Lomakatsi's workforce returned from 80 days of wildland fire response to ecological thinning around the Rogue Valley

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

Lomakatsi crews return good fire during a controlled pile burn

It's been a watershed year for Lomakatsi, as we build our capacity and hire new staff, continuing to work in partnership with our agency, tribal, municipal, and nonprofit partners and provide leadership in collaborative forest restoration. Together, we're building and expanding projects across Oregon and northern California, as we work toward healthier forests and watersheds, and more resilient communities—supporting hundreds of jobs in the process. As communities continue to recover from the impacts of wildfire over the past several years, the growing investment in ecological fuels reduction, combined with the recognition that stewardship of our forests and streams is perpetual, brings comfort. We are grateful to our 50+ restoration crew members and technicians, and the thousands of other skilled workers who put their hands on the land every day to make forests healthier and communities safer.

THIS YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

12,000+ native trees and shrubs

planted along streams to enhance habitat for salmon and other wildlife

50 youth trained & employed

through hands-on, resume-boosting paid learning experiences

14,400+ acres of forest restoration

through ecological thinning, prescribed burning and restoration planning across federal, tribal and private lands

172,000+ acres under active restoration

across two states, five watersheds, and 10 counties

415+ jobs supported

from ecological restoration crew members to local contractors

(541) 488-0208 | 645 Washington Street, Ashland, Oregon 97520 | lomakatsi.org

Lomakatsi is partnering with Jackson County Fire District 5 to bridge from fire response to proactive fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface. Our Fire Operations Manager Sean Voorhes provided a chainsaw training to their team of 20 recruits.

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 such as drinking water

West Bear All-Lands Restoration Project...

Through a collaborative application process, our partnership was awarded nearly $3.5 million for West Bear through Senate Bill 762, bringing the total project funding to just over $11 million. With additional investment, partners plan to implement hazardous fuels reduction and forest restoration on a total of 10,800 acres of the 27,000-acre project footprint. This focus area spans the wildland urban interface west of Bear Creek and the I-5 corridor from Talent to Jacksonville, and connects to the edge of the Ashland Forest Resiliency project to the south. Lomakatsi also received federal funding for the Jacksonville Community Wildfire Protection Project, within the greater West Bear footprint, through the efforts of Oregon Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden on an omnibus congressional appropriations bill. This will support over 700 acres of fuels reduction

Kosealekte Band members employed by Lomakatsi conduct a Goshawk survey as part of the Taktokeewa Project

...and Working Across the Rogue Basin

work around the town of Jacksonville in partnership with City of Jacksonville and others. Through Rogue Forest Partners, which is planning and implementing five additional landscape-scale restoration projects across the Rogue Basin, Lomakatsi continues ecological thinning and prescribed burning in the Upper Applegate Watershed and Williams areas. All these projects build on the model of Ashland Forest Resiliency with the goal of achieving healthier forests and a substantial reduction in the risk of severe wildfire to communities and the ecosystem. Lomakatsi is a key partner involved in all aspects of planning and implementation, from landowner engagement, project layout, ecological monitoring, administration and community outreach to ecological thinning and prescribed fire.

Chiloquin Trust Lands

Ecological thinning continues at this 580-acre community site in partnership with Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin tribal community members and the Fremont-Winema National Forest. Goals are to reduce wildfire risk to the community of Chiloquin, enhance old forest conditions, and promote culturally beneficial plants. A Lomakatsi tribal crew is also assisting the community in rebuilding earth lodges using small trees thinned during restoration.

Karuk Stewardship Agreement

We continued our partnership with the Karuk Tribe and partners, supporting 300 acres of ecological commercial thinning on the Six Rivers National Forest to reduce wildfire risk and prepare for reintroducing cultural fire.

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

This summer Lomakatsi hosted 15 students from Rogue Valley high schools for our 10th annual Ashland Watershed Youth Ecological Training & Employment Program. Under the guidance of our restoration experts, they spent four weeks training in the basics of ecological restoration and helping to heal the forests and waterways of the Rogue Valley. While contributing to large-scale, collaborative projects including Ashland Forest Resiliency and West Bear, participants engaged with a variety of natural resource professionals from the US Forest Service and other partners who shared their career paths and ecology expertise in daily presentations. A big thank you to our partners and funders including the US Forest Service, City of Ashland, National Forest Foundation, Gray Family Foundation, and the Bureau of Land Management for making these programs possible.

Youth crew members learn the basics of restoration forestry

Tribal crew members earned the professional certifications required for ecological thinning and prescribed fire

Tribal Youth Ecological Forestry Training Program

This year Lomakatsi was selected for a competitive Oregon Conservation Corps grant to build on the success of our training model for young adults aged 18-26. In October, we launched an 18-week program that recruited 10 tribal youth from Chiloquin in Klamath County. Participants received professional, nationally-recognized certifications in wildland fire, chainsaw operations, cultural monitoring, and First Aid/CPR. Now, they are gaining hands-on experience working on Lomakatsi's landscape-scale initiatives including West Bear. Upon completing the program, these tribal youth will be well equipped to pursue jobs in ecological restoration, forestry, and wildland fire. In the spring, we will launch a second program for 10 young adults from Jackson and Josephine counties.

TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

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

Lomakatsi works with sovereign Tribal Nations and tribal 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 made progress on several long-term, large-scale projects.

Willamette Basin Oak Habitat Restoration

Working with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and The Nature Conservancy, Lomakatsi's technical forestry team supported the launch of commercial ecological thinning at Noble Oaks. Goals are to restore oak habitat, promote oak-related cultural uses and tribal food sovereignty, and develop tribal workforce capacity.

Taktokeewa Pine Springs Habitat Restoration

In partnership with the Kosealekte Band of the Ajumawi-Atsuge Nation and Modoc National Forest, Lomakatsi's forestry team and a tribal crew completed the required pre-treatment assessments across the initial 3,000 acre project area, including surveys for Northern Goshawk. This project will reduce wildfire risk and enhance habitat.

ECOLOGICAL RECOVERY & COMMUNITY

Lomakatsi continues to provide leadership in post-fire restoration and build community resilience

Ashland Pond Riparian & Ecocultural Restoration Project

Ashland Pond and the confluence of Ashland Creek and Bear Creek is a treasured community recreation spot and important ecological zone that supports Coho salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and other wildlife. As part of this long-term, post-fire recovery project we launched last year with the City of Ashland and others, in 2022 we planted 5,000 native trees and shrubs in partnership with The Freshwater Trust, and an additional 1,000 plants with students from Helman Elementary, Phoenix High School, Armadillo Technical Institute, and John Muir Outdoor School. We are working with local tribal communities to incorporate plants with cultural beneficial uses, and employing inter-tribal crews to help implement the project. We are very grateful to the community for supporting this important work to protect fish, pollinators, other wildlife, and water quality as we help nature rebound from the 2020 Almeda Fire.

Students from Helman Elementary help plant culturally significant trees and shrubs in the Almeda Fire footprint

Strategic, Collaborative Restoration

Long-term partnerships are essential to forest health and safer communities. Lomakatsi is a key partner in eight landscape-scale forest restoration initiatives, working with agency, Tribal, and non-profit partners. From developing initial strategies, to putting boots on the ground, to evaluating treatment success through ecological monitoring, our team of foresters, restoration ecologists, fire experts, and project managers provide capacity from start to finish. Through the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network we're excited to launch a new one—the Little Butte Oak Habitat Restoration Initiative. Lomakatsi will lead restoration implementation and tribal and landowner engagement, while supporting community engagement and ecological monitoring.

Looking Ahead

Lomakatsi has dozens of active projects spanning thousands of acres across Oregon and Northern California. Wherever we work, we are committed to equity, inclusion of indigenous peoples through our tribally-led Tribal Partnerships Program, and elevating the essential role of the forest worker through our Northwest Forest Worker/Promotora Program. While we have secured significant funding for forest restoration through many of the projects mentioned here, there is an ongoing need for funding to support post-fire restoration. Your gift will help re-establish healthy streamside forest along Bear Creek to protect salmon, other wildlife, and drinking water.

Lomakatsi's technical forestry crew conducts ecological monitoring

Thank you for your support as together we restore ecosystems and the sustainability of communities, cultures, and economies.

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