



# ECOSYSTEM WORKFORCE PROGRAM

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

**T**he Ecosystem Workforce Program (EWP) is an applied social science research and extension program built on the fundamental belief that ecology, economy, and governance are intimately interconnected.

EWP is a joint program of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment at the University of Oregon and the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. This unique partnership allows Oregon's two leading universities to collectively contribute to natural resource governance that fosters prosperity and sustainability. Together, we apply scientific expertise and leadership to produce better outcomes for land and people.

EWP was founded at the University of Oregon in 1994 to support the development of a high-skill, high-wage ecosystem management industry in the Pacific Northwest. Our work is continually informed by the current needs of natural resources practitioners, managers, and decision makers, and has evolved to provide state-of-the-art social science research and communication aimed at promoting the resilience of forests and people. EWP employs diverse social science methods from both qualitative (e.g., case studies, interviews) and quantitative (e.g., large dataset and spatial analysis) approaches on topics such as accomplishing cross-boundary restoration, wildland fire policy and management, forest governance, and rural economies and land use (for more detail, see following table).

Our publications and technical assistance aim to inform policy makers and practitioners, and contribute to scholarly and practical discourse. We disseminate knowledge through our own series of working and briefing papers, infographics, guides, videos, and fact sheets; as well as scientific journals and conferences, manager and practitioner networks, and partner events. We also seek to apply our research and other best available social science in real-world contexts through technical assistance to partners.

EWP is led by Dr. Cassandra Moseley, Director; Dr. Heidi Huber-Stearns, Associate Director (UO), and Dr. Emily Jane Davis, Associate Director (OSU) and includes other research staff and students at University of Oregon and Oregon State University. A memorandum of understanding between the two institutions outlines procedures for effective collective operations. EWP projects are funded by a range of state and federal agency agreements, and competitively awarded research and extension grants. The success of our work relies on our strong partnerships with other universities; local, state and federal agency partners; NGOs; and the private sector.

## CONTACT

For more information, visit our website: <http://ewp.uoregon.edu>.

If you have questions, please contact us at: [ewp@uoregon.edu](mailto:ewp@uoregon.edu).



Topic Area	Example Projects
Accomplishing cross-boundary restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Blue Mountains Restoring Resilience at the Landscape Scale.</b> Lessons learned from the Blue Mountains Restoration Strategy team can be applied to multi-forest, landscape-level planning.</li> <li>▪ <b>Opportunities for Collaborative Accelerated Restoration in Oregon's Blue Mountains.</b> Key stakeholders' perceptions of USFS and Oregon Department of Forestry's investments to increase the pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration inform program effectiveness.</li> <li>▪ <b>Effects of the Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) Budget on Forest Service Restoration Programs.</b> Third party review of IRR provides insights for agency prioritization and integration of restoration programs in pilot regions, and shows innovative approaches by forests. <i>Led by Colorado State University.*</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Strategies for Success under Forest Service Restoration Initiatives.</b> Opportunities for improving agency restoration policies and practices learned from the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program and Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership can accelerate cross-boundary, collaborative, and integrated restoration. <i>Led by Colorado State University.</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Social and economic monitoring plans and data analysis.</b> Data support, monitoring plan development, and forest restoration and timber sale workforce assessments for individual CFLR projects, Oregon forest collaboratives, state of Oregon's Federal Forest Restoration Program, and the Tongass National Forest identify current and past trends, opportunities for local benefit and/or capacity development, and track changes over time.</li> </ul>
Wildland fire policy and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Co-managing Wildfire Risk.</b> Effective co-management of wildfire across jurisdictional boundaries in the western US can inform fire mitigation and suppression efforts. <i>Partners: Colorado State University, Utah State University.</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Prescribed Fire Policy Barriers and Opportunities.</b> There are both challenges and creative strategies to applying prescribed fire in the western US, which can be applied in other areas. <i>Led by Colorado State University.</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Rangeland Fire Protection Agencies (RFPAs).</b> RFPAs innovate how they manage wildfire across boundaries in rural rangeland areas.</li> <li>▪ <b>Northwest Fire Science Consortium.</b> Synthesizing literature and developing partnerships facilitates dissemination of wildland fire science between practitioner, policy, and academic audiences.</li> <li>▪ <b>Managing the Wildfire Suppression Market.</b> Wildfire suppression markets are organized around inconsistent demand for services, agency contracting practices, and diversified contractor businesses.</li> <li>▪ <b>Economic Impacts of Large Wildfires.</b> Large wildfires affect local labor and wage markets, increasing volatility.</li> <li>▪ <b>Wildfire Resilience.</b> Understanding how socioeconomic vulnerability, adaptive capacity, and mitigation factors influence community wildfire resilience informs how resilience can be enhanced by different community approaches.</li> </ul>
Forest governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Forest Governance and Climate Change in Driving Native Insect Outbreaks.</b> National Science Foundation Coupled Natural-Human System research illuminates findings about how governance response to mountain pine beetle outbreak on national forestlands differs by scales and forests.</li> <li>▪ <b>The Forest Service and Communities.</b> Communicating relevance of agency work to communities in the Pacific Northwest Region highlights connections through infographics and data visualization of primarily USFS data. <i>Partner: USFS Pacific Northwest Region.</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Iconic Places of the US Forest Service.</b> A baseline assessment of USFS Iconic Places reports on the benefits, challenges, opportunities, and information needs the places are experiencing.</li> <li>▪ <b>NEPA in the 21st Century Initiative.</b> A synthesis of the initiative's studies, publications, agency learning opportunities, and participants' perspectives highlights key contributions of the initiative.</li> <li>▪ <b>Piloting Measures for Governance Change.</b> Piloting social and economic metrics informs understanding of outcomes of federal forest management.</li> <li>▪ <b>Forest Service Diversity and Inclusion.</b> A new project will explore decades of US Forest Service employee data to identify trends and connections. <i>Partner: USFS Northern Research Station.</i></li> </ul>
Rural economies and land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>25-Year Northwest Forest Plan Social and Economic Impacts Monitoring.</b> How communities perceive social and economic impacts to their local areas since the enactment of the Plan links to social wellbeing and community transitions.</li> <li>▪ <b>Woody biomass.</b> Several recent projects have investigated woody biomass grant programs and policies for encouraging biomass market development, and synthesized social issues around woody biomass utilization.</li> <li>▪ <b>Community-Based Organizations.</b> Nongovernmental community-based organizations and intermediaries are interwoven into governance in rural communities.</li> </ul>

\*We partner extensively on all projects, other recent partners include: USDA Forest Service, University of Georgia, University of Idaho, Southern Willamette and Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaboratives, Tatoosh School, Wallowa Resources, Southern Blues & Lakeview Stewardship Collaborative CFLR Projects.