



ASHLAND FOREST RESILIENCY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

What is AFR?

A 10-year collaborative effort to reduce the risk of severe wildfire, secure clean drinking water, and protect forests, wildlife, habitat, people, property, local economy, and quality of life.

The best of its kind.

This innovative solution to a complex problem is a model for forest restoration. Successes on the ground result from collaboration in active restoration, public engagement, and from co-investment by the city, state and federal agencies.

Recognition.

The project won federal awards of \$2.4 million toward completion on federal lands, and \$1 million for expansion to critical private lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic losses to the watershed and forests upon which Ashland and the surrounding community relies. \$1 million remain to be raised for completion.

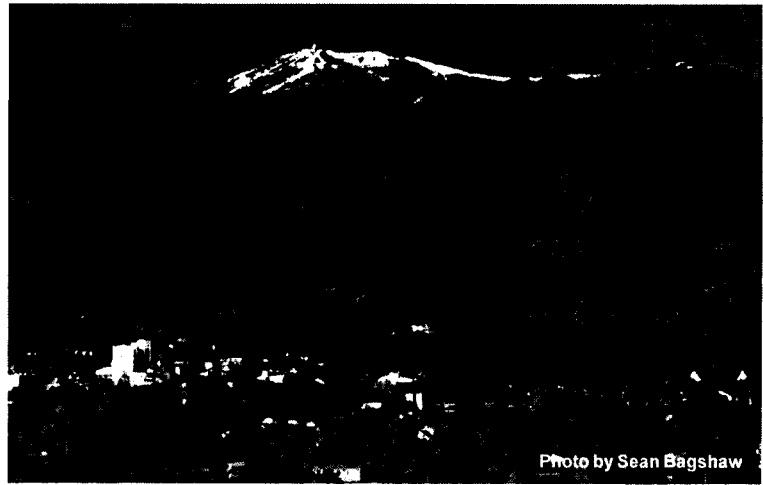


Photo by Sean Bagshaw

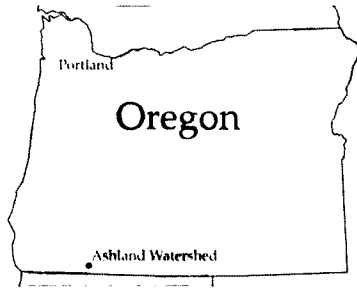
A Model of Collaboration

Over five years, the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR) has reduced the threat of severe wildfires in a highly sensitive area through collaboration among a large and diverse group of governmental bodies, environmental organizations, citizens, private businesses and community groups. A commitment to achieving shared goals reduces the risk from high severity wildfire, secures drinking water, and sustains forests that provide for wildlife and a high quality of life for residents.

A shared landscape. A shared responsibility.

A decade ago, conflict prevented pragmatic work to reduce a mounting fuel load and forest health crisis. Today, multi-party monitoring, workforce training, and community engagement build transparency and trust in a complex ecological and social landscape. New federal investment advances the project toward completion and expands it to critical private lands.





Measurable success.

Work remains both in and outside of the watershed to complete an approach which sets the stage for cost-effective prescribed burns at larger scale, and to realize the beneficial outcomes from the inevitable future forest fires. Thus far, the successes have been greater than anticipated. The results on National Forest land and cross-boundary on city and private tracts:

- 4000 acres of landscape-scale fuels reduction and forest restoration complete
- 3.5 million board feet of restoration by-product logs
- 1000 log truck loads delivered to local mills, sustaining jobs
- \$1.5 million in receipts on sale of by-product logs recovered to reinvest in the project
- 17 direct full-time jobs annually, multiplying to 107 jobs with indirect and induced work

Treasured landscape.

The Ashland Watershed and surrounding forest is an invaluable natural resource providing an array of ecosystem benefits. Serving as a Southern Oregon hub for tourism and recreation, its mountain biking, trail running, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival are an economic engine that generate more than \$30 million annually.

A new investment model.

With the City of Ashland committing its funds to pay for work on federal forests, AFR represents a new approach to accelerate forest restoration through partnership with local communities which invest in the health of their watershed and diverse ecosystem benefits. New co-investment by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service expands fuel reduction and restoration to 1000 acres of private lands adjacent to the federal project in a comprehensive “all lands” approach, benefitting a larger population of residents within a 50,000 acre forested area centered on the watershed and surrounding homes.

Community engagement, youth, workforce training.

Over 2,000 local youth have participated in classes and field activities about watershed function, ecology and forest stewardship. In addition, 20 local high school students participate each summer in hands-on experience designed to inspire interest in natural resource careers. For the adult forest workforce, training is ingrained in the ongoing day to day operations, elevating knowledge, experience, and leadership.



Photos by: The City of Ashland, Dave Clayton, Lomakatsi Restoration Project

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