

Forests: Where a diversity of life thrives

Did you know



Forest restoration reduces the threat of large, intense wildfires by removing crowded trees while preserving large, fire-resistant trees and reintroducing mild fire.

1 Native Americans set frequent, mild fires.

Indigenous people used fire to favor certain plants, trails, and to open hunting grounds. With the help of lightning strikes, regularly lit fires promoted widely-spaced ponderosa pine, sugar pine, and oaks.

This created a mosaic of open forests and denser Douglas-fir and madrone-dominated forests on cooler, north-facing slopes.

6 Ongoing stewardship will help our forest.

This forest supplies Ashland's drinking water, beautiful places for you to recreate, and habitat for diverse species of plants and animals.



Underburning reintroduces the long-absent role of mild fire which is critical to a healthy forest and safer community.

5 Controlled burns return fire to the land.

Underburning takes place once thinning and pile burning are complete and recycles nutrients back into the soil.



4 Pile burning removes debris and reduces fire danger.

When piles have dried, trained crews ignite them during cool, wet weather.

Look for:

- Large, old trees with historic fire scars
- Recent signs of controlled burns



2 Fire suppression led to thick forests.

Suppression, combined with the absence of intentional indigenous burning, left our forests prone to insects, disease, and severe wildfire. Today, forests are much denser than they used to be.

3 Selective thinning restores the historic landscape pattern.

The historic mosaic pattern is a mix of open and dense forests. Cut trees are sent to local mills, benefiting the project and the economy. Crews pile and burn brush and limbs after thinning is complete.



Helicopter Thinning - removal of the cut trees protects sensitive watershed soils.

Our project helps restore fire's crucial role in our watershed.

The Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR) is a collaborative forest restoration project that reduces the risk of severe wildfire across public and private land in and around the Ashland Watershed.

We work to protect old trees, wildlife habitat, homes, trails and our water source by thinning overcrowded forests and conducting controlled burns.

Ashland Forest Resiliency Project Partners:

ashlandwatershed.org

