

**Harney County Restoration Collaborative**  
**113 Washington Steet**  
**Burns, OR**

March 1, 2017

TO: Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Harney County Restoration Collaborative  
SUBJECT: Full funding for the Oregon Department of Forestry Federal Forest Restoration Program

The Harney County Restoration Collaborative is writing to express our strong support for full funding of the Oregon Department of Forestry Federal Forest Restoration Program at \$4.4 million in the 2017-2019 biennium budget. This investment, as demonstrated in the last two biennium, is critical to increasing the pace, scale, and effectiveness of restoration of Oregon's federal forests.

You already know the good work forest collaboratives have done across the state of Oregon. With help with funding from ODF's Federal Forest Restoration Program HCRC is developing prescriptions that create truly fire tolerant forests. These more open and diverse forests will be able to handle prescribed burns and wildfires with a minimum of fire-fighting effort which will save millions of dollars in the future.


We were able to do this by HCRC bringing together environmentalists, timber industry representatives, local government, state and federal land management agencies, and community members to find agreement on forest management.

In the 2015-2017 budget, the legislature invested \$5 million in this unique program and expanded it statewide. That investment paid off and has been leveraged more than 2:1 by the U.S. Forest Service in priority treatment areas across Oregon. Let's continue this good work.

We appreciate the Department of Forestry's implementation of the Federal Forest Restoration Program over the past two bienniums and strongly encourage you to continue to support this groundbreaking effort.

Thank you for supporting this important program.

Respectfully,

  
Jack Southworth, Facilitator  
Harney County Restoration Collaborative  
541 542 2558  
[jksouthw@centurytel.net](mailto:jksouthw@centurytel.net)