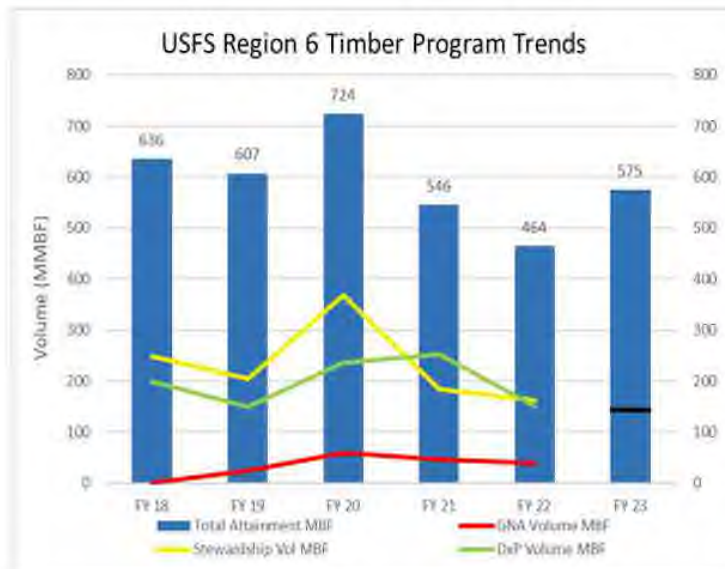


## 2023 AFRC Annual Meeting Handout – USDA Forest Service: Region 6 Breakout



### FY2022

- Timber Sale Contracts- 47%
- Stewardship Contracting - 35%
- Permits/Add Vol – 18%
- 7 Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) Sales; 40 MMBF (8% of awarded volume)
- 33% volume used D&P
- 88% Award Rate

### FY2023

- 575 MMBF assigned to 16 forests
- 141MMBF (25%) awarded, 79MMBF advertised, remaining volume to be advertised in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> qtr.
- 100% Award Rate

### FY2024

- 653 MMBF, preliminary target assigned to Region 6

### **Successes:**

- The highest priority for the Agency is the treatment of 20 million acres on National Forest System (NFS) lands and 30 million acres off NFS lands over the next 10 years under National Wildfire Crisis. In 2023, an additional 11 National Wildfire Strategy Landscapes were announced bringing the total number of landscapes to 21 nationwide. The announcement included three additional areas in Region 6, bringing the total number of landscapes in Region 6 to five including: Colville Northeast Washington Vision (new), Mt. Hood Forest Health and Fire-Resilient Communities (new), Klamath River Basin (new, includes four Forests in R5 as well), Central Oregon, and Central Washington Initiative.
- Since 2018, more than 35,000 acres have been treated through Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). Currently every forest in Region 6 has at least one GNA. Forest leadership continues to work collaboratively with State counterparts to align priorities under a shared stewardship approach. The relationships already established at the Forest and local level will facilitate success under the recent legislation passed in both Oregon and Washington. In 2022, the Region and States worked together to secure \$4 million dollars in funding from the Washington Office for work under this authority. In FY2023 the Region has received approx. \$8.7 million to work under GNA. The investments go directly toward project work on-the-ground and add capacity to the Forest programs across the Region.
- Investments in wood innovation continue to expand. In FY2022, the Region was awarded \$5.1 million for a total of 18 wood innovation grants. The Region just submitted grant proposals to the WO for funding consideration in FY23.
- The Region is providing \$23.5 million for 10 Community Wildfire Defense projects in Oregon and has \$23.4 million dedicated for 13 projects in Washington. The next upcoming call for project proposals will be in May or June of this year.
- The Agency established a pilot project on the Willamette National Forest in Region 6 to work with industry and make strategic investments in active management building off potential operational delineations (PODs). This work is in its very early stages and builds from strong working relationships between the Forest Service and industry. The Agency and Region seek to lean on innovative ideas through industry to accelerate establishment of PODs.

### **Successes Continued:**

- Region 6 continues to address needs associated with tethered logging, and the Umatilla National Forest is working with Oregon State University on a tethered logging study to make this logging system method more readily available where there are needs and conditions allow.
- The Agency has initiated new “keystone” agreements with National Wild Turkey Federation, Trout Unlimited, The Mule Deer Foundation, and National Forest Foundation. The agreements will allow Regions to enter into large scale agreements that focus on wildfire risk reduction and forest restoration. These agreements will include service work as well as removal of wood products under stewardship authority. The Region and Agency anticipates these partners will be working directly with local purchasers to implement work on the ground.
- Region 6 continues to increase forest products modernization tools and new authorities including use of virtual boundaries on multiple forests, DxP or DxD on 14 forests, Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreements on 16 forests, stewardship contracts where appropriate, and two A to Z style projects. G-Z projects including contract preparation through implementation at large scale are in early development.

### **Challenges:**

- Recruitment and hiring challenges continue to limit our internal capacity needs within the Region and at the Agency level as well. The Region is working closely with state, NGO, and tribal partners to offset these gaps. The Agency and Regions have made significant investments in national level hiring events, including working with partners such as the Society of American Foresters. We still have a number of positions vacant, particularly in areas that are difficult to fill due to high cost of living.
  - Society of American Foresters Hiring: filled 75 new positions in Region 6 (20 permanents, 24 interns that can be converted to permanent, and 31 recent graduates).
  - National Collective Hiring: filled 12 of 18 timber sale administrator positions in Region 6; filled 34 of 73 other forester and forestry tech positions.
- The Region is placing a strong emphasis on increasing efficiency for environmental analysis and decision making (EADM) and has recently developed and issued an EADM Guide to line officers and staff across the region.
- Litigation continues to impact the Region both due to the impact it has on inability to implement projects and on the staff time required to address litigation. Thus far in FY23, litigation has affected two sales on two forests for a total of 32 MMBF. For the remainder of FY23 we anticipate another seven sales affected totaling another 100 MMBF.