



The Illinois Valley in southwestern Oregon.

PHOTO: BARBARA ULLIAN

FOREST & FIRE TOOLKIT

A resource directory of national forest districts, fire districts, and more.

How-to guide to prepare your property for wildfire.

Learn about funding opportunities for home defense.

Plan and be ready for a wildfire emergency and evacuation.

Indigenous fire management and forest stewardship.

Engage in public and industry forest decision-making.

Rural Living
in the
Siskiyou
Mountains



PHOTO: KS WILD

Prepared by the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS: Firesmart Merlin, Fairbanks Forest Management LLC, and Lomakatsi Restoration Project

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Resource Directory

Federal Agencies

Bureau of Land Management

Medford Office : 541-618-2200
3040 Biddle Rd., Medford, OR 97504

Grants Pass Interagency Office (Medford District):
541-471-6500
2164 N.E. Spalding Ave., Grants Pass, OR 97526

Klamath Falls Field Office (Lakeview District):
541-883-6916
2795 Anderson Ave., Bldg. #25 Klamath Falls,
OR 97603

US Forest Service

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest: 541-618-2200
3040 Biddle Rd., Medford, OR 97504

- Wild Rivers Ranger District: 541-592-4000
- Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District:
541-899-3800
- High Cascades Ranger District: 541-560-3400
- Powers Ranger District: 541-439-6200
- Gold Beach Ranger District: 541-247-3600

Klamath National Forest: 530-842-6131
1711 South Main St., Yreka, CA 96097

- Happy Camp/Oak Knoll Ranger District:
530-493-2243
- Gooseneck Ranger District: 530-398-4391
- Salmon/Scott River Ranger District:
530-468-5351

Six Rivers National Forest: 707-442-1721
1330 Bayshore Dr., Eureka, CA 95501

- Smith River National Recreation Area:
707-442-1721
- Gasquet Ranger District: 707-457-3131
- Orleans/Ukonom Ranger District: 530-627-3291
- Mad River Ranger District: 707-574-6233
- Lower Trinity Ranger District: 530-629-2118

Natural Resource Conservation Service:

Jackson County: 541- 423-6173
Josephine County: 541-673-6071
Curry County: 541-396-2841
Del Norte County: 707-487-7630
Siskiyou County: 530-572-3119

Burn Permits

If you are planning to burn on your property:

Jackson County:
Burn Advisory: 541-776-7007

Josephine County:
Air Quality Program Coordinator: 541-474-5325
Burn Advisory: 541-476-9663

Curry County:
Coos Forest Protective Association:
541-247-6241

Del Norte County:
Burn Advisory: 707- 443-7665

Siskiyou County:
Burn Permit: 530-842-8123
Air Pollution Control office: 530-841-4025

Private Industrial Forestry

Cal Fire
Del Norte County: 707-725-4413
Siskiyou County: 530-842-3516

Oregon Department of Forestry
Jackson County: 541-664-3328
Josephine County: 541-474-3152
Curry County: 541-247-6241

For tips on how to manage a small woodland:

Southern Oregon Research and Extension
Center: 541-776-7371

For a list of forestry contractors in California:

Northern California Society of American
Foresters: 1-800-738-8733

For more information on Forest Stewardship funding:

USFS Forest Stewardship State Coordinator:
California: 530-233-8743
Oregon: 503-808-2353

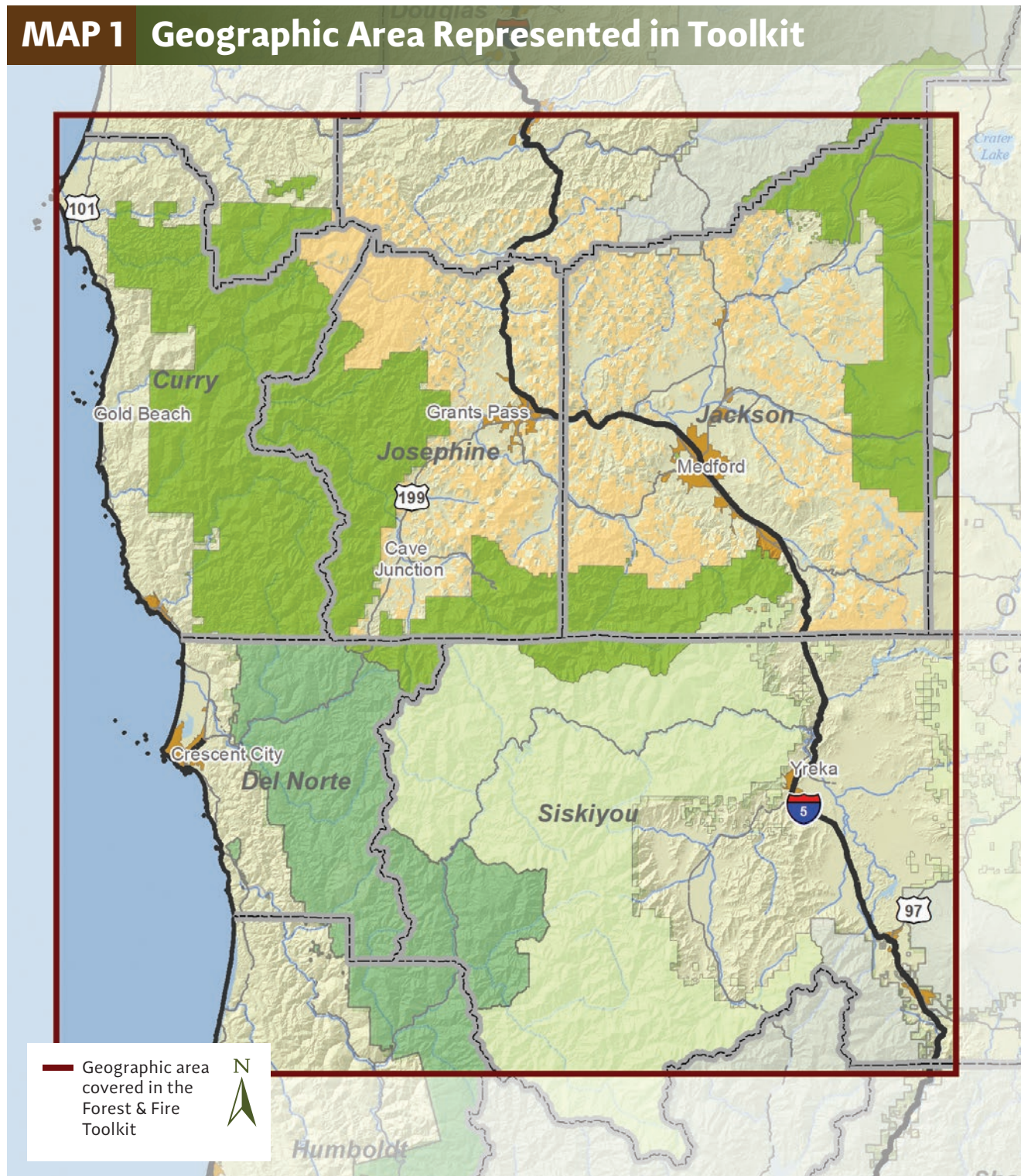
To learn more about Lomakatsi's

Tribal Partnerships Program:
Contact Belinda Brown: 541-488-0208

Geographic Area Represented in Toolkit

The Siskiyou region is a subset of the larger 10 million acre Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion. Our goal is to first provide you with a description of the agencies that manage five million acres of public land and provide oversight on nearly two million acres of private industrial forest land in southern Oregon and northern California.

MAP 1 Geographic Area Represented in Toolkit



PART 1

Toolkit Introduction and Importance

This toolkit is a ‘one stop shop’ for the resources you need to acquaint yourself with forests in the Siskiyou region. We include invaluable resources on how to take part in federal land management activities and to gain a better understanding of the role of fire in these forests. Most importantly, this is a resource for you—to prepare your family, your home, and your community for a wildfire emergency. If you want to know more about fire safety in areas outside the scope of this toolkit please go to www.ready.gov/wildfires.

Why is this Important?

Rural communities are surrounded by public and private industrial forest land, and the decisions made in these forests affect everyone living in the watershed. Forest practices, like thinning near homes and prescribed fire, can help protect communities. Other forest practices, like clearcut logging, can damage watersheds and increase fire hazard. The Siskiyou region is experiencing warmer temperatures, with longer periods of dry weather and drought. Increasing residential development into forest lands places more homes and communities at risk from wildfire. There is no future free from wildfire, but there are actions we can take to help prepare for the next one.

**Looking for fire
information
and resources?
Skip to page 18.**

Intended Audience

This toolkit is geared toward people who are affected by forest management and who have a desire to become involved in the decision making process for our forests. This includes, for example: rural residents, forest workers, landowners, recreationists, and nature-based businesses.

Land Acknowledgement

The lands being discussed in this toolkit were not always ‘public’ or ‘private.’ Before they came into modern day ownership, Indigenous tribes within the Klamath-Siskiyou region were forcibly removed after suffering years of genocide and broken treaties during colonialism of white settlers.

The First Peoples of the Klamath Siskiyou

Indigenous people of the Klamath-Siskiyou geography include members of several different tribal nations, language groups, and/or bands. Tribal descendants may identify with one or more larger tribal nations, or smaller autonomous bands or groups. The Klamath-Siskiyou region includes the aboriginal homelands of the:

Lower Rogue River Athabascan tribes:
Upper Coquille, Shasta Costa, Tutuni

Upper Rogue River Athabascan (Galice-Applegate) tribes:
Taltushtuntede (Galice Creek Area) and
Dakubetede (Applegate Area)

Takelma tribes:

Latgawa (Upland Takelma), Dagelma (Lowland or River Takelma)

The Shasta tribe and associated bands spanning the Middle Rogue, Klamath, Shasta, Salmon, and Scott Rivers, and their tributaries; and Upper Klamath Basin, and Rogue River watershed divide.

The complicated history of treaties and forced removal of various native peoples of the Rogue and Klamath rivers resulted in several federally recognized tribal governments, including: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, The Yurok Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, The Klamath Tribes, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Elk Valley Rancheria, the Karuk Tribe, and Quartz Valley Indian Reservation. Because treaties were made with members of several different tribal nations without proper recognition of cultural groups, these federally recognized tribes most often include members that affiliate with one or more ancestral groups or cultural affiliations. In addition, some Indigenous people of the Klamath-Siskiyou geography have thus far been denied treaty rights and federal recognition of their tribal affiliation.

We recognize these Sovereign Nations and tribal communities as the Indigenous people of the land, who have cared for the Klamath-Siskiyou landscapes for millennia and continue to do so today. Take a moment now to learn whose land you are on by visiting: <https://www.whose.land/en/#>

For further reading on cultural fire use, check out Lomakatsi's blog post:

<https://lomakatsi.org/blog-aboriginal-fire-may-2020/>



Margo Robbins and Elizabeth Azzuz of the Cultural Fire Management Council implement prescribed burns to keep coastal prairies free of invasive brush and bountiful in game, seeds and bulbs.

PHOTO: CULTURAL FIRE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

For time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have been developing sophisticated methods for tending the land, including the use of fire. Indigenous peoples with this tradition methodically burn certain areas across different elevations and habitats in order to renew food, medicinal, and cultural resources, encourage vegetation regrowth, and add nutrients back into the environment. Traditionally, carefully applied fire by tribal people is an important tool to reduce excess fuel loading in an effort to safeguard villages and seasonal camps from fires. To learn more about the Cultural Fire Management Council and Indigenous fire use, visit their website: <http://culturalfire.org/>.



PART 2

Get to Know the Forest Lands Around You

What Are Public Lands?

Within the Siskiyou Mountains, multiple federal land management agencies are responsible for the oversight of more than five million acres of public lands. Dense old growth forests, oak woodlands, and high alpine meadows all mix together to form this special place. The two main agencies responsible for managing these public lands are the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Not included in this Toolkit is the National Park Service, which manages monuments and other historical sites throughout the region.

The US Forest Service

The mission of the USFS is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests to meet the needs of present and future generations. The USFS was established to manage lands for multiple uses and for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood, and recreation. The USFS manages the vast majority of public forests in southwest Oregon and northern California. This toolkit provides resources on three national forests covering 3.3 million acres: the Rogue River-Siskiyou, Klamath, and Six Rivers (See Map 2). All of these forests are managed under the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP), which sets the overall management direction and guidance for each of our national forests.

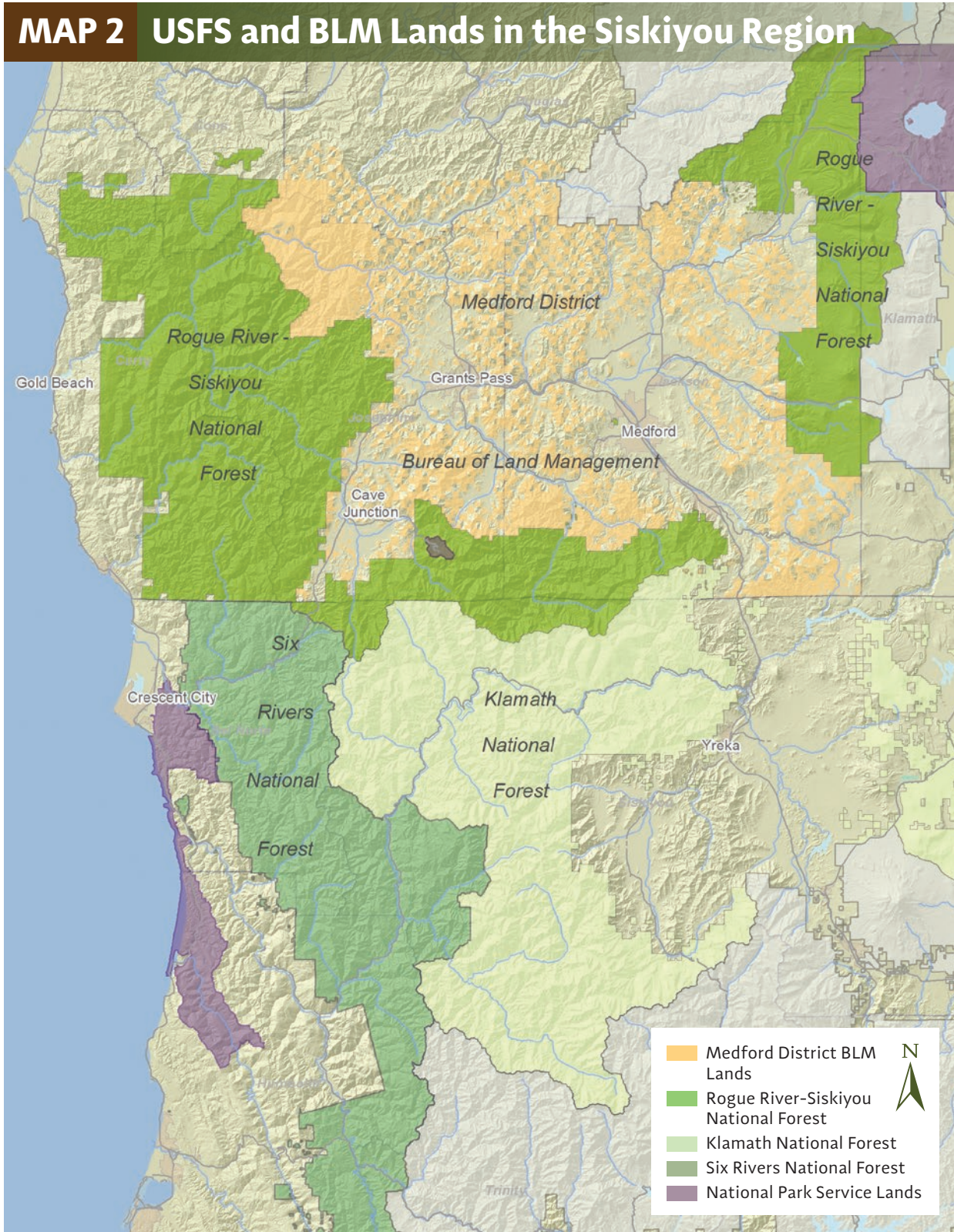
Bureau of Land Management

The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM is mandated to manage public lands for a variety of uses such as energy development, livestock grazing, recreation, and timber harvesting while ensuring natural, cultural, and historic resources are maintained. It's not common for the BLM to act as a forest manager, which makes the low-elevation forests in western Oregon so unique. The Medford District BLM manages almost 900,000 acres of Oregon forests (See Map 2), which are managed differently than the US Forest Service lands. That's because the 1937 Oregon & California Railroad Act (O&C Act) put an emphasis on commercial timber production.

Federal Land Managers

The USFS and BLM are the two federal agencies responsible for managing more than five million acres of public land within the Siskiyou region. Both agencies have a similar mission of sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s public lands.

MAP 2 USFS and BLM Lands in the Siskiyou Region



What is the Northwest Forest Plan?

The NWFP, written in 1994, is a landscape approach to federal land management designed to protect threatened and endangered species while also contributing to the social and economic sustainability in the region. The NWFP covers 24.5 million acres in western Oregon, Washington, and northwestern California. Within the plan are defined areas for protecting and restoring old-growth habitat, set aside streamside areas to protect water quality and salmon habitat, and set strong standards for restoring forests and watersheds. Ultimately, the NWFP attempts to strike a balance between logging and providing habitat for wildlife dependent on old-growth forests.

Starting in 2016, the forest service began the revision process for the NWFP. This will lead to new forest plans in the Siskiyou region and will significantly impact how nearly 3.3 million acres of National Forest will be managed into the future. These plan revisions are important because clean air, fresh drinking water, recreational opportunities, and wildlife are all affected by decisions made in the forest.

The O&C Act

One unique feature of western Oregon's BLM land is its "checkerboard" ownership pattern. In the late 1800s, a stretch of land from Portland south to California was granted by the federal government to the Oregon and California Railroad (O&C) company to build a rail line. The terms of the land grant required the O&C company to only sell land to settlers but, instead, the O&C company sold the land to timber companies. This led to the 1937 O&C Act, which transferred management of 2.5 million acres of land throughout western Oregon back to the federal agency that would become the BLM.

According to the Act, O&C Lands "shall be managed...in conformity with the principal of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply, protecting watersheds, regulating streamflow, and contributing to the economic stability of the local communities and industries, and providing recreational facilities."

Did You Know?

The 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the BLM to develop management plans consistent with laws such as the O&C, Endangered Species, and Clean Water Acts. After a lengthy planning process, the BLM adopted the 2016 Resource Management Plans (RMP) for western Oregon that replaced the 1994 NWFP. The 2016 RMP sets a new direction for western Oregon BLM lands and the protections of the NWFP have largely been eliminated in favor of timber production.

For more information on the BLM's 2016 Resource Management Plan, check out KS Wild's blog post: <https://tinyurl.com/y6e9777z>

For further reading on the Northwest Forest Plan, check out KS Wild's blog post:
<https://www.kswild.org/conservation-efforts/2020/6/30/creatingaforestplan>

For further reading on the O&C Act, check out KS Wild's blog post:
<https://www.kswild.org/conservation-efforts/2017/3/24/legal-history-of-oc-land>

How to Engage in the Decision-Making Process

The USFS and BLM are directed by law to balance multiple forest uses such as recreation, wildlife, ecological values, and economic interests. In 1970, the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** was enacted as a way for the public to engage in the federal decision-making process on environmental issues. Since its inception, the public has used NEPA as the guiding document for defending forests, wildlife and waterways. Protections for clean water, healthy forests, and habitat for wildlife are made possible because individuals like you have spoken up.

NEPA requires federal agencies to prepare environmental assessments (EA) and environmental impact statements (EIS) to assess the impact that their actions will have on people and the environment. Projects include dams, timber sales, and highways—anything that involves a federal agency or federal permission.



PHOTO: KS WILD

Attending public meetings is a great way to introduce yourself to your local land managers, ask questions and learn more about the project.

Public Engagement Process

US Forest Service

- To stay up-to-date on USFS projects, call the “Public Affairs Officer” of the national forest (See page 4) you are interested in. Ask to be placed on the “scoping mailing list” for certain types of projects (timber sales, grazing, etc).
- Once on the mailing list, you will receive a general letter where the USFS describes the project and asks for initial public comment.
- The agency then develops either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and releases it for another round of public comment.
- After you submit your comments, the agency releases a decision document. Comments can be submitted by mail or electronically.

Bureau of Land Management:

- To stay up-to-date on BLM projects, call the “Public Affairs Officer” at the BLM Inter-agency office (See page 4) and indicate you would like to be put on the “scoping mailing list” for land management proposals. Also ask to be put on the mailing list for the “Medford Messenger” that describes projects the BLM is proposing.
- Visit areas, forests, and streams that are proposed for timber sales and provide timely comments to the BLM and to any interested organizations about what you see there.
- Read the EA or EIS and provide timely comments on what you think they got wrong and what you think they got right.
- Use the project name or the Resource Area you are interested in to read and monitor BLM plans at this web site: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/home>

Things You Can Do:

- If you get confused or want help, email KS Wild at: info@kswild.org
- If you have the time, read an EA or EIS and comment on it. If not, reach out to a local environmental organization—they have template comments you can use and send in.
- Go on hikes and ‘ground truth’. This means taking pictures of the project area and paying close attention to what is out there; are there lots of roads? Streams or wetlands? Unique plants? Make detailed notes and report back to someone who is writing the comments.
- Attend public forums and meetings: if a project is controversial, the agencies will host public meetings to gather input from affected landowners and community members.
- For more information on the NEPA process: <https://tinyurl.com/y4lcd4pp>

Private Industrial Forestry

Within the 6 million acre Siskiyou region, there are approximately 2 million acres of private industrial forest lands overseen by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) in the respective states. Additionally, there are thousands of non industrial forest owners who manage their forests for timber, fuels reduction, wildlife and other values.

Cal Fire and the California Board of Forestry

Cal Fire is the lead agency responsible for administering private forest lands under the 1973 Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practices Act (CFPA). The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection oversees Cal Fire and develops the forest policy for the state, determines the policies of Cal Fire, and represents the state's interest in federal land. Cal Fire is responsible for implementing and enforcing the requirements of the CFPA. Some California rules are stronger than Oregon, such as requiring public notice of logging and road building plans and the ability for public comment under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Private timberland owners, including industrial timber companies, are required to follow those rules. The CFPA establishes standards for managing state and private forest lands in California, and is intended to ensure that logging is done in a manner that protects fish, wildlife, forests and streams.

ODF and the Oregon Board of Forestry

ODF is the lead agency responsible for administering private forest lands under the 1971 Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA). The Oregon Board of Forestry (BOF) oversees the Department and is responsible for developing and enforcing related regulations in coordination with other state agencies to meet the purposes of the OFPA. The BOF is composed of seven members of the public, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state Senate. ODF is responsible for implementing and enforcing the requirements of the OFPA. The OFPA encourages management that is consistent with air, water, soil, fish, and wildlife resources. The OFPA establishes standards for managing state and private forest lands in Oregon, including everything from logging near streams to aerial pesticide spraying practices.

Reforms to OFPA

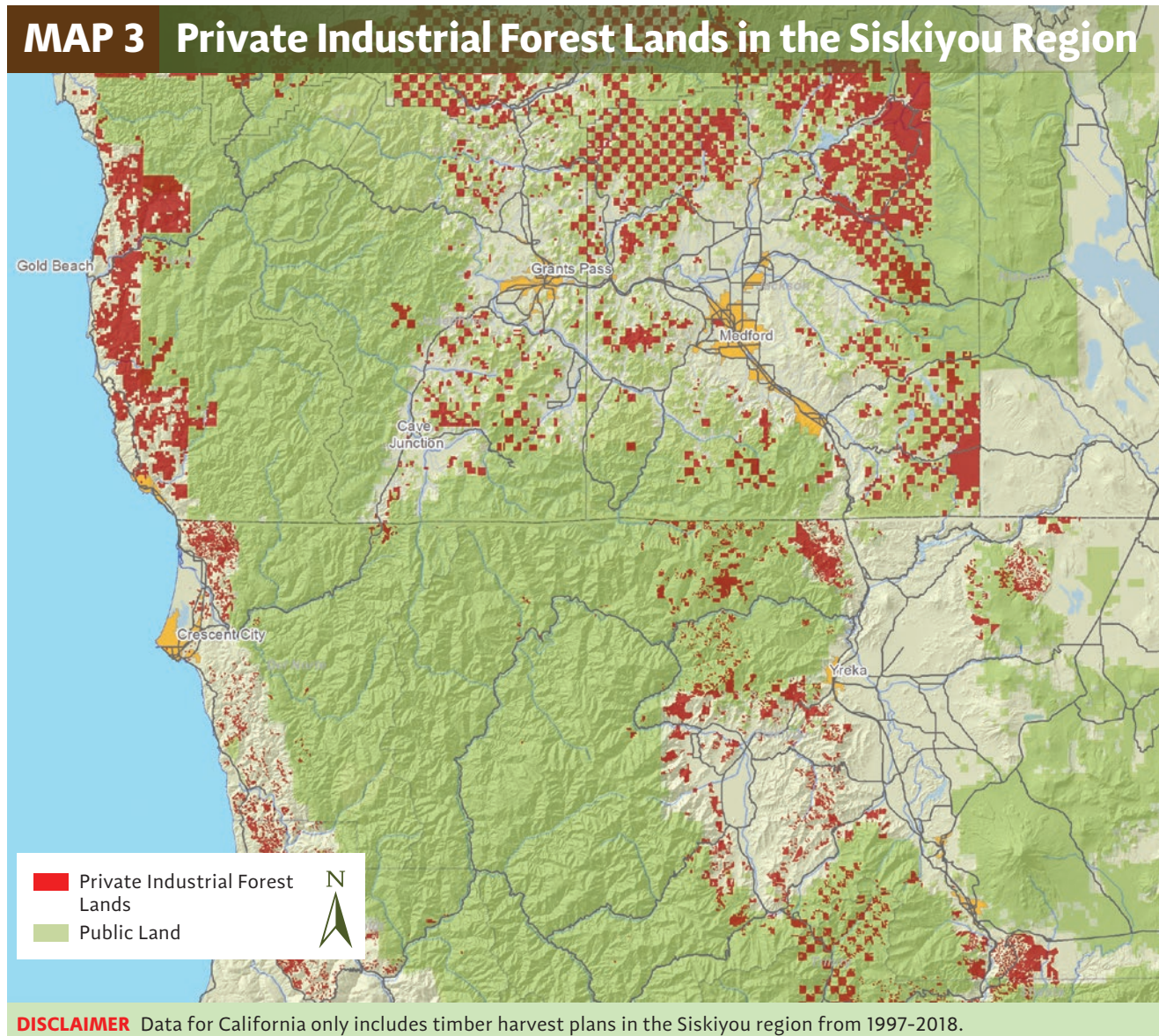
Currently, some policymakers are reviewing the OFPA as outdated compared to other states, such as Washington, Idaho, and California, which prohibit certain aerial pesticide spraying and streamside logging practices that are currently allowed in Oregon. There are ongoing efforts to improve elements of the OFPA to better protect Oregon's forest waters. The OFPA could be updated to limit industrial logging in drinking watersheds, protect streamside buffers, limit the use of toxic chemicals near waterways, require logging roads meet standards, and reduce clearcutting in unstable areas and headwater streams. Reforms are needed to the OFPA to ensure that there is responsible stewardship of Oregon's forests to help buffer frontline communities from droughts, wildfires, and other extreme events in a changing climate.

Learn About Proposed Logging Activities on Private Forest Lands by Signing Up with State Agencies

In Oregon, sign up through the [Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System](#), known as FERNs. The OFPA requires forest landowners, timber owners, and timber operators to notify ODF before starting forestry work on non-federal forest lands. Anyone can sign up to receive notifications and updates about forestry work through this free system. You can also submit official comments within 14 days of a filed notification with a written plan.

In California, sign up through [CalTrees](#), the statewide system for researching timber harvest plans. Cal Fire provides frequent updates on the status of Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs) and all harvesting documents currently under review. With a free account, you can register and subscribe to notifications and provide public comments on plans and run regional reports on THPs.

MAP 3 Private Industrial Forest Lands in the Siskiyou Region



DISCLAIMER Data for California only includes timber harvest plans in the Siskiyou region from 1997-2018.



PHOTO: LOMAKATSI RESTORATION PROJECT

PART 3

Preparing for Wildfire

Fire in the Siskiyou

For millennia, wildfires have shaped the forest of the western US, including those in the Siskiyou region. Forests in this region are “fire-adapted” with both lightning-sparked and Indigenous fires regularly burning through this landscape. Historic fire severity varied, but fires often cleared thinner trees and underbrush, while maintaining older, larger trees. Burn patterns created a variety of habitat patches, contributing to the high level of biological diversity in the Siskiyou Mountains.

Today, the West is experiencing warmer summer temperatures, frequent droughts, and residential development into forest land. These factors create a greater risk of wildfires leading to serious impacts on our communities. Throughout the Siskiyou, communities are learning how to better adapt and live with more frequent wildfires.

FIGURE 1 Fire Severity, Type and Regime.



Ground Fire

Ground fires tend to burn at a low severity and occur in accumulations of dead vegetation. This type of fire has an understory fire regime where most of the vegetation survives.



Surface Fire

Surface fires tend to burn at a medium severity and cause the least amount of damage to the forest. This type of fire has a mixed severity fire regime.



Crown Fire

Crown fires tend to burn at a high severity and burn trees up their entire length. This type of fire has a stand replacement fire regime killing most of the dominant vegetation.

Living with Smoke

Depending on the topography of where you live, smoke from wildfires may get trapped. Communities settled in valleys surrounded by mountains experience weather inversions—warmer air above colder valley air, a reversal of the normal cooling of air with altitude. For example, the Rogue Valley has a unique topography often referred to as a “topographic bowl.” Hot smoke from wildfires rises into the atmosphere, cools down, and then descends to the ground. This compounds the problem of air stagnation trapping pollutants at low-elevation for extended periods of time. Many fire practitioners want to increase the use of prescribed and cultural burning when conditions allow smoke to rise up and out of valleys during unstable (non-inversion) atmospheric conditions.



An inversion layer settles in the Applegate valley of southern Oregon.

How to Prepare Your Home for Wildfire

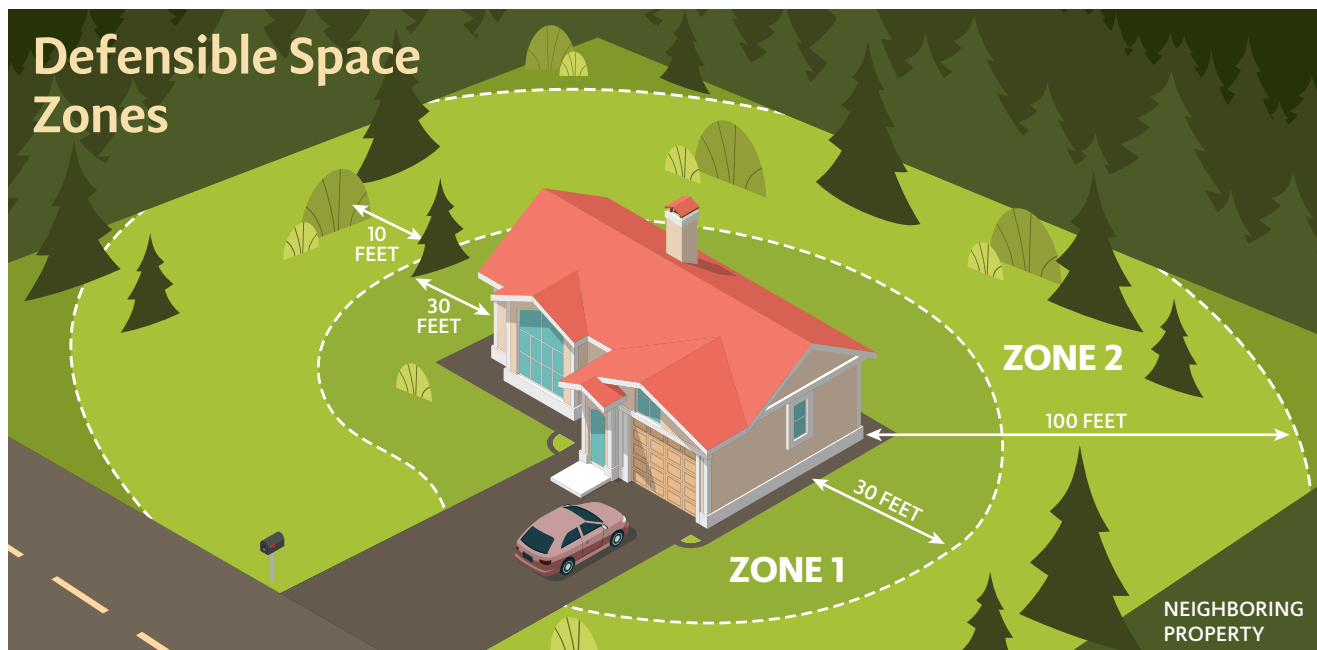
Those who live and work in communities on the edge of forests, often called the “wildland urban interface,” need to protect their homes from the threat of wildfire. Being ready for wildfire starts with **maintaining an adequate defensible space** and by **hardening your home** by using fire resistant building and landscaping materials. Fire professionals repeatedly state that the area within 100 feet of your home has the biggest influence on its chance of surviving a wildfire.

Defensible Space

Defensible space is the buffer you create by removing dead plants, grass, and weeds from around your home. This buffer is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire—either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. For more information check out: <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/>.

6 No Cost Ways to Create Defensible Space:

- 1 Regularly clean your roof, gutters, decks, and the base of walls to avoid accumulation of leaves, needles and other flammable materials.
- 2 Ensure all combustible materials are removed from underneath, on top of, or within five feet of a deck.
- 3 Remove vegetation or other combustible materials that are within five feet of windows and glass doors.
- 4 Replace wood mulch products within five feet of all structures with noncombustible products such as dirt, stone, or gravel.
- 5 Maintain Zone 1 by removing all dead or dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds, and pine needles within 30 feet of all structures.
- 6 Maintain Zone 2 by mowing grass to 4 inches and by removing low branches from trees and shrubs within 100 feet of all structures.



Home Hardening

Hardening your home means using construction materials that can help your home withstand flying embers, which can result in your house catching fire. Embers will seek out any opening or weak spot in your home's construction to get inside. Taking the necessary measures to harden your home can help increase its chance of survival when wildfire strikes.

10 Low Cost Ways to Harden Your Home:

- 1 When it is time to replace your roof, replace it with fire-resistant composition, metal, or tile materials.
- 2 Block spaces between your roof covering and sheathing using an eave closure.
- 3 Install non-combustible metal gutter covers to prevent the accumulation of leaves and debris in the gutter.
- 4 Cover your chimney, stove pipe, and all vent openings with a noncombustible corrosion-resistant metal mesh screen, a spark arrestor, with 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch openings.
- 5 Have multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach all areas of your home and other structures on your property. If you have a pool or well, consider getting a pump.
- 6 Caulk and plug gaps greater than 1/16-inch around exposed rafters and blocking to prevent ember intrusion.
- 7 Inspect siding for dry rot, gaps, cracks, and warping. Caulk or plug gaps greater than 1/16-inch in siding and replace any damaged boards, including those with dry rot.
- 8 Install weather stripping to gaps greater than 1/16-inch in garage doors to prevent ember intrusion.
- 9 When replacing windows use multi-paned windows with at least one pane of tempered glass.
- 10 When it's time to replace your siding or deck, use non combustible, ignition-resistant materials or consider switching to a stone or concrete patio.



Fire-Resistant Landscaping

A fire-resistant landscape isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. This type of landscape uses fire-resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home. Proper placement and on-going maintenance of fire-resistant trees, for example, can help protect your home by blocking intense heat.

What are Fire-Resistant Plants?

Fire-resistant plants don't readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. Although fire-resistant plants can be damaged or even killed by fire, their foliage and stems do not contribute significantly to the fuel and, therefore, the intensity of a fire.

Choose Fire-Resistant Plants and Materials

- Create fire-resistant zones with stone walls, patios, decks, and roadways.
- Use rock, flower beds, and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks.
- There are no "fire-proof" plants. Select high-moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content.
- Choose fire-retardant plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, ice plant, and aloe.
- Select fire-resistant shrubs such as hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, currant, cotoneaster, sumac, and shrub apples.
- Plant hardwood, maple, poplar, and cherry trees that are less flammable than pine, fir, and other conifers.

There is a wide array of trees and plants to choose for your landscape that are both attractive and fire-resistant. For a diverse list of fire-resistant plants, <https://tinyurl.com/yy47jhl3>.

A Caution About Bark Mulch:

Bark mulch is often used in home landscapes. However, fire brands from a wildfire and cigarettes can ignite dry bark mulch, conveying the fire to your home. If you landscape with bark mulch up against your home, make sure it remains moist to prevent ignition.



Fire-Resistant Plants



Ice Plant is a very low-growing ground cover with succulent, green foliage.

PHOTO: ALVES GASPAR, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Any Coreopsis plant is popular due to its tolerance to a wide variety of soil types.

PHOTO: DOCENT JOYCE, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Lavender is a fire resistant plant that thrives in dry growing conditions.

PHOTO: KEN PEI, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Working on Your Land

Preparing your property for wildfire can take a lot of work depending on its size and your desired goals. Forestry professionals conduct treatments to help reduce the amount of fuel (grasses, needles and shrubs) within a forest. Fuel treatments include thinning and pruning trees and prescribed burning. While some of this work can be done on your own, sometimes you may need professional help.

Before hiring a forestry professional, below are a few questions that can help you prepare for your visit and develop a plan for your property.

What do I have?

- Walk through your property and describe what you see. What kinds of trees and plants are present as well as the quantity and condition?
- Map out important features including streams, drainages, and roads.

What do you want to do with it?

- Think about your reasons for owning the land. What do you want your land to look like and be used for over the long term?
- Identify goals that are most important to you.

What assistance is available to you?

- Find out what people and programs are available to help you, including local experts and agencies, neighbors, grants, and cost-share programs (See page 20).

What is your action plan?

- Create a project list, breaking down large goals into smaller, more manageable tasks.

Tips on how to choose a forester:

- Call several foresters before you decide on one and request references from previous jobs.
- Choose someone whose style and approach to forest management is compatible with yours.

Did you know?

The Rogue Valley is home to one of the most active forestry and wildfire protection service industries in the country and the Latino community constitutes a majority of this workforce. This important work often comes at a cost—forest workers are at high risk of injury, are often paid less than a living wage, and disproportionately experience other equity issues including wage theft. **Lomakatsi Restoration Project's Promotora Program** provides forest workers with practical information they need to keep themselves safe on the job. Promotoras de Salud (or Community Health Workers) meet with forest workers around the community to deliver training and offer safety resources, primarily in Spanish. The Promotora Program gives a voice to the highly skilled and specialized forest workers who, on a daily basis, make our communities safer from the risk of severe wildfire and enhance wildlife habitat. For more information, check out Lomakatsi's website: <https://lomakatsi.org/>.



Lomakatsi's Promotora Program conducts trainings on forest worker safety and workplace rights. After each training, the Promotoras de Salud pass out their contact information in case the workers have questions or concerns.

PHOTO: LOMAKATSI RESTORATION PROJECT

For a full list of forest contractors visit:

Southern Oregon: <https://mysouthernoregonwoodlands.org>

Northern California: <https://www.clfa.org/resources> or contact the Northern California Society of American Foresters: 1-800-738-8733

Permits and Procedural Steps to Burning on Your Property

Josephine County

- Determine if you live inside or outside the '[The Rogue Valley Burn Control Area](#)'. Call the Air Quality Program Coordinator at 541-474-5325 to find out.
- Contact your local Fire District or ODF to obtain a burn permit. Follow permit requirements. If you are within the City of Grants Pass, call the city at 541-450-6200.
- Permits can also be obtained on the Illinois Valley Fire District website: <https://ivfire.com/>
- Call the open/barrel burn advisory at 541-476-9663 to hear the daily predicted ventilation index and burn status.

Jackson County

- Determine if you live inside or outside '[The Air Quality Maintenance Area](#)'.
- Contact your local Fire Department to obtain a burn permit. If you don't know which fire district you live in, see the [map of fire districts](#).
- Call the open/barrel burn advisory at 541-776-7007 to hear the daily burn status.

Curry County

- Contact the Coos Forest Protective Association at 541-247-6241 to obtain a burn permit.
- If you live within city limits, call your local fire department.

Del Norte County

- Burn permits can be purchased or renewed online via the [NCUAQMD Online Burn Permit Portal](#).
- Automated burn day status information can be obtained by calling 707-443-7665.

Siskiyou County

- Burning of a 4-ft high by 4-ft square pile does not require a permit. To burn more piles, you must obtain a non-agricultural burn permit by calling: 530-842-8123.
- If you have more questions, call the Air Pollution Control office: 530-841-4025.

When Burning:

- Have the right tools: McLeod, drip torch, water source (hose, backpack).
- Check your local weather. Do not burn if strong winds or low humidity is forecasted.
- Make sure slash piles are not close enough to damage or torch adjacent trees.
- Slash piles should have a dry ignition point: use a 3'x3' piece of slash paper to create a dry spot in the pile. Put in the paper when the pile is about half built and then cover with more slash.
- **Do not burn during wildfire season.**



PHOTO: RICH FAIRBANKS

Slash paper in the middle of a burn pile helps keep debris dry for easy ignition.



PHOTO: RICH FAIRBANKS

A propane torch is used to set fire to slash piles and conduct prescribed burns.

Emergency Preparedness

We are experiencing more extreme fire events and are entering an era where wildfire is becoming more prevalent. Before a wildfire, it is important to prepare yourself and your home for the possibility of having to evacuate. Below are preparation actions that should be completed and familiar to all members of your household:

Create a Wildfire Action Plan!

Your Action Plan should include:

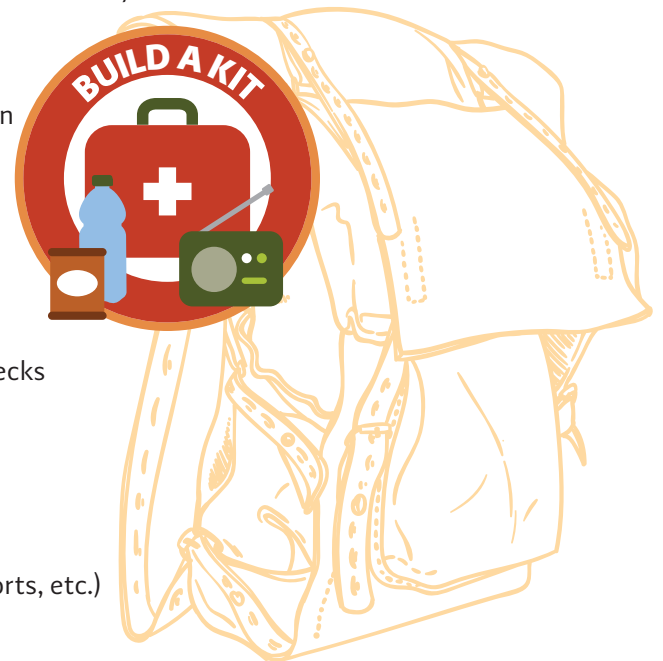
An Evacuation Plan:

- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire or hazard area.
- Know several different evacuation routes from your home and community.
- Sign up for local emergency notifications (*See below*).
- Check for road closures: <https://www.tripcheck.com>
- [Have an evacuation plan and emergency kit for pets and large animals.](#)



Always have a 'Go Bag' packed:

- Keep it easily accessible and have enough supplies for at least three days
- 'Go Bag' Checklist:
 - Face masks or coverings
 - Non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person
 - Can opener and utensils
 - Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
 - Prescriptions or special medications
 - Change of clothing
 - Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
 - An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
 - First aid kit
 - Cell phone chargers and backup batteries
 - Flashlight
 - Sanitation supplies
 - Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
 - Don't forget pet food and water!



Sign up for Emergency Alert Notifications:

- Jackson and Josephine: <https://tinyurl.com/y4rb3llh>
- Curry: <https://tinyurl.com/y4yyge7t>
- Del Norte: <https://tinyurl.com/y5otvvd3>
- Siskiyou: <https://tinyurl.com/y22ymkg9>
- Nixle: On a cell phone, text zip code to "888777" to sign up for emergency and "advisory" text alerts.



Insurance

- Call your insurance company to discuss policy limits and coverage.
- Know what your policy covers- understand if you have a replacement cost policy or an actual cash value policy.
- If you are renting, consider purchasing renters insurance.

If you are a small forest owner, you have a huge liability. Any fire that starts on your land and spreads outside is considered your fault. For this reason, fire liability insurance is popular to obtain. Many people join groups that offer fire insurance, such as the **Oregon Small Woodlands Association**. For more information, contact Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, Extension Forestry at (541) 776-7371.

For more information on community preparedness, funding opportunities and other resources, check out your counties Fire Safe Council and Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

- [California Fire Safe Council](#)
 - [The Mid Klamath Watershed Council/Orleans-Somes Bar Fire Safe Council](#)
 - [Del Norte Fire Safe Council](#)
 - [Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County](#)
- [Oregon Department of Forestry – Community Wildfire Protection Plans](#)

For current wildfire information and maps, check out the KS Wild's Fire Dashboard:
<https://www.kswild.org/fire-dashboard>





Post Fire Checklist and Financial Assistance

If your property has been affected by wildfire, utilize the checklist and funding opportunity below to chart a course forward. For more information, visit the OSU Extension website:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program>

On the way back home:

- Check with law enforcement for an end of evacuation notice and the all clear to return.
- Watch for downed power lines and trees that could fall on the road or on your driveway.

Once back on your property:

- Wear proper personal protective equipment: thick boots, heavy gloves, mask, and eye protection.
- Check around the house for hot embers and wisps of smoke in gutters, under decks, wood piles and roofs. Call 911 if any heat is detected.
- Check for structural damage to your house (foundation cracks, support beam damage).
- Check for gas (smell of gas) or water leaks.
- Check the main power meter. If turned off or no power, call your utility provider.
- Check that your pump house/well is working properly—make sure water is safe to drink.
- Any damage to gas, power or phone lines—stay clear and call the utility service provider.

Going in your house:

- Before turning lights on, use a flashlight to look for embers. Check for heat throughout the house especially in the attic.
- Check for structural damage inside the house.
- Check the main circuit box. If off, make sure all appliances are off before turning the circuit box on.
- Discard all food that has been exposed to heat, smoke, fumes, or flood waters.

Financial Assistance:

NRCS often has funding available to help landowners recover from wildfire impacts. Eligible lands include: forest, crop, pasture and associated agricultural land. Available conservation practices include:

- Native grass seeding
- Cover crop for cropland and pasture
- Woody residue treatment: contour falling, slash removal, piling, chipping, etc
- Mulching: straw, wattles, hydro mulch for erosion control

After a wildfire, check the NRCS Fire Assistance website at: <https://tinyurl.com/y5xyhjga> to see if you are eligible.

Funding Opportunities Aimed to Reduce Fire Risk and Hazard

These funding opportunities help implement fuel hazard reduction and restoration work to create defensible space around your property so you can better prepare for wildfire.

■ [Forest Service, Forest Stewardship Program](#)

- The goal of the Forest Stewardship Program is to assist landowners in developing individualized forest management plans
- Minimum plan size is 10 acres
- Up to 75 percent cost-share reimbursement
- The first step is to call your USFS State Coordinator:
California: 530-233-8743
Oregon: 503-808-2353

■ **National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Environmental Quality Incentive Program**

- Provides funding for a target-based approach to fire management
- Mostly funds mechanical treatment over prescribed burns
- While the work may take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months, the application process can take 6+ months, its best to start as early as possible.
- Step-by-step explanation of the application process can be found here:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted>
- The first step is to contact your local NRCS service center
Jackson County: 541-423-6173 **Del Norte County: 707-487-7630**
Josephine County: 541-673-6071 **Siskiyou County: 530-572-3119**
Curry County: 541-396-2841

■ **Lomakatsi Restoration Project**

- Lomakatsi helps private landowners enhance wildlife habitat on their property and remove hazardous fuels through ecological thinning and prescribed burning.
- Funding for this work is leveraged through local, state and federal agencies, and private funding sources.
- Lomakatsi's capacity to work with private landowners is initiative-based and dependent on the location of their lands in relation to existing project areas.
- Interested landowners should contact Lomakatsi at info@lomakatsi.org or 541-488-0208 and include the following information:
Property address (or general location); acreage; desired treatment; any past or current work in partnership with agencies; and contact information.



Removing smaller weaker trees from your property mimics natural forest processes and can improve fire resiliency by leaving healthy mature trees standing. Horses can be used as an alternative to heavy logging equipment.

PHOTO: RICH FAIRBANKS

Know Your Acronyms

BLM – Bureau of Land Management is an agency within the U.S. Department of Interior that administers vast, arid public lands, as well as 2.6 million acres of public forest in Oregon.

CE (or CATEX) – Categorical Exclusion is a brief environmental review required under the National Environmental Policy Act where the project is exempt from detailed analysis.

DOA – Department of Agriculture is a cabinet level department overseen by the Agriculture Secretary.

DOI – Department of Interior is a cabinet level department overseen by the Interior Secretary.

EA – Environmental Assessment is an environmental review required under the National Environmental Policy Act when there are no significant impacts.

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement – DEIS and FEIS – Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements are environmental reviews required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act is a procedural statute passed in 1974 that guides federal actions, including public forest plans and projects.

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service is an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture

that provides technical and resource assistance to farmers and landowners, including private forest.

NWFP – Northwest Forest Plan was finalized in 1994 and is the guiding plan for national forests in the Pacific Northwest, including all forests in the Siskiyou region.

O&C Lands – Oregon and California Lands are a small subset of BLM and Forest Service lands that are in part guided by the 1937 O&C Act.

ODF – Oregon Department of Forestry is a state agency in charge of administering the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

OFPA – Oregon Forests Practice Act is a law passed by the Oregon legislature in 1971 that guides private industrial logging practices.

OBF – Oregon Board of Forestry is an oversight board for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

TEK – Traditional Ecological Knowledge is the body of knowledge and practice handed down through generations about the relationship of living beings with one another and with the environment.

USFS – United States Forest Service is an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that administers that nation's National Forests, including several in the Siskiyou region.

