

# Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project

## Monitoring Update – Spring 2011

Cooperators initiated multiparty monitoring in the Ashland watershed to help inform the community about the affects of ongoing work in the watershed. Data collected will also provide feedback to guide adaptive management of the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project.

Stakeholders have developed several monitoring priorities: water quality and quantity; aquatic habitat; large tree retention and survival; late successional habitat; birds as indicators; herbaceous recovery and response; and fire histories.

Multiparty monitoring has involved cooperators from the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Klamath Bird Observatory, the City of Ashland, the National Park Service, Southern Oregon University (SOU), the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station, and the USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station.

Sediment in the water was measured at five permanent transect in tributaries to Ashland Creek. A capstone student from SOU collected macroinvertebrates (water bugs) which are good indicators of stream health. In January an SOU geology class began work to develop a sedimentation model which will apply to the entire watershed and provide estimates of how likely landslides are. Topographic maps of the underwater sediments building up in Reeder Reservoir and in the sediment catchment ponds above the reservoir were also created.

Some wildlife species depend on late successional forests. Population size and habitat use by the Northern Spotted Owl, Pacific Fisher, and arboreal rodents were all monitored to learn about late successional habitat quality and abundance.

Birds were monitored with nine days of mist netting in 2010 between May and November. This sampling effort captured 159 total birds with an average of 9.8 species observed in a sampling day. This work will help calibrate a network of bird point count observations taken across the watershed and build on monitoring initiated in 2005.

Existing overstory and shrub vegetation in the Ashland watershed have been characterized with 738 permanent plots. Supplemental monitoring of the understory was conducted for 180 plots of those plots. To date 168 native and 22 exotic plant species have been found.

The fire history for three locations in the watershed was assessed in 2006. Fire histories across a range of biophysical settings have been initiated and will continue to inform treatment design and evaluation.



Sampling Macroinvertebrates



Pacific Giant Salamander



Pacific Fisher Tracking