

Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project

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Field Trips

Join a field trip to learn about AFR work, Ashland forests, and monitoring in the watershed. To register, contact Alicia at 552-2286 or e-mail to Alicia.Fitzgerald@ashland.or.us.

Volunteer Opportunities

Citizens can volunteer on watershed projects as opportunities develop. Use the contact information above to become a volunteer in the watershed.

AFR E-mail List

Keep up to date on what is going on in the watershed by visiting www.ashlandwatershed.org and signing up on our e-mail list. Click on the "NOTIFY ME BY E-MAIL" link on the left menu to register, or call Alicia at 541-552-2286.

Fall/Winter 2011-2012 AFR Project News

Wildlife in the Watershed – Birds, Bugs, and More!

Volunteers worked alongside USFS scientists to monitoring the **Northern Spotted Owl**, **Northern Flying Squirrel**, and track 11 **Pacific Fishers** in the watershed this fall. Data from tracking collars have provided important information about the home ranges of these older forest species, setting the stage for monitoring their habitat usage in the AFR project and adjacent forests.



Collaring a Pacific Fisher for research



A Southern Oregon University (SOU) entomology class will collect **aquatic macroinvertebrates** (water bugs) in four branches of Ashland Creek this fall. Results will be used with data from sediment transects and a turbidity sensor put into the West Fork of Ashland Creek by SOU students, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Geological Service staff to provide important information about water quality and sediment levels.

Klamath Bird Observatory staff continued **annual song-bird** monitoring in spring and summer to gather baseline information about population trends, breeding success, health, and longevity. Data will be used to evaluate future trends that could be associated with AFR project work.

Fire History and Legacy Tree Monitoring

The Nature Conservancy secured a half million dollar grant to study the historic role of wildfire and help us understand how the historically resilient forest looked and functioned. Results will inform future AFR project work. TNC also led efforts to use aerial data collected using lasers (LiDAR), to map large, old trees, called legacy trees. Paired with field data, LiDAR analysis will help us monitor our oldest trees as work to promote their health unfolds during AFR.



TNC workers study tree core samples



Ashland's forested landscape
© Sean Bagshaw

More info about the partners on the Web:

www.ashlandwatershed.org

www.fs.usda.gov/rogue-siskiyou

www.nature.org/oregon

www.lomakatsi.org

www.ashland.or.us

You are also welcome to contact:

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Fire Chief, City of Ashland
(541) 552-2770
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The Nature Conservancy
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US Forest Service
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Trail Signage Will Get a New Face

Volunteers and AFR partners have continued working hard to develop interpretive signs that will be located at integral sites in the watershed. Signs will include:

- maps of existing trails
- guidelines to follow when recreating in the watershed
- information for visitors about wildlife, the forest's natural resources, and the AFR project plan



Site-specific signs will include additional messages about fire ecology, ecological monitoring, natural processes, and restoration jobs. Removal of current signs has already begun, and installation of new signs is scheduled for Spring 2012.

The Forests are Our Classroom

Lomakatsi Restoration Project, with help from AFR partners, have led 6 classes in the watershed, totaling over 170 students this fall, in hands-on forest restoration activities. On these field trips, students have learned how to navigate using GPS devices and compasses, use hand tools to thin brush, and perform sample plot surveys. In addition, Lomakatsi and City of Ashland have led



nine in-class presentations this fall, totaling over 90 students, and the AFR partnership has participated in numerous seminars and classes at SOU. Collaboration between SOU and AFR produced two SOU senior capstone this last year, one on sedimentology of the watershed and one identifying common water bugs in Ashland creek. These activities have provided important opportunities for all members of the community to learn about watershed ecology and ask questions about the AFR Project.

Smoke, noise, and alerts: What to Expect in the Watershed this Fall and Winter

Over 300 acres of surface and ladder fuels thinning will be implemented through the fall and winter, primarily on western side of the watershed near Horn Gap and Ostrich Peak. Lomakatsi Restoration Project workers have begun tree and brush cutting, and will soon use controlled burning to consume slash piles from last year's thinning work. As they continue this work through fall and winter, hikers, bikers, and equestrians can expect to smell smoke and hear the hum of chainsaws primarily above Granite Street in the Hitt Road trail area and up to Horn Gap. Trail users are urged to be conscious of signs that give information about trail closures and alternative routes. Updated trail information can also be found on the project website at www.ashland.or.us/trailinfo. You can also receive notifications on trail closures by signing up for the AFR email list at www.ashlandwatershed.org and selecting the "Notify Me" button.

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 National Park Service, the Rogue Basin Small Diameter Collaborative, the USFS Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest Research Stations. and local citizens.