-COOP, and OSU.</p> <p>This system integrates the planning efforts of multiple resource entities, improving coordination and reducing duplication. The system will provide mutual recognition of a plan with specific endorsements such as an ODFW wildlife habitat conservation and management plan, 2) NRCS Forest Management Activity Plan, 3) ODF (USDA-FS) forest stewardship plan, 4) AFF Tree Farm certified plan, and 5) FSC-certified forest management plan.</p> <p>This project supports the theme of conserving working forests by facilitating other social and economic incentives to encourage retention of important forested landscapes. The project will enhance public benefits from trees and forests by facilitating improved management on family forestlands, which occupies ecologically important, lower elevation settings, often near urban/residential areas. The project protects forest from harm by facilitating plans that improve forest health and reduce fire hazard.</p>
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9	Collaboration
	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The uniform plan and endorsement system concept emerged from a long-term collaboration between ODF, OSU Extension, OTFS, Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA), Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI), and Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF). This collaborative group completed a coached planning pilot to improve family forestland planning. The collaboration recognized the need to develop a single uniform base plan to facilitate family forestland owners' effort at recognition by the various entities providing incentives and certification. These collaborators have agreed to lead the effort to develop a uniform base plan and endorsement system.</p> <p>This project expands the current collaborative effort to include FSC through the Northwest Natural Resource Group, NRCS to meet conservation plan standards, AFF PEFC certification through the Oregon Tree Farm System, and ODFW to include the wildlife habitat plans. The new partners will ensure the current collaborative effort addresses all forest management plan standards, resulting in single base plan content and clearly specified criteria for endorsement by different agencies and certification systems.</p>

10	Leverage
	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The requested funding will support convening the Oregon uniform plan conference and conducting the pilot test of the uniform plan and endorsement system. The contractual funds will provide resources to non-governmental partners to ensure participation in base-plan design, development of criteria-based additions, and to participate in pilot testing and revision of systems. The partners bring expertise on specific requirements of certification (OTFS, NNRG), plan requirements (NRCS, USFS, ODFW) family forestland perspective (OSWA, Tree Farm, NNRG), and outreach / evaluation (OSU Extension, OFRI, ACF). Partners will leverage additional resources by using the system with forestland owners.</p> <p>The project will also leverage the credibility of both established certification systems oriented towards family forestlands (AFF-OTFS and FSC). Third party certification provides improved market access. The plans would also meet requirements of ODF stewardship agreement program, OSU Extension, USDA Stewardship Program, ODFW wildlife habitat plans, and NRCS conservation plans. The system would allow family forestland owners to access multiple layers of incentives and cost-share funds with a single management plan, with additions as specified.</p>

11	Meaningful Scale
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	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The appropriate project scale occurs at a statewide scale. The federal and state agencies' incentive programs that require management plans have a statewide scope. The independent certification system and other project partners also have statewide service areas. Oregon has diverse forest types that vary by the region of the state, ranging from Douglas-fir in the northwest part of the state, to ponderosa pine in the northeast, to dry mixed conifer in southern Oregon.</p> <p>Family forestlands occur in all these forest types and the project needs a statewide focus to meet the diverse needs of these family forestland owners. The project will develop and test the uniform base plan and endorsement system in all three main regions of the state, to ensure the plan and endorsement system work across various forest conditions.</p>
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12	<p>Sphere of Influence</p>
	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>All western states face the problem of multiple state and federal incentive programs and different certification systems. The development of uniform base plan and criteria-based endorsement system endorsed by multiple agencies would provide a useful template and process for other states. While some agencies and groups have agreed in principle to accept each other management plans, this project will provide for actual implementation of these agreements in a collaborative process. The project's statewide scale and testing of the system across multiple forest types will increase the applicability to other states.</p> <p>The collaboration with OSU Extension allows for evaluation of the process by independent researchers. The project design includes written evaluation of the collaborative process used to define the base plan and the pilot testing phase of the system.</p>

13	<p>Sustainability of Outcomes</p>
	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project will result in a new approach to integrating planning efforts across multiple entities. The resulting uniform resource plan and endorsement system will create a standard for developing family forestland management plans across the state. Once successfully tested and revised, the uniform base plan and planning process creates a template to be used by multiple entities for improving forestland management.</p> <p>The project will also develop a standardized interagency endorsement agreement (e.g., MOU) to expedite uniform recognition of plans. The formalized approach of developing a signed agreement by partners will also facilitate the sustainability of the approach and process. The agreement, which specifies the criteria for endorsement, will have a change and review process to ensure a consistent approach to incorporating changes in plan standards and continued review of the plan system.</p>