

**Priority:** Safety  
**Program Offer Type:** New Program  
**Related Programs:** 50014, 50015, 50022A, 50023A, 50030A, 50031, 50032A, 50033, 50035, 50038  
**Lead Agency:** Community Justice  
**Program Contact:** Kevin Criswell

**Program Characteristics:**

**Executive Summary**

The Forest Project is a cost-effective work alternative to jail and juvenile detention that reduces arrests for adult offenders by 67% annually. The Forest Project holds adult offenders and juvenile delinquents responsible for their actions by requiring them to perform community service from a remote, Columbia Gorge location, where they also attend programs designed to address criminal thinking, improve their decision-making, and build skills. Cut from the 2004-05 budget, restoration of the Forest Project could avert \$770,000 in potential jail bed costs per year and generate almost \$25,000 in restitution for victims. This offer links directly to the Safety priority by providing alternatives to incarceration while holding offenders accountable for repairing harm done to victims and the community (restorative justice).

**Program Description**

Forest Project participants live in the Columbia Gorge, building and maintaining US Forest Service trails, caring for habitat, and developing positive work habits. With 28 beds, the Forest Project serves 250 juvenile offenders and 290 adult offenders per year. Adult male offenders provide unpaid work 5 days per week, returning home on weekends. Their evenings are spent participating in addiction recovery groups, discussing thinking patterns that result in criminal behavior, and honing job search skills. Male and female juvenile offenders attend Forest Project on the weekends. They are paid for the work they perform and the money they earn is used to pay restitution to their victims. Juvenile offenders also participate in evening groups designed to build pro-social behavior. The Forest Project is available as a sentencing option to judges or a sanction for adult and juvenile offenders who have violated probation supervision conditions.

**Program Justification**

The Forest Project holds adult and juvenile offenders accountable by requiring them to perform community service work as part of a probation sanction or a sentence. While at the Forest Project, offenders also receive evidence-based interventions that address the causes of criminal behavior in order to reduce re-offending. This combination of accountability and evidence-based interventions works: Successful adult probationers sentenced to Forest Project experienced a 67% decrease in arrests one year following exit, compared with one year prior to being referred to the Forest Project; even unsuccessful participants experienced a 45% decrease in arrests (Rhyne, 2002).

The Forest Project improves the availability of resources within the justice system and reduces the cost of service delivery. Based on the number of adult offenders who were sanctioned to the Forest Project as an alternative to a jail sanction in the past, and the average duration of their sanctions, restoring the Forest Project would save a minimum of 7,000 adult jail-bed days or \$770,000. The juvenile component would earn approximately \$24,275 in restitution for victims.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Restitution dollars generated by juvenile offenders.	0	0	0	25,000
Outcome	Annual jail bed cost savings (adult participants).	0	0	0	770,000
Output	Average total number of adults and juveniles served annually.	0	0	0	540
Outcome	Pre/Post reduction in arrests	0%	0%	0%	50%

**Performance Measure - Description**

**Legal/Contractual Obligation**

ORS 137.593 and OAR 291-058-0010 through OAR 291-058-0070 requires that "county community corrections agency shall impose structured, intermediate sanctions for the violation of conditions of probation."

**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	<b>Proposed General Fund</b>	<b>Proposed Other Funds</b>	<b>Proposed General Fund</b>	<b>Proposed Other Funds</b>
<b>Program Expenses</b>	2006	2006	2007	2007
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$1,246,496	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$1,300	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$151,778	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$50,894	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,450,468</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$68,175	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$72,523	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$140,698</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Total GF/non-GF:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,591,166</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Program Total:	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$1,591,166</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	19.00	0.00
<b>Program Revenues</b>				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Explanation of Revenues**

County General Fund.

**Significant Program Changes****Last year this program was:**

Located in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, the Forest Project requires a 5-year intergovernmental agreement with the US Forest Service for use of its Wyeth, Oregon, site.