

# FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK

## Western Klamath Mountains

### Mid Klamath Watershed Council

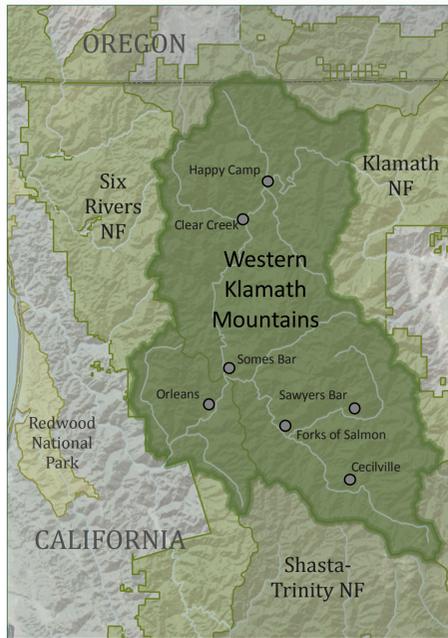
### Karuk Tribe

Cecilville—Forks of Salmon—Happy Camp  
Orleans—Sawyers Bar—Seiad Valley  
Somes Bar—Weitchpec



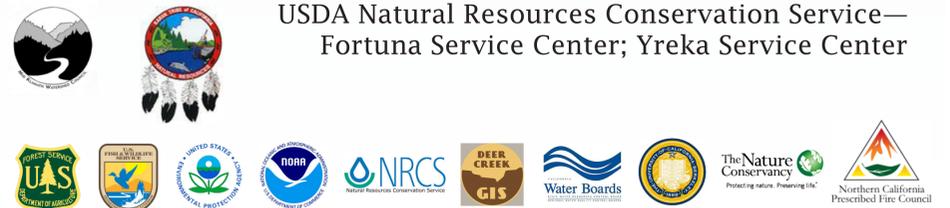
#### Recent Work

Over the last year, we've convened seven multi-day workshops of the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WGRP), with excellent facilitation from the FLN staff. Working to prioritize strategic fuels treatments across a 1.2 million-acre landscape has helped to communicate with agency partners and the community about a detailed vision for how fire process and function can be restored in the Western Klamath Mountains. Getting the Karuk Tribal Council to fund a new Fire Management Officer and a Wildland Fire Operations Specialist position for one year was another major step toward increasing the scope and scale of our work.



#### Wildfire Success Story

During the intense 2013 fire season, our community demonstrated how informed, "skookum" residents can work closely with agencies to reduce the impacts and maximize the benefits from wildfires. From pre-fire prevention to initial attack, structure protection plans and evacuations, Tribal representatives, heritage consultants and community liaisons played key roles throughout the fire season.



#### Partner Agencies & Organizations

- California Environmental Protection Agency—State Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Deer Creek GIS
- Happy Camp Coordinating Committee
- Happy Camp Fire Safe Council
- Karuk Tribe
- Mid Klamath Watershed Council
- NOAA Fisheries
- Northern California Prescribed Fire Council
- Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council
- Salmon River Fire Safe Council
- Salmon River Restoration Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- University of California, Berkeley
- USDA Forest Service—Klamath National Forest; Six Rivers National Forest
- USDA Forest Service—Pacific Southwest Research Station
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service—Fortuna Service Center; Yreka Service Center

#### What We've Learned

We need to build multi-organizational capacities to assist in the planning, administration, research, monitoring, and adaptive management for the work ahead of us. This will enable diverse entities to come together and strategically restore fire adapted communities and ecosystems in far northern California. Socio-political factors are coming in to alignment for significant changes to be made to current fire management policy, and for significant investment in strategic fuel reduction that provides more options for good fire on the landscape.



Residents, including tribal members and Orleans-Somes Bar Fire Safe Council staff, helped successfully defend homes in the path of the 2013 Orleans Fire along Camp Creek.

#### Bringing it All Together

We are leveraging diverse funding sources—from the National Forest Foundation, Forest Service, FLN, Fish & Wildlife Service, state Department of Fish & Wildlife, EPA and Bureau of Indian Affairs—to support an intensive collaborative planning effort that has produced powerful GIS-based project prioritization tools, helped define zones of agreement and built strong working relationships between previously estranged groups. We are using professional facilitation, combined with a deep understanding of people and place, to overcome the legacy of fire suppression and the Timber Wars and chart a course towards fire-resilient communities and forests.



The Fire Learning Network and Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network are supported by Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact Lynn Decker at ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.  
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A morning operations meeting during the Orleans part of the fall 2013 Northern California TRES. Nine burns conducted over two days treated 85 acres in strategic locations on private property around Orleans. Excitement is building for the next TRES in Orleans, in October 2014.

#### Looking Ahead

Moving forward with integrated fire management projects identified during WGRP workshops will allow us to establish a process for implementing collaboratively-developed projects that use the Open Standards process to increase opportunities for building trust and expanding the scope and scale of restoration actions.

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