



# ASHLAND FOREST RESILIENCY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

## What is AFR?

A 10-year collaborative effort to reduce the risk of severe wildfire, secure clean drinking water, and protect forests, wildlife, habitat, people, property, local economy, and quality of life.

## The best of its kind

This innovative solution to a complex problem is a model for forest restoration. The ongoing success on the ground results from tremendous collaboration in active restoration, public engagement, and co-investment by the city, state and federal agencies.

## Recognition

With ongoing successes, the project attracted a federal award of \$2.2 million toward completion on federal lands, and \$1 million for strategic treatments on critical private lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic damage to the watershed and forests upon which Ashland and the surrounding community relies.



Photo by Sean Bagshaw

## A Model of Collaboration

Since 2010, the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project has reduced the threat of severe wildfires in a high value landscape through collaboration among a large and diverse group of governmental bodies, environmental organizations, citizens, private businesses and community groups. A commitment to achieving shared goals on a larger cohesive landscape reduces the risk from high severity wildfire, secures drinking water, and sustains forests that provide for wildlife and a high quality of life for residents. Including key private lands is essential to success.

### *Fall 2015: Funding in hand and moving ahead*

The AFR partnership laid out almost 1200 acres of high priority fuels reduction and forest restoration. Excess trees can be sold as a by-product to offset a portion of the cost. The majority will be done by helicopter, the lowest impact method available. A small portion will be through light on the land ground based machinery. Planned work also includes thinning around big, old trees to keep them healthy and ongoing controlled burns to reduce fire danger.





## Measurable success

Work remains both in and outside of the watershed to complete an approach which sets the stage for cost-effective prescribed burns at larger scale, and to realize the beneficial outcomes from the inevitable future forest fires. Thus far, the successes have been greater than anticipated. The results on National Forest land and cross-boundary on city and private tracts:

- 4000 acres of landscape-scale fuels reduction and forest restoration complete
- 3.5 million board feet of restoration by-product logs
- 1000 log truck loads delivered to local mills, sustaining jobs
- \$1.5 million in receipts on sale of by-product logs recovered to reinvest in the project
- 17 direct full-time jobs annually, multiplying to 107 jobs with indirect and induced work

## Treasured landscape

The Ashland Watershed and surrounding forest is an invaluable natural resource providing an array of ecosystem benefits. Serving as a Southern Oregon hub for tourism and recreation, its mountain biking, trail running, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival are an economic engine that generate more than \$30 million annually.

## A new investment model

With the City of Ashland committing its funds to pay for work on federal forests, AFR represents a new approach for the Forest Service to accelerate forest restoration by partnering with local communities willing to invest in the health of their watershed, community safety and diverse ecosystem benefits.

## Community engagement, youth, workforce training

Over 2,000 youth have participated in class presentations and field activities about watershed function, ecology and forest stewardship. In addition, 40 local high school students participate each summer in hands-on training designed to inspire interest in natural resource career paths. Worker training is ingrained in the ongoing day to day operations, elevating knowledge, experience, and leadership.



Photos by: The City of Ashland, Dave Clayton, Lomakatsi Restoration Project

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