



Mt Hood National Forest Fire Recovery Team

Project Accomplishments FY2022-FY2024



Photo: New bridge on Riverside Trail, Mt. Hood National Forest

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Executive Summary

Between 2020 and 2021, four wildfires burned 145,769 acres on the Mt. Hood National Forest. During these wildfires, the Forest lost facilities at 26 campgrounds, 24 trailheads, 22 administrative buildings for seasonal housing, & administrative offices and warehouse space; saw large impacts to hundreds of miles fish and thousands of acres of wildlife habitat; and had 400 miles of roads and 114 miles of trails compromised and closed by fire-killed trees.










In 2022 the Forest received \$76 million in disaster assistance funding for restoring and rebuilding after these high-impact fires. In the first two years of managing the project, the Fire Recovery Project Management Team obligated \$57,940,984 (76%) of the total funds received (\$76,664,665); including \$3,672,000 to fund Forest and Regional salary shortfalls in FY24.

Mt. Hood National Forest leadership established the Fire Recovery Project Management Team (Team) to facilitate prioritization, coordinate implementation, and track progress and successes of the suite of individual projects. Team members specialize in project and program management, high-value contract administration, and resource management and planning. This Team developed work breakdown structure for each of the 62 individual projects in the fire recovery project portfolio, spanning 5 years of planning and implementation work. The Team's mission: To responsibly support and facilitate recovery actions resulting in a lasting positive impact to the environments and communities that were adversely affected by the fires.

Fire Recovery Team Members:

- Fire Recovery Project Management Team
 - Bill Conroy – Projects Manager, Team Leader
 - Andrew Geist – Project Manager
 - Peter Huppi – Project Manager
 - Lorelei Haukness – Recreation Staff Officer
- Support Positions
 - Andree Murray – Budget Officer
 - Heather Ibsen – Public Affairs Staff Officer
 - Raven Reese – Public Affairs Specialist

Over the last three years, the Team has made significant accomplishments across multiple resource areas. These numbers do not include projects that are still in the design phase or contracts that are pending award.

	Contracts prepared and awarded	53
	Partnership agreements developed and funded	28
	Roads repaired, reconstructed, and/or maintained	185.6 miles
	Bridges reconstructed	5: 1 road bridge, 4 trail bridges
	Facilities rebuilt	10 housing units; 2 tree coolers
	Hazard tree abatement	3,748 acres (ac.); 16 campgrounds; 4 day use sites; 2 trailheads
	Timber volume sold	52.3 million board feet
	Campgrounds & trailheads repaired	8 campgrounds (125 campsites); 4 day use sites; 2 trailheads
	Trails repaired, reconstructed, and/or maintained	200 miles of logs & 24 miles of brush cleared; 8.5 miles of tread improvements; 7,800 board ft. hand-milled from salvaged cedar
	Trail puncheons & boardwalks reconstructed	758 feet
	Off-highway vehicle trail repaired	1.5 miles
	Forest replanted	5,244 ac.
	Severely burned forest treatments	1,736 ac. mastication; 25 ac. wood straw erosion control; 2 ac. biochar nutrient enhancement
	Weeds & invasive plant treatments	6,000 ac. surveyed & mapped; 100 road miles surveyed & mapped; 25 ac. treated
	Fish habitat created in floodplain	10 ac.
	Hazard trees put into streams to create fish habitat	860 logs

2024 Fire Recovery Team Accomplishments

General Program Management

- Hired full-time project manager to replace two people promoted to positions elsewhere in the Forest Service.
- Coordinated updates of road and area closure Forest Orders.
- Hosted field tours for Forest leadership team members, Regional Office staff, Washington Office staff, Office of Budget and Management staff, and Clackamas Stewardship Group.
- Obligated \$57,940,984 (76%) of the total funds received (\$76,664,665). Obligated indicates that funds were either allocated and committed to salaries, contracts, or agreements, or used to purchase materials and supplies in support of project implementation.

Cost Center	Funding Requested	Funding Obligated 2022	Funding Obligated 2023	Funding Obligated 2024	Total Obligated	% of Original Request
White River Fire Projects	\$2,177,200	\$1,028,704	\$10,000	\$975,000	\$2,013,704	92%
Recreation Facilities	\$16,826,000	\$1,344,196	--	\$13,702,316	\$15,046,512	89%
Administrative Facilities	\$18,042,805	\$62,491	\$193,325	\$1,906,481	\$2,162,297	12%
Roads, Bridges, Hazard Trees	\$24,224,000	\$6,474,000	\$6,063,252	\$11,226,196	\$23,763,448	95%
Silviculture, Botany	\$3,641,460	\$2,971,374	\$46,647	\$185,868	\$3,203,889	88%
Watershed (fish, wildlife, soils)	\$5,957,000	\$1,418,598	\$4,210,275	\$23,000	\$5,651,873	95%
Other Projects	\$75,000	--	--	\$75,000	\$75,000	100%
Salary and Expenses	\$5,721,200	\$171,590	\$783,124	\$5,069,547	\$6,024,261	105%
TOTAL	\$76,664,665	\$3,470,953	\$11,306,623	\$32,453,792	\$57,940,984	76%
% of Original Request		18%	15%	42%	76%	

Roads and Hazard Tree Abatement

- Hazard Tree Integrated Resources Service Contracts (IRSCs)
- Seven contracts have been developed, solicited, and awarded for road maintenance/reconstruction and hazard tree (and slash) removal.
- Using IRSCs to conduct this work enabled the Forest to sell and remove 53.2 million board feet of timber that otherwise would have been unsold in a conventional timber contract because of the reduced value of burned timber.

IRSC Contract	Hazard Tree Acres Treated	Miles of Road Treated	Timber Volume Sold CCF (MMBF)	Cost
White River (3 IRSCs in FY22)	751	33.2	11,068 (5.8)	\$745,389
Oak Grove (FY23; Riverside)	251	5.6	15,000 (7.8)	\$2,556,762
Clackamas River (FY24; Riverside)	432	18.0	19,611 (10.2)	\$655,107
Rivbulio (2 in FY24; Riverside, Bull Complex, Lionshead)	2,314	128.9	54,901 (28.6)	\$18,718,662
TOTAL	3,748	185.6	100,580 (52.3)	\$22,675,920

All numbers are approximated and should not be used for exact reporting.



Bridges and Culverts:

- Implemented partnership agreement with Federal Highways Western Federal Lands Division (FHWA) to design 3 bridges and 10 aquatic organism passage culvert crossings. (Riverside Fire)
- Cub Springs Bridge (Riverside): Enterprise agreement for design.
- White River Bridge reconstruction on FSR 3530. Design completed in FY23; reconstruction done in FY24. (White River Fire)



Administrative Facilities

- Initiated design contracts for Ripplebrook area facilities replacement, including the district warehouse, employee housing, and a new tree cooler. (Riverside)
- Developed a partnership with Northwest Community Housing Foundation to conduct a site development plan for the Zigzag Ranger District north compound, where we will be constructing new, replacement housing. (Riverside)
- Completed installation of 10 temporary housing units for 20 employees at Ripplebrook, including a partnership with Timber Lake Job Corps to use existing sites and utilities. (Riverside)

Recreation Facilities

Campgrounds:

- Riverside Fire Recreation Site Repairs Contract
 - Repair & reconstruction of 4 fire-impacted campgrounds along the Highway 224 corridor, including Ripplebrook, Riverside, Armstrong, and Riverford campgrounds.
 - Contract awarded and work is 90% complete in FY24
 - Contract value: \$572,271
- Rainbow Campground and Riverside Trail Repairs (Riverside)
 - Completed contract repairs with National Forest Foundation (NFF) for Riverside Trail and Rainbow Campground; 3 miles of trail, including 3 trail bridges.
 - Campground and trail repairs completed in July 2024 and is open to the public.
 - Agreement value: \$489,641 (\$392,301 of disaster recovery funding with remaining provided by partner and grant funding)
- Highway 224 Reconstruction
 - Agreement with NFF. Work will include redesign and reconstruction of 7 fire impacted campgrounds, Ripplebrook interpretive site, and Fish Creek Day Use Area
 - Design contractor awarded in Fall 2024.
 - Agreement value: \$11,684,066
- Lionshead Fire Olallie Rec Site Repairs Contract
 - Repair & reconstruction of Camp Ten, Peninsula, and Paul Dennis Campgrounds and Pacific Crest Trail Trailhead.
 - Contract awarded and over 95% of work completed in FY24.
 - Contract value: \$444,000



Trails and Trailheads:

- Bull of the Woods Trail Repair (Bull Complex)
 - Agreement with Siskiyou Mountain Club. Funding for 2 extended trail crew hitches on fire-impacted trails in Bull of the Woods Wilderness.
 - Crew cleared more than 225 trees from the Elk Lake Creek Trail
 - Agreement value: \$69,651 (\$53,000 of BAR funds with remaining partner match)
- Bull of the Woods Trail Repair
 - Agreement with Trailkeepers of Oregon
 - Agreement value: \$238,931 (\$89,377 of BAR funds, remaining is partner match)

- Ant Farm West Side Youth Crew (Riverside)
 - Challenge cost share agreement with Ant Farm
 - Recreation site repair and improvements at Riverside sites which reopened in 2024 following work.
 - Agreement value: \$69,511 (\$10,134 match in fire recovery funding for purchasing of materials and supplies and personnel salary, remainder grant funding from Clackamas County)
- Forest West Zone trail crew (Riverside, Lionshead, Bull Complex)
 - Cut 300 hazard trees impacting trailheads and campgrounds.
 - Removed 567 downed logs from trails, logging out 17 miles of trail.
 - Using fire-killed material, hand-milled lumber for replacing or repairing trail 5 puncheon sections and 305 linear ft. of step-and-run trails. Completed hand-milling salvaged cedar hazard trees for trail repairs.
 - Brushed 12.6 miles of fire-impacted trails and rebuilt 0.8 miles of tread.
 - Surveyed 24 miles of trails.

Watersheds, Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife Habitat:

- Good Neighbor Authority agreement finalized with ODFW to restore wet meadow sites off FSR 4621, within the Riverside Fire burn scar.
- Installed 10 remote cameras and 20 coverboards at 10 wet meadow sites, as part of pre-project monitoring to understand baseline wildlife use, prior to any restoration. (Riverside, White River)
- Completed Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, section 7 analysis for hazard trees being felled into Fish Creek for the Rivbulio IRSC hazard tree project.
- Tumala Meadows beaver dam analog project contract awarded to Aquatic Contracting LLC (\$50,000); construction started in FY24, to be completed in FY25.

Soil watershed restoration:

- Administered contract for wood mulch creation and distribution for erosion control.
- Administered biochar contract for soil enhancement; 2 acres completed in FY24. (Riverside)
- Hosted a public event to distribute biochar stockpiles. (Riverside)
- Purchased a UAS (drone) for aerial surveying of 3,185 acres of unstable slopes in the project area. (Riverside)



Aquatic Restoration:

- Tree tipping and extraction for fish habitat structures
 - 360 hazard trees were tipped with whole root fans intact along FSR 5410-120. Whole trees were hauled and staged at several instream fish habitat restoration sites. (Riverside)
 - Total FY24: \$180,410
- Instream and floodplain habitat construction at Cub Creek. (Lionshead Fire)
 - Cub Creek Phase II: ~25,000 cubic yards of alluvium was redistributed across the floodplain of lower Cub Creek, reconnecting 10 acres of critical habitat for 3 species of ESA-listed fish and reintroduced bull trout.
 - Cub Creek Phase II: Over 500 fire-killed trees were tipped and placed across the floodplain to provide cover and shade. This work was completed in partnership with Trout Unlimited and OR Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), with funding from Fire Recovery Funds, an OR Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant, and the Drinking Water Providers Partnership (DWPP).
 - Enterprise agreement to design and implement Cub Creek Phase II.
 - Planting in the disturbed areas: Walama Restoration is replanting native, site appropriate, shrubs and trees with Fire Recovery funds; Trout Unlimited coordinated volunteer planting of Douglas-fir and Western red cedar.
 - Total contract value for Cub Creek Phase II: ~\$560,000 (\$294,000 from OWEB, \$100,000 from DWPP, and remainder from Fire Recovery funds).
 - A total of \$594,000 was added to the Trout Unlimited agreement to cover costs of Cub Creek Phase II and other future projects on the District.



Silviculture

- Total for FY24 in Riverside, Lionshead, and White River Fire areas:
 - Planting/regeneration surveys: 2,000 acres
 - Spring planting: 1,316 acres
 - Spring site prep: 854 acres
 - Fall planting: 1,029 acres

Botany

- Herbicide treatments and surveys
 - Surveyed 7 rock quarries for invasive plants
 - Mapped ~50 miles of invasive plant infestations
 - Surveyed while in pursuit of target species: 3,000 gross treated acres

Heritage and Archeology:

- Awarded contract for Confederate Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon Traditional Use Oral History Study (Riverside).
 - Contract value: \$125,000
- Completed 427 acres of heritage surveys in advance of planting, aquatic projects, and hazard tree abatement.

Other Projects

- Law enforcement partnership with Wasco County to support security in fire areas. (White River, Lionshead)

Salary and Expenses

- Salary, travel, training, overtime, and administrative materials and supplies for the core fire recovery management team, an Agricultural Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) retiree, 10 seasonal employees, and numerous District and Forest staff working on fire recovery projects.
- Provided \$3,672,000 to fund Forest and Regional salary shortfalls in FY24.

Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) and Fire Suppression

The Team accomplished the following BAR work throughout FY23 & FY24, in parallel with Fire Recovery project management, but using post-fire burned area rehabilitation funding.

- Developed and completed Bull Complex Suppression Repair contract (\$1,323,000), repairing 49 miles of Forest roads.
- Developed and completed Bull Complex Curtain Burner contract (\$335,000) to treat excess slash fuels from campground hazard tree removal. In FY24, \$400,000 of Fire Recovery funds were added to this contract to treat three additional slash accumulation

areas. About 20,000 cubic yards of woody slash debris were burned on-site, creating about 1,000 cubic yards of saleable biochar.

- Developed and implemented Bull Complex Trail Repair (\$132,000).
- Developed Riverside Fire Campground Supplies contract (\$263,000).

White River Fire Projects

- White River Road Reconstruction and Hazard Tree Abatement IRSC (see Road & Hazards Abatement section).
- Mule deer monitoring (see wildlife section).
- White River Bridge reconstruction on FSR 3530. Design was completed in FY23; reconstruction was done in FY24.
- Barlow Road Hazard tree treatment and chipping (\$900,000) to be awarded first quarter of FY25. All contract design and preparation were completed in FY24.
- White River fire weed treatment contract (\$65,169) to be awarded first quarter of FY25. All contract design and preparation were completed in FY24.
- Purchased a new mower deck to maintain vegetation in seed orchards; 47 acres were treated in FY24.



2023 Fire Recovery Team Accomplishments

General Program Management

The first year largely centered around preparing and establishing agreements, strengthening partnerships, developing contracts to implement fire recovery work, and hiring staff to support the work. Report on accomplishments includes the last quarter of FY22 since project staff and funding received around June 1, 2022.

- Hired three full-time project managers, one administrative support staff, and one senior project advisor. Hired another full-time project manager after previous staff was promoted elsewhere in the agency.
- Hired two term-limited, temporary project managers.
- Administrative approver for two purchase card holders; materials and supplies
- Assisted hiring Forest/District Support Positions: two project engineers, two silviculturists, and one engineering intern.
- Coordinated and led Contracting Officer Representative (COR) skills training course with Willamette National Forest.
- Certified two staff project managers at entry-level Federal Acquisition Certification for Program and Project Manager (FAC P/PM)
- Coordinated updates of road and area closure Forest Orders.
- Developed charter for fire recovery team.
- Developed work breakdown structure for each of the 62 individual projects in the fire recovery project portfolio.
- Coordinated development of the project budget tracking tools.
 - Obligated 94% of FY23 goals (\$32,430,534 of \$34,399,725 planned) and 43% of the total funds received (\$76,664,665).
- Hosted field tours for Forest leadership, Regional & Washington Office staff, Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Clackamas Stewardship Group.

Roads and Hazard Tree Abatement

- Contracted danger tree removal from 643 burned acres adjacent to 88.3 miles of roads, and 93.0 miles of road repair and 18.9 miles of road reconstruction.
 - Prepared White River Fire IRSC for road repairs and hazard tree removal.
 - Completed danger tree and road contract work needed to reopen FSR 46 to the Forest's southern boundary.
 - Purchased and installed 75 safety signs for burned areas near roads and campgrounds.
 - Prepared contract for gate repairs on FSR 2120 and Keeps Mill area.
- Road repair and hazard tree contract preparation in progress:

- Prepared Integrated Resource Service Contract for danger tree and road repair work on FSRs 57 and 5710 (Oak Grove IRSC).
- Prepared Clackamas IRSC for danger tree and road repair work in the Hillockburn, Fish Creek, Ripplebrook, Timber Lake Job Corps, and Indian Henry areas.
 - Coordinated boundary determination with adjacent BLM property.
- Prepared Bull-Olallie IRSC for danger tree and road repair work in the Olallie and Bull Complex areas.
- Developed and administered contract for air curtain burner slash management contract for Bull Complex and campground-generated piles at Memaloose weigh station and Ripplebrook compound.
 - Generation of biochar to be used in soil remediation and becoming available as a salable forest product.
 - Forest roads repaired: 4.68 miles.
 - Landings repaired, with necessary slash pile treatment: 3.
- Completed Clackamas Fires Roadside Danger Tree Environmental Assessment (09/2022).
- Incorporated reissue of USFWS Biological Opinion for northern spotted owls.
- Assisted in preparation of Pipeline Settlement Sale to PGE.
- Oversaw project for White River Bridge reconstruction.

Administrative Facilities

- Facilitated the process to revise and sign the Forest's Facilities Master Plan.
- Completed hazardous materials remediation at Ripplebrook.
- Facilitated Tribal negotiations, remediation plan development, and contract administration for remediation heritage issues at Ripplebrook building and Fish Creek Campground.
- Initiated design contracts for Ripplebrook area facilities recovery, including the district warehouse, employee housing, and a new tree cooler.
- Installed temporary tree cooler at Ripplebrook.
- Prepared contract and completed repair of Barlow Ranger District tree cooler. (White River)
- Initiated contract process for temporary housing solutions at Ripplebrook.

Recreation Facilities

- Contracted administration for the preparation of the *Highway 224 Fire Recovery Recreation Plan*, by Forest Service Enterprise Team.
- Established partnership and challenge cost share agreement with National Forest Foundation for the recovery of Riverside Trail and Rainbow Campground; 3 miles of trail, including 3 trail bridges.
- Established interagency agreement with FHWA for Hwy. 224 recreation site recovery, and bridges and aquatic organism passage recovery. Began Hwy. 224 strategic plan for the recovery of the corridor and the most impacted recreation sites, including:
 - Roaring River Campground
 - Fish Creek Campground
 - Sunstrip Campground
 - Indian Henry Campground
 - Lazy Bend Campground
- In partnership with FHWA, public engagement sessions held in June 2023 to hear values and feedback about Hwy. 224 transportation and recreation site recovery.
- Completed hazard tree cutting at 11 campgrounds and accompanying day use sites in Riverside Fire area:
 - Fish Creek Campground
 - Riverside Campground
 - Lazy Bend Campground
 - Carter Bridge Campground
 - Lockaby Campground
 - Armstrong Campground
 - Roaring River Campground
 - Sunstrip Campground
 - Ripplebrook Campground
 - Rainbow Campground
 - Sandstone Boat Launch
- Neared completion of hazard tree cutting in 5 campgrounds in the Olallie Lakes area, part of the Lionshead Fire area:
 - Peninsula Campground
 - Horseshoe Campground
 - Camp 10 Campground
 - Paul Dennis Campground and Day Use



- Lower lake Campground
- Prepared contract and conducted trail repair work at McCubbins OHV site (1.5 miles). (White River)
- Administered contract for replacement of 8 vault toilets at developed campgrounds.

Watersheds, Wildlife and Fisheries

- Replaced 1 wildlife guzzler in the White River Fire area.
- Completed Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 7 analysis and reporting for fish habitat and AOP stream crossing projects.
- Aquatic Restoration:
 - Established partnership with Freshwater Trust sourcing fire-killed trees for restoration projects.
 - Conducted contract administration for hauling downed trees to staging locations for future instream restoration projects.
 - Established partnership with Trout Unlimited for Cub Creek restoration and Tumala Meadows beaver dam analog.
 - Established partnership with ODFW for deer/elk range restoration.
 - Partnered with Enterprise Team to design Cub Springs Bridge and Cub Creek stage-zero floodplain restoration.
 - Contracted designs for 12 aquatic organism passage culverts
- Administered soil erosion control contract using wood mulch and soil enhancement contract for converting wood mulch to biochar.



Silviculture

- Prepared and administered eight tree planting contracts:
 - 2,685 acres planted (Riverside and White River)
 - 50 acres seeded within Riverside, via a piloted drone; success monitoring in progress.
- Prepared and administered contract for cone collection (seed acquisition for reforestation), site preparation, and mastication contracts.
- Prepared five invasive weed treatment agreements (ODA, CSWCD, SWCD, Weedwise, Walama).
- Laid out 900-1000 acres for the upcoming planting season.
- Completed pre-work for upcoming site-prep contract, including planting 782 acres, with up to 100 optional acres.

Botany

- Surveyed 17 rock quarries for invasive plants
- Surveyed 35 acres for invasive plants
- Mapped 36 miles of invasive plant infestations

Herbicide treatments and surveys

- Riverside Fire: 13 *net* treated acres (acreage of plants sprayed/treated)
- Riverside Fire: 2,285 *gross* treated acres (acreage surveyed while in pursuit of target species).
- Bull Complex: 676 acres surveyed. ~10 acres treated.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of our past team members, recent retirees, Mt. Hood National Forest staff, and Clackamas River Ranger District staff. We would list Clackamas River Ranger District and Forest staff individually, but the list really includes most of both staffs. Without their continued dedication and support, this project would not have been implemented successfully.

Past Contributing Project Management Team Members and Support Positions:

- Amber Sprinkle
- Greg Wanner
- Morai Helfen
- Tracy Beck (retired)
- Terri Miller (retired)
- Bruce Zoellick (retired)

A large portion of the work in this project is completed through contracts. The success of this project is the support and guidance from the contracting staff of the National Stewardship & Disaster Recovery Procurement and Property Services. We thank:

- Mark Phillipp
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- Curtis Yocum
- Nikki Layton

