



## Healthy Forests Report - Oregon

October 10, 2004

Oregon has one of the most diverse landscapes in the United States. Its forests range from wet coastal zones, to dry interior sites, to alpine regions. The State possesses extensive rangelands, as well as lakes, rivers, and volcanoes. Oregon also provides a showcase for how partnerships and community involvement are supporting forest restoration and hazardous fuel reduction projects across the landscape.

### **HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION**

Research and experience shows that much of Oregon's vegetation faces an elevated risk from wildland fire. Of the State's more than 50 million acres of non agricultural vegetated lands, across all ownerships, recent estimates indicate some 35 percent (19 million acres) are in the highest category of risk and another 34 percent (18 million acres) are at a significant level of risk compared with historic conditions. Lands managed by Federal agencies and Tribes bear the greatest proportion of this increased risk, with 16 million acres in danger of severe wildland fire.

In an ongoing effort to reduce hazardous fuels on Federal lands and protect communities, the USDA Forest Service and related agencies of the Department of the Interior have treated more than 335,300 acres in 2004. This is a 120,900 acre increase from 2003, bringing the total number of acres treated in Oregon since 2001 to more than 907,000.

### **Oregon Hazardous Fuels Treatments, FY 2003 and FY2004\***

All Agencies	FY03 Accomplishment	FY04 Accomplishment
WUI	114,500	126,300
Non-WUI	99,900	209,000
Total	214,400	335,300

### **HEALTHY FORESTS AUTHORITIES**

For 2004, the Departments identified 49 hazardous fuel treatments on 44,492 acres using the Healthy Forests Initiative tools. In 2004, the new authorities under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 were used to implement six projects, covering 41,331 acres.

	FY 2004	
	Projects	Acres
<b>HFRA Authority (EA and EIS)</b>	6	41,331
<b>HFI Administrative Tools</b>	49	44,492

The Departments have also moved forward with nine Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 projects on 61,561 acres in 2005.

## ***STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS***

In December 2003, Congress enacted legislation proposed by the Bush Administration that expands stewardship contracting authority, allowing Federal agencies to enter into long-term (up to 10 years) contracts with small businesses, communities, and nonprofit organizations to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health. Stewardship contracts focus on desirable end results on the ground that improve forest health and provide benefits to communities.

Long-term contracts foster a public/private partnership to restore forest and rangeland health by giving contractors the incentive to invest in equipment and facilities needed to productively use material from forest thinning to make useful wood products or to produce biomass energy, all at tremendous savings to taxpayers.

### **Stewardship Contracting in Oregon**

<b>Number of Contracts &amp; Agreements In Progress or Awarded to Date</b>	<b>Acres</b>
15	32,800

Examples of Healthy Forests Stewardship Contracts/Agreements in Oregon can be found on the Web at:

[http://www.healthyforests.gov/initiative/steward-projects\\_states/oregon.html](http://www.healthyforests.gov/initiative/steward-projects_states/oregon.html)

## ***HEALTHY FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES***

To further protect communities, the Western Governors' Association, the National Association of Counties, the Society of American Foresters, the Communities Committee, and the National Association of State Foresters compiled the handbook *Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)* to educate communities in the wildland-urban interface about fire prevention. In Oregon, the Federal, State and local partners have completed five plans and are in the process of developing 12 community wildfire protection plans in the following locations:

### **Completed Plans**

Union County<sup>1</sup>  
Upper Deschutes Watershed  
Ashland, Oregon  
Josephine County  
Applegate (prior to HFRA and meets the intent)

### **In Progress**

The Dalles Watershed  
Grant County  
Walker Range  
Baker County  
Wallowa County  
Umatilla County  
Clackamas County  
Marion County  
Jackson County  
Bly, Oregon  
Lakeview, Oregon

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<sup>1</sup> Many counties have several communities covered under their CWPP.