

FOREST & FIRE TOOLKIT

Learn about Indigenous fire management and forest stewardship.

How-to guide on preparing your property for wildfire.

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

Learn about funding opportunities for home defense.

Plan and be ready for a wildfire emergency and evacuation.

Engage in public and industry forest decision-making.

**A Resource for
Living in Fire Prone
Landscapes of the
Siskiyou Mountains**



PHOTO: KS WILD

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Thanks to our partners for their
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A Greater Applegate
Illinois Valley Community
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Lomakatsi Restoration Project
Smith River Alliance
Firebrand Resiliency Collective

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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. The Siskiyou region is a subset of the larger 10-million acre Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion (see map on back cover). 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.

Looking for fire information and resources? Skip to page 27.

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 even increase fire hazard. The Siskiyou region is experiencing warmer temperatures, with longer periods of dry weather and drought. Increasing residential development into forestlands 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.

Intended Audience

This toolkit is geared towards 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 for white settlers.

The First Peoples of the Klamath-Siskiyou

Indigenous people of the Klamath-Siskiyou geography include members of several different tribal nations, languages, and/or bands. Tribal descendants may identify with one or more larger tribal nations or smaller autonomous bands or groups.

We recognize 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://native-land.ca/>.

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 span 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: Yurok Tribe, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Elk Valley Rancheria, Karuk Tribe, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, Klamath Tribes, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians.

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.



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. In this tradition, Indigenous peoples 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, 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 shape this special place. The two primary agencies responsible for managing these public lands are 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 the benefit of the nation, including multiple uses 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 1*). 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.

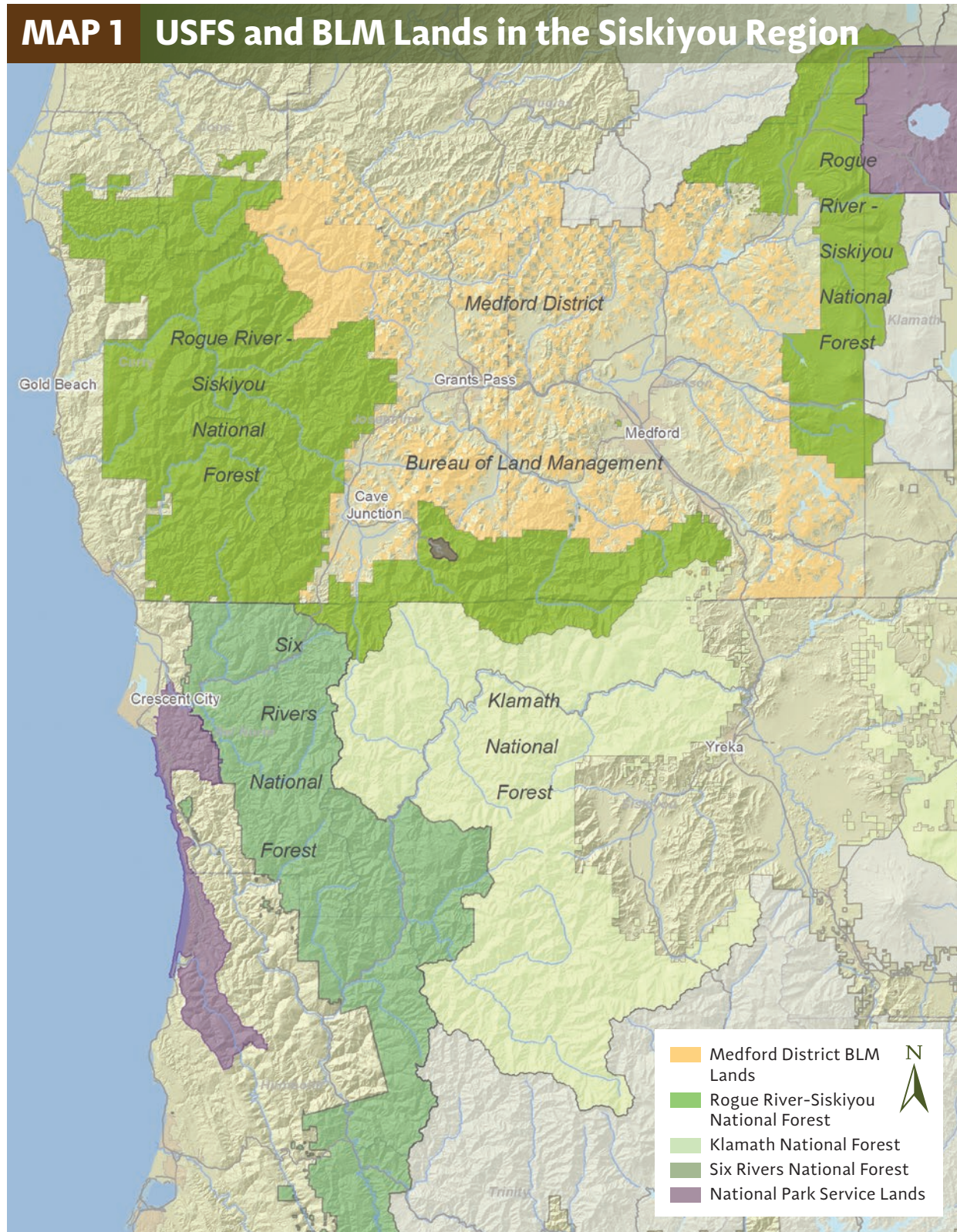
Bureau of Land Management

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 also 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 1*), which are managed differently than the USFS lands. That's because the 1937 Oregon & California Railroad 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 1 USFS and BLM Lands in the Siskiyou Region



How to Engage in the Decision-Making Process

In 1970, the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** was enacted to ensure public agencies take a “hard look” at the impacts of public projects and 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.



Attending public meetings is a great way to introduce yourself to your local land managers, ask questions, and learn more about a 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 29) 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 EA or 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 29) and indicate you would like to be put on the “scoping mailing list” for land management proposals.
- 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

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.

Learn About Proposed Logging Activities on Private Lands

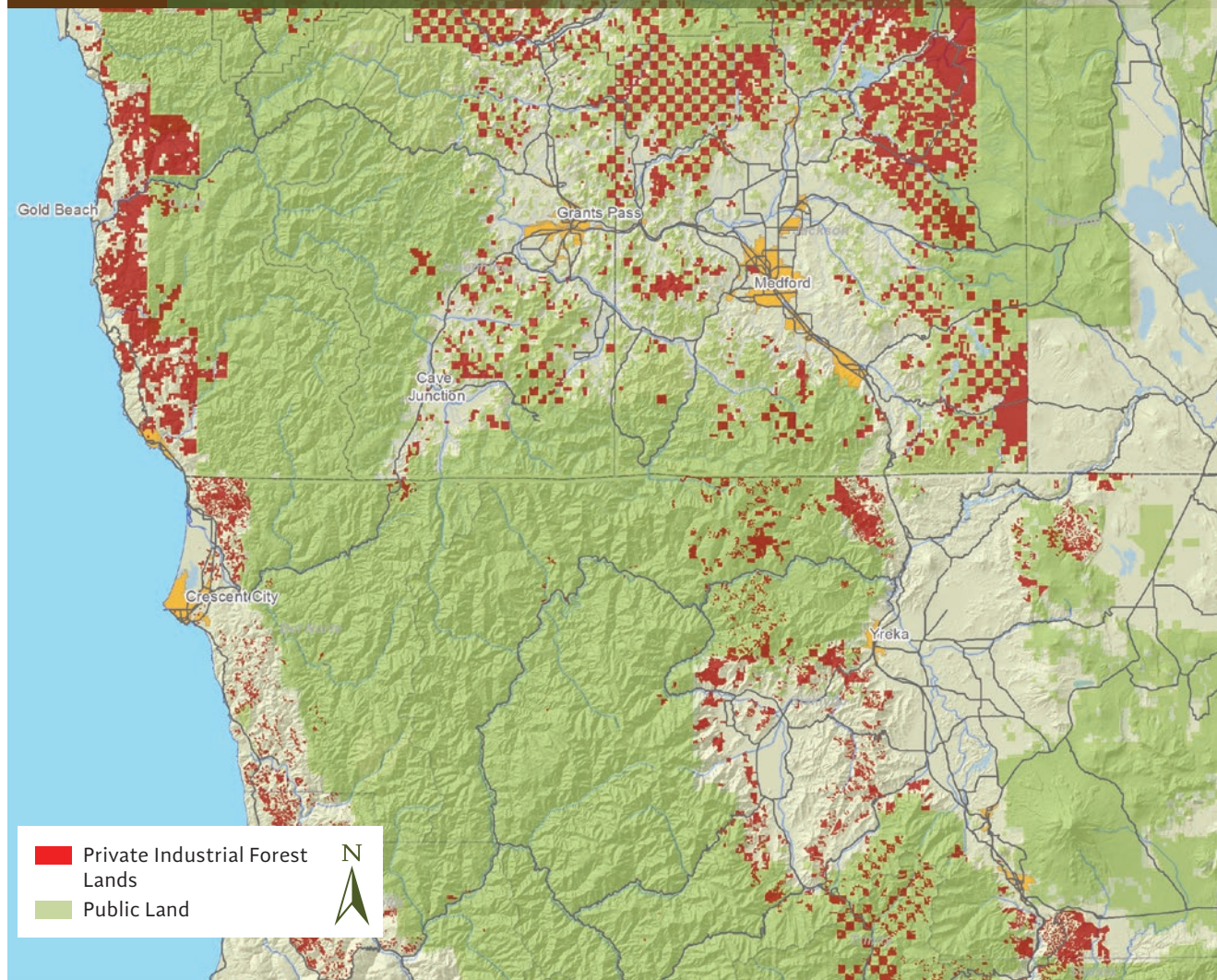
In Oregon, sign up through the [Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System](#), known as FERNs. The OFPA requires forest landowners, timber owners, and timber operators to notify ODF before starting forestry work on non-federal forest lands. Anyone can sign up to receive notifications 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. CalFire provides frequent updates on the status of Timber Harvesting Plans and all harvesting documents currently under review. With a free account, you can register and subscribe to notifications and provide public comments to influence plans.

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.

MAP 2 Private Industrial Forest Lands in the Siskiyou Region



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



PART 3

Preparing for Wildfire

Fire in the Siskiyou

For millennia, wildfires have shaped the forests of the western US. Forests in the Siskiyou region are “fire-adapted” as both lightning-sparked and Indigenous fires regularly burned through this landscape prior to European colonization. Historic fire severity varied, but fires often cleared thinner trees and underbrush, while maintaining older, larger trees. Burn patterns created a variety of habitats, contributing to a high level of biological diversity. The benefits of wildfire include recycling nutrients, increasing the abundance of fire-adapted plants, and creating habitat for wildlife. The region’s forests, plants, and wildlife thrive with fire and depend on it for overall health.

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

Fire severity refers to the effects of a fire on the environment, typically focusing on the loss of vegetation and impacts to soil. The Siskiyou region is experiencing an increase in high severity fires as a result of a drying landscape.



Low Severity

A fire has limited effect on overstory trees (<30% mortality), understory vegetation, and soils.



Moderate Severity

A fire producing variable, moderate effects on overstory trees (30-80% mortality), and/or moderate soil exposure.



High Severity

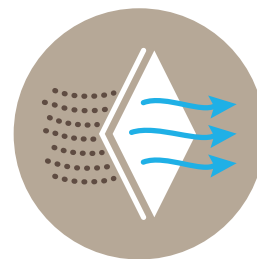
A fire producing a high percent of overstory tree mortality (>80%) and/or extensive mineral soil exposure.

Wildfire Smoke Resources

Large wildfires often produce intense smoke that can pose serious health risks. Smoke from wildfires and controlled fires is inevitable, and some smoke is more harmful than others. Smoke is a mixture of fine particles and gasses, can be unhealthy to breathe, and is especially dangerous for children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with heart or respiratory conditions. Sensitive groups are advised to limit outdoor activities, especially when the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaches levels considered 'Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups' or above.

How Do I Protect Myself During Smoke Season?

- Limit your exposure to smoke. Pay attention to local AQI reports:
 - Visit [AirNow.gov](https://airnow.gov) to see your zip code's AQI.
- Avoid anything that increases indoor pollution like candles or vacuuming.
- Close windows and doors.
- Consider purchasing a standalone, High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) grade indoor air purifier. Use this in a room where you spend most of your time. You can always move it from a bedroom at night to a living space during the day.
 - You can build your own low-cost box fan filter using high efficiency filters. A popular model is called the "[Corsi-Rosenthal Box](#)".
- If you have one, run an air conditioner. Keep any fresh-air intake closed (many systems do not have one) and the filter clean. Consult a local heating and air conditioning company to see if your system can handle a high efficiency filter. Air purifiers and filters can be purchased at your local hardware store or online.
- Wear an N95 or N100 face mask. Fine particles, not hazardous gasses, can be filtered with these masks. Ensure a tight fit and check how long your mask is effective.
- Avoid smoke exposure during outdoor recreation. Before you travel to a park or forest, check to see if any wildfires are happening or if any prescribed burns are planned.



Smoke Exposure

Prolonged exposure to smoke can be harmful to people of all ages, depending on the AQI reading. Symptoms of smoke exposure usually include:

- Irritation of eyes, nose, and throat, or breathing discomfort.
- More severe symptoms may include chest tightness, wheezing, shortness of breath, and coughing.



Anyone experiencing symptoms should contact their healthcare provider for further advice or call 911 if warranted.

How to Prepare Your Home for Wildfire

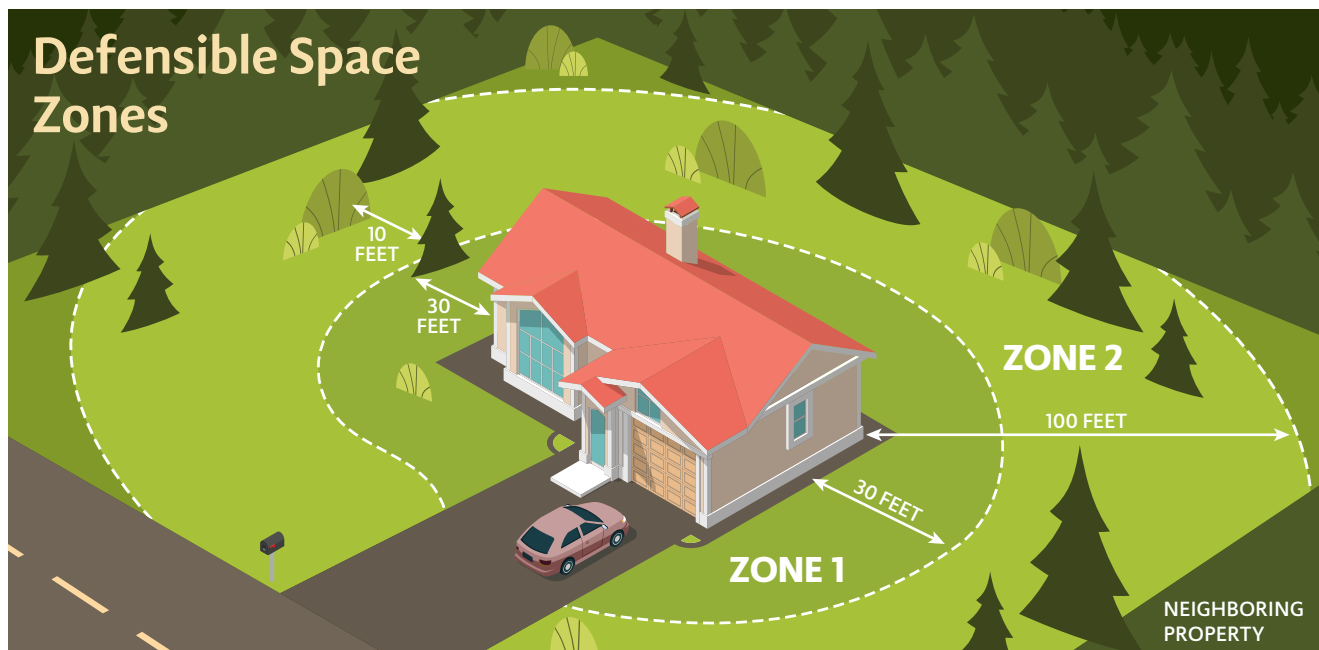
Being ready for wildfire starts with maintaining adequate defensible space and hardening your home by using fire-resistant building and landscaping materials. Fire professionals repeatedly state that the area within 100 feet of your home has the biggest influence on structure ignitability, which is a key factor that influences a home's chance of surviving a wildfire. More detailed information can be found here: www.readyforwildfire.org.

Defensible Space

Defensible space is the buffer you create by removing nearby vegetation as well as 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, embers intruding on the structure, or radiant heat causing combustion.

6 No-Cost Ways to Create Defensible Space:

- 1 Regularly clean your roof, gutters, decks, and around the base of walls and fences to avoid accumulation of leaves, needles, and other highly 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 located 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 existing 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. While some of this work can be done on your own, you may need to hire professional help.

10 Low-Cost Ways to Harden Your Home:

Most materials can be purchased at your local hardware store and installed on your own:

- 1 Install non-combustible metal covers to prevent accumulation of leaves and debris in your home's gutters.
- 2 Cover your chimney, stove pipe, and all attic, roof, and other vent openings with a non-combustible, corrosion-resistant metal mesh screen, with 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch openings.
- 3 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 mobile water pump.
- 4 Caulk and plug gaps greater than 1/16-inch around exposed rafters and blocking to prevent ember intrusion.
- 5 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.
- 6 Install weather stripping to close gaps greater than 1/16-inch in all doors and windows (don't forget the garage) to prevent ember intrusion.

You may need to hire a professional to help with these home improvements:

- 7 When it is time to replace your roof, replace it with fire-resistant composite, metal, or tile roofing materials.
- 8 When you replace your roof, ask the roofer to block the space between your roof and exterior walls (eaves) by installing an eave and/or soffit closure; a piece of metal that prevents 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 noncombustible, ignition-resistant materials.



Fire-Resistant Landscaping

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.

There is a wide array of trees and plants to choose for your landscape that are both attractive and fire-resistant. Where plants are placed and how they are maintained are more important than the type of plants selected. Proper plant care and maintenance are critical to reduce wildfire risk!

Choose Fire-Resistant Plants and Materials

- Create fire-resistant zones with stone walls, patios, decks, and roadways (known as hardscaping).
- Use rock, flower beds, and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks.
- While there are no “fire-proof” plants, high-moisture plants such as succulents grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content.
- Choose fire-retardant plant species that resist ignition such as Lewisia and Sedums.
- 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.

A Caution About Bark Mulch:

Bark mulch is often used in home landscapes. However, embers from a wildfire and cigarettes can ignite dry bark mulch, conveying the fire to the very doorstep of your home. If you landscape with bark mulch up against your home, keep it moist to prevent ignition. Better yet, consider replacing it with inorganic mulch such as gravel.

Fire-Resistant Plants



Succulent plant species contain moisture which makes them less flammable.

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



Sedum plant species provide excellent groundcover and are drought resistant.

PHOTO: GILLES, AVOTTE, 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. Luckily, there are many resources to support this work, both financially and with planning and education. You don't have to do this alone! Forestry professionals conduct treatments to help reduce the amount of fuel (grasses, needles, 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, consider consulting a local agency (See page 29) to discuss creating a forest management plan. 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? Make note of their 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 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 27).

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 your own.

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

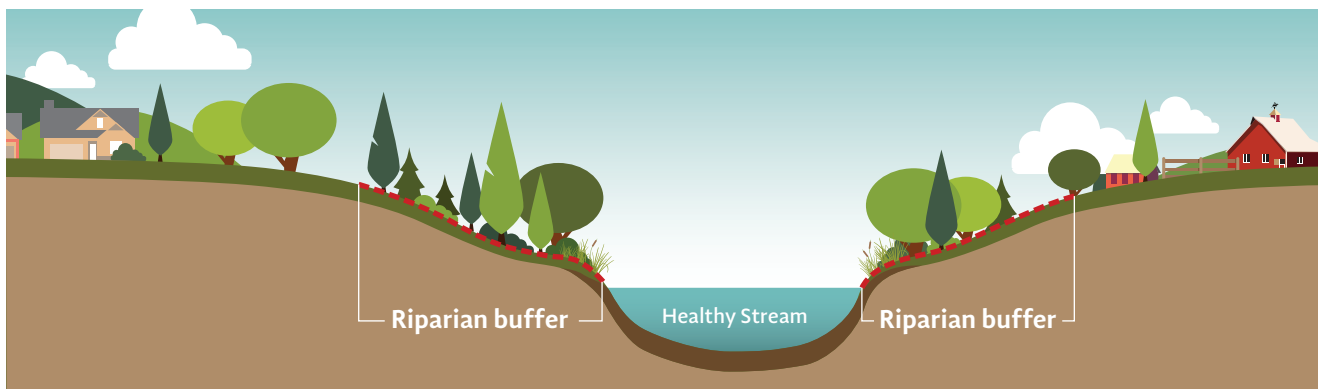
Wildfire Preparedness in Riparian Areas

Why are riparian areas important?

Riparian areas are transition zones between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and are typically highly productive and biodiverse areas. Riparian corridors provide multiple water quality benefits including bank stabilization, preventing erosion, groundwater retention and recharge that moderates flooding. A healthy riparian area has a high diversity of native plants and can play an important function in preventing the spread of wildfire due to higher levels of moisture and cooler temperatures from increased shade and often burn at lower severity thus buffering the effects of wildfires.

How do you properly manage a riparian area for wildfire resistance?

In the absence of periodic fire, riparian areas may accumulate fuels (especially non-native plants like blackberry) rapidly, leaving them vulnerable to high-severity fire during the dry season. Reducing tree and brush density can have positive effects on understory plant diversity while also reducing wildfire risk. For example, riparian areas with cottonwood trees and other key hardwoods that provide important habitat for wildlife species also tend to bounce back quickly from wildfires. But removing too much vegetation can reduce ground moisture creating dryer conditions for wildfires to spread.



The best time to start planning vegetation maintenance in the riparian corridor on your property is August. To avoid disruption to nesting birds, avoid removing vegetation between April 1 and July 31. Several laws and ordinances regulate what and when certain types of work may take place within riparian corridors. All municipalities are subject to county riparian corridor protections but some may have additional requirements.

Call before you act! Before removing vegetation in your riparian area call your local municipality to find out what is required before vegetation management may take place. Both Oregon and California also require you notify the appropriate fish and wildlife management agency before removing within a riparian corridor.

You can find a biologist to answer your questions about riparian vegetation management by contacting the southern Oregon ODFW [Rogue Watershed District Office](#) in Central Point, Oregon at 541-826-8774 or [California Northern Region Main Office](#) in Redding, California at 530-225-2300 which can also tell you setback requirements based on your stream classification.

Permits and Procedural Steps to Pile Burning on Your Property

Josephine County, OR

- Call the Air Quality Program Coordinator at 541-474-5325 to determine if you live inside or outside the [‘The Rogue Valley Burn Control Area’](#).
- Contact your local fire department 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, OR

- 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, OR

- 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, CA

- 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, CA

- 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.

Humboldt County, CA

- Burn permits can be purchased or renewed online via the [‘NCUAQMD Online Burn Permit Portal’](#).
- For the daily burn day status, call 866-287-6329.

When Pile Burning:

- Have the right tools: steel rake, appropriate clothing, and a water source (hose, backpump).
- Check your local weather. **Do not burn if strong winds or low humidity is present or forecasted.**
- Make sure burn piles are not too close to damage or torch adjacent trees.
- Burn 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 debris.
- **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.

The Benefits of Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire, also known as controlled burns or beneficial fire, is the practice of intentionally setting fire by a qualified team under identified weather conditions to restore fire-dependent ecosystems. One goal of using prescribed fire is to remove fine fuels in a forest such as fallen tree branches and thick undergrowth. By removing the fine fuels, a prescribed fire can help prevent a destructive wildfire since there is less material to burn and carry flames into the tree's crown. Prescribed fire seeks to accomplish the benefits that regular fires historically provided, while also preventing the fires from burning out of control and threatening our communities. Native Tribes have used cultural fire for millennia. Cultural fire is sacred to many Tribes across the planet and is used to cultivate specific species and conditions.

Benefits of Prescribed Fire

- Prescribed fire can help prevent destructive wildfires by removing excess fuels in the forest.
- Fire rejuvenates a forest by returning nutrients to the soil and creating habitat for wildlife.
- Prepares communities living close to the forest for wildfire season.
- Promotes forest resilience in the face of climate change.
- Increases biodiversity and maintains health and sustainability of many natural habitats.

What about the smoke?

When planning a prescribed burn, fire managers select for weather and wind patterns that mitigate the effects of smoke on nearby communities. In contrast, severe wildfires during the heat of summer can be devastating for nature and people, and the smoke can be dense and prolonged. By tolerating some smoke for short periods during favorable weather, we can set up our communities for less smoke during wildfire season.

Prescribed Burn Associations

A Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) is a group of local landowners, community members, and fire professionals that form a partnership to conduct prescribed burns. PBAs have successfully increased prescribed fire use by private landowners, mainly by making it easier and safer to use. This is a 'neighbors helping neighbors' model making this work more affordable and accessible to people by volunteering time, skills, and equipment.

If you are interested in learning how to conduct a prescribed burn on your property or want to participate in a community burn, contact your local PBA:

- Rogue Valley PBA: <https://www.roguevalleypba.com/>
- California PBAs: <https://calpba.org/>



PHOTO: RICH FAIRBANKS

Prescribed burns help maintain the understory of forests by removing accumulated vegetation.



PHOTO: ROGUE VALLEY PBA

PBAs provide community members a chance to experience a prescribed fire and learn how to conduct this work on their property.

Emergency Preparedness

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

Create a Wildfire Action Plan!

Your Action Plan should include:

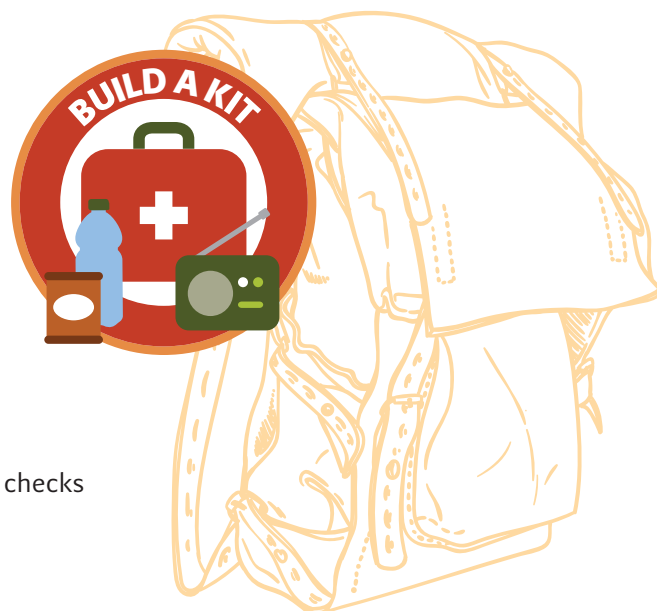
1 An Evacuation Plan:

- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire or hazard area.
- Map out 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.



2 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 and a collapsible water cube
 - ☐ Can opener and utensils
 - ☐ Battery-powered radio
 - ☐ 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
 - ☐ Toilet paper, hand sanitizer, any personal hygiene products
 - ☐ Copies of key documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
 - ☐ Don't forget pet food and water!



3 Sign up for Emergency Alert Notifications:

- Jackson and Josephine: <https://bit.ly/JaJoAlerts>
- Curry: <https://bit.ly/CurryAlert>
- Del Norte: <https://bit.ly/DelNorteAlert>
- Siskiyou: <https://bit.ly/SiskiyouAlert>
- Humboldt: <https://bit.ly/HumboldtAlert>
- Nixle: On a cell phone, text your zip code to “888777” to sign up for emergency and “advisory” text alerts.



4 Mitigate the Financial Impacts of Wildfire

Navigating insurance and other financial matters can be exhausting. If you do lose your home to wildfire, visit United Policyholders, as they can help you advocate for yourself. <https://uphelp.org/>

- Insurance companies require you to make a categorized list when making a claim. **Here's a trick:** Once a year, walk around your house and record a video with your cell phone. Try to capture every room and pay special attention to high value items. Don't forget to open up the drawers: even the little things matter!
- Rebuilding is expensive! Take a close look at your insurance coverage and make adjustments that cover the actual replacement value of your home and outbuildings.
- Rebuilding takes time. Many standard insurance policies require you to rebuild your home to completion within a set timeline. Check your policy and adjust it so that you have ample time to recover.



PHOTO: RICH FAIRBANKS



Post Fire Checklist and Financial Assistance

If your property has been affected by wildfire, utilize the checklist below to chart a course forward. For more information, visit the [OSU Extension website](#)

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.

Before entering 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. Use caution: If a fire restarts, call 911.
- ☐ Check for structural damage to your house (foundation cracks, support beam damage).
- ☐ Check for gas (smell of rotten eggs) or water leaks.
- ☐ Check the main power meter. You can call your utility provider if power has not been restored.
- ☐ Check that your pump house/well is working properly once power is restored and make sure the 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:

In addition to local resources and the American Red Cross, The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) often has funding available to help landowners recover from wildfire impacts. Eligible lands include: forest, crop, pasture, and associated agricultural land.

After a wildfire, check the [NRCS Fire Assistance website](#) to see if you are eligible.

Funding Opportunities Aimed to Reduce Fire Risk and Hazard

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

■ The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)

- Financial incentive programs are available to encourage and assist landowners so they can manage their property.
- Typical forestry projects include protecting the landowner's resources/investment from fire or insect and disease infestation.
- To find out what financial assistance is available, and the requirements needed to qualify, check out ODF's website: <https://bit.ly/ODFfunding>

■ National Resources Conservation Services (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, it's best to start as early as possible.
- Step-by-step explanation of the application process can be found here: <https://bit.ly/NRCSapplication>
- The first step is to contact your local NRCS service center

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

Humboldt County: 707-832-5577

■ Lomakatsi Restoration Project

- Lomakatsi helps private landowners enhance wildlife habitat on their property and remove hazardous fuels through ecological thinning and prescribed burning.
- 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 trees from your property mimics natural forest processes and can improve fire resiliency by leaving healthy mature trees standing.

PHOTO: RICH FAIRBANKS



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
- Goosenest 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:
707-457-3131
- 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

Humboldt: 707-832-5577

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

Humboldt County:

Burn Advisory: 866-287-6329

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 tips on how to manage riparian vegetation:

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife:
541-826-8774

California Department of Fish & Game:
530-225-2300

To learn more about Lomakatsi's

Tribal Partnerships Program:

Contact Belinda Brown: 541-488-0208 or
tribalpartnerships@lomakatsi.org

Know Your Acronyms

AQI – Air Quality Index is used by government agencies to communicate to the public how polluted the air currently is.

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.

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

ODFW – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is a government agency of the state of Oregon responsible for programs protecting Oregon fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.

OFFA – 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.

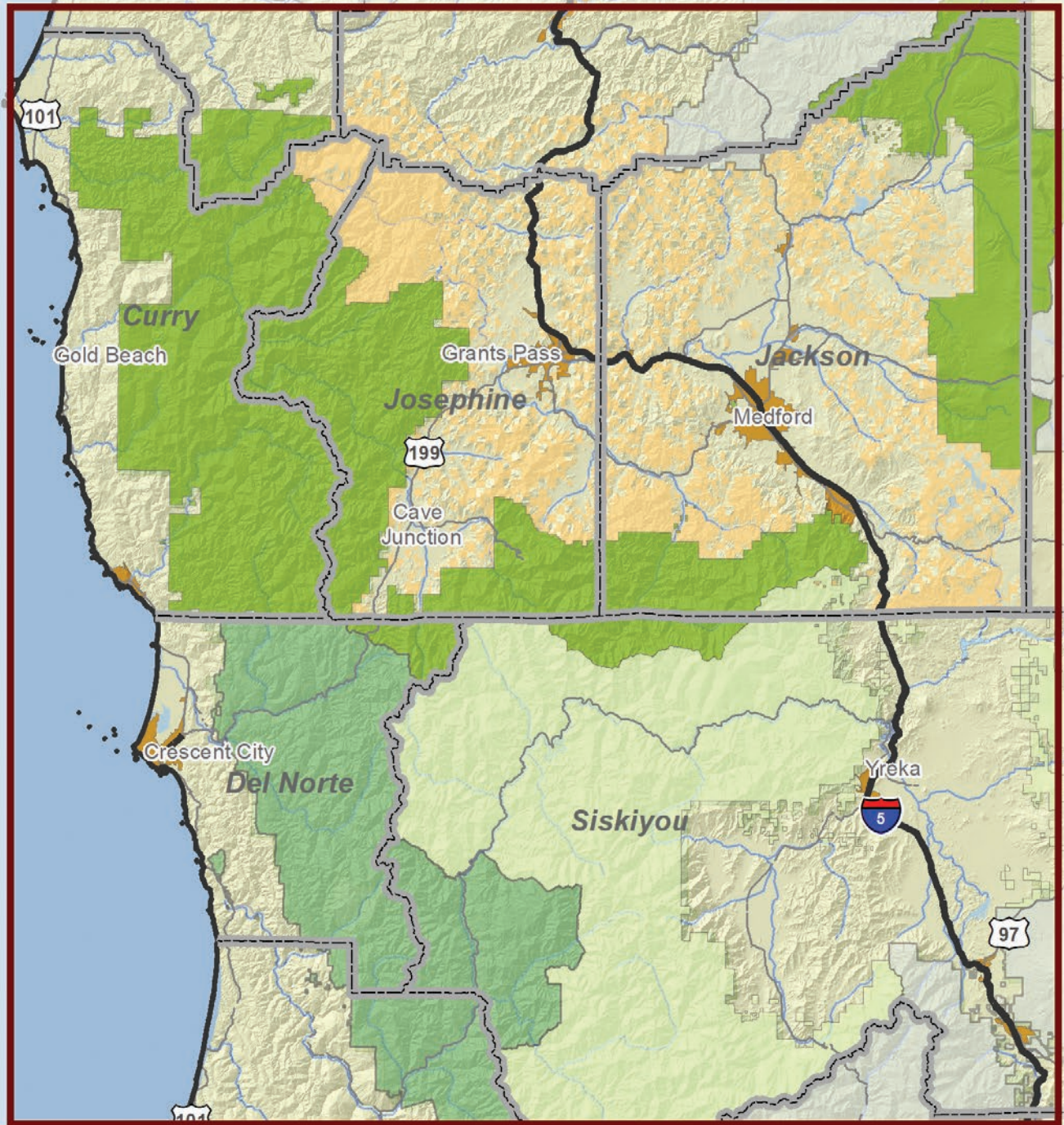
TEK – Traditional Ecological Knowledge is the body of knowledge and practice handed down through generations about the relationship of living beings with one another and with the environment.

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.



Map of the Siskiyou Region

The Siskiyou region is a subset of the larger 10 million acre Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion.



— Geographic area covered in the Forest & Fire Toolkit



FOREST & FIRE TOOLKIT

**A Resource for Living in Fire Prone Landscapes
of the Siskiyou Mountains**