

Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership

North Warner Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project

2017-2019



A faint trail through a ponderosa pine forest

Legacy ponderosa pine stands and rolling hills of sagebrush are symbolic of the western landscape. However, years of fire suppression has led to fuel accumulation in these dry forests and rangelands. This poses a catastrophic wildfire threat to these large old trees along with the neighboring sage grouse populations and aspen stands. Located in south central Oregon, in the North Warner Mountain Range, a collaborative of community leaders and landowners are working across boundaries to address the resource concerns in the project area. Through this Joint Chiefs' project, they were able to leverage substantial funding from other partners for work on public and private lands. The collaborative process used to design and implement this project has become a model for landscape-scale cross-boundary projects in the region. Because this particular landscape covers over 400,000 acres, including the Fremont-Winema National Forest, a sophisticated mapping and prioritization approach was needed. This Joint Chiefs' project has focused on reducing fuel loads in the forest by thinning small trees, commercial harvest, and controlled burns.

PROJECT IMPACT:

15,000+ acres

More than 15,000 acres were treated for hazardous fuels and to improve wildlife habitat using JCLRP funding.

USFS & NRCS JCLRP funds awarded 2017-2019: \$10,040,213
Total USDA and partner project funds: \$11,314,213

PROJECT RESULTS



A male sage grouse performing a mating strut display



Reducing wildfire risk: protecting 20 homes in the wildland urban interface and adjacent timberlands.



Wildlife habitat restoration: benefiting sage grouse, goshawk, white-headed woodpecker, mule deer, and locally important aspen stands.



Local jobs: hazardous fuel treatments supported the local mill, contractors, and businesses in the community.

USDA's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service are working together to improve the health of forests where public forests and grasslands connect to privately owned lands. Through the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, the two USDA agencies are restoring landscapes by reducing wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protecting water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat.

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Pile burning workshop with private landowners in south central Oregon

A Model for Community Collaboration

The North Warner Multi-Ownership Project (Project) conducted in south central Oregon has become a model to emulate on the road to community collaboration success. The cooperative agreement between NRCS Oregon and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) allowed for technical forestry assistance and implementation of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Collaborative efforts and a common vision among 15 different partners and 30 private landowners allowed for restoration goals to be met across public and private land boundaries.

“Shared goals for long-term solutions brought this partnership together to accomplish just that,” said Louis Linton, private landowner and rancher. “There were so many rewarding accomplishments and opportunities for learning.”

In total, approximately \$11.5 million was gained for large-scale landscape restoration goals. Working together across public and private land not only protected the land but also built trust and relationships among partners and landowners. The benefits further extend from those directly involved in the Project to those who live in the community, as the demand for related local contracts and jobs increased. This Project has outlined a roadmap to help plan and implement successful forest health projects in the future.

“This project has many benefits to the rural community of Lakeview, Oregon including jobs associated with thinning contracts and wood production, as well as an increased understanding and stakeholder support for forest thinning and use of prescribed fire as an ecological process,” said Amy Markus, USDA Forest Service Cohesive Strategy Coordinator, Lakeview District.

View more about the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership in Oregon at <https://www.klfhp.org/northwarner>

For more information, please visit [nrcs.usda.gov/JointChiefsReports](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/JointChiefsReports)



Aspen stand in fall

Key Partners

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Department of Forestry Federal Forest Restoration Program
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Lakeview Stewardship Group
KLFHP
Oregon State University Extension

Contact

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