



ABSTRACTS

DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING A LANDSCAPE-SCALE OAK HABITAT RESTORATION INITIATIVE IN SOUTHERN OREGON/NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

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This initiative involves more than 15 project partners in restoring over 2000 acres of oak habitats on private lands by removing encroaching conifers, grass reseeding, and applying prescribed fire. Lomakatsi Restoration Project, with more than 15 partners, was awarded a total of \$3 million from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to implement oak habitat restoration.

The key has been designing local initiatives that fit local workforce, strong NGO staffing, flexibility in accomplishing environmental compliance, identifying key partners possessing strong communication skills, and identifying an NGO capable of strong fiscal management. The monitoring effort shows innovation by sharing staff among NGOs and agencies. An interdisciplinary group was assembled to review restoration projects. These communication efforts have led to a solid collaborative community partnership and better on the ground results.

This partnership has extended the conservation of oak woodlands, greatly leveraging its accomplishments. The Klamath-Siskiyou Oak Network (KSON) has formed on the successes of this project. A landowner guide to oak habitat management is being funded by a partnership. LRP has a model partnership with The Klamath Tribe through a workforce initiative providing restoration-based tribal employment. LRP's variable density prescriptions result in a diverse forest stand that is 1) healthy and 2) resilient from fire, and 3) not a "cookiecutter" approach. Their projects are model reference sites. The strength of this initiative is that a concentrated design towards restoring oak habitats through connected landscapes is established.

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