

Rural Oregon Investments

Regional Solutions (Rural Regions) \$12M

Each Regional Solutions region is to receive \$2 million to fund the regions' top priority projects. At the minimum, 6 of the 11 regions are identified as rural: North Coast, South Coast, Southern, South Central, Greater Eastern, and Northeast. Examples include: infrastructure to support economic development, entrepreneurship, workforce training, and local capacity.

Special Public Works Fund Recapitalization (SPWF) (Business Oregon) \$28M

SPWF is a loan program designed to help fund local infrastructure projects that are publicly owned.

Connect Oregon (ODOT) \$29M

A rough estimate assuming half of the Governor's \$58 million would go to rural projects.

Rural Infrastructure Opportunity Fund (Business Oregon) \$10M

This fund will support public and private infrastructure tied to business expansion and recruitment in rural areas.

Natural Resource Transformative Technology Grant Program (Business Oregon) \$5M

The program will fund projects or programs designed to develop innovative long-term opportunities for Oregon's natural resource industries.

Rural Entrepreneurship (Business Oregon) \$0.1M

Expands current pilot project and cooperation with RDI in Coos, Curry and Douglas counties to identify opportunities and barriers to entrepreneurial activities in rural Oregon.

Water Resources Development \$54.8M

Water is essential for economic growth, environmental health, and the welfare of all Oregonians. With this funding, the state will work with communities across the state to identify, evaluate and develop water resources solutions to meet the needs of fish and agriculture.

Community Leverage Fund (Rural Regions) \$12M

The Community Leverage Fund will build capacity in community partnerships to leverage public, private and civic resources in carrying out plans to improve outcomes in early learning, health, workforce and economic development that support Oregon's 40/40/20 educational goal.

Improved Federal Forest Management (ODF) \$6M

Grants to local forest collaboratives to increase agreement among diverse stakeholders on restoration projects that include fire resiliency, timber harvest, and local economic impacts. Use new federal authority for state as implementation partner to provide seasonal employees and contractors to implement treatments on federal forests.

Biomass Leadership Plan (ODF) \$1.1M

Advance woody biomass use to promote rural investment and forest health restoration. Provide technical and marketing capacity needed for forest biomass supply, processing, and production. Grant funds to catalyze private sector investments and facilities for woody biomass collection and production.

Biomass (ODOE)

ODOE proposing a change to the Biomass Tax Credit to be more focused on the production instead of collection which may create more opportunity for energy projects tied to woody biomass. Currently there is no 2015-2017 revenue impact.

Working Rangelands and Sage Grouse Conservation (ODF & ODFW) \$4.5M

Advance a multi-agency plan through the Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership (SageCon) to reduce threats to sage grouse and strengthen working ranches. Supports rangeland fire protection associations, improving the resiliency of sagebrush habitat to wildfire, and controlling invasive grasses and juniper.

Working Forests and Farms Finance (Cross Agency) \$30M

Productive, well-managed forests and farms strengthen rural economies and improve the environment. Demographic and economic changes make it harder to keep these lands working. New financing tools will increase the financial viability of private working lands, helping sustain productivity and ecological benefits.

The Rural Implementation Team consists of Co-chairs Mike McArthur, Association of Oregon Counties, and Paul Barnum, Oregon Forest Resources Institute; and members John Audley, Sustainable Northwest; Linc Cannon, Oregon Forest Industries Council; J.R. Cook, Northeast Oregon Water Association; Patrick Criteser, Tillamook Creamery; Frank Faust, Asante; Joel Fischer, Oregon Business Association; Jessica Gomez, Rogue Valley Micro Devices; Rep. Caddy McKeown, Coos Bay; Jeremy Rogers, Oregon Business Council; Heather Stafford, Sustainable Valley Technology Group; Sam Tannahill, A to Z Winery; Vicki Walker, USDA Rural Development; King Williams, King Inc. The Team was staffed by Doug Decker, Oregon Department of Forestry; Annette Liebe, Regional Solutions; Sean Robbins, Business Oregon; Gary Roth, Oregon Department of Agriculture; and Vince Porter and Samantha Walsh of the Governor's Office.