

# Ashland Watershed Update

a publication of the Ashland Forest Resiliency Partnership

## Upcoming Events:

### FIELD TRIPS

Join a field trip to learn about AFR, forests, and monitoring in the watershed.

To register, contact Chris Chambers at 552-2066 or [chamberc@ashland.or.us](mailto:chamberc@ashland.or.us)

Saturday, May 8th or 15th

Saturday, June 26th

More outings will be scheduled and posted on [www.ashlandwatershed.org](http://www.ashlandwatershed.org)

### Volunteer Opportunities

Citizens can volunteer on watershed projects such as noxious weed mapping and pulling, trail maintenance, and water quality monitoring. Use contact info above.

### AFR Public Review

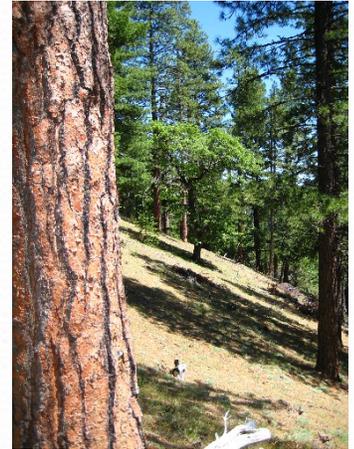
Each stage of the project has a built-in opportunity for public review. The first opportunity for public review of the first work units and plans will take place in May or early June 2010. Check [www.ashlandwatershed.org](http://www.ashlandwatershed.org) for updates.

### AFR EMAIL LIST

Keep up to date on what's up in the watershed by going to [ashlandwatershed.org](http://ashlandwatershed.org) And signing up on our email list. Click on the NOTIFY ME BY EMAIL link on the left menu to register, or call Chris Chambers at 541-552-2066.

## Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project

The recently signed stewardship agreement between the U.S. Forest Service, the City of Ashland, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and The Nature Conservancy launched implementation of the Ashland Forest Resiliency (AFR) Stewardship Project. Under this stewardship agreement, workers will thin trees, brush and conduct controlled burns to help restore forest resiliency and protect Ashland's community and its domestic water supply from the effects of high severity wildland fire. The agreement includes dedication of 4.5 million dollars of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) dollars, plus matching funds pledged by each partner for a total of 5.1 million dollars over the next two and half years to work on 2,100 acres and create local jobs.



Open pine/oak forest. Photo c/o The Nature Conservancy

### Ashland Forest Resiliency at a Glance:

- 7,600 acres of work will be completed over 10 years.
- The science-based plan will be implemented and monitored in a collaborative process with opportunities for public review and input.
- Protects the Ashland Watershed, our primary source of drinking water, from severe wildfire.
- Maintains healthy wildlife habitat while creating forests resilient to wildfire, insects and disease.
- Decreases wildfire hazards to homes and property in and around Ashland.
- AFR meets all federal environmental protections and effects will be continuously monitored and mitigated when needed.
- Provides local jobs

“Resiliency” is the ability of the ecosystem to resist and recover from disturbances such as a large-scale, high-severity wildland fire.



Ashland's forested landscape  
© Sean Bagshaw

## More info on the Web:

[www.ashlandwatershed.org](http://www.ashlandwatershed.org)

[www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/projects/nature.org/oregon](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/projects/nature.org/oregon)

[www.lomakatsi.org](http://www.lomakatsi.org)

## You're also welcome to contact:

**John Karns**  
Fire Chief, City of Ashland  
(541) 552-2770  
[karnsj@ashland.or.us](mailto:karnsj@ashland.or.us)

**Darren Borgias**  
Program Manager/Ecologist  
The Nature Conservancy  
(541) 770-7933 ext 1#  
[dborgias@tnc.org](mailto:dborgias@tnc.org)

**Donna Mickley**  
District Ranger  
US Forest Service  
(541) 552-2900  
[dmickley@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmickley@fs.fed.us)

**Marko Bey**  
Lomakatsi Restoration  
Project, Co-Director  
541-488-0208  
[marko@lomakatsi.org](mailto:marko@lomakatsi.org)

## What to Expect

There are many positive outcomes from this project.

It is important to know that ribbons, traffic, interruptions to recreation access, noise and smoke will occur at times. Ribbons are now visible along roads and trails in project units. Traffic will be increasing on forest roads, so hikers and bikers need to be careful. Crews will begin thinning vegetation this spring, causing some noise and trail closures, which will be made public ahead of time. Within a year, controlled burning will be used to reduce fire hazards and re-introduce fire as a natural process. All efforts will be made to keep smoke away from town. Residents will be notified when burning is upcoming and where to avoid areas of smoke in the watershed. Eventually, wood products resulting from ecological forest thinning will require truck traffic and helicopters during periods of the project. The sensitive nature of our watershed requires the lowest impact tools be used to accomplish the work at hand. Helicopter thinning is a primary example of this light on the land approach—even though it requires significant financial investment. Please sign up for notices on the project website at [www.ashlandwatershed.org](http://www.ashlandwatershed.org).



2009 AFR Field Tour  
© Darren Borgias/TNC

## What's New?

- Community Engagement sub-committees are working to engage students and the public in our watershed and this project.
- A multi-party monitoring oversight committee is marshaling the monitoring planning effort and providing guidance for project monitoring.
- SOU is offering classes in both spring and summer on the AFR project. A spring science symposium at SOU will also dedicate a day to AFR for visiting scientists and researchers.
- More funding for the project is being worked out by the Forest Service and partners.
- More information will be available at [www.ashlandwatershed.org](http://www.ashlandwatershed.org) as it becomes available.

**The Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project** is a collaborative partnership established between the US Forest Service, the City of Ashland, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and The Nature Conservancy. Staff involved from other organizations include Southern Oregon University, Klamath Bird Observatory, Oregon State University Extension Service, the Rogue Basin Small Diameter Collaborative, and local citizens.