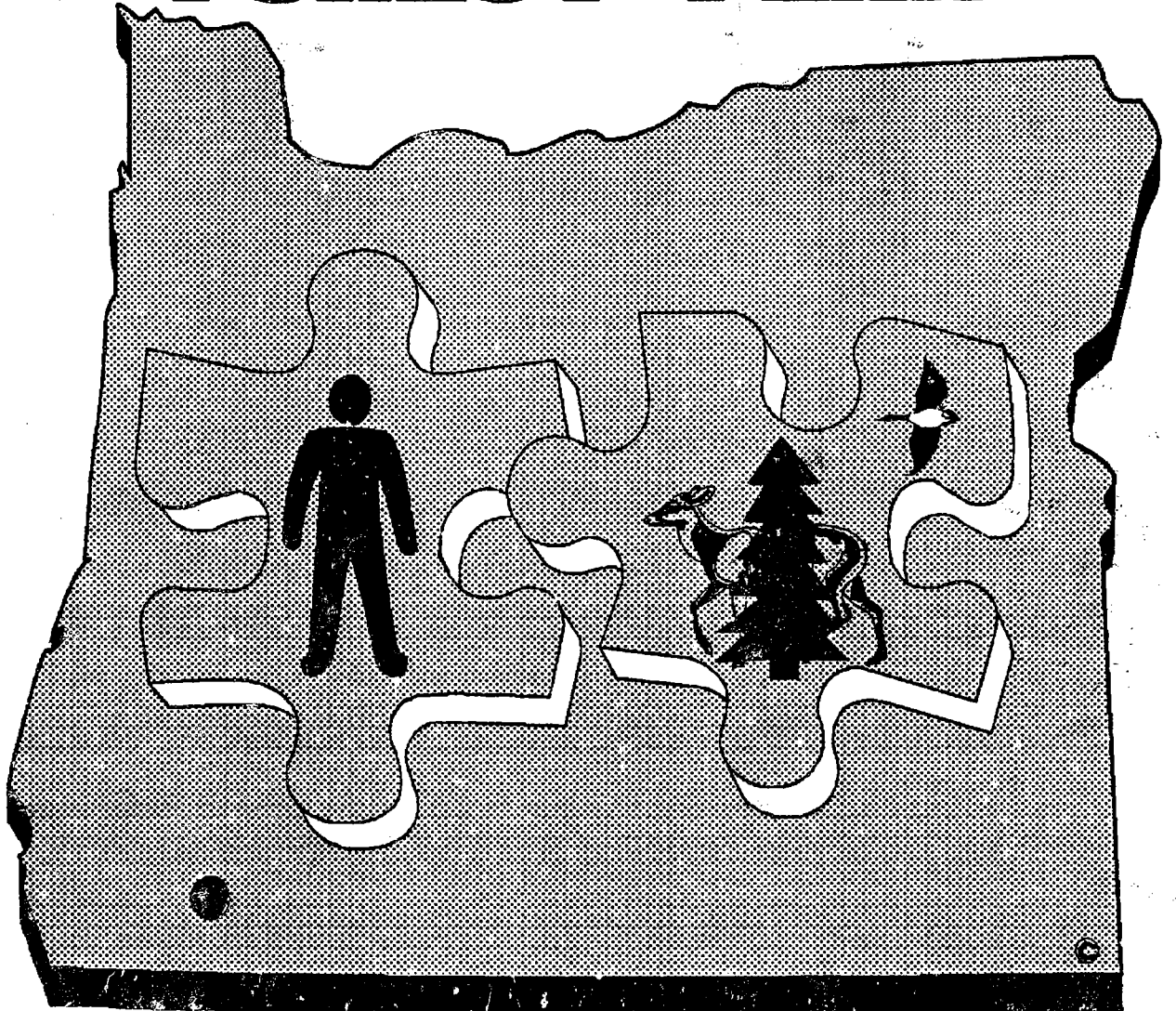


# ASHLAND FOREST PLAN



**CITY of ASHLAND**

MAY 1992

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**E**COLOGICALLY SOUND, REALISTIC AND IMPLEMENTABLE. THOSE WERE THE "MARCHING ORDERS" GIVEN US BY THE CITIZENS OF ASHLAND FOR PREPARING THIS PLAN. THEIR ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION HELPED ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE.

We are especially indebted to the members of the Ashland Watershed Advisory Group who participated in both public meetings and Advisory Group work sessions. Their creativity, constructive criticism and skillful editing was invaluable.

### ASHLAND WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP

Pat Acklin  
Claude Curran  
Bill Robertson  
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Tim Brewley  
Myra Erwin  
Wes Reynolds  
Ken Mickleson

Pam Barlow, Project Coordinator for the City, provided information, scheduled meetings, made arrangements and generally helped the process move along.

And finally our congratulations to both the professional and citizen leadership of the City for their vision and fortitude in deciding to prepare this plan.

## GOALS AND POLICIES

### Ecosystem

PROMOTE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS.

Policies: (a) Winburn parcel as ecosystem study area in conjunction with Southern Oregon State College. (b) Partnership with Rogue River National Forest and other ownerships.

### Vegetation

PLAN AND MANAGE FOREST LAND VEGETATION AND OTHER RESOURCES IN A MANNER THAT EMULATES NATURAL PROCESSES.

Policies: Conduct all logging via helicopter unless analysis indicates otherwise.

### Recreation

PLAN AND MANAGE RECREATION USE IN A MANNER THAT COMPLIMENTS OR IS COMPATIBLE WITH OTHER WATERSHED AND FOREST VALUES.

Policies: (a) Manage all public use. (b) Direct use to lower elevation parcels. (c) Limit to day use. (d) Emphasize non-motorized uses. (e) Limit access to Reeder Reservoir. (f) Establish an Ashland Forest-land Citizens Patrol. (g) Use services of Park and Recreation Department for interim management.

### Fire

REDUCE FUELS IN A MANNER THAT ENHANCES BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND LONG TERM SOIL PRODUCTIVITY.

Policies: Retain snags in areas important for wildlife and not critical to fire control; use prescribed fire to reduce fuels and emulate ecosystem function.

**Fish and  
Wildlife**

IMPROVE THE AQUATIC HABITAT IN ASHLAND CREEK BELOW REEDER RESERVOIR FOR BOTH ANADROMOUS AND RESIDENT FISH.

Policies: (a) Obtain technical assistance from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. (b) Develop agreement with Rogue Flyfisher's for project work. (c) Retain all snags along the stream and tributaries.

**Community**

UTILIZE THE INTEREST, ENTHUSIASM AND KNOWLEDGE OF ASHLAND RESIDENTS THROUGH COOPERATIVE PROJECTS AND VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS.

**Stewardship**

PROVIDE THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DEFINE THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WILL ENSURE CAREFUL PROTECTION AND THOUGHTFUL MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY'S FOREST LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

This section of the plan outlines strategies for implementing Goals, Policies and Action items effectively and efficiently.

- CHARTER AN INTER-AGENCY/CITIZEN IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
- USE VOLUNTEERS AND ORGANIZED GROUPS TO ACCOMPLISH WORK
- USE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Purpose and Need

The City of Ashland owns 795 acres within Ashland Creek, 150 acres in Rocca Creek, and 130 acres in the Hamilton Creek watershed. The lower portions of each of these blocks is within the Urban/Wildland Interface - a critical wild-fire zone.

The community is dependent on the Ashland Watershed for its municipal water supply. This plan focuses on maintaining water quality and quantity, managing vegetation, reducing wildfire fuels, and being compatible with management plans for the adjoining Rogue River National Forest and other properties.

This is the first integrated resource management plan for City's forest lands. The City has recently updated its Comprehensive Management Plan. It contains seven goals applicable to forest lands. This plan incorporates those goals and establishes seven new goals with attendant policies and action items.

### Existing Condition

Eight decades of aggressive fire suppression within both the Ashland Creek and Hamilton Creek watersheds has altered "normal" ecosystem processes that feature fire as a major agent of disturbance. The result is a change from an open grown pine/fir forest with a sparse shrub understory, to a dense fir/pine forest with brush fields occupying areas recently visited by high intensity fire. The volume of vegetation (bio-mass) has increased. water production has likely decreased.

During this same period the City has grown and residential areas have entered the heavily vegetated foothills of the Siskiyou Mountains. There has been a corresponding increase in the recreational use of the adjacent forest lands.

This combination of more vegetation, residential occupancy of the interface, and heavy recreation use has increased the risk of fire frequency and severity.

## ISSUES, CONCERNS, OPPORTUNITIES

The ICO'S were developed through public meetings, interviews, and interaction with a Planning Advisory Group. The issues are interrelated and complex. Their resolution, and the utilization of opportunities are the basis for this plan's Goals, Policies and Action items.

### **Ecosystem Health**

How to regain and maintain biological diversity and resiliency of the City's forest lands, and the surrounding watershed? This encompasses vegetative management, fuels reduction and old-growth retention.

### **Recreation Use**

How to manage the increasing hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and sightseeing on City lands?

### **Stewardship**

How should the City organize to manage the resources and uses of its growing inventory of forest lands?

### **Fire Management**

How to further coordinate inter-department, inter-agency fire planning, prevention and suppression activities. How to provide technical assistance to urban/wildland interface residents?

### **Implementation**

How to utilize existing programs, grants and funding sources, and engage citizen in efficient and practical implementation.

### **Community**

An opportunity to build community cohesiveness and effectiveness. Further citizen and visitor knowledge and appreciation of City watershed and forest land values.

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# FOREST PLAN

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## City of Ashland Forest Lands

Prepared By **R.J. McCormick & Associates**

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May, 1992







