Ashland’s Cohesive Approach to Wildfire Preparedness

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A study quoted in Ashland’s Climate Energy Action Plan shows the increasing probability of large wildfires (over 50,000 acres).
AREA BURNED WILL LIKELY INCREASE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PNW

Littell et al. 2013
Supports:
National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy: Ashland Style
Resilient Landscapes

Landscapes, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries, are resilient to fire, insect and disease disturbances.
Reeder Reservoir – Source of the City’s Drinking Water
ASHLAND FOREST RESILIENCY STEWARDSHIP PROJECT (AFR)

A 10 year stewardship project to reduce the risk of severe wildfire in the watershed and to protect water quality, older forests, wildlife, people, property and quality of life.
AFR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: 7,600 ACRES
Complexity
moist and dry, low and mixed severity fire

North slopes / bottoms
Shaded, moist, dense

Ridges, southerly slopes
Open
ASHLAND FOREST RESILIENCY MASTER STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT

Funding, Project Design, Oversight

Technical Expertise, Community Engagement

Contracting, Workforce Training

Multi-Party Monitoring, Fiscal Sponsor

FOREST SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CITY OF ASHLAND

LOMAKATSI RESTORATION PROJECT

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Over 50 events and tours
- AFR website, Facebook page
- Local media
- Interpretive signs
AFR Student Engagement

Over 4,000 youth received instruction in 7,300 hours of classroom and field sessions.
Controlled burns protect forests and our watershed.

- Reduce fire danger to firefighters, residents, and the places we love
- Reduce the fuels that feed catastrophic fires
- Produce much less smoke than severe wildfires

When you see controlled burns during the cool time of year, know we are working for healthier forests and community: for today and for future generations.
Smoke and Health Outreach

Forest Restoration

Please Excuse Our Noise & Smoke

FOREST RESTORATION
Over a century of fire suppression has left forests and rangelands dense, at risk of severe wildfire, and prone to disease. Thinning young trees and brush reduces wildfire danger, enhances diverse habitat, protects clean waters, and promotes large, old trees.

ashlandwatershed.org
Receive AFR Alerts

OnLine
On Facebook, AFR project
On Twitter: @ashlandforest
Web Updates: ashland-on-trailinfo

Emails
Subscribe to alerts on the AFR website
ashlandontrailinfo@gmail.com
Or subscribe directly: emailpreferences@afros.org

Text Alerts
To receive text alerts to your phone
Text WATERSHED to 31379

Phone
Call the City of Ashland Smoke & Wildfire Hotline
(541) 552-2490

Smoke Sensitive?
Find health recommendations at ashland.or.gov/smoke

Citizen Alert System
Visit ashland.or.gov/alert to get text, email, or phone calls about evacuations and all emergency situations that may affect our community.

Consuelo rápidos

Recepción de alertas en línea para los servicios de protección contra incendios en el área de Ashland.

Recepción de alertas por correo electrónico

Recepción de alertas por texto

Recepción de alertas por teléfono

Información adicional:

Control de la calidad del aire:
www.deq.state.or.us/air

Aplicación de detección de humo de la EPA
EPA Smoke Sense:
Agregue la aplicación para Android o iOS

Página de humo y salud:
smokewiseashland.org

Este folleto fue desarrollado en colaboración con las siguientes organizaciones:

Ashland Forest Resiliency
Jackson County
Asante

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The Chamber of Commerce’s Fire Prevention Task Force has been VITAL to the success of our program.

- Support for prescribed burning program
- Honest messaging to tourists, residents, and businesses
- Advocating to prepare buildings, economy for smoke
• Significant public health issues and questions
• What is an N95 respirator and how to wear it?
• What kind of home air filter should I use?
• What is this AQI rainbow thing?
• Major regional economic impacts to all tourism including the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a major driver of Ashland’s economy with 350,000 visitors a year.
SmokeWise Preparedness Workshops 2018 & 2019

- Hosted by Ashland Chamber of Commerce
- Targeting businesses (2018) and regional decision makers (2019)
- Offered tangible solutions and strategies.
- Smoke Workbook guides business mitigation measures
Ashland Forest Resiliency Multiparty Monitoring

Implementation Monitoring
• Acres treated by treatment type
• Basal area/acre
• Canopy cover
• Northern Spotted Owl habitat
• Prescribed burn effects
• Economics and jobs
• Fuel model
• Soil disturbance,
• Sensitive or invasive plants
• Large old tree retention
• Photos before and after
• Snags and coarse wood

Effectiveness Monitoring
• Water quality and Aquatic habitat
• Large tree retention and survival
• Song bird communities
• Late successional wildlife
• Herbaceous recovery and response
• Fire histories

Social Monitoring and Public Learning
• Survey respondent project support
• Survey respondent understanding of forest issues
• Feedback from the Implementation Review Team
- 52,000 acres
- 13,000+ acres treated
- 25% of landscape
Fire Adapted Communities

Human populations and communities are as prepared as possible to receive, respond to and recover from wildfire.
Nezla Street Fire 2001
Oak Knoll Fire 2010
Local Fuel Modeling: Fuel Model Groups Ground Truthed
Update Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Risk Assessment: Spotting Distance
Update Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Risk Assessment: Nearby Neighbor Analysis
Expanded Wildfire Zone: Wildfire Safety Codes
General Fuel Modification Area: New Construction

1. Keep all tree branches 10 feet from chimney
2. Flammable trees or shrubs require a minimum vertical separation of 3x the height of shrub to lowest branches of trees
3. For new construction on vacant lots, the General Fuels Modification Area includes the entire property. For additions and decks, it is 30 feet, subject to slope adjustments.
4. Prune branches of flammable trees 10 feet from roof or deck
5. Tree spacing: 10 feet between outer most branches of flammable trees
6. Flammable shrub spacing: 2x the height of shrub at maturity
7. No fire prone plants or bark mulch within 5 feet
8. Fencing made of non-combustable materials within 5 feet of connection to structure
9. Class B or better roofing material
10. Prune hazardous trees, a minimum of 1/2 below the ground, or 1/5 in the height of tree, vertically down
11. Created fuel modification area 30 feet from the building or deck whenPacific slopes of less than 34°, 45° and an slope between 1/1 and 1/3, and a 45° from above for slopes greater than 34°.
What’s Next? Oregon Building Code Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Section R327 Local Adoption
Ready, Set, Go!
Safe, Effective, Wildfire Response

All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective and risk-based management decisions.
My home is Firewise. Is yours?
Thank You...and Let’s Get to Work

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