

Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership

Greater La Pine Basin Cohesive Strategy

2016–2018



Prescribed fire in central Oregon

The communities of the Greater La Pine Basin are confronting a growing wildfire hazard with a plan and strong collaborative partnerships. This large landscape of ponderosa and lodgepole pines is shared between federal, state, and private ownership. Short-sighted forest management practices of the past have contributed to unnaturally dense forests dominated by evenly aged medium-sized trees and high fuel loads. To address the situation, these partnerships are addressing past management mistakes with fuels reduction and habitat improvement projects. In addition, these projects should benefit many streams and riparian areas of the upper Deschutes Basin. Recreational opportunities are an important part of the national forests, but sometimes the recreational activities adversely impact the very same resources that are being enjoyed. In particular, illegal or user-created trails and campsites may seem minor, but result in major impacts to water quality or wildlife habitat because they are poorly designed and not maintained. This Joint Chiefs' project took the comprehensive approach of reducing fuels loads, decommissioning roads, and enhancing the native riparian areas.

PROJECT IMPACT:

53 Jobs

USFS & NRCS JCLRP funds awarded 2016–2018: \$7,435,747
Total USDA and partner project funds: \$7,645,001

Jobs created in the community
from \$2,638,000 in project
contracts

PROJECT RESULTS



Roadside weed spraying



Wildfire risk reduction:

Fuels treatments to 420 acres of private lands and 18,169 acres of public lands.



Road decommissioning:

21 miles of legal and illegal roads were closed and restored to benefit wildlife and scenic integrity.



Riparian zone enhancement:

28 acres of riparian habitat improved from reduced erosion and enhanced vegetation.

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.

Photos in this document are public domain or stock imagery unless otherwise noted.

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GREATER LA PINE BASIN COHESIVE STRATEGY



Walker Range Fire Patrol Crew fuel reduction in Wagon Trail Ranch neighborhood

Protecting and Restoring the Forest is a Community Effort—"All Hands, All Lands"

The high desert of Central Oregon contains many dry forests that need fire for continued health and resilience. Private, state, and federal lands intermingle in these forests to provide home sites, wildlife and plant habitats, commercial timber, and abundant outdoor recreation opportunities. This Joint Chiefs' project helped restore 320,000 acres of that land.

"Coordination like the Joint Chiefs' Greater La Pine Cohesive Strategy Restoration Project maximized the efficiency of all efforts to restore our forest health and protect private land assets," said Alison Green, Deschutes County Project Wildfire Manager at the time of the project.

The project area included 203,055 acres of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and the communities of Three Rivers, La Pine, Gilchrist, and Crescent, where approximately 10,000 people call home. The project built on existing relationships between Central Oregon's local, state, and federal agencies to immediately help rural communities protect their homes and neighborhoods.

"The Joint Chiefs' funding allowed each agency to facilitate restoration work on public and private land," said Ed Keith, Deschutes County Forester. "Doing this work together maximized the efficiency of the treatments, creating not only firewise communities, but healthier, more resilient forests."

In the community of Crescent, a subdivision called Wagon Trail Ranch used Joint Chiefs' funding to teach landowners about firewise practices and facilitate wildfire mitigation work by landowners in the 96-home subdivision.

"I was sitting looking at my backyard one day, and I just got an eerie feeling that this is fire weather with all the dry fuel and everything that, you know, there's a great likelihood for a fire if somebody's careless, and it just scared the heck out of me," said Martin Wiley, Wagon Trail Ranch home owner, who happily participated in the work of removing hazardous fuels on the subdivision's lands.

For more information about a wildfire success story from this project, see this video: youtu.be/BWP9-GhPARQ

For more information, please visit nrcs.usda.gov/JointChiefsReports



Project meeting in the forest

Key Partners

Oregon Department of Forestry
Deschutes County - Project Wildfire
Walker Range Forest Patrol Association
Oregon State University Extension

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