Western Klamath Restoration Partnership:

Bringing Good Fire Back at the Landscape Scale



Developing Landscape Level Projects

Somes Bar Integrated Fire Management and Capacity Development Project

Demonstration Project, Ukonom West Thinning Project, and Ukonom Transportation Access Planning Project.

direction for project development. More than half of this project area will have LiDAR completed by December

accurate. Manual, mechanical and prescribed burn treatment areas were identified based on the GIS overlay

excluded from the WUI for over 100 years. Manual and mechanical treatments will be implemented first to allow

for controlled burns to be safely implemented. The goal is to protect the community, restore cultural resources,

and enhance fish and wildlife habitat by restoring fire processes in this landscape. Nearly \$2 million in funding

Total Acres of Manual Treatments Along Handlines

Total Acres of Mechanical Treatments Along Dozer Lines

Total Acres of Manual Treatments Along Critical Access/Egress Routes

Total Acres of Mechanical Tx for Primary Access and Adj. Plantations (40+)

Total for Prescribed Burning for Defensible Space otal for Prescribed Burning in Wildland Urban Interface

Total Acres of Mechanical Tx for Secondary Access and Adj. Plant. (40+)

2014, making quantification of the risk from existing fuels accumulations and the results of treatments very

assessment in a 100,000 acre project area near Orleans and Somes Bar where fire has been effectively

These treatments, once implemented, will cause a significant reduction in crown fire potential based on

Flammap runs customized for the Western Klamath Mountains by Deer Creek GIS.

Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council 2014 CWPP Update

has been secured from the USFS and other sources to begin left side planning for this project.

The Orleans/Somes Bar CWPP and the Karuk Tribe's Eco-Cultural Resource Management Plan also provided

This project combines planning accomplished for the Katimiin Cultural Management Area MOU, Ti Bar

Background

This planning effort explores a path toward collaborative fire management in the Western Klamath landscape. It arose from a desire by the Karuk Tribe, the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, the US Forest Service, area Fire Safe Councils, environmental groups and other community-based stakeholders to explore what fire management could be like using a collaborative paradigm.

We utilized a two-pronged approach to shape the planning effort: GISbased fire modeling, and an open and interactive planning process. Each prong engaged multiple stakeholders and multiple ecological and social values. Cash and in-kind funding for the effort included multiple local, regional and national sources.



WKRP Planning Area

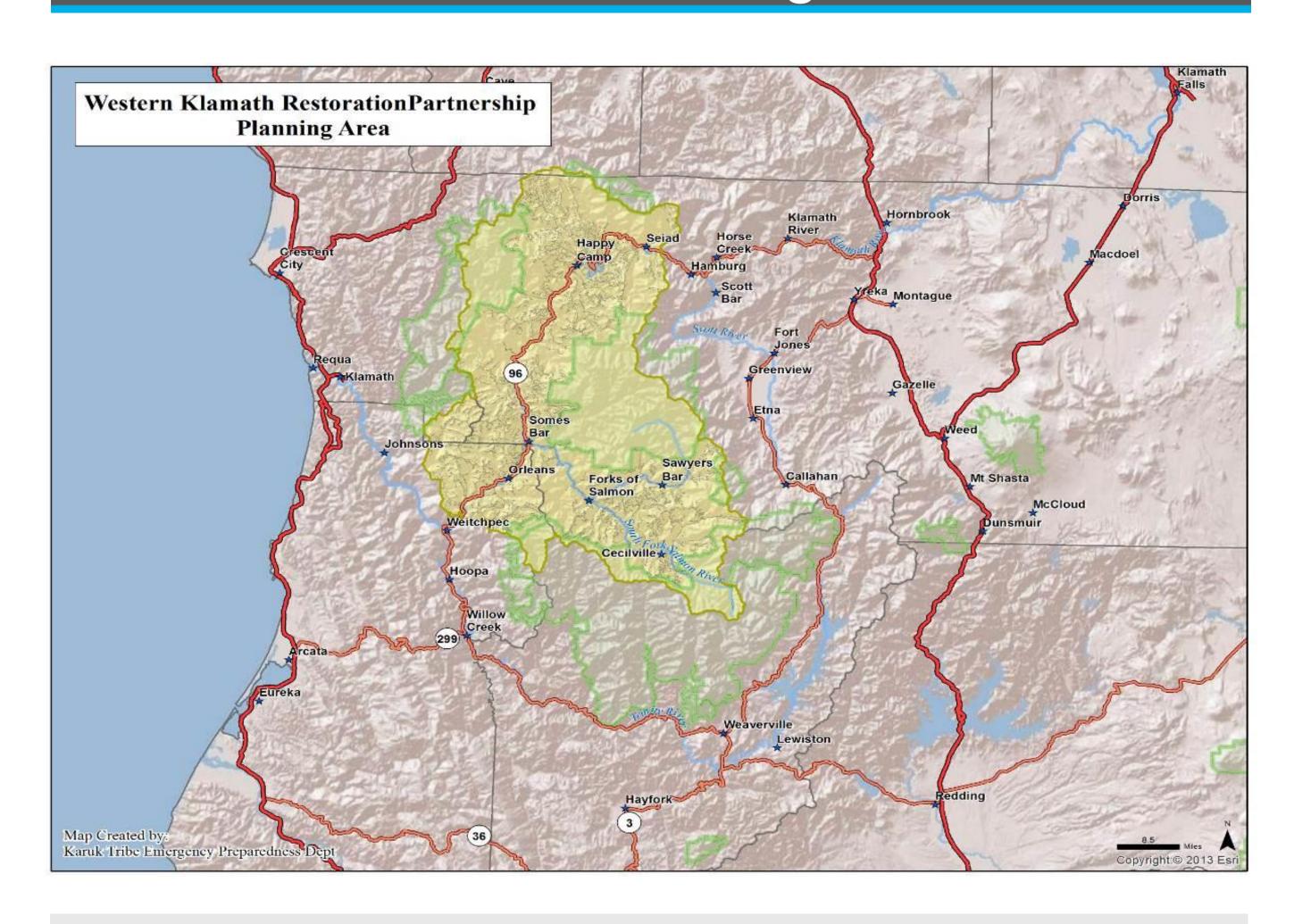


Figure 2: The 1.2 million acre planning area was collaboratively developed and includes the Salmon River Watershed, the Middle Klamath River between Aikens Creek and Seiad Valley, and portions of the Siskiyou, Marble Mountain, and Trinity Alps Wilderness areas. It also includes the communities of Orleans, Somes Bar, Forks of Salmon, Cecilville, Sawyers Bar, Happy Camp and Seiad Valley.

Vision ~ Values ~ Threats

VISION

 Establish and maintain resilient ecosystems, communities, and economies guided by cultural and contemporary knowledge through a truly collaborative process that effectuates the revitalization of continual human relationships with our

dynamic landscape.

TARGETS/VALUES

- Fire Adapted Communities Restored Fire Regimes
- Healthy River Systems • Resilient Bio-diverse Forests/Plants/and Animals
- Sustainable Local Economies Cultural and Community Vitality

THREATS

Lack of stable jobs

practices

- Erosion of community and cultural values, including Karuk traditional
- Lack of beneficial fire Altered forest structure and
- composition (overly dense
- High fuel loading Lack of defensible space
- Habitat degradation (terrestrial and aquatic) Impaired fishery

WKRP Co-Lead, Core Team Structure

As we began to move forward with developing specific projects, the need to formalize Co-Leads and the composition of the Core Team prompted the WKRP to get nominations for these positions during Workshop #7. In June 2014, these were tallied and the following individuals were nominated for

Co-Leads: Bill Tripp (Karuk Tribe), Will Harling (MKWC), Karuna Greenberg (SRRC), Clint Isbell (USFS KNF) Core Team: Jill Beckmann (Karuk Tribe), Max Creasy (MKWC), Zack Taylor (USFS SRNF), Carol Sharp (HC FSC), Jon Grunbaum (HC FSC, USFS KNF), Cathy Meinert (HC FSC), Earl Crosby (Karuk Tribe), Tim Wilhite (EPA), Kimberly Baker (KFA/EPIC), Bill Estes (HCCC), Kevin Osborne (USFS KNF), Josh Saxon (Karuk Tribe/SRRC), and Frank Lake (USFS PSW).

The Open Standards Process: A Map to Effective Collaboration

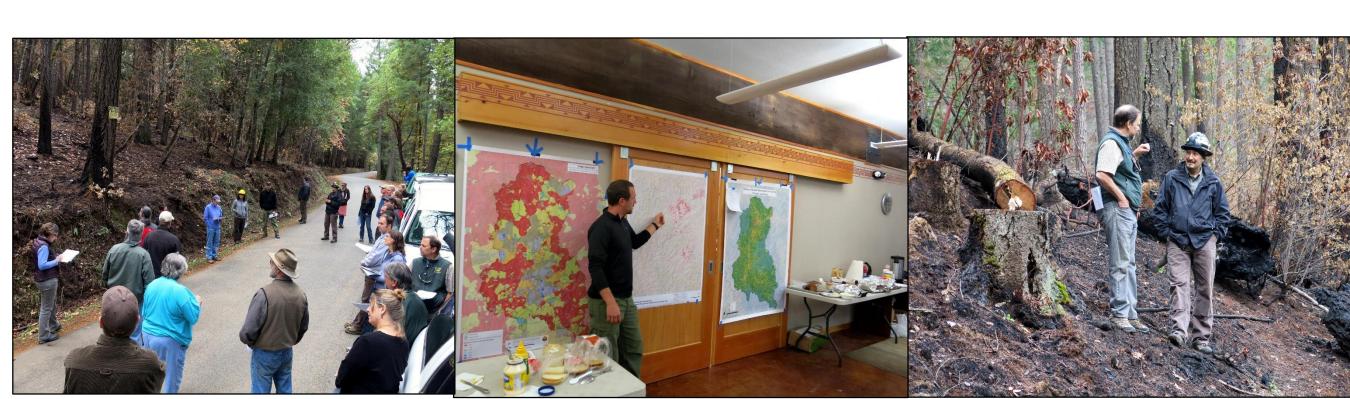


The Western Klamath **Restoration Partnership is an** open group comprised of the Federal, Tribal, and Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) participants with the inclusion of facilitators and additional invitees when entering the phase of initiating the US **FLN facilitated Open Standards** Process.

Invitations were extended to all potentially interested parties from local, state, federal and tribal entities within the planning area, and meeting minutes are shared with a listserve that continues to grow.

This diverse group is currently in Phase 2, building broad based support for upslope restoration actions that will expedite the creation of fire resilient communities and forests.

Defining Zones of Agreement





High level facilitation by Mary Huffman and Lynn Decker with the US Fire Learning Network allowed participants the where, why and what sort of treatments could help us reach our targets and values was created to track how strategic reports, homework teams, and field trips were all incorporated to build a working relationship between participants that actions, if implemented, will achieve their intended results.

GIS Analysis & Treatment Prioritization

Number of fires in the last 100 years

Bar Fire Safe Council 2014 CWPI

Manual Treatment Units

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Planning Area
Manual Treatment Unit
Ranger District
Wildemess

Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe ouncil 2014 CWPF

rescribed Burn Units

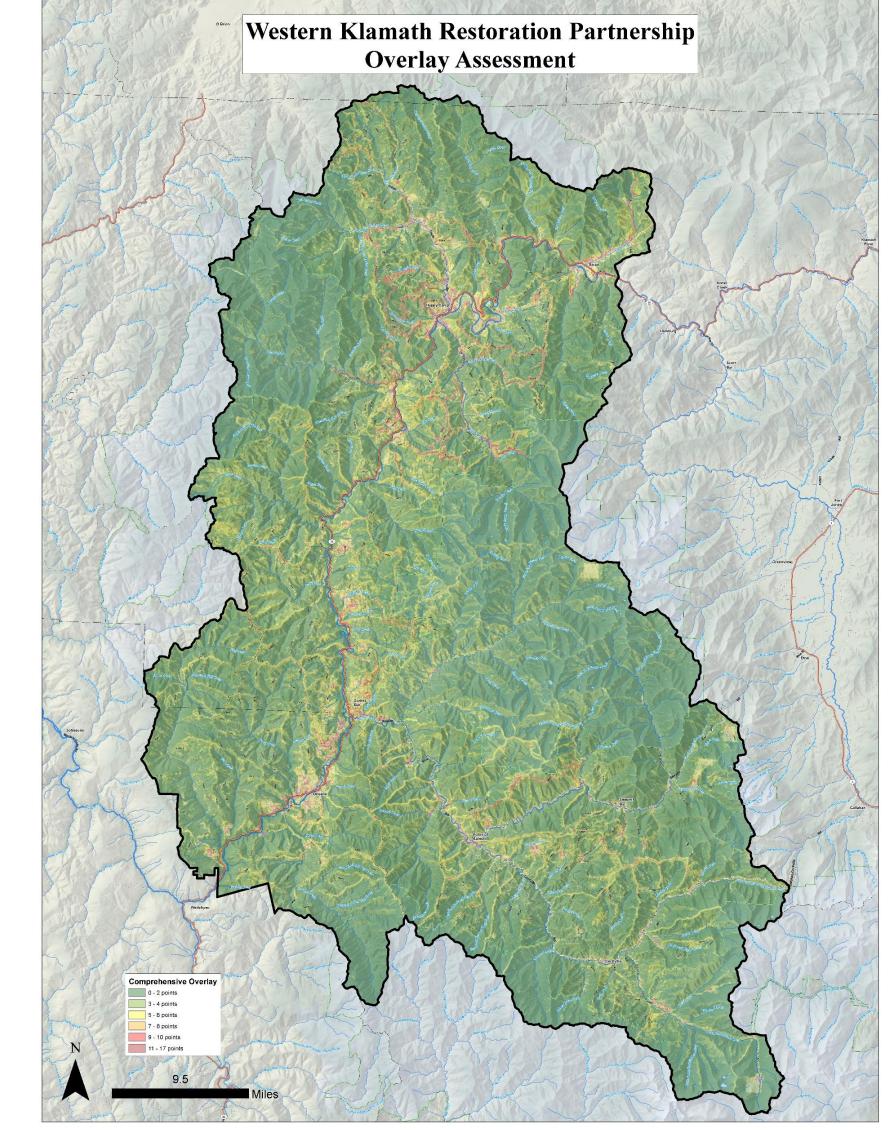
Number of Fires	Sum of Acres	Percent of Planning Area
0	583,971	48.8%
1	362,278	30.3%
2	75,496	14.7%
3	67,048	5.6%
4	7,339	0.6%
5	618	0.1%
Total Acres	196,750	100%

- indigenous burning patterns, we would see smaller self-limiting fire footprints, and some places with 30-
- Large fire footprints in the past 10 years offer an opportunity for fire regime restoration by providing

risk to communities. Planning Area Wilderness Area Areas that have seen fire only once in the last 10 years.



Recent large fire footprints in the WKRP planning area (last 10 years) provide an opportunity to reintroduce prescribed fires in these footprints to restore fire regimes before fuels build up again, and also allow for



GIS Overlay Assessment Combines Social, Cultural, Environmental, and **Economic Factors**

- 24+ layers were incorporated into a GIS overlay assessment with existing data and data created through the WKRP to prioritize where work should
- be focused. This map represents our basic zone of agreement for all treatment types, and was used as a guide to planning and prioritizing projects on the landscape

Factors considered included:

- Public/Private Boundary Buffers Access Route/Road/Fireline/Trail Buffers
- Past Treatments/Wildfires by Age Upper 1/3rd of Slope
- Insolation/Aspect Managed and Mid Mature Dense Stands Crown Fire Potential
- Potential Elk Winter Range Critical Northern Spotted Owl Habitat Veg Types Impacted by Fire Exclusion

Comprehensive Overlay

0 - 2 points

3 - 4 points

Cultural Areas

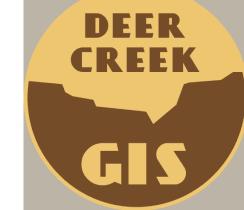
5 - 6 points

9 - 10 points 11 - 17 points















structure to share their thoughts, ideas and concerns about what actions were needed to achieve our shared values. A Draft Situation Analysis showing the complex linkages between Strategies, Threats and Values guided discussions on how, when, actions could be taken that would address identified threats and increase to potential for success. Mapping exercises, group fostered a thorough analysis of the social, ecological, cultural and economic factors that will determine whether our identified

Got Fire? **Lessons and Opportunities** From Fire History Analysis

 NO areas are within their historic fire return intervals, or even remotely

- With no fire exclusion and continued
- 100 fire overlaps. landscape level fuelbreaks to initiate large scale prescribed fires with little

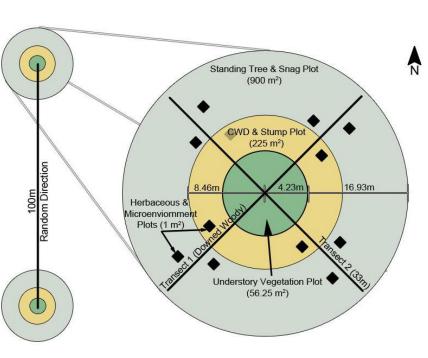
Number of fires in the last 100 years 4 fires

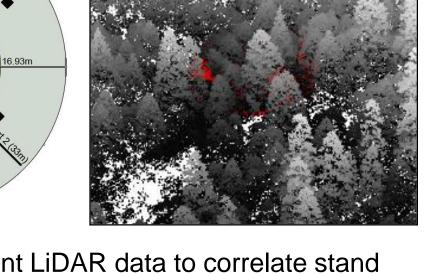
5 fires

implementation of large controlled burns that bring fire from recent fire perimeters down to communities safely.

Structure Buffers (100' and 500')

Agreement in Practice.





Ground-based plot surveys (center diagram) are being cross-walked with recent LiDAR data to correlate stand level data, and determine how LiDAR can be used to quantify fuel loading at the landscape scale. Data from this effort will feed into a multi-agency Interdisciplinary Team analyzing various treatment options across the 100,000 acre Area of Potential Effect, and an additional 5,000 acres being prepared for early treatment

Research and Monitoring

The USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station, Karuk Tribe, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, Universities (UC

cultural resource plots will help guide stand level prescriptions and descriptions of practices for the larger WKRP

Berkeley, UC Davis, HSU, Stanford), the Klamath and Six Rivers National Forests, and others are working

together to provide research and monitoring support for the WKRP. Collaboratively designed forestry and

group to synthesize into a series of treatments for specific vegetation types that collectively define our

Next Steps

NEPA will be completed on over 1,000 acres of private lands in the next year to expedite strategic manual, mechanical, and prescribed burning treatments where it matters most. Specialist data (wildlife, botany, soils, forestry, cultural/archeological, fisheries, etc) will be collected on 4,000 acres of adjacent public forest lands in preparation for implementation in the next three years. Programmatic NEPA on the larger 100,000 acre footprint will be initiated to expedite the scope and scale of landscape level treatments over the next decade and beyond. Material support for local brushing crews and the Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges will simultaneously increase our ability to expand annual fuels treatment targets and safely implement controlled burns at larger and larger scales. Quarterly WKRP workshops, Core Team meetings, and working groups will provide opportunities for parties to collaboratively define treatment strategies and prescriptions as we prepare for the formal NEPA process.

