**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON**

**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**May 28th, 2013**

**Written Comments provided by**

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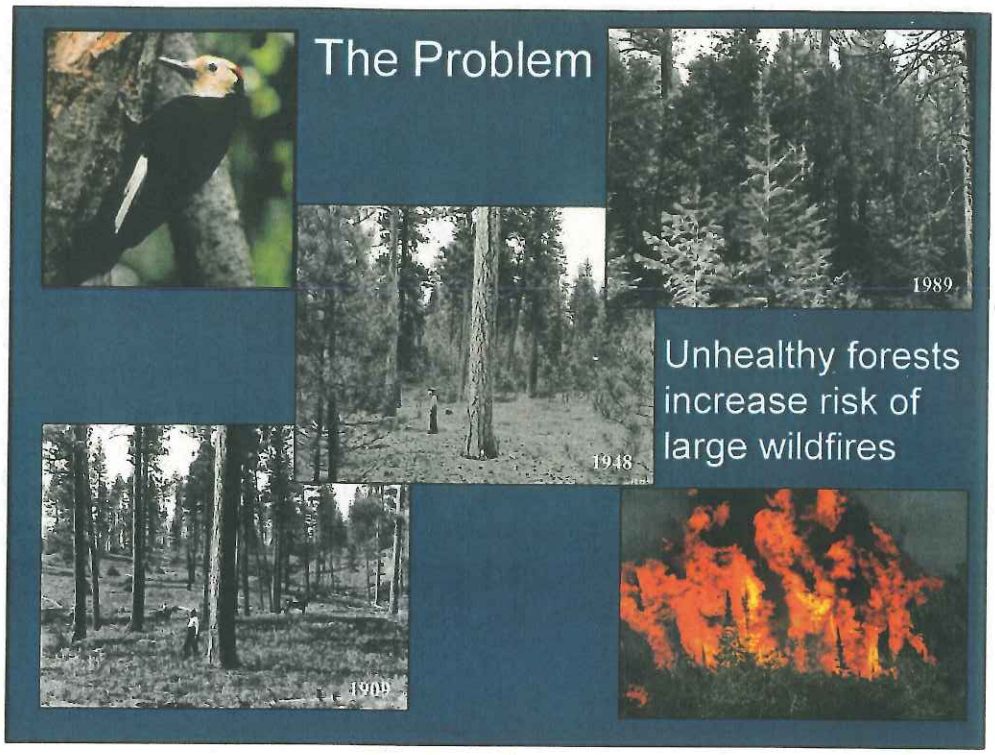
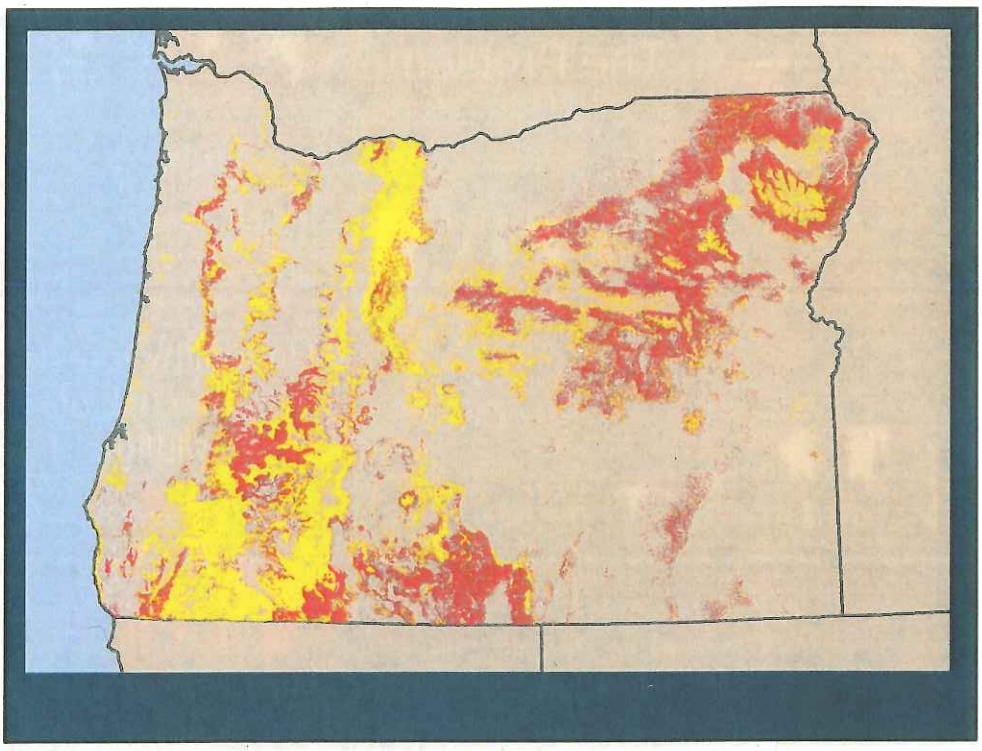
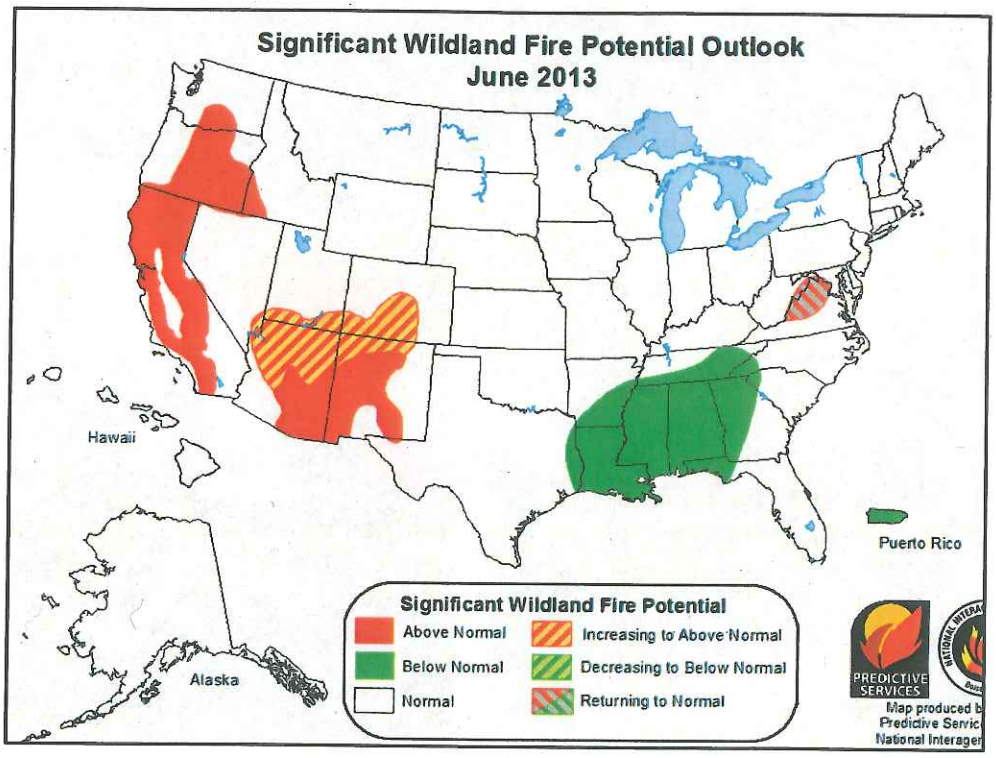



This slide provides visualization of changes that have occurred in dry frequent fire forests in Oregon over the past 100 years. 1909 provides glimpse of historic stand structure, generally open, without understory, maintained by frequent low severity fires that burned every 3-10 years; By 1948, you can see the results of fire suppression,... infilfilling of smaller young trees. And by 1989, the stand is completely filled in, historic stand structure completely lost, no longer habitat for white-headed woodpeckers,..and vulnerable to uncharacteristic wildfire.



The map shows current forest condition relative to historic stand structure frequent fire forests on public land in Oregon. In total there is 13.2 acres of FFForests in Oregon, of that there is 9.4m acres in red and yellow that need restoration. Areas colored in red are most departed, meaning that the forests have missed at least 2 fire cycles and/or stand structure has been significantly altered. Yellow areas have missed at least one fire cycle. Currently USFS is treating ca. 180,000 acres annually – at the current rate it will take more 50 years to treat everyone; to solve problem we need to treat 500,000 acres annually. Barriers to getting this accomplished are (1) history of mistrust and lack agreement among stakeholders; (2) need to incorporate ecological based restoration strategies into prioritization of treatment location and prescription, and lack of adequate funding to scale up.




Wildfire forecast for June 2013 – a dry fire year in the making for much of eastern Oregon

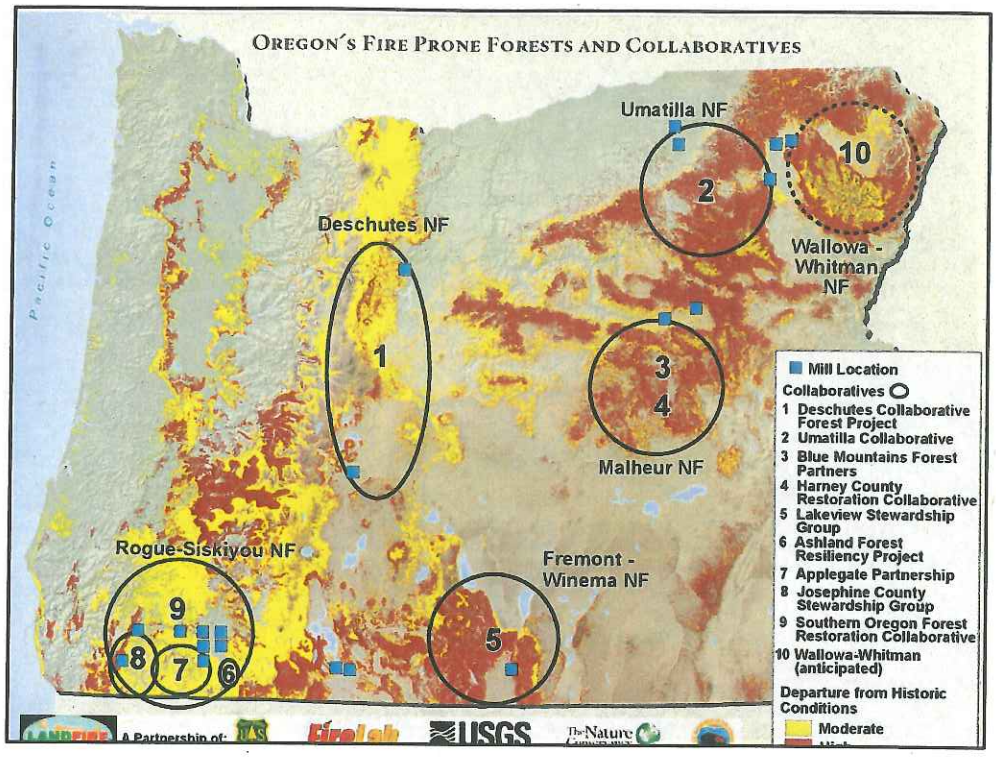
# Reducing Fire Suppression Costs

**Firefighting Costs from 33 Oregon Wildfires**

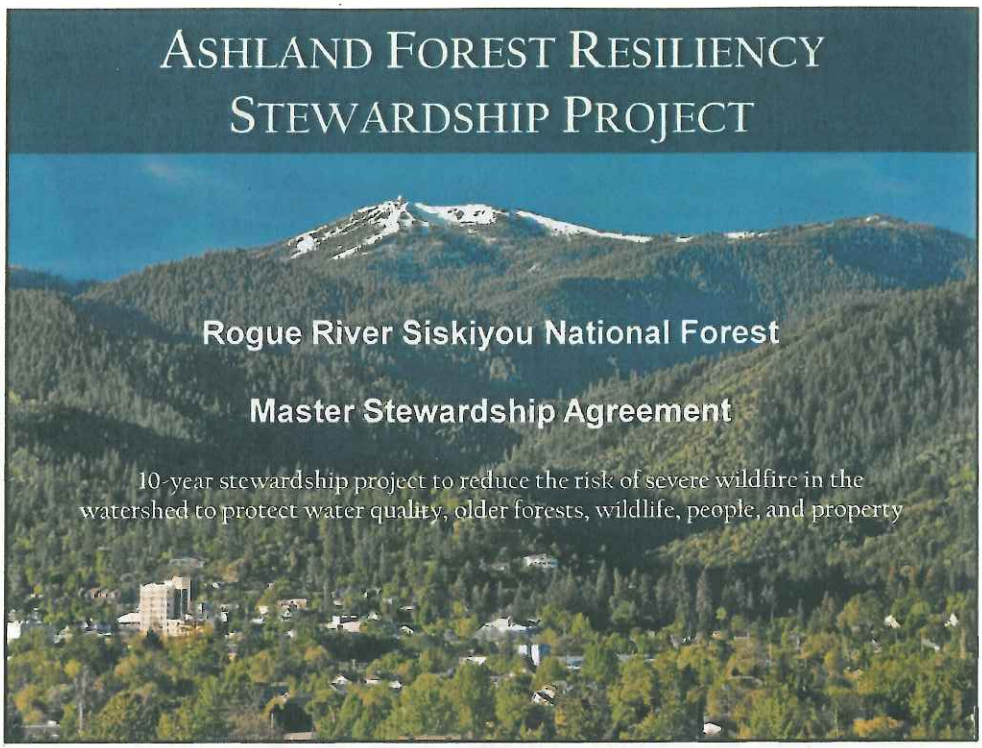
| Fire | Cumulative Cost | Year | Agency | Firefighting Days | Acres | $/acre | $/day |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ball Point | $3,075,785 | 2007 | USFS | 17 | 1,236 | $2,489.46 | $180,928.71 |
| Big Sheep Ridge | $1,217,673 | 2009 | USFS | 10 | 3,212 | $379.06 | $121,767.30 |
| Black Butte II | $3,080,983 | 2009 | USFS | 7 | 741 | $4,156.11 | $440,140.43 |
| Blister | $5,726,503 | 2006 | USFS | 22 | 494 | $11,587.19 | $260,295.59 |
| Bote | $7,019,985 | 2009 | USFS | 22 | 5,083 | $1,235.17 | $319,050.23 |
| Bridge Creek | $4,410,206 | 2008 | USFS | 11 | 4,695 | $939.34 | $400,927.82 |
| Calamity Complex | $3,652,755 | 2007 | USFS | 14 | 1,977 | $1,847.77 | $260,911.07 |
| Canal Creek | $4,735,060 | 2009 | USFS | 11 | 247 | $19,162.14 | $430,460.00 |
| Cougar Creek | $2,544,887 | 2009 | USFS | 10 | 741 | $3,432.94 | $254,488.70 |
| Cougar Ridge | $1,657,848 | 2009 | USFS | 20 | 247 | $6,709.08 | $82,892.40 |
| Egley Complex | $16,296,760 | 2007 | USFS | 19 | 72,649 | $224.32 | $857,724.21 |
| Elkhorn Complex | $3,985,253 | 2006 | USFS | 15 | 988 | $4,031.94 | $265,683.53 |
| Gnarl Ridge | $15,047,477 | 2008 | USFS | 28 | 2,718 | $5,535.92 | $537,409.89 |
| GW Fire | $7,917,759 | 2007 | USFS | 23 | 6,425 | $1,232.39 | $344,250.39 |
| Ironside | $1,667,362 | 2007 | BLM | 9 | 247 | $6,747.59 | $185,262.44 |
| Kitson | $4,302,039 | 2008 | USFS | 13 | 741 | $5,803.25 | $330,926.08 |
| Lake George | $12,367,001 | 2006 | USFS | 34 | 3,212 | $3,849.81 | $363,735.32 |
| Lonesome Complex | $18,411,841 | 2008 | USFS | 55 | 10,131 | $1,817.32 | $334,760.75 |
| Monument Complex | $11,634,250 | 2007 | USFS | 22 | 41,267 | $281.93 | $528,829.55 |
| Mt. Hood Complex | $8,514,319 | 2006 | USFS | 25 | 1,236 | $6,891.26 | $340,572.76 |
| North Fork Complex 08 | $9,274,059 | 2008 | USFS | 24 | 494 | $18,765.42 | $386,419.13 |
| North Fork Complex 09 | $5,250,859 | 2009 | USFS | 59 | 3,459 | $1,517.82 | $88,997.61 |
| Oak Flat | $18,738,968 | 2010 | USFS | 27 | 4,201 | $4,460.83 | $694,035.85 |
| Rattle | $21,057,764 | 2008 | USFS | 37 | 12,355 | $1,704.36 | $569,120.30 |
| Rooster Rock | $5,609,299 | 2010 | USFS | 9 | 4,695 | $1,194.74 | $623,255.44 |
| Shaw Table Complex | $15,264,142 | 2006 | USFS | 24 | 10,378 | $1,470.76 | $636,005.92 |
| Sibries River | $2,531,835 | 2008 | BLM | 8 | 3,212 | $788.15 | $316,479.38 |
| Spear Spring | $1,073,010 | 2007 | USFS | 6 | 494 | $2,171.16 | $178,835.00 |
| Trout Meadows | $6,569,023 | 2007 | USFS | 23 | 3,459 | $1,898.85 | $285,609.70 |
| Twin Lakes Complex | $4,538,513 | 2006 | USFS | 17 | 8,649 | $524.76 | $266,971.35 |
| Uliah Complex | $4,356,664 | 2007 | USFS | 11 | 3,459 | $1,259.34 | $396,060.36 |
| Williams Creek Fire | $14,630,680 | 2009 | USFS | 21 | 5,189 | $2,819.44 | $696,697.14 |
| Wizard | $3,994,788 | 2008 | USFS | 12 | 1,236 | $3,233.27 | $332,899.00 |
| Totals | $250,155,333 | | | 665 | 220,171 | $1,136.19 | $376,173.43 |
| Average | $7,580,465 | | | 20 | 6,672 | $3,944 | $373,105 |

Data taken from: *How much do homes contribute to wildfire suppression costs? Evidence from Oregon and California* Headwaters Economics


Fire Suppression costs average nearly $4,000 per acre – mechancial treatments and hazardous fuel reductions on USFS lands in eastern Oregon average $540 per acre. It pays to do the work in advance.

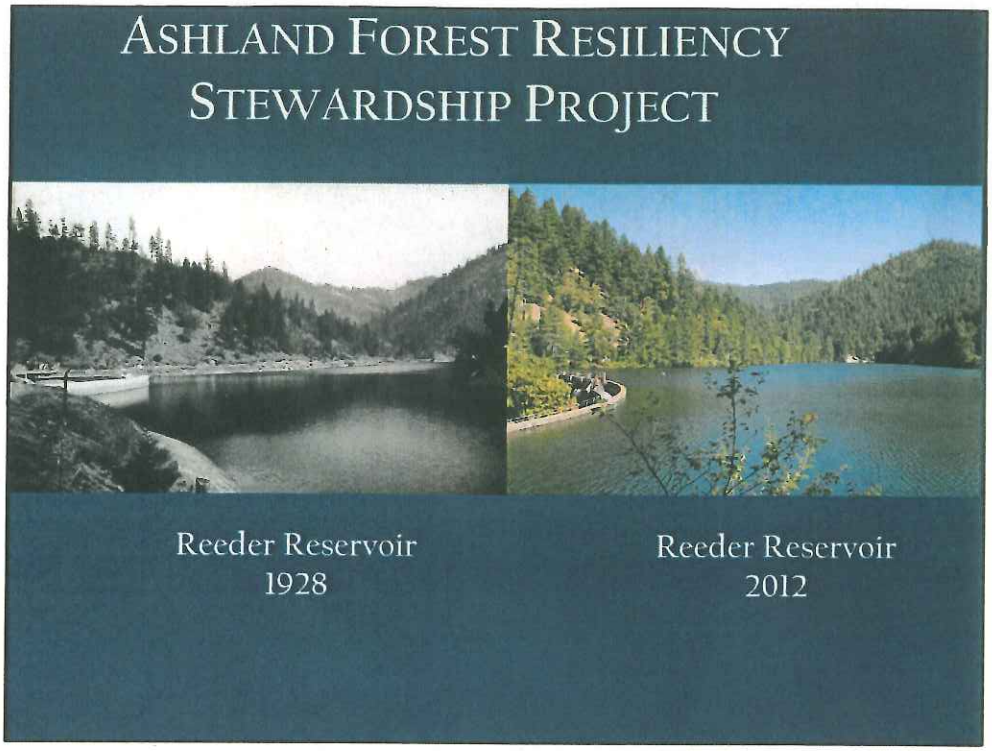



This map shows collaborative efforts in eastern and southern Oregon. The Nature Conservancy is directly engaged and a primary partner in Deschutes, Lakeview Stewardship Unit on the Fremont-Winema NF in all three collaboratives in Southwest Oregon. Note, remaining mill locations in Oregon; infrastructure at risk... over 80% of mills in eastern Oregon have closed in past two decades.

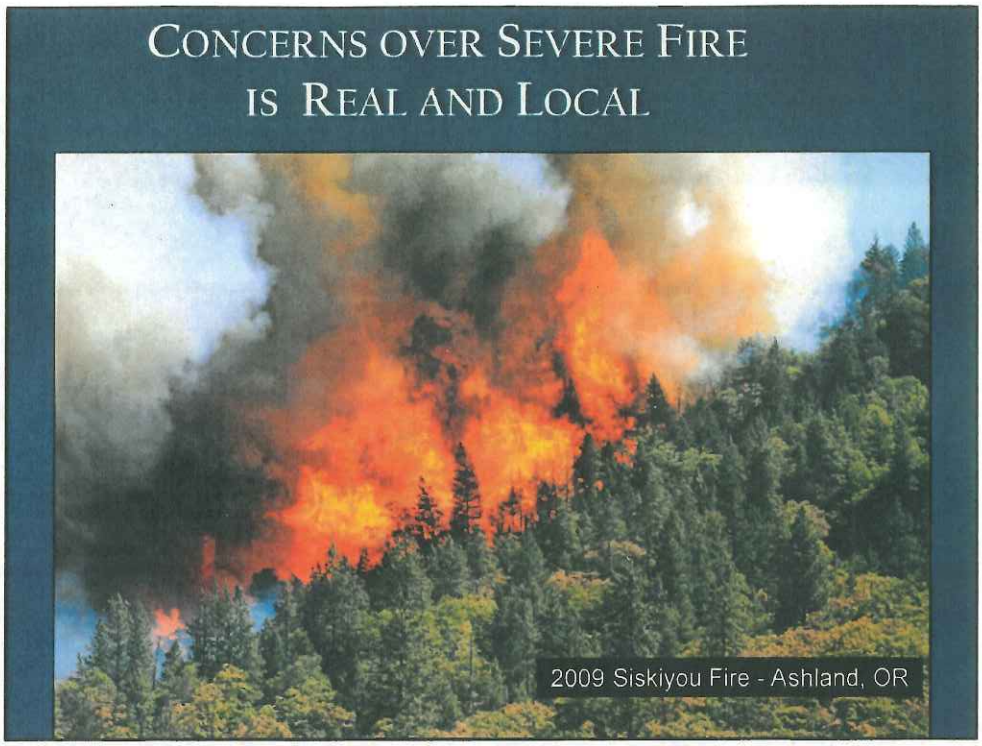



AFR

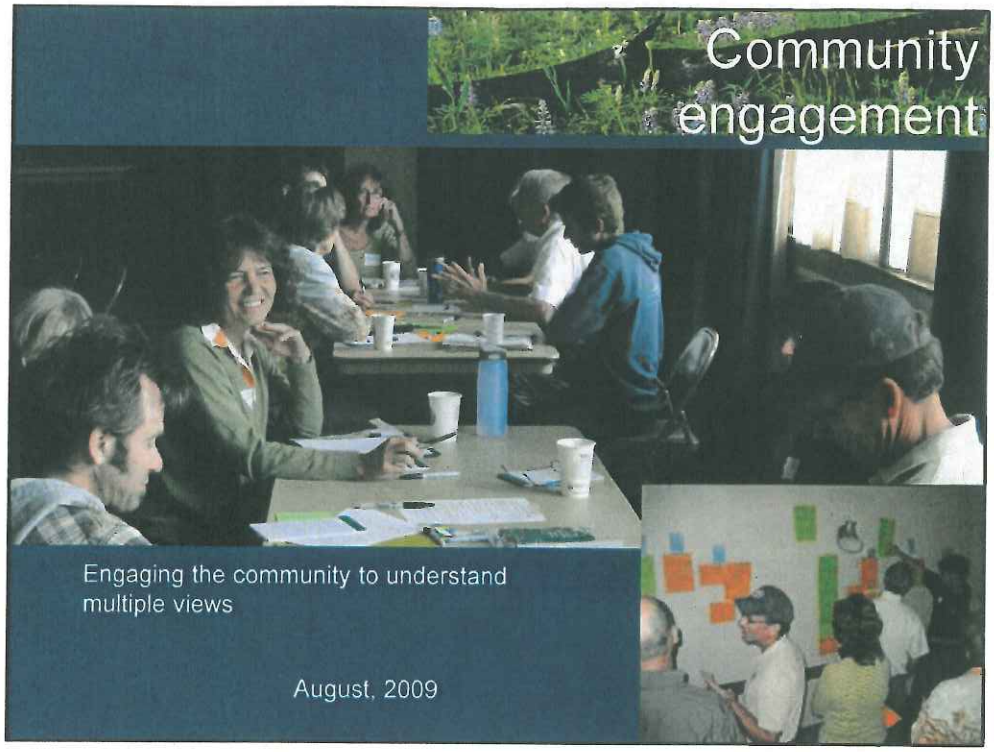
22,000 acre project, City of Ashland (COA) municipal water supply; strong collaborative; local group developed an Alternative that was included in the NEPA analysis, and was adopted as the preferred alternative by the USFS, with only minor modificaiton. Led to $6M Master Stewardship Agreement, TNC as fiscal agent,.. + City of Ashland, Lomakatsi and USFS ((Rogue Siskiyou NF); proposed to do 3100 acres of treatment,... including removal of $2M+ of saw logs by helicopter from roadless areas. Considerable outreach to community, led by COA Fire Chief/staff; includes remove from Independent Restoration Team, mostly more left leaning enviros,..




Illustrates changes in forest structure over 80+ years; note considerable infilling and increase in density of trees




Wildfire threatens City of Ashland -




Public meetings facilitated by City of Ashland and partners brings diversity of opinions and values to the forefront

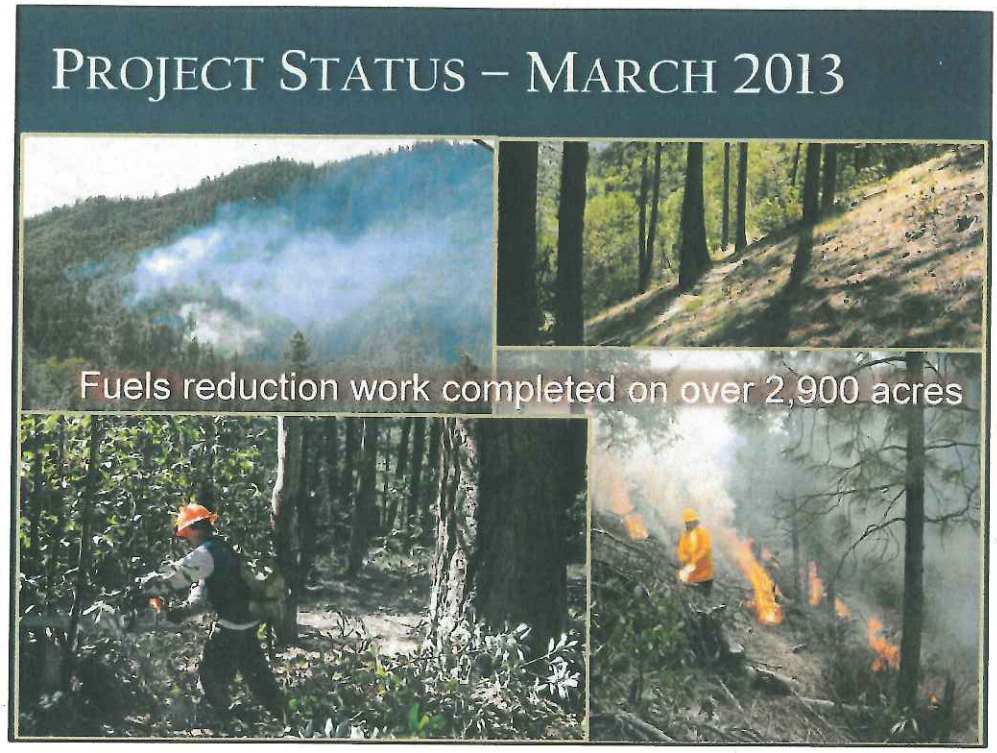

Strategy 1: Support local, state and national collaborative forums to build trust and support for ecologically based, landscape scale forest restoration treatments. (in photo note Drs. Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson at Sycan Marsh in Lake Co. leading workshop for Forest Service staff)

## Strategic Approach
### Advance Science

*Develop and demonstrate ecologically based principles of forest restoration to inform active forest management on federal lands, leading to improved resiliency of forest systems in priority landscapes.*

Stategy II – bringing science to the collaboratives - landscape assessments using GIS and Lidar help prioritize treatment locations; research 500K grants describe historical stand structure and fire history,... this base helps inform desired future condition.

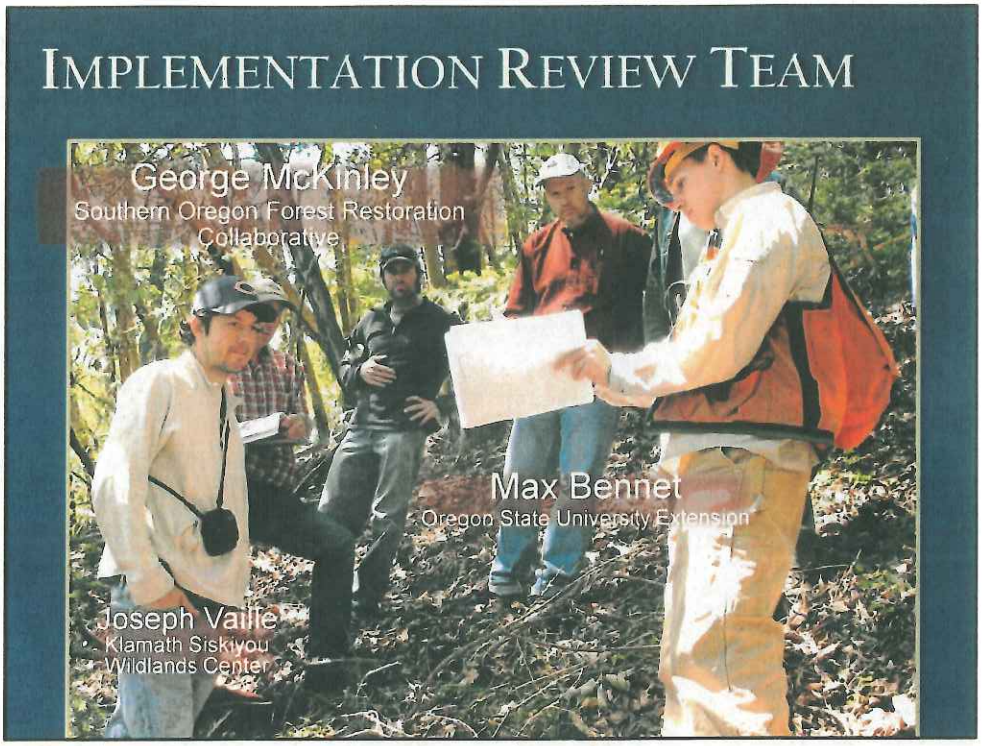
Dr. Kerry Metlen cutting a cookie... once back in the lab,... cookie is sanded and smoothed, shows growth rates, particularly useful to look at fire scars, and determine fire frequency/intervals



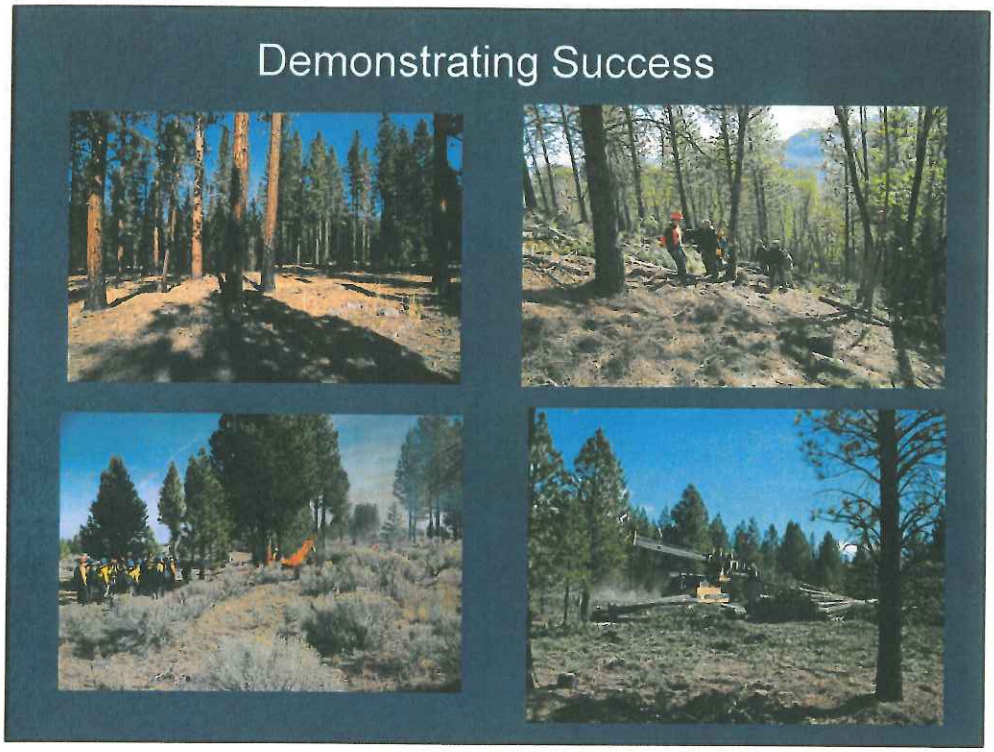

Ashland Forest Resiliency Project - work completed on the ground


Work on the ground completed; material sold to Murphy Lumber, White City, OR

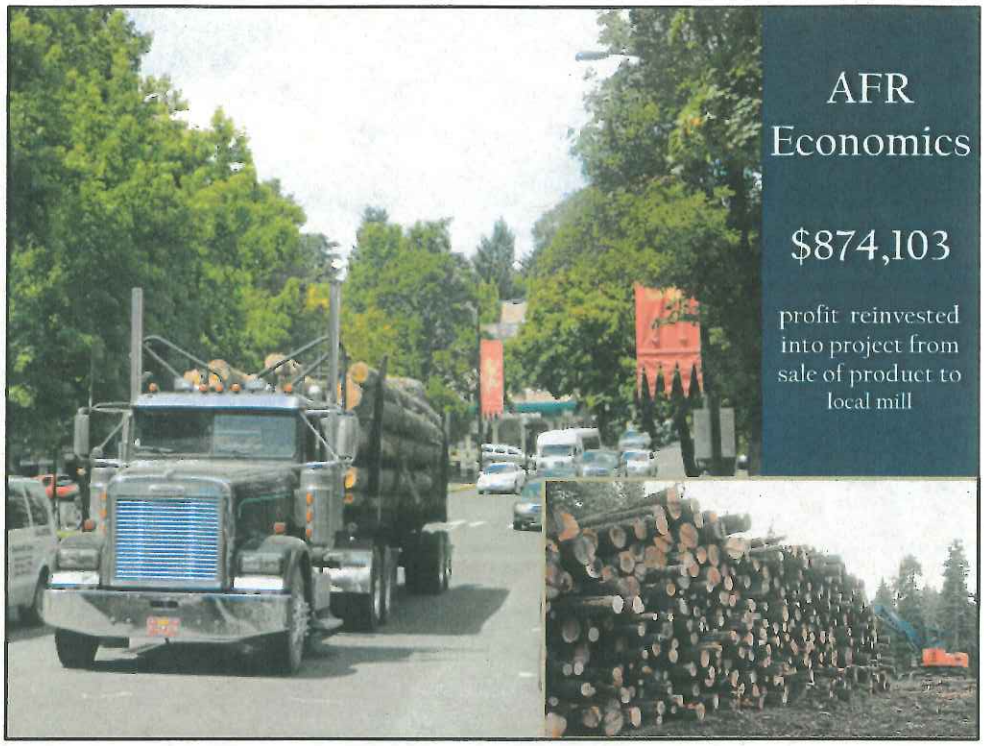

Outreach is key to getting community "buy-in"




Various partners from all sides of the spectrum review, inform and sign off on proposed work




Work on the ground completed


AFR
Economics
$874,103
profit reinvested into project from sale of product to local mill


Product to mill, Resiliency to Forests = Sweet Spot