

Fostering a Better Relationship with Fire in the Klamath Siskiyou



Fire and Our Changing Climate

Scientists predict drier, hotter summers and wetter winters with less snow pack. These conditions, contributing to drought, will likely be the largest influence on forest fires in the future.

Now, more than ever, it is important for land managers and private land owners to use the best available science to take action!

- Create defensible space around homes and communities
- Protecting natural forests and big fire resilient trees from removal
- Restore existing forests by thinning and using prescribed fire to increase resiliency and wildlife habitat.

Fire-Adapted Species

Morel Mushrooms
(*Morchella esculenta*)



Black Backed Woodpecker
(*Picoides arcticus*)



Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*)



Participate in Public Lands Meetings

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act procedural process, land managers are required to hold forums for public input. There is usually an opportunity to submit written comments.

YOUR INPUT MATTERS!

OPPORTUNITY FOR ACTIVISM

Hold your own community meeting! Invite your neighbors, elected officials, and local TV stations. Prepare a panel of speakers and invite attendees to question and comment.

This can also be a useful tool in preparation for an agency hosted public meeting to make sure thoughts are gathered and all stakeholders are represented !

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Advocate for projects to focus on reducing fire hazards in lands around homes and communities
- Call the BLM and Forest Service Supervisors and talk to them about how you value a safe community surrounded by resilient forests
- Be your own land steward! Create defensible space around your property
- Take action regarding proposals that regenerate dense timber plantations in the place of fire resilient old growth trees.

Solution Based Management Focus

Those who live and work in areas where the edges of community reach the forests, often called the Wildland Urban Interface, need to protect their homes by clearing flammable vegetation around structures and utilizing fire safe practices.



Wildland Urban Interface

Public involvement in developing projects that include community risk assessments, mitigation plans, and actions that will reduce the risk of wildland fire to community values is imperative.

A Citizen's Alternative for Land Management

- Concentrate thinning in stands of small trees in overly dense stands near homes and communities
- Retain mature forests and large diameter trees
- Avoid the creation of more dense timber plantations
- “Right Size” the forest road system and commit to regular road maintenance
- Protect sensitive lands adjacent to waterways from disturbance
- Retain and promote wildlife habitat for sensitive species

Key Fire Terms

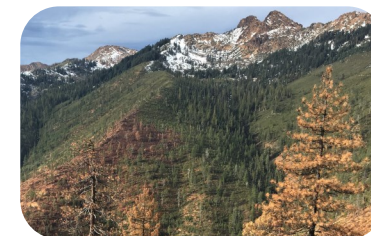
Defensible Space: The area around homes needed to protect residences from fire hazards



Tree Plantation: Commercial tree stands of same-sized trees in dense rows, often times of the same species which are planted without concern for fire hazard



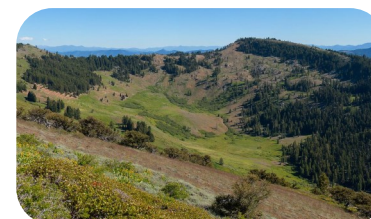
Mixed Severity Fire: The combination of unburned, medium burned, and canopy replacing, fire effects on the forest landscape



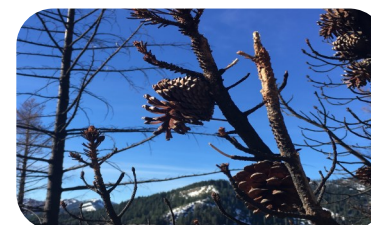
Regeneration Logging: The practice of removing natural forests and converting them to tree plantations by replanting



Biodiversity: The variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem



Serotinous: An adaptation of plants, where the seeds require fire to be released



Public Lands: America's Best Idea!

Public lands belong to everyone! Unfortunately, powerful interests wish to turn back the clock on decades of progress in conservation and stewardship.

Active citizen involvement with land management proposals is an opportunity to advocate for thoughtful and sustainable ecological based forest practices.

Enacted in 1970, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a law that promotes the enhancement of the environment. NEPA requires the public to be made aware of the environmental consequences of proposed agency actions. NEPA encourages substantive public comments to be integrated in the final decision.

Get to Know Your Public Land Managers:



US Forest Service, Department of Agriculture



US Fish and Wildlife, Department of the Interior



Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior



National Park Service, Department of the Interior

Combined these federal agencies manage millions of acres of your public lands across Southwestern Oregon and Northern

Past Management Influences Present Challenges

Unique to this area, the Oregon California Lands Act of 1937 has made cohesive land management a challenge due to the checkerboard land ownership patterns. Guided by land use management plans with different priorities, wildlife and resources must adapt to the shifting winds of climate change and forest policy.



Checkerboard Land Management Challenges show by Aerial Photo of south-

The O&C Lands Act

checkerboard issues—coupled with the last 100 years of fire suppression and decades of industry clearcutting—contribute to the fire management challenges we face today.

When wildfire was excluded from fire prone landscapes, fuels built up, native plants were replaced by invasive species, and forests on public lands became less resilient and more prone to high-severity fire.

FIRE AS A KEYSTONE PROCESS:

FIRE: clears out some trees for diversity in forest structure and restores nutrients

POST FIRE LOGGING: removes resilient old growth trees and increases fire hazards with the creation of dense tree plantations.

OLD GROWTH: Mature trees develop to create cooler, wetter forests, and reseed the forest in future fires

