



California: Mid-Klamath River Communities Project

The Partners

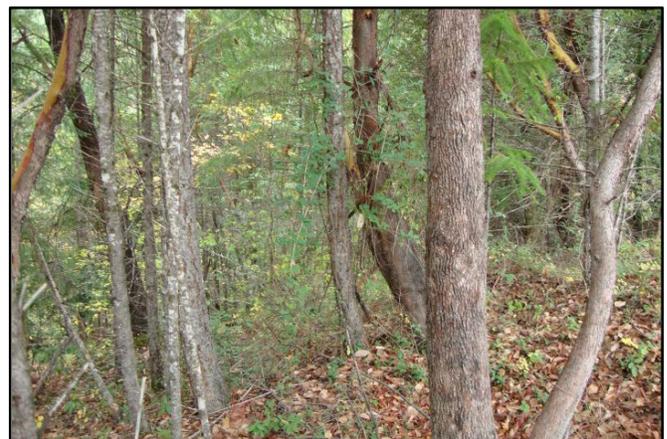
The Communities of the Middle Klamath River currently have restoration relationships and working collaborations in place. Partners include various Fire Safe Councils, Mid-Klamath Watershed Council, Salmon River Restoration Council, and the Karuk tribe, Forest Service, NRCS and others. The planning area consists of tribal territory lands, private lands, and over 95 percent federally managed lands. Partners have been working extensively in identifying and prioritizing future restoration goals and project areas to create fire safe communities, restore fire adapted ecosystems, and improve cultural and traditional practices. The Fire Learning Network is currently assisting with one area collaboration to achieve such goals.



The Project

The communities within the project area have seen significant fire activity over the past few decades. The recent fire history has triggered a need for a landscape strategy to increase the pace and scale of treatment necessary to meet objectives for fire resilient communities and landscapes. Partnerships have yielded numerous implementation-ready projects and treatments on some high priority Federal and private lands; some of these projects are underway or complete. These treatments include fuel breaks, thinning, broadcast burning, and improved fire suppression infrastructure such as water tanks and ingress/egress routes. Although these projects are focused on communities, most of these projects have identified wildlife, water, and economic stability benefits.

The implementation-ready projects identify proposed treatments to meet forest health objectives, meadow restoration, tribal/cultural needs, noxious weed control and aquatic and terrestrial habitat improvement for listed species such as the Northern Spotted Owl and Coho Salmon. Local tribes would



be benefited not just by focusing the work on tribal territory, but also by the potential for using tribal crews to assist in implementation of the work.

The Benefits of Additional Resources

Among the Federal lands within the Middle Klamath River Communities, nearly \$20 million worth of implementation-ready projects have been identified. These projects include approximately 17,000 acres of overly dense forest stands identified to be thinned; 30,000 acres of landscape scale prescribed underburning; 5,000 acres of shaded fuel breaks to enhance fire suppression activities; and over 50 miles of roads that will be stormproofed or decommissioned to protect watershed health. These projects will be prioritized to have the greatest impact on creating fire resilient communities and landscapes, and additional funding will be used to accelerate implementation of the highest priority projects.



Concurrently, over 3,600 acres of adjacent private lands have been identified for immediate outreach for development of forest conservation plans. Anticipated expenditures in the first year of the project are estimated to treat resource concerns on about 600 acres of private lands, with a three year target of 2,600 acres. The small towns and unincorporated areas that comprise the Middle Klamath River Communities areas are experiencing high unemployment and poverty. Many of the small landowners lack the financial resources to invest in restoring their lands. The additional funding will provide local landowners with the means to reduce fuels and contribute to community safety, restore ecosystems on their land, and provide a boost to the local economy. The combined treatments on both Federal and private lands will be complimentary, and through our collaboration will be choreographed to ensure the treatment effectiveness and therefore treatment benefits are maximized.

How will you measure success of this partnership?

Successful outputs of this project will be ecosystems restored, communities made more resilient to fire events, critical values related to American Indian culture, wildlife and watershed enhanced, and employment opportunities created. This project will also serve to strengthen collaboration in local communities and demonstrate the effectiveness of an All Lands approach to improving forest health and resilience as supported by sister USDA agencies.