

2023-2024 Report: Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat



Background

The Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH) Program was established as a result of Senate Bill 1501 (2022) and the Private Forest Accord (PFA) Report. SFISH is a grant program that funds road repair projects on lands owned by small forestland owners (SFOs) resulting in environmental benefits to fish species addressed in the PFA Report and mitigated risks to natural resources arising from forest roads. In 2023 the legislature allocated \$6.67 million from the General Fund to the program and on January 1, 2024 the rules establishing the program became effective.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is required to publish an annual report detailing each funded project that was completed during the prior calendar year, including their costs and the mileage of streams improved and provide this report to the legislature. This report covers September 2023 through August 2024 and focuses on project selection and additional implementation efforts.

SFISH Project Prioritization

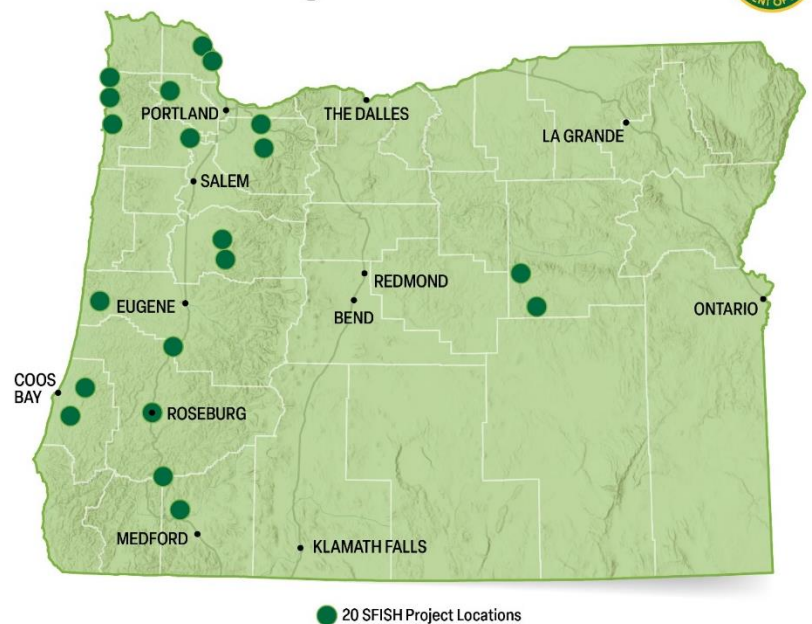
In December 2023, the program began accepting grant applications, assessing the eligibility of submitted projects and collecting site specific data to inform project prioritization. In April 2024, the program in collaboration with the SFISH Review Team, which includes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other key stakeholders, began prioritizing projects for funding.

In August 2024, the program issued grant award letters totaling more than \$5 million, funding 20 projects. Combined, these projects will restore passage to more than 74 miles of habitat for native salmon and trout and improve water quality by replacing or removing 37 culverts across 19 watersheds and 11 counties. The program is currently working to finalize grant agreements with the SFOs.

Additional Implementation Efforts

- Assisted in the development and delivery of training to ODF field staff.
- Conducted external training and outreach including presentations at Oregon Small Woodlands Association events, the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting, and Oregon State University's Extension Tree School Clackamas.
- Published Forest Practices Technical Guidance as well as a comprehensive guide to serve as a resource as SFOs complete Road Condition Assessments (required for SFISH projects).

SFISH Project Locations



For more information: View the [SFISH brochure](#) or the [SFISH webpage](#) on the ODF website.

