

## Federal stimulus grants: Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: How much has the Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) received in federal stimulus grants?**

**A:** ODF has received about \$11.2 million for fuel-reduction work to improve forest health and lessen wildfire hazards on private and state-owned forestlands. In addition, ODF is partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to perform similar work on federal lands through \$1.5 million in stimulus grants to the Rogue River-Siskiyou and Umpqua National Forests.

### **Q: Where is the money coming from?**

**A:** The grants are being provided by the USDA Forest Service through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the federal economic stimulus program. ARRA is intended to:

- Create and save jobs
- Boost the economy
- Promote economic recovery and growth

### **Q: How is the money being spent?**

**A:** The grant dollars is being used to create jobs to thin overly dense tree stands, remove brush, and process the resulting woody material. A key objective is to reduce hazardous fuels loading and thus lower the risk of damaging wildfires. Another important aim of this fuels-reduction work is to lessen the impacts of insect and disease infestations that often occur in overcrowded forests.

### **Q: I'm a private landowner with a project proposal. Are stimulus funds available for me?**

ODF has received funding for various types of forest projects. Individual projects are being administered at the local district level. Work on private lands is at the discretion of the landowner either to do the work himself or hire a contractor. To discuss your proposal with ODF staff, contact the district office nearest you. Go to the ODF web page, [www.oregon.gov/ODF/](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/), and click on "Field Offices" on the right side of the ODF webpage to view a list of offices with their addresses and phone numbers.

### **Q: I'm a contractor who would like to provide services on a specific project. What is the process?**

**A:** Projects on state-owned forestlands will likely offer opportunities for contract work. The State Forests projects vary from location to location, so we recommend that you contact the local ODF districts that will be putting projects out to bid. You may also ask the district offices to provide your contact information to private landowners that receive stimulus funds. To find the Oregon Department of Forestry district office nearest you, click on "Field Offices" on the right side of the ODF webpage, [www.oregon.gov/ODF/](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/).

### **Q: How do I apply for contracts on the state-owned forestlands?**

**A:** As ODF receives the grant dollars for state-owned lands, it will prepare requests for proposal (RFPs) and post them to the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) Internet site, <http://orpin.oregon.gov/open.dll/welcome>. The Governor's Office has directed state agencies to post all contract and supplier solicitations funded in whole or in part with ARRA funds to the ORPIN site. This is to provide a transparent and central source of information to potential vendors to locate and apply for opportunities. Agencies posting to ORPIN are including the acronym, "ARRA" in the

document title to enable suppliers to search ORPIN by keyword to find federal stimulus opportunities.

While we recognize that not everyone has Internet access at home or work, access is available at public libraries, internet cafes, and other locations. (See “How to use the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN)” below.)

NOTE: Only contract work for projects on state-owned lands will be posted to ORPIN. Contract work for projects on private lands will NOT appear on ORPIN.

**Q: Where will the stimulus funds be spent in Oregon?**

**A:** The ARRA grant funds will be applied to forested areas in 16 counties including Baker, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Linn, Morrow, Tillamook, Union, and Wallowa counties.

**Q: Which projects is ODF putting out to bid?**

**A:** Contracting opportunities directly with ODF will occur only for projects earmarked for the state-owned forests. Projects on private lands will not be put out to bid by ODF, since landowners that receive grant dollars will have the option of either doing the work themselves or hiring a contractor. Interested forest operators should contact the ODF districts to offer their information and ask to be added to a list of local operators. ODF will provide the list to landowners on request.

**Q: What about opportunities to partner with the Indian tribes?**

**A:** The links below provide information on tribal projects using ARRA funds:

- [www.recovery.gov/Transparency/info/Pages/TribalResources.aspx](http://www.recovery.gov/Transparency/info/Pages/TribalResources.aspx)
- [www.recovery.gov/News/tribal/Pages/TribalNews.aspx](http://www.recovery.gov/News/tribal/Pages/TribalNews.aspx)

**Q: What are the benefits of the stimulus grants to Oregon’s communities?**

**A:** The forest fuel-reduction dollars will be spent chiefly in and near small communities, providing jobs for local contractors and other businesses. A key performance measure of the ARRA grants is the number of jobs created. At this time, ODF cannot provide an accurate estimate. But once the Requests for Proposal are awarded and contract work begins, it will be possible to calculate the number of jobs created by the ARRA grants. In addition to the jobs created directly by the stimulus funds, there will be a boost to other businesses that provide goods and services needed for the forestry work. Other benefits of fuel reduction include improved forest health and increased community safety.

The ARRA grants administered by ODF are but one portion of the federal stimulus funds received by Oregon. (See “Are there stimulus grant opportunities in addition to those for forestry?” below for more information.)

**Q: Where can I go for more information?**

**A:** Landowners, contractors, and others interested in the ARRA grants are encouraged to visit the ODF website, [www.oregon.gov/odf/recovery/index.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/recovery/index.shtml). This is where you can check for updates. New information will be added to the site as available.

**How to use the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN)**

If you wish to bid on a State Forests project, you’ll want to sign up in ORPIN, the on-line procurement system used by the State, <http://oregon.gov/DAS/SSD/SPO/index.shtml>. Once you

have logged in to ORPIN, find “Subscription Levels” on the green bar at left. You can choose Basic Level (to do manual searches), or Premium Level (for automatic notification of projects you can bid on). Most state projects requiring contractor services funded through the ARRA initiatives will be posted on the ORPIN system as soon as they are ready to receive bids.

If you need assistance, please contact Patricia Morgan, ODF procurement specialist, at 503-945-7308 or: [patricia.a.morgan@state.or.us](mailto:patricia.a.morgan@state.or.us). Each solicitation has a single point of contact (SPC) listed on page 1. Questions regarding specific solicitations should be directed to the SPC.

**Q: What is: [WWW.OREGON.GOV/RECOVERY](http://WWW.OREGON.GOV/RECOVERY)?**

**A:** The Oregon Recovery website, [www.oregon.gov/recovery](http://www.oregon.gov/recovery), is where you can go to learn about the many aspects of the state’s economy that are being affected by the federal stimulus program, not only forestry. The Oregon Recovery website is updated weekly and provides information about ARRA funding that includes an array of grant opportunities available through various state government agencies. A direct link to the State recovery site’s Frequently Asked Questions page is: [www.oregon.gov/recovery/docs/043009\\_fed\\_eco\\_stimulus\\_qa.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/recovery/docs/043009_fed_eco_stimulus_qa.pdf)

**Q: Are there stimulus grant opportunities in addition to those for forestry?**

**A:** Yes. A number of Oregon State Government agencies have applied for and received ARRA funding, and many of these grants include contract work that is being offered for bid. The Oregon Recovery website has links to the various agencies where you can read descriptions of the grants. The ORPIN site lists projects that are open for bidding.

Overall, the federal stimulus dollars received by Oregon are being used to:

- Upgrade the state’s aging infrastructure
- Enhance energy independence
- Expand educational opportunities
- Increase access to health care
- Assist those most affected by the economic recession

A link that enables searches for a variety of grant opportunities including ARRA as well as other federal grants is: [www.grants.gov/applicants/find\\_grant\\_opportunities.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/find_grant_opportunities.jsp)

**Q: How can my organization apply for recovery funds?**

**A:** ARRA distributes funds through established channels wherever possible. When the federal government invited the states to apply for stimulus funds in spring 2009, the Oregon Recovery office coordinated the grant proposals that were submitted by various state agencies. The dollars that are now coming to the state flow through the state agency that typically handles that type of funding. For example, funding for water quality projects goes through the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Each agency posts information to its website about the ARRA projects it is administering.

**Q: I’ve read about stimulus projects that federal agencies are doing in Oregon. Where did those funds come from?**

**A:** In addition to the funds distributed to the states, other ARRA dollars are being distributed directly by federal agencies through grants. In Oregon, for example, the U.S. Forest Service has initiated fuel-reduction projects on the National Forests through this source. The Forest Service has information about its federal stimulus projects at: [www.fs.fed.us/](http://www.fs.fed.us/).

**Q: Where can I read the full text of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)?**

**A:** Go to the federal ARRA website: [www.recovery.gov/about/pages/the\\_act.aspx](http://www.recovery.gov/about/pages/the_act.aspx).