



# Ashland Forest Resiliency and All-lands Restoration

(AFR and AFAR) [ashlandwatershed.org](http://ashlandwatershed.org)

## What are AFR and AFAR?

AFAR expands the 10-year federal Ashland Forest Resiliency Master Stewardship Agreement to cross-boundary City and private lands. A larger, cohesive strategy better reduces the critical risk of severe wildfire in a changing climate, secures clean drinking water, and protects 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, community safety, coexistence with fire, and climate adaptation. Success results from collaboration in active forest restoration, broad public engagement, and by aligning local, state and federal investments.

## Recent Recognition.

### 2015-2016 Funding Awards:

**US Forest Service**— \$4.6 million

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**—\$3 million

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**—\$1.5 million.

**TOTAL: \$9.1 million** for critical federal, City, and private lands.



## A Model of Collaboration

Since 2010, the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project has reduced the threat of severe wildfires in a high value landscape 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 on a larger cohesive landscape reduces the risk from high severity wildfire in a changing climate, secures drinking water, and sustains forests that provide for wildlife critical habitat and a high quality of life for residents. Including key private lands is essential to success.

### *A shared landscape. A shared responsibility.*

Two decades ago, conflict prevented pragmatic work to reduce a mounting fuel load and a forest and community health crisis. Today, multi-party monitoring, workforce training, and community engagement build transparency and trust in a cohesive and adaptive approach for wildfire and climate resilience in both the ecological and social landscape. New federal investment and expanding partnerships advance the AFR project toward completion and expand it to critical private lands creating a model for the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy.





## Measurable success.

Work remains to complete an all-lands approach which sets the stage for cost-effective prescribed burns at a landscape scale. Mechanical work and prescribed burns work together to tone down the next inevitable wildfire, providing more beneficial fire, and better firefighter safety. Success has been greater than anticipated:

- 6,861 acres of landscape-scale fuels reduction and forest restoration complete
- 11 million board feet of restoration by-product logs (average diameter 13 in.), over 2,000 log truck loads delivered to local mills, sustaining jobs.
- \$5 million in sale of by-product logs recovered for the project
- 17 direct full-time jobs annually, multiplying to 107 jobs with indirect and induced work
- Critical habitat sustained

## Treasured landscape.

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

## A new investment model.

The project has aligned complementary local, state and federal co-investment and expanded the partnership. The City’s utility surcharge generates \$175,000 annually to maintain gains through reintroduction of light burns. Awards from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board created the AFAR project with 8,500 acres of private and City land treatment adjacent to federal – an “all lands” approach to address wildfire risk, adapt to climate change, and benefit a larger population in a 53,000 acre forested area centered on the city’s watershed.

## Community engagement, youth, workforce training.

Field trips provide for public and independent technical review. Over 2,500 local youth have participated in classes and field activities on watershed ecology and forest stewardship. Each summer, 20 local high school students participate in hands-on experiences, inspiring interest in natural resource careers. For the adult forest workforce, training is embedded in the ongoing operations, elevating knowledge, experience, and leadership.



Photos by: City of Ashland, USDA Forest Service, Lomakatsi Restoration Project

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