

Council Communication

September 2, 2014, Business Meeting

Update to City Council on Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project Funding

FROM:

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SUMMARY

This update will account for spending to date of the City's recent investment of \$350,000 toward completion and maintenance of the Ashland Forest Resiliency Project, or AFR, and update Council on efforts to seek completion funding of \$4 million. The City's investment has led directly to fuels reduction work on 215 acres in the watershed.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The City entered into a Master Stewardship Agreement in 2010 as a partner in implementation of the AFR project. The initial project funding came from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in the amount of \$6.5 million. Since that time, the funds have been spent and the City, led by Mayor Stromberg, has been seeking completion funding of an additional \$4 million. The City Council and Budget Committee dedicated \$350,000 in the current biennium to aid in completion of AFR as well as provide a long term funding source for maintenance of more fire-safe conditions in the City's watershed.

The City's allocation has made a difference in the City's standing at the national level and has already leveraged a half million dollars in federal and private funds, leading to 215 acres of completed wildfire fuels reduction in the AFR project with associated employment and economic benefit. Included in the dollars received, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) contributed \$175,000 as a match to an equal amount of City funds. A percentage of the NFF contribution came from a single private donation to the Foundation. In addition, the Forest Service dedicated over \$300,000 from a national program dedicated to partnerships.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND REQUESTED ACTION:

There is no requested action.

ATTACHMENTS:

Lomakatsi Restoration Project report on work accomplished using City funds.



Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR) City of Ashland and National Forest Foundation Funding Update

City of Ashland 2013-2014 Funding Update

As part of the AFR Stewardship Agreement, the City of Ashland provided \$140,000 in funding through a contract with Lomakatsi for the implementation of ecological fuels reduction and forest restoration in the Ashland Watershed. Accomplishments include 140 acres of small trees and shrubs thinned and hand piled. Burning of all 140 acres is planned for this winter. Special emphasis focused on the protection of large and old trees.



National Forest Foundation & City of Ashland 2014 Matching Funding

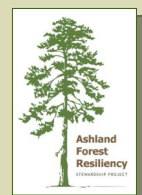
During 2014, the National Forest Foundation (NFF) provided \$175,000 in funding to match the City of Ashland's funding, totaling \$350,000. Through a grant award and contract with Lomakatsi, this funding supports ecological fuels reduction and forest restoration over an additional 350 acres within the AFR Project. Work to date has been accomplished on 75 acres, and an additional 275 acres are planned for this fall and winter.



Creating Local Jobs

Collaborative funds provided by the City of Ashland and the National Forest Foundation has supported 10 weeks of fuels reduction and forest restoration work thus far, creating approximately 20 jobs. During this fall and winter, completion of funded operations are anticipated to support an additional 20 jobs.

Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project Partners



City of Ashland & National Forest Foundation Funding Accomplishments

