

Northwest FLN



Partner Agencies & Organizations

American Forest Resource Council
 Applegate Partnership
 Black Oak Forest Restoration
 Bureau of Land Management—Medford District
 Central Oregon Fire Management Service
 Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
 Cities of Ashland, Bend and Sisters
 Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
 Deschutes County
 Josephine County Stewardship Group
 Klamath Tribes
 Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
 Lake County Resource Initiative
 Lomakatsi Restoration Project
 Northern Arizona University—Ecological Restoration Institute
 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Oregon Department of Forestry
 Oregon State University Extension
 Oregon Wild
 Project Wildfire
 Sierra Club
 Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
 Southern Oregon University
 The Nature Conservancy—Oregon
 The Wilderness Society
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Upper Deschutes River Coalition
 USDA Forest Service—Deschutes, Fremont-Winema and Rogue River-Siskiyou NFs
 USDA Forest Service—Pacific Southwest Research Station (Forest Health, Protection)
 USDA Forest Service—Region 6



Top: Because of its proximity to the city of Bend, the 27,000-acre West Bend project is in a highly-used recreation area; collaborative efforts paid particular attention to maintaining high-quality recreation experiences before, during, and after restoration. © DCFP
 Bottom: Stakeholders gather at the base of an ancient ponderosa pine (c. 1460) to discuss changes in forest structure and composition resulting from fire exclusion and consider ways to guide collaborative restoration recommendations. © DCFP



Successful implementation of the Ashland Forest Resiliency project hinges on extensive dialog among partners and the public, ensuring that community values, interests and concerns are integrated in planning and implementation. © TNC/Kerry Metlen

Addressing a Unique Challenge

The Deschutes National Forest is one of the most highly used and highly visited national forests in the country. As a result, forest restoration efforts are highly visible and highly scrutinized by a public that identifies strongly with the forest as it currently exists. Through a partnership with Oregon Forest Resources Institute we are gaining a better sense of public attitudes, beliefs, and understanding of forest and restoration issues, which is guiding the development of a strategic communications campaign to inspire, engage, inform and increase support and understanding for forest restoration treatments, including fire, across Central Oregon.

Recent Success Stories

In the Rogue Basin, we worked to inspire the city of Ashland and Chamber of Commerce to take leadership role in securing funding for forest restoration work. On the Lakeview landscape we installed 14 reconstruction plots that provide the historic forest species composition, spatial pattern, and density. The data from them has been used to inform forest restoration prescriptions. In the Upper Deschutes Basin, we identified key federal agency partners and further strengthened those relationships, which is allowing work to ramp up at a seemingly exponential pace.

Coming in 2014

I am most excited to have finally overcome local barriers to implementing cooperative burning efforts. This October the Upper Deschutes Basin will be holding the first-ever TREX in Oregon. Our emphasis will be on planning and implementing ecologically-based prescribed fire; improving public awareness, understanding, and support for prescribed fire in fire-adapted systems; and monitoring the effectiveness of prescribed fire treatments.

Beyond Our Boundaries

The NW FLN was a key partner in the development of *Restoration of Dry Forests in Eastern Oregon Field Guide* (<http://nature.ly/dry-forests>), which is helping guide landscape-scale restoration in the state's fire-adapted forests.

Increasing the Pace and Scale of Restoration

On the Fremont-Winema NF, a Master Stewardship Agreement with the Forest Service has increased the pace of forest restoration from about 10,000 acres a year to over 66,000 acres in 2013. The scale of NEPA analyses has increased from an average of just over 5,000 acres (past six years) to an average of 22,200 acres per NEPA document in the last two years. This will continue to increase, with the average NEPA document covering over 110,000 acres by 2016. Completion of the Rogue Basin Cohesive Restoration Strategy has built the necessary social support to energize local collaborators and encourage outside

investment because it identified sufficient restoration-based volume from federal lands to rescue and retool local milling capacity. Thanks to collaborative planning efforts and work with the public in the Upper Deschutes Basin, the 27,000-acre West Bend project adjacent to the City of Bend moved unchallenged from planning to implementation. The project will use stewardship contracting to treat nearly 80% of the project area, including through the use of fire. This project—which will have strong outreach efforts—will be a showcase for fire-adapted forest restoration in our community, paving the way for future work at scale.

For more information, contact

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Upper Deschutes Basin FLN
 Rogue Basin FLN
 Lakeview Stewardship Unit/Fremont-Winema NF FLN
 TNC Oregon Forest Program Director



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