Adaptive Management of Restoration Sites

Rogue Basin Wildfires and Drinking Water Supplies: Impacts and Opportunities

January 13, 2021

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Restoring Ecosystems, Sustaining Communities
Current Wildfire Risk is High

Rogue Basin forests and woodlands are among the most at risk in the Pacific Northwest

• Firesheds where community exposure can be treated with mechanical forest management
Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR)

A 15 year stewardship project to reduce the risk of severe wildfire in the watershed and to protect water quality, older forests, wildlife, people, property and quality of life.

Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District
Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
Reeder Reservoir – Source of the City of Ashland’s Drinking Water
Primary Threat for Forests: *Uncharacteristic* Fire
Treatments

Density Management

Prescribed Underburning

Surface and Ladder Fuel Treatments
Forest Restoration

a) Integrates protection and proactive restoration
b) Utilizes ecological forest thinning and managed fire
c) Reduces wildfire risk to people and nature
d) Ensures enduring viability of critical habitats and species
e) Supports fire adapted communities
f) Promotes regional economic and workforce viability
Integrated: By Design

- Municipal Watershed Protection
- Spotted Owl Habitat Protection
- Restoring Open Forest Thinning Controlled Fire
- Community Protection
- 58,000 acres
- 14,500 acres treated
- 28% of landscape
Multi-Party Monitoring

Stakeholder Driven Plan

- Fire Histories
- Legacy Tree Retention and Survival
- Late-Successional Wildlife Habitat
- Birds as Indicators
- Soils
- Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat
- Herbaceous Recovery

Herbaceous Recovery

Late-Successional Wildlife Habitat

Birds as Indicators

Soils

Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat

Legacy Tree Retention and Survival

Fire Histories

Stakeholder Driven Plan
Adaptive Management
Rogue Forest Partners
External Review Teams

Credit: Kerry Metlen, The Nature Conservancy
Restoration Workforce
Informing Adaptive Management Approaches
Thinning Around Large Old Trees

- Indicators
  - cut-tree size distribution
  - legacy tree patch identification
  - legacy tree vigor response and retention
Legacy Tree Protection
Legacy Tree Protection
Legacy Tree Protection - Lessons Learned
Implementation Strategies Adjusted

- Piling more than 15’ from tree bole
- A staged separate entry for burning the radially thinned piles
  - Minimizing the radiant heat less piles burning at once
- Cutting out logs that wick to the tree
- Moving piles!
- Elevating with Burn Boss during the pre-burn operations brief
Rogue Basin Strategy

ALL LANDS - 1.1 MILLION ACRES
Federal treatable and accessible and fuels on 40% of community at risk

Learn more at www.sofrc.org
Cohesive Forest Restoration Addresses Why and How

Prioritized Project Areas with Explicit Objectives

Why
- Resilient Landscapes
- Northern Spotted Owl Recovery
- Community at Risk

How
- Climate Resilience
- Treatment Type
- Accessibility and Land Allocation
- Predictable Work Flow

Why

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Site Preparation
Confluence of Ashland Creek and Bear Creek 2008
Post-Almeda Fire
Confluence of Bear Creek and Ashland Creek
Post-Almeda Fire
Adaptive management and multi-party monitoring incorporating ecocultural restoration and long-term stewardship
Thank You!
Questions?

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