



Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative

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Executive Director
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WHY ARE COLLABORATIVES EFFECTIVE?

*Forest collaborative groups
build agreement by engaging
diverse stakeholders in
fostering natural resource
management and economic
development*

- Nimble
- Engaged
- Analysis
- Provide capacity
- Efficiencies

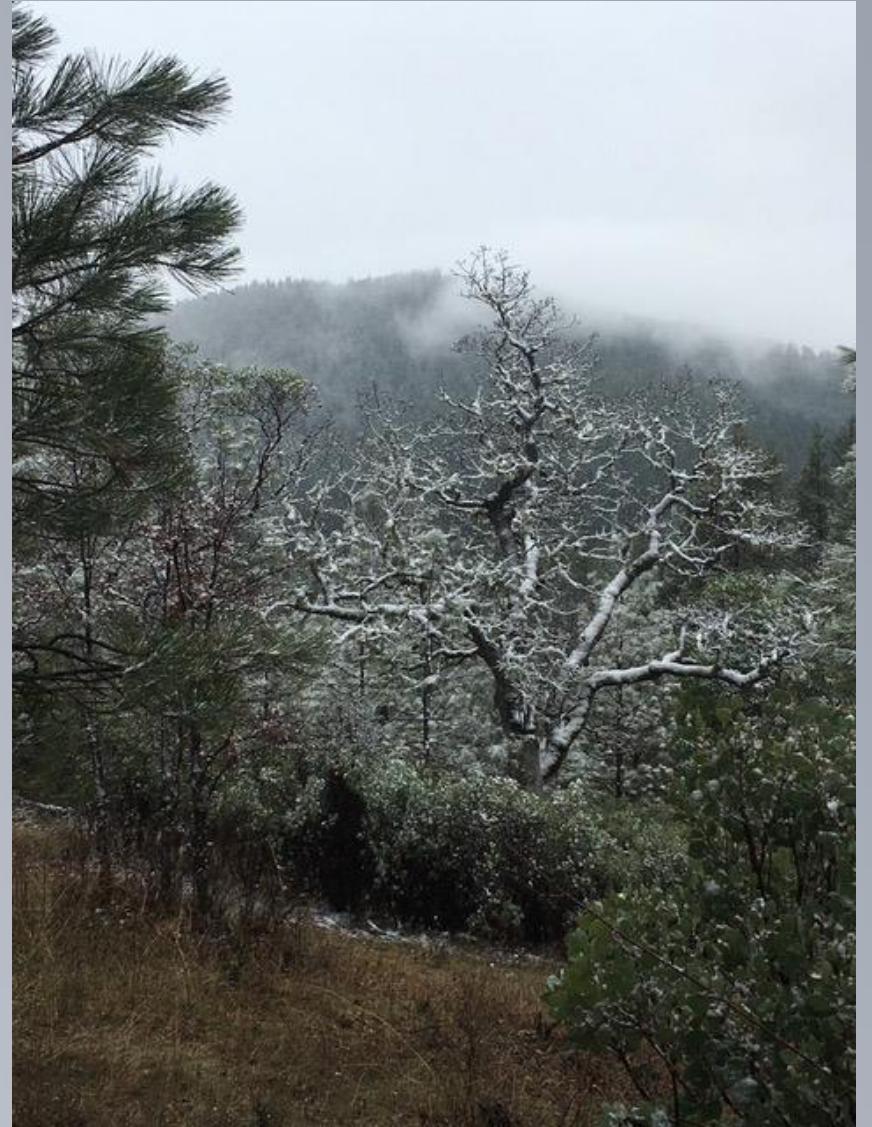
Overview

SOFRC ORGANIZATION

SOFRC PROGRAMS

ACHIEVEMENTS

CHALLENGES



Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative

Mission: Engage with diverse constituents on forest health and wildfire risk projects to support resilient landscapes, thriving communities, wood manufacturing and workforce development.



SOFRC TEAM

- Executive Director—Terry Fairbanks
- Contractors for education, project and program support

Contact Information:

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SOFRC BOARD

Brian Ballou
Marko Bey
Darren Borgias
Chris Chambers
Blair Moody
Greg Perkinson
Dave Schott
Jim Wolf

CAPACITY AND FUNDING OF AGENCIES

Since 2000, the Forest Service has lost 50% of their employees

In 2015, 60% of the total Forest Service funding was spent on wildfires

Medford BLM fuels budget shrank 88% from 2008 to 2019



Forest Issues in Southern Oregon

- Over dense forests
- Severe fire risk to habitat and communities
- Lack of funding for treatments
- Capacity of agencies



Applegate Valley

SOFRFC PROGRAMS

- Collaboration
- Coordination
- Science Delivery and Analysis
- Policy and Development
- Education and Workforce Development



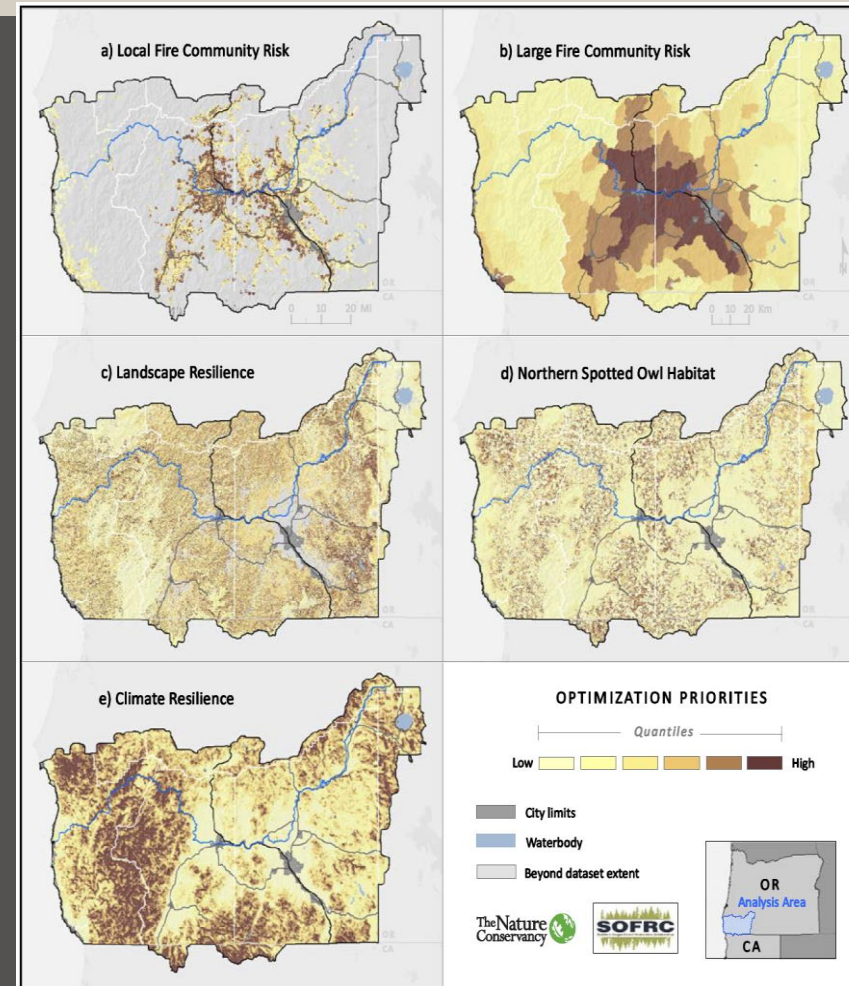
SOFRS SUCCESS



- Pilot Joe--Dept of Agriculture Secretarial Demo project (2015)
- Rogue Basin Strategy (2017)
- 2019 Workshops for 250 people
- Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (2019)

Rogue Basin Strategy

- Evaluates 4.2 million acres
- Recommends treatments on 1.1 million acres
- Integrates protection and restoration
- Science based
- Restores and maintains landscape with thinning and fire



Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative


Legend

Name

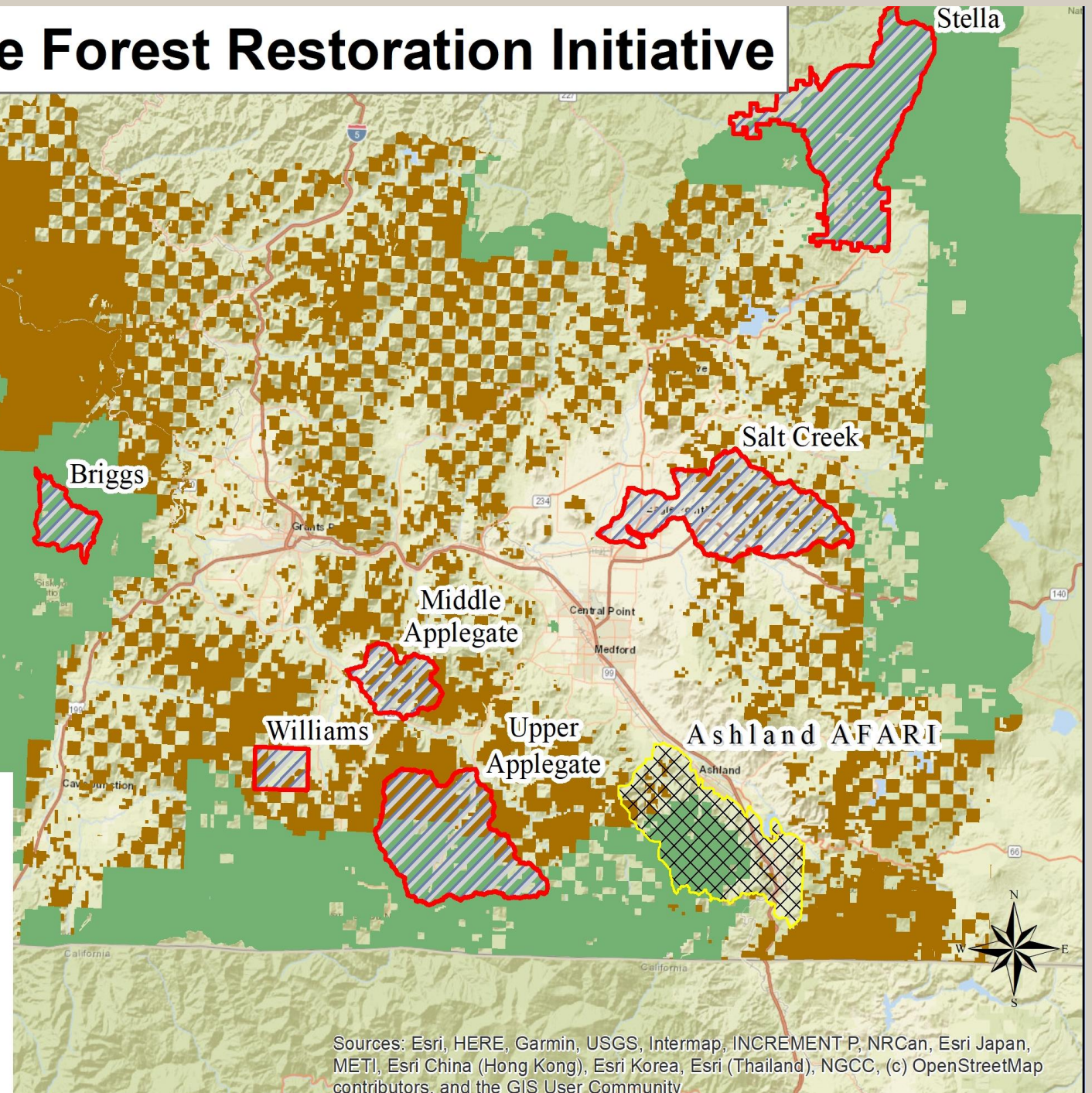
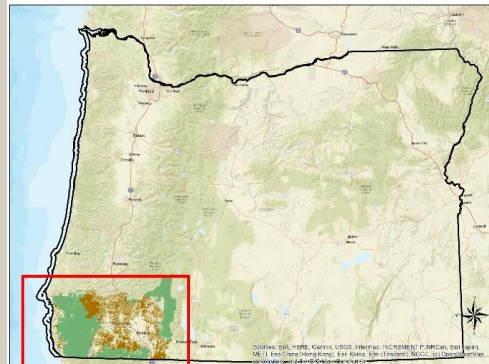
 Ashland AFARI

 Project Areas

Ownership

 Bureau of Land Management

 US Forest Service



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

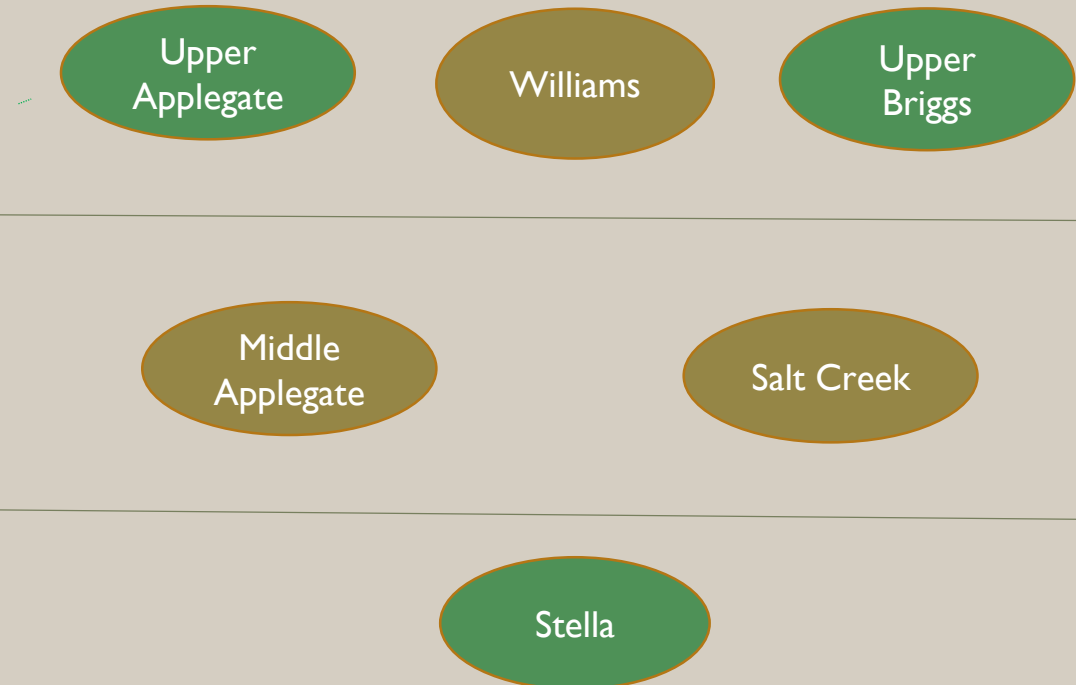
Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership

Partners

4 NGO's (nongovernmental organizations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative• Lomakatsi Restoration Project• Klamath Bird Observatory• The Nature Conservatory
2 State Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oregon Department of Forestry• OSU Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center
4 Federal Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest• USDI Bureau of Land Management• USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service• USDI Fish & Wildlife Partners Program

Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative

Projects



Response to SOFRC's initiatives and the Rogue Basin Strategy

Medford Mail Tribune Editorial from 2018

Smoke fix: Years of work, millions of dollars

The most promising plan was developed by a coalition of federal agencies, conservationists, business and community leaders, landowners and foresters. The Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative produced a detailed plan a year ago, called the Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy. It calls for mechanical thinning of overgrown forests, coupled with prescribed burning in the fall and spring when weather conditions will keep smoke out of communities as much as possible.

The plan proposes thinning and fuels reduction on 25 percent of the Rogue Basin, or 1.1 million acres over a period of 20 to 30 years. The group estimates that could reduce wildfire risk as much as 70 percent, while putting 1700 people to work directly and indirectly.



LET'S GET STARTED

WHAT WE ARE DOING

- Identified priority areas for treatment
- Estimated costs and potential timber volume
- Developed 3 scenarios—business as usual, federal only and an all-lands approach
- Implementation started with OWEB FIP grant of \$6 million

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

- Track treatments and outcomes across projects and jurisdictions
- Engagement across the basin
- Develop Potential Operational Delineations (PODs)

Wildfire Council Report

Goal: Restore and maintain resilient landscapes

- Actively manage forests
- Prioritize treatments

An improved Public-Private-Partnership Reoriented toward Wildfire

Key Steps:

- Mapping and treating high priority areas
- Building a project pipeline
- Building capacity
- Expanding treatment programs
- Catalyzing investment
- Monitoring performance and
- Breaking down barriers to achieving pace, scale and quality.

Collaboratives help bring about change and help institutionalize that change.

Leveraging Funding & Public Support

- ❑ Generate project funding for treatments
- ❑ Demonstration projects
- ❑ Extensive stakeholder engagement

- ✓ **Additional acres treated**
- ✓ **Collaborative implementation**
- ✓ **Support for forest treatments**

Increase the Pace
and Scale of Forest
Restoration

How can SOFRC help the Wildfire Program in Oregon?

- **Sophisticated and extensive community engagement** in a complex social setting will help build community trust and understanding. This work is time consuming and difficult but rewarding.
- **Tracking information** about treatments across all lands. The most important way to make fuels/forest treatments cost effective is to consolidate and enlarge treatment areas, and then apply maintenance at the appropriate time. SCALE and TIMING. This requires analysis at the local scale.
- **Work with neighborhoods** to enlist support for treatments along evacuation routes, fuels breaks and anchor points.
- **Collaborative implementation**—provide demonstration projects that illustrate that you can protect communities and habitats through ecologically based treatments.
- **Help institutionalize** these practices by sharing, demonstrating and marketing good fire and forest management.

