

Ashland Watershed Update

a publication of the Ashland Forest Resiliency Partnership

AFR NEWS

Field Trips

Join a field trip to learn about AFR, forests, and monitoring in the watershed. To register, contact Anne Crispino-Taylor at 552-2286 or email to taylora@ashland.or.us

Volunteer Opportunities

Citizens can volunteer on watershed projects as they are available. Use the contact info above to become a volunteer in the watershed.

AFR Public Review

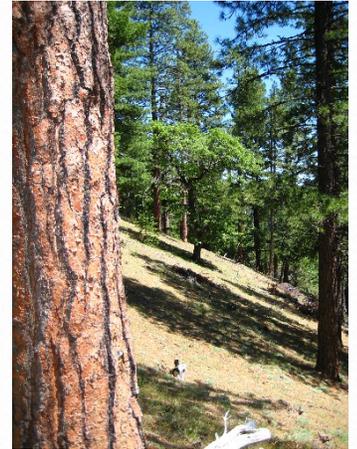
Each stage of the project has a built-in opportunity for public review. The next opportunity for public review of work units and plans will take place in fall of 2010. Check www.ashlandwatershed.org for updates, or get on the email list.

AFR EMAIL LIST

Keep up to date on what's up in the watershed by going to www.ashlandwatershed.org and signing up on our email list. Click on the NOTIFY ME BY EMAIL link on the left menu to register, or call Anne at 541-552-2286.

Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project

The 2010 stewardship agreement between the U.S. Forest Service, the City of Ashland, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and The Nature Conservancy launched implementation of the Ashland Forest Resiliency (AFR) Stewardship Project. Under this stewardship agreement, workers will thin trees, brush and conduct controlled burns to help restore forest resiliency and protect Ashland's community and its domestic water supply from the effects of high severity wildland fire. The agreement includes dedication of 6.5 million dollars of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) dollars, plus matching funds pledged by each partner for a total of 7.3 million dollars over the next three and half years to work on over 3,400 acres and create local jobs.



Open pine/oak forest. Photo c/o The Nature Conservancy

Ashland Forest Resiliency at a Glance:

- A stewardship agreement between the U.S. Forest Service, City of Ashland, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and The Nature Conservancy.
- 7,600 acres of work will be completed over 10 years.
- The science-based plan will be implemented and monitored in a collaborative process with opportunities for public review and input.
- Reduces potential for severe wildfire in the Ashland Watershed, the primary source of drinking water.
- Maintains healthy wildlife habitat while creating forests resilient to wildfire, insects and disease.
- Decreases wildfire hazards to homes and property in and around Ashland.
- Provides local jobs and workforce training opportunities.

“Resiliency” is the ability of the ecosystem to resist and recover from disturbances such as a large-scale, high-severity wildland fire.



Ashland's forested landscape
© Sean Bagshaw

More info about the partners on the Web:

www.ashlandwatershed.org

www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/projects/

www.nature.org/oregon

www.lomakatsi.org

www.ashland.or.us

You're also welcome to contact:

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What to Expect

There are many positive outcomes from this project.

It is important to know that ribbons, traffic, interruptions to recreation access, noise and smoke will occur at times. Ribbons are now visible along roads and trails in project units. Traffic will be increasing on forest roads, so hikers and bikers need to be careful. Crews will begin thinning vegetation this spring, causing some noise and trail closures, which will be made public ahead of time. Within a year, controlled burning will be used to reduce fire hazards and re-introduce fire as a natural process. All efforts will be made to keep smoke away from town. Residents will be notified when burning is upcoming and where to avoid areas of smoke in the watershed. Eventually, wood products resulting from ecological forest thinning will require truck traffic and helicopters during periods of the project. The sensitive nature of our watershed requires the lowest impact tools be used to accomplish the work at hand. Helicopter thinning is a primary example of this light on the land approach—even though it requires significant financial investment. Please sign up for notices and updates on the project website at www.ashlandwatershed.org.



2009 AFR Field Tour
© Darren Borgias/TNC

What's New?

- Community Engagement sub-committees are working to engage students and the public in our watershed and this project.
- A multi-party monitoring oversight committee is marshaling the monitoring planning effort and providing guidance for project monitoring.
- SOU and the Ashland School District are being engaged to provide watershed educational opportunities for students.
- An additional 2 million dollars in federal stimulus funding has been agreed to by the Forest Service and AFR partners.
- More information will be available at www.ashlandwatershed.org as it becomes available.

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 Rogue Basin Small Diameter Collaborative, and local citizens.