

Natural Resources Investments in 2020 Wildfire Recovery

HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WILDFIRE RECOVERY

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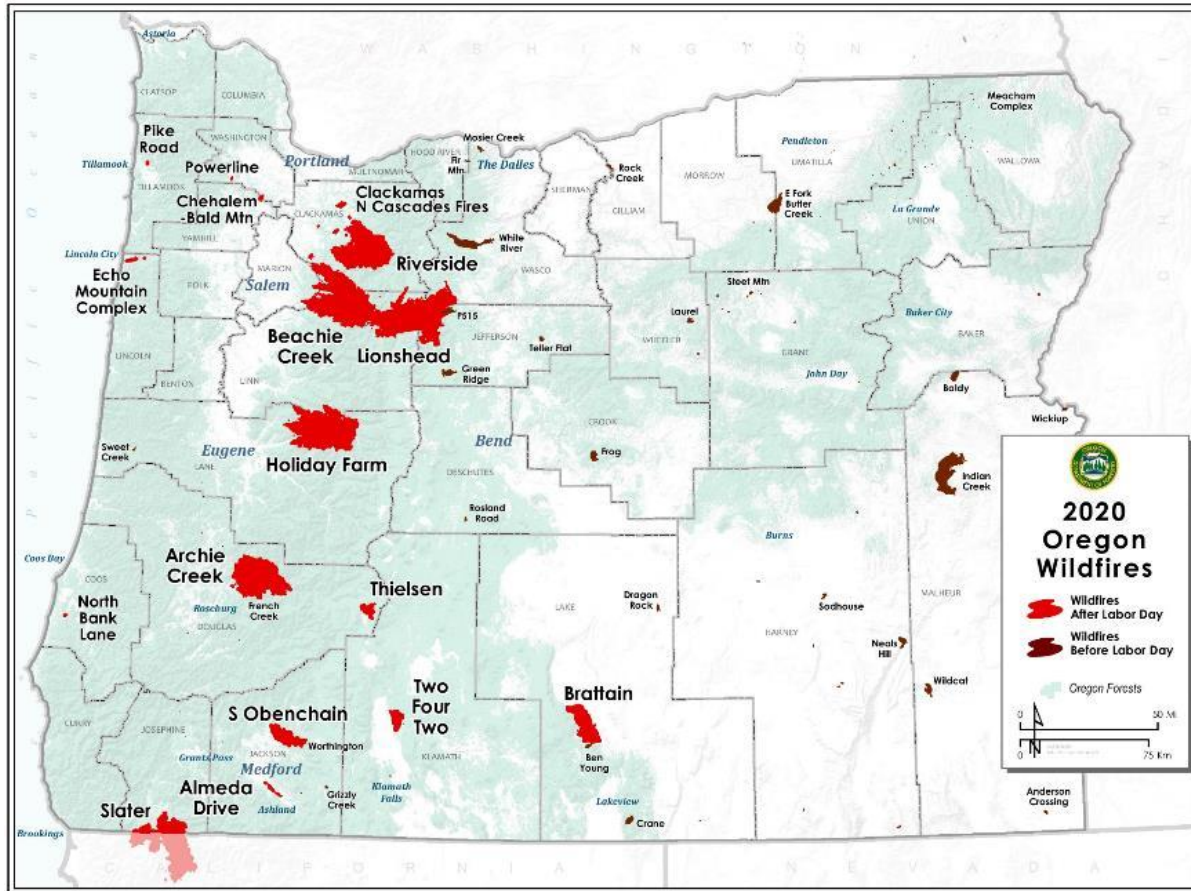


Today's Presentation

- 2020 fires and the Natural and Cultural Resources (NCR) Recovery Task Force work
- Updates about three natural resources (NR) investments: OWEB, EWEB and ODF
- Larger funding context and discussion of unmet needs



2020 Fires and NCR Recovery



- Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force / SRF 7
 - Assessment Sub-Group
 - Tribal Work Group
 - Interagency Recreation Team
 - Interagency Monitoring and Research Group

Also, local (fire-level) coordination

Recovery Priorities and Assessments



Recovery Priorities

- Areas of high erosion potential
- Drinking water sources and source-water areas
- Critical streams for aquatic habitat
- At-risk cultural resources

Synthesized federal and state/private assessments across 14 fire areas

Actions and Cost Estimate

- Culvert repair and storm-proofing of roads
- Removal of hazard trees and navigational hazards in rivers
- Warning signs for and closures of high-risk areas
- Geo-technical analysis of at-risk areas
- Seeding and erosion control
- Invasive species control
- Riparian and upland planting
- Floodplain restoration
- Protection and repair of drinking water intakes
- Monitoring of drinking water supplies
- Septic repair and replacement

Two-year state cost estimate for NCR recovery = ~\$86 million

HB 5006 NR investments

- OWEB: Riparian/upland restoration grants (\$10.75 million) and Floodplain restoration/reconnection grants (\$5 million)
- EWEB: McKenzie riparian/floodplain restoration (\$4 million)
- ODF: Tree seedling grants/replanting efforts (\$5 million)

Interagency coordination is critical to ensuring strategic use of funding



OWEB Grant Programs

Developed two post-fire recovery grant offerings for up to 14 eligible fire areas:

- Riparian/upland restoration grants (\$10.75M)
- Floodplain restoration/reconnection (\$5M)
- Also, pass-through to EWEB

Multiple grant cycles in 2021-22 (first cycle closes 1/31/22)

Interagency teams will review grant applications, with grant funding decisions within ~2 months



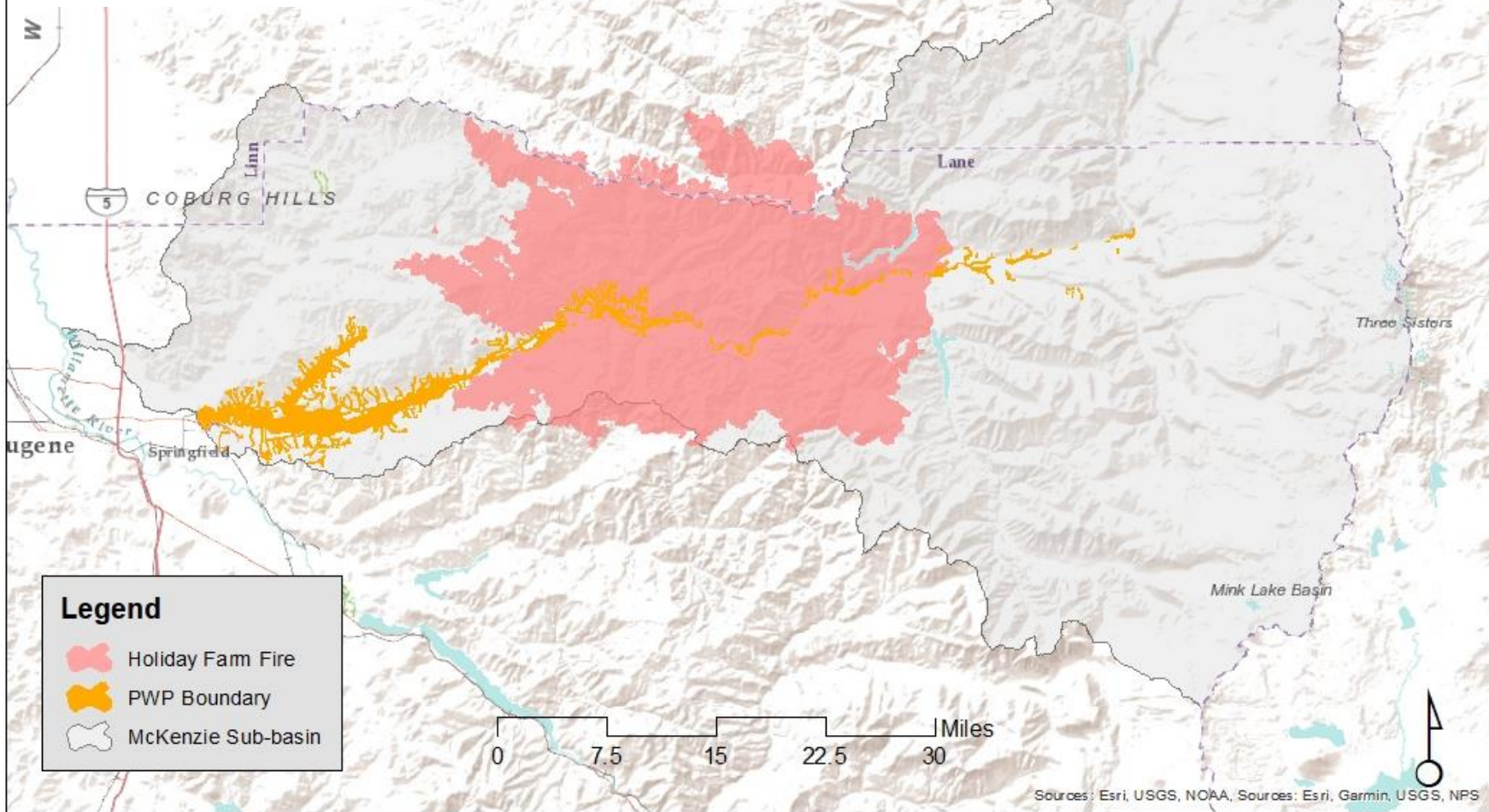


Progress and Impact

- On-the-ground work to-date by local partners
- How local partners anticipate OWEB post-fire funding will positively affect the impacted landscapes
- What to expect in 2022
 - All grant cycles completed
 - Ongoing implementation of replanting and floodplain restoration
 - Multiple rounds of progress reporting on NR recovery progress in fire areas receiving grant funding

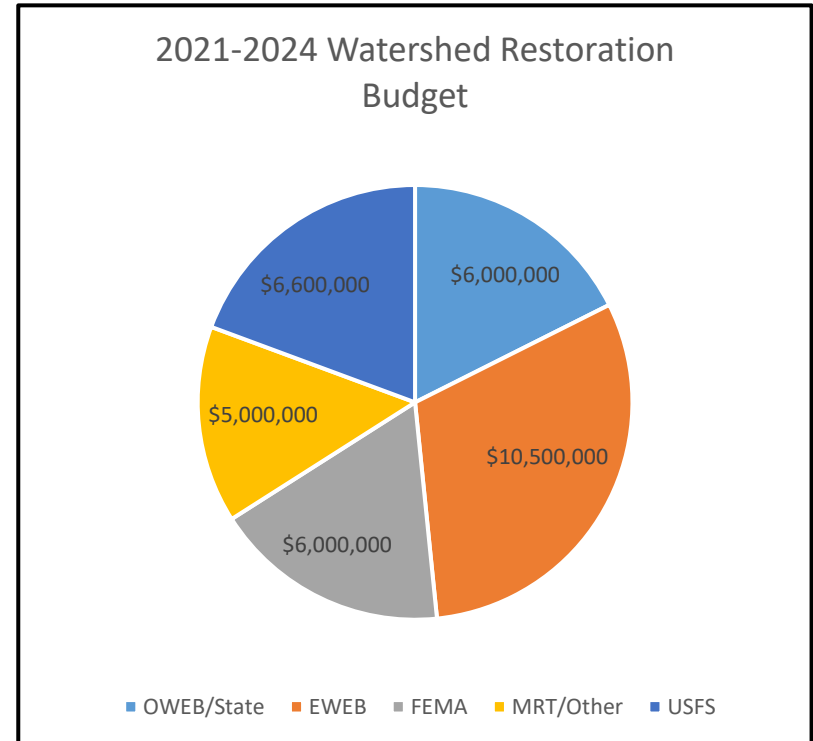


Holiday Farm Fire



Funding Summary

- EWEB Board approved Watershed Recovery surcharge (\$3/meter) that will sunset in 60 months raising \$12.3 million
 - Floodplain & Tributary Restoration
 - Riparian Revegetation
 - Floodway land acquisitions
 - Erosion, Invasive Weeds, Fuels Treatments
 - Septic systems, smarter rebuild incentives
 - Water quality monitoring
- State Legislature approved \$4 million for McKenzie restoration (via OWEB)
 - Floodplain & Tributary Restoration
 - Riparian Revegetation
 - Land acquisition
- State Legislature approved \$1.5 m for septic systems
- FEMA funding is pending (floodplain restoration)
- McKenzie River Trust matching EWEB w/\$3 million for floodway acquisitions
- USFS requesting \$6.6 m for floodplain restoration projects in McKenzie

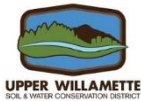
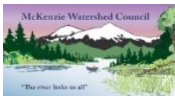


Pure Water Partners Program (PWP)



Purpose: Reward good stewardship through payments to landowners who ***maintain healthy riparian areas*** over long term and help facilitate restoration on other properties that need work.

- Primary focus: *protection* of healthy riparian forests (much more cost effective than *restoration*)
- Goal: align funding from multiple watershed partners, grants, and private funding



Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission



Cascade Pacific
Resource Conservation + Development

Re-oriented our Pure Water Partners Program



Offered burn assessments to fire-affected landowners

- Required a signed access agreement to evaluate property
- Evaluated erosion concerns, hazard trees and soil conditions
- Made recommendations for short and long-term erosion control measures and replanting

Installed erosion control measures

- Wattles, silt fences, hydroseeding, seeding and mulch
- Required landowners to sign an agreement to allow for work on the ground



Emergency Response Phase (Oct 2020 – April 2021)

EWEB Board approved \$1,000,000 in emergency funding to address immediate threats (seeking FEMA reimbursement)



Stabilization
Stabilized 139 of 150 high priority destroyed homes along the river



Erosion Control
Installed over 300 erosion control BMPs on 123 properties



Riparian Plantings
Revegetated 90 riparian acres w/210,000 native plants across 89 properties



Assessments
Completed 273 burn assessments



Reveg./Erosion Control
Hydroseeded severely burned slopes on 19 properties

Transition to Watershed Restoration Phase (May – Present)

GIS Field Tools

Redesigned field surveyor data collection tools – ranks/prioritizes plantings, erosion, fuels, and invasive issues; feeds work to contractors



Property Assessments
PWP surveyors completed over 160 assessments using the new GIS tools to map, describe & prioritize work



Fuels Treatments

Using NYC and contractor to reduce fire fuels identified in assessments. To date completed fuels treatments on 70 properties



Invasive Vegetation

Using contractors and NYC to use IVM methods to treat invasive weed issues in riparian areas on 68 properties



Erosion Control

Implement erosion control BMPs fall/winter. Completed BMPs on 28 properties so far



Plant Maintenance

Using NYC and contractors to mulch and irrigate new plantings due to drought focused on 35 of the 89 properties

Revegetation Phase 2 (January – March 2022)

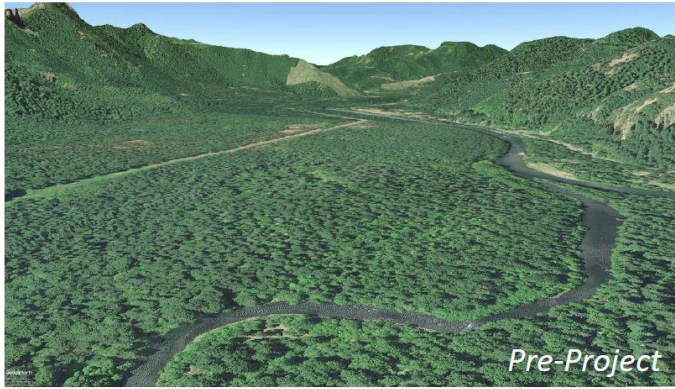
- Will receive over 500,000 native shrubs and trees for planting this winter
- Prioritize riparian streambanks and floodways for revegetation
- Interplanting of 2021 revegetation areas due to drought causing 40-60% mortality



Riparian Plantings

Currently developing riparian planting plans for over 100 properties totaling 225+ acres

Floodplain Restoration Projects



- Projects designed to remove berms and other features restricting channel access to floodplain
- Use material to fill in incised channel to reset floodplain elevation
- Spreads-out flow, reduces velocity, drops out sediment, provides excellent habitat
- Resiliency to floods, fires & droughts



Deer Creek Before and after restoration work



February 2021

View from the upper bridge looking down stream



Screenshot

October 2021

ODF Overview

- Number of landowners affected
- Issues with access to seedlings
- Nursery capacity
- Access to labor
- Specific to 2020 fires



Grant Timelines

- Post-fire restoration and implementation
 - Reaching out to all nurseries – questionnaire
 - Grants to increase nursery capacity and supply
- Possible use of pass-through grants
 - Non-profits to aide landowners



Work To-Date

- Funds
 - \$3.5 million direct or pass-through grants
 - \$1.25 million direct purchase of seedlings
 - \$250,000 LD positions to help implement program
- Reforestation workgroup
 - Issues and barriers for landowners
- ODF role as grantor and aggregator of landowner seedling needs



Impacts

- Approximately 450,000 seedlings
- Assessing landowner needs for future years
- Collaborative efforts with other agencies
 - To meet broader landowner needs
- Plan to partner with American Forests
 - Climate resilient, all-lands reforestation strategy for Oregon



What to Expect in 2022

- List of nurseries
 - Grants identified and awarded
 - Needs of nurseries to produce additional seedlings
- An update on planting success
 - Account of acres and trees planting
- A complete list of landowner seedlings needs
 - 2020 fire season done
 - 2021 fire season assessment



Broader Context of NR Recovery

- Known federal contributions
 - Grant programs
 - NR recovery on federal lands
 - Anticipated funding
- Unmet needs
 - Unfunded needs from 2020 cost estimate
 - Technical support for local partners and landowners
 - Staff capacity of local groups to apply for funding



Questions?

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