

# ROGUE FOREST RESTORATION INITIATIVE



Klamath Bird Observatory



## Partnership Overview

The Rogue Basin includes crucial acreage of dry-type forest, vital to Oregon's quality of life and an important home for many of the states' fish and wildlife. These diverse forests maintain healthy watershed functions and offer important assets to the local community. The Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative envisions diverse and healthy forest landscapes, including iconic old-growth stands, oak woodlands and prairies, and healthy streams. Through the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative, partners engage with federal and state forest land managers, private landowners, and diverse communities to implement a cohesive forest restoration vision.

### Quick Facts

**OWEB Investment:** \$6.0 million

**Estimated Leverage:** \$3.77 million

#### Goal by 2025:

- Protect and enhance approximately 50,000 acres of dry-type forest in one of the project areas, setting the stage for success in the remaining five

In January 2019, the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative was awarded funding through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program. A FIP is an OWEB investment that addresses a board-identified priority of significance to the state, achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes, uses integrated and results-

oriented approaches as identified through a Strategic Action Plan, and is implemented by a high-performing partnership.

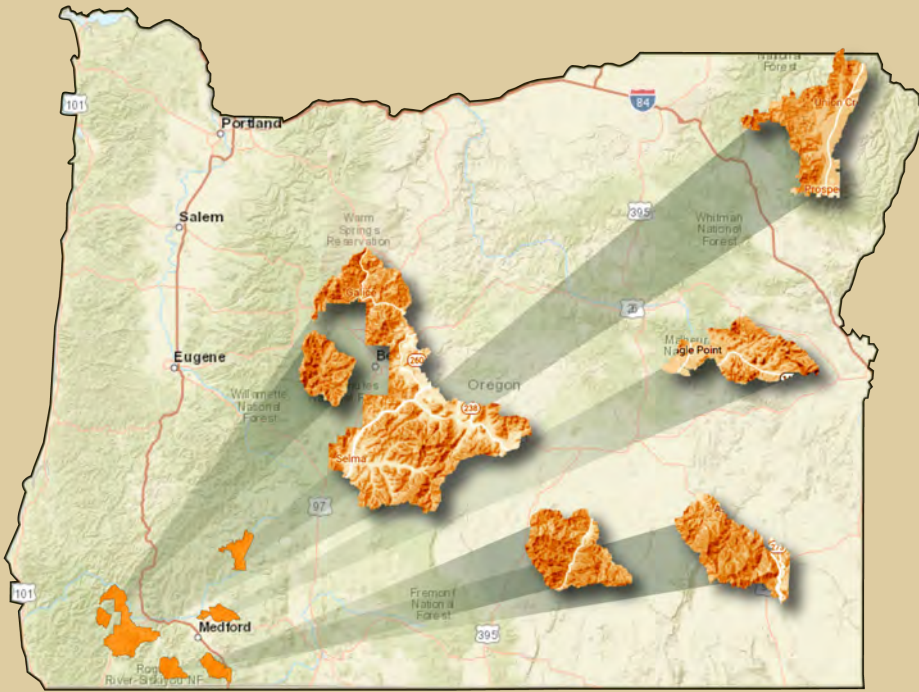
Initiatives are eligible for up to six years of OWEB funding. For the 2019-2021 biennium, OWEB has awarded \$1,500,000. When combined with investments from 2019 to 2025, the anticipated total investment is approximately \$6,000,000.

## Core Implementing Partners

- Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- The Nature Conservancy
- USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
- USDI Bureau of Land Management, Medford
- OSU Extension, Jackson/ Josephine County
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Klamath Bird Observatory







Rogue Forest Prescribed Fire



Rogue Forest Restoration

## Ecological Outcomes

The Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative has launched the all-lands Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy to increase diverse and healthy forest landscapes, including iconic old-growth stands, oak woodlands and prairies, and healthy streams. This strategy will guide strategic action over the coming two decades, engaging the community and building on the collaborative approach demonstrated on the Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Initiative.

Strategies and anticipated results of the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative include:

### Strategy

Implement the Rogue Basin Cohesive Strategy, working with forest land managers and private landowners to seed the approach with demonstrations in each of the six federal districts/resource areas and on nearby private lands, building momentum for treating roughly 1 million acres or one quarter of the forested land base.

#### Conservation Action

Selectively thin and reduce accumulated fuel on forest lands to protect complex forest and increase the proportion of open dry-type forest. Protect connections among oak habitat across the landscape.

#### Intermediate Ecological Outcome

- Lower risk of catastrophic fire
- Reduced impacts on water quality from runoff and sedimentation

#### Long-Term Ecological Outcome

- Improve wildlife habitat
- Enhance connections of oak habitat
- Promote healthy watershed function

### Strategy

Engage with private landowners and the local community to build awareness of the need for cohesive forest management, as described in the Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy.

#### Conservation Action

Communicate through workshops, tours, and multimedia coverage about the need for ecological thinning and prescribed fire

#### Intermediate Ecological Outcome

- Increased engagement and support for forest restoration among landowners and the local community
- Improved capacity for local partners to engage in collaborative restoration strategies

#### Long-Term Ecological Outcome

- Community support for forest restoration and targeted reintroduction of beneficial fire
- Restoration economy generates jobs and economic activity in the Rogue Basin