

COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND RESTORATION IN SOUTHWESTERN OREGON A 10 YEAR – 10,000 ACRE OPPORTUNITY

In November 2008, Siskiyou Project, Lomakatsi Restoration Project and the U.S. Forest Service entered into a ten year, ten thousand acre Master Stewardship Agreement to achieve a variety of goals:

- Ecological Restoration & Climate Change Resiliency
- Reduce the Risk of Fire
- Community Collaboration
- Enterprise Creation

The area addressed in this Master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) is known as the Wild Rivers Ranger District and lies within the borders of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Conditions within the Wild Rivers Ranger District have changed over time from wildfire suppression and timber harvest activities, resulting in overstocked stands and unnatural accumulations of fuels. Forest stands have become denser, increasing fire hazard, reducing wildlife forage, and depleting water resources needed to sustain riparian vegetation and salmon populations. Fire behavior within the urban rural interface has an increased potential to destroy property and threaten human lives.

The MSA brings together distinct and overlapping skills, values, and missions. Together Lomakatsi and Siskiyou Project are equipped to address and assist in implementing the variety of goals and objectives of the projects which are sought by this Master Stewardship Agreement. We have been actively engaged in development and implementation of community supported stewardship and restoration forestry practices on these landscapes in the past. All parties share an interest in improving the condition and function of this landscape, not only for wildfire and fuels concerns, but also for landscape and stand diversity. A healthy landscape provides a variety of benefits well beyond the needs of a single species, and therefore benefits all parties.

It is therefore mutually beneficial for the parties to work together to implement forest restoration projects within the context of a landscape that will help protect private property, reduce unnatural levels of forest fuels, and ultimately reduce the risks and costs of unnatural wildfire, as well as restoring forest and aquatic habitats.

Ecological Restoration & Climate Change Resiliency

Projects developed and implemented under the MSA will:

- **Improve, maintain, or restore forest health** by implementing prescriptions which enhance overall habitat conditions to increase their resilience to climate change, insects and disease through slashing, hand piling and burning, density management of trees, and control invasive plants and noxious weeds;
- **Restore or maintain water quality, and fish habitat** by implimenting projects which stablize stream banks, improve forest roads, and replace culverts for fish passage; and
- **Reestablish native plant species** by planting species that have been removed through previous management activities.

Siskiyou Project, 213 SE H ST, Grants Pass, Oregon 97527 (541) 476-6648

Lomakatsi Restoration Project, PO Box 3084, Ashland, Oregon 97520 (541) 488-0208

Fire Risk Reduction

Wildfire suppression and past timber harvest activities have resulted in overstocked forest stands and unnatural accumulations of fuels. Many of these conditions are adjacent to rural communities. Utilizing fuel reduction prescriptions on these previously managed lands in the rural-wildlands interface will be of the highest priority under this stewardship agreement. At the same time utilizing ecological principles in these areas will move them to a more natural fire resilient condition minimizing the threat of fire to property and human life.

Community Collaboration

All projects developed under this Master Stewardship Agreement will undergo a collaborative process which includes individuals, organizations, and businesses within the surrounding communities. The collaborative process will determine specific forest restoration objectives and goal to ensure that the benefits of undertaking forest restoration are beneficial to the community as well as being beneficial to a wide diversity of interests involved in the collaboration.

Enterprise Creation

To accomplish the restoration needs of southwestern Oregon, and other objectives under the MSA a greater capacity to implement prescriptions must be achieved. Partners under the MSA are committed to working with individuals and organizations to provide ecological restoration workforce training, and small business development with the goal of establishing a sustainable restoration economy.

Who We Are

The Lomakatsi Restoration Project is a nonprofit organizational collaboration guided by natural and social principles to organize and implement community based ecological restoration projects through education, vocational training, specialized workforce development, on-the-ground workforce activities and the utilization of restoration by-products, encouraging the recovery of ecosystems and the sustainability of communities, cultures, and economies. Lomakatsi has cooperated with federal and state agencies to benefit National Forests and local communities. Lomakatsi's volunteers, members, and partners have worked to raise funds and to volunteer on projects that benefit forest restoration and fuels reduction.

Siskiyou Project is a nonprofit conservation organization based in southwest Oregon which has identified the Wild Rivers Ranger District as a high priority to protect the globally outstanding forests, botanical areas, and wild salmon streams. Being involved in community organizing and education in southwestern Oregon for over 25 years has uniquely positioned them to bring together community members within the area to the table in order to build community supported collaboration for projects implemented under this Master Stewardship Agreement. Siskiyou Project will ensure community members have a voice in the design of projects implemented under this Master Stewardship Agreement. Siskiyou Project works to ensure that community-based forest restoration is a valuable tool for improving the health and ecological integrity of previously logged forests. Community-based forest restoration projects are not only good for the forest; they also benefit the rural communities living in forested areas.