In the wake of the 2020 wildfires that devastated communities, this summer we experienced one of the longest wildfire seasons on record. Lomakatsi crews, who spend summers on wildland fire response, served 90 days on five different incidents across Oregon and Washington— including the Bootleg Fire in Klamath County. There can be no doubt of the urgent need to restore our forests and watersheds to build community and ecological resilience. Thanks to incredible support from people like you and our many partners, Lomakatsi is a leader in building forest and watershed restoration initiatives across Oregon and Northern California. We are working together to enhance ecosystems, reduce community wildfire risk, and create sustainable jobs and training opportunities where they are needed most.

**2021 HIGHLIGHTS**

Lomakatsi Restoration Project is a nonprofit organization that develops and implements forest and watershed restoration initiatives throughout Oregon and Northern California.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY & ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE**

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**THIS YEAR BY THE NUMBERS**

- **17,000 native trees and shrubs** planted along Bear Creek to enhance habitat for salmon and other wildlife
- **12,000+ acres of forest restoration** through ecological thinning, prescribed burning and restoration planning across federal, tribal and private lands
- **130,000+ acres** under active restoration across two states, five watersheds, and 10 counties
- **40 youth trained & employed** through hands-on, resume-boosting paid learning experiences
- **320+ jobs supported** from ecological restoration crew members to local contractors

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FOREST & WATERSHED RESTORATION

Across federal, state, tribal trust, municipal, and private lands, we reduce the risk of severe wildfire, enhance wildlife habitat, and protect valuable ecosystem services including drinking water.

West Bear All-Lands Restoration Project

Lomakatsi is a key part of Rogue Forest Partners (RFP), a group of four non-profits and six public agencies with the goal of restoring 11,000 acres at six project sites in the Rogue Basin over the next five years. In 2020, Lomakatsi and partners launched the West Bear Project, which targets ecological fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface of Talent, Phoenix, west Medford, and Jacksonville. Lomakatsi is the lead sponsor of a Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program award of $2.6 million for West Bear, working closely with many partners to build growing co-investment in this high-risk area. In 2021, Lomakatsi also led ecological thinning at the RFP Williams and Upper Applegate Watershed project areas to enhance wildlife habitat and build forest and community resiliency.

Ashland Forest Resiliency

The landmark collaboration between Lomakatsi, City of Ashland, The Nature Conservancy, US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board achieved 470 acres of understory burning and approximately 1,500 acres of pile burning this year—more than ever before. We also completed ecological thinning and pile burning on the final units of private land as part of the project, marking a big milestone towards improving forest health, wildlife habitat, and community safety. While we celebrate more than a decade of working together to accomplish over 13,000 acres of ecological restoration, we know there is still much work needed, and maintenance treatments will be ongoing—after all, stewardship is perpetual.

Ecocultural Restoration in Chiloquin

In 2021, through the Inter-Tribal Ecosystem Restoration Partnership, Lomakatsi launched a new ecocultural restoration initiative on the Chiloquin Trust Lands in partnership with Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin tribal community members and the Fremont-Winema National Forest. This ancestral Klamath village site traditionally known as “plaikni koke” sits along the Sprague River near Downtown Chiloquin, Oregon, and is sought by many for its spiritual significance. Ten tribal crew members employed by Lomakatsi began an initial 19 acres of restoration on the 580-acre property, restoring meadows and aspen woodlands to promote culturally-beneficial subsistence species, enhance wildlife habitat, and reduce wildfire risk to the Chiloquin community.
Lomakatsi works with sovereign Tribal Nations and communities across Oregon and Northern California to advance collaborative ecological restoration and repair damage to ecocultural systems that indigenous communities depend on for cultural beneficial uses, subsistence, and survival. We continue to make progress on long-term stewardship initiatives with partners including the Karuk Tribe, The Klamath Tribes, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, with whom we are launching an oak restoration project on tribal lands in the Willamette Valley. In 2021 we began groundwork for the Taktokewa Pine Springs Habitat Restoration Project with the Kosealekte Band of the Ajumawi-Atsuge Nation and the Modoc National Forest, pursuing an initial 3,000 acres of forest habitat restoration over the next few years as part of a longer-term 20,000-acre ecosystem restoration and tribal workforce development initiative.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

Lomakatsi creates opportunities for people of all ages to gain valuable skills and experience in ecological restoration

Youth Training & Employment Program

Lomakatsi hosted two sessions of our nationally-recognized youth program this summer, serving thirteen high school students from Ashland, Talent, Medford, Grants Pass, and Cave Junction. These youth worked full-time for four weeks learning the basics of forest and stream restoration, working in close partnership with the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in the Ashland and Illinois River watersheds to support the Ashland Forest Resiliency and Wild Rivers stewardship projects. Throughout both sessions, youth learned about ecology, natural history, and career pathways as they engaged with a variety of natural resource professionals. A big thank you to our partners and funders including the US Forest Service, City of Ashland, National Forest Foundation, Gray Family Foundation, Portland Trail Blazers Foundation, and the Bureau of Land Management for making these programs possible for local youth.

Tribal Youth Ecological Forestry Training

This summer we conducted a five-week program for young adults ages 18-24 from the Klamath tribal community. Working with expert trainers from Lomakatsi, Fremont-Winema National Forest, and The Klamath Tribes’ Natural Resources Department, nine participants earned professional certifications in cultural resource monitoring, wildland firefighting, chainsaw operation, and First Aid/CPR. They also engaged with tribal elders, learning about indigenous fire knowledge and ecocultural stewardship. This program equips tribal youth with the skills and training needed for natural resource careers—several participants served on Lomakatsi’s wildland fire crew this summer, working on the Bootleg Fire within their ancestral homelands, and currently work on a Lomakatsi restoration crew implementing projects across southern Oregon.

“...the Lomakatsi tribal youth program provided good skills and training, and helped mentally prepare me for this work... I’d recommend that others give this program a chance and get out of their comfort zone, as it provides opportunities.”

– Dakota Johnson, Klamath Tribal Member and Lomakatsi Tribal Youth Program Participant

TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Lomakatsi continues to partner with tribal communities to develop large-scale ecological restoration and workforce training initiatives on their ancestral lands

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The 2021 Ashland Watershed youth crew spent a day with Lomakatsi’s technical forestry team

Tribal youth learn the basics of restoration forestry
ECOLOGICAL RECOVERY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We continue to address urgent community needs in response to COVID-19 and recent wildfires

Community outreach, contact tracing, and wraparound services

In 2021, Lomakatsi continued our partnership with Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and Jackson and Klamath counties in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on our strong ties to tribal and Latinx communities in these areas through our Tribal Partnerships Program and Promotoras/Northwest Forest Worker Program, Lomakatsi’s multi-cultural staff provide contact tracing and wraparound services to hundreds of families in need. We also worked with tribal and Latinx community members to produce three culturally agile public service announcement videos around COVID-19 safety. These outreach and engagement efforts, including posters featuring original artwork by Lomakatsi tribal staff, have been shared with OHA state leadership as an example of successful collaboration with a community-based organization.

Providing leadership in post-fire restoration and recovery

This year, we planted 3,500 native trees and shrubs in fire-impacted areas along Bear Creek to help re-establish streamside forests essential to wildlife and water quality. With the Bureau of Land Management, we spread over 1,400 pounds of grass seed in the Obenchain Fire area to reduce erosion and promote native species. We are working with City of Ashland on a long-term recovery plan for Ashland Ponds, incorporating ecocultural restoration with tribal communities. We are also looking ahead, developing a fire management plan for City of Medford to ecologically build wildfire resilience. We’re working with the tribal community of Chiloquin to address Two Four Two Fire impacts, with generous support from the Oregon Community Foundation Community Rebuilding Fund to develop ecosystem and community resiliency projects that restore ecocultural resources, create tribal jobs, and incubate tribal businesses.

Enhancing critical streamside habitat

In addition to post-fire restoration, Lomakatsi continues important streamside forest enhancement work at strategic sites across the Rogue Valley and beyond. Our riparian restoration team planted over 10,000 native trees, shrubs, and wetland plants along Bear Creek this year, in partnership with The Freshwater Trust. We planted over 500 native species along Kitchen Creek as part of ongoing restoration at the Mountain Meadows community site. Lomakatsi also co-authored *Restoring Riparian Habitats in Southern Oregon and Northern California: A Guide for Private Landowners* with our partners at Klamath Bird Observatory, available on our website.

As we navigate these challenging times together, Lomakatsi will be here for the people and the land, for the long-haul.

Make a gift to support ongoing post-fire restoration!

Your tax-deductible donation will go directly toward Lomakatsi’s post-fire ecological restoration work in the footprint of the Almeda Fire.

Donate today at www.lomakatsi.org or call (541) 488-0208