

# Ashland Watershed Update

A publication of the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project

## Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project

### Field Trips

Join a field trip to learn about AFR work, Ashland forests, and monitoring in the watershed. To register, contact Alicia at 552-2286 or e-mail to [Alicia.Fitzgerald@ashland.or.us](mailto:Alicia.Fitzgerald@ashland.or.us).

### We're on Facebook!

Learn about the work we're doing, areas to avoid while recreating in the watershed, and what to expect this summer and fall by "liking" us on Facebook. Visit [facebook.com/AFR.Project](https://facebook.com/AFR.Project) and select "like" to receive our updates.

### AFR E-mail List

Keep up to date on what is going on in the watershed by visiting [www.ashlandwatershed.org](http://www.ashlandwatershed.org) and signing up on our e-mail list. Click on the "NOTIFY ME BY E-MAIL" link on the left menu to register, or call Alicia at 541-552-2286.

## Spring/Summer 2013 AFR Project News

The AFR Project has completed important wildfire hazard reduction work on an area encompassing over 3,000 acres in the Ashland Watershed. Within that area, separate yet overlapping work efforts demonstrate that cumulatively many more acres of work have been accomplished. As of March 2013, on-the-ground accomplishments for the project total:

- 1974 acres of wildfire fuels reduction
- 987 acres of fuels removed through pile burning.
- 610 acres of helicopter thinning total (between 2 phases)
- 332 acres of ecological thinning via ground based machinery.
- 921 acres of fuels clean-up following thinning operations.



## Forests Undergo Spring Cleaning

During this past winter and spring, Columbia Helicopters finished another phase of tree thinning around the Four Corners and White Rabbit parking areas. Impacts to the forest floor were minimized as trees were lifted out of the forest and transported



to existing landing sites where they were then transported by trucks to local mills. Limbs and debris left in the forest were piled by work crews and will be burned during wet conditions. Periodic delays can be expected on forest roads in June as firewood is transported and workers complete road maintenance and cleanup of landing sites.

By October, the project will have spent all \$6.2 million of Economic Recovery Act Funds since 2010, supporting 16 full time positions for the local economy . Four million dollars is still needed to complete the project. The AFR partnership is pursuing opportunities for City funding, federal money, and grants that will enable completion of this important work as soon as possible.





Ashland's forested landscape  
© Sean Bagshaw

## More info about the partners on the Web:

[www.ashlandwatershed.org](http://www.ashlandwatershed.org)

[www.fs.usda.gov/rogue-siskiyou](http://www.fs.usda.gov/rogue-siskiyou)

[www.nature.org/oregon](http://www.nature.org/oregon)

[www.lomakatsi.org](http://www.lomakatsi.org)

[www.ashland.or.us](http://www.ashland.or.us)

## You are also welcome to contact:

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## Local Trail Renovations

Rehabilitation of roads and trails after tree thinning was a high priority for the AFR Project. Working with local recreation groups, the AFR partnership took this opportunity to enhance the trail-use experience in the White Rabbit area.



Lomakatsi coordinated subcontractors and tribal crews to perform post-thinning trail cleanup and installation of two separate trail systems; one for pedestrians and equestrians, and another for bikers. Both new trails skirt around the helicopter landing site, providing a safer recreation experience for all trail users and directing traffic away from the actual landing site to enable re-growth of native grasses and trees. At the Eastview trail-head, additional parking and interpretive information will also be installed soon.

## Summer Youth Training and Employment Program

Youth engagement and education have always been a foundational element of Lomakatsi. From July 15th through August 8th, Lomakatsi will coordinate a program that builds upon efforts to foster stewardship in the next generation. Working in the Ashland Watershed, 20 select local high school students will learn from Lomakatsi's professional workforce trainers and guest natural resource specialists. Students will participate in a variety of hands-on workforce experiences, while exploring ecological restoration and natural resource career pathways.

## Protecting Southern Oregon's Pacific Fishers

Conserving forests and associated wildlife is important to the partners advancing the AFR Project. To maintain habitat for the Pacific fisher, a candidate species for Federal Listing in 2014, the AFR partnership protects older forests and riparian areas, and established 0.5 to 1-acre reserve areas in each 40 acre block within the project.



Radio tracking efforts followed a female fisher who located her temporary natal den near the White Rabbit trail within a thinning unit where cutting was completed only days previously. With radio monitoring information collected during helicopter operations in 2012, the AFR partnership established a 600 meter buffer around the den tree. All operations in that area, including the planned helicopter removal of the logs, were suspended until the female moved her kit. This situation demonstrates how careful monitoring and flexibility by project partners and contractors created a positive outcome for this species of concern.

**The Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project** is a collaborative partnership established between the US Forest Service, the City of Ashland, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and The Nature Conservancy. Staff involved from other organizations include Southern Oregon University, Klamath Bird Observatory, Oregon State University Extension Service, The National Park Service, the Rogue Basin Small Diameter Collaborative, the USFS Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest Research Stations. and local citizens.