

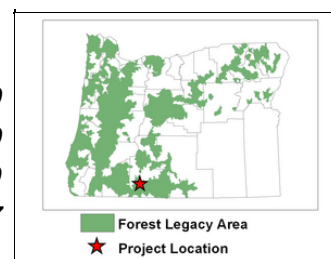


# Forest Legacy Project

## West Klamath Lake Forest, Klamath Falls (Klamath County), Oregon

### FUNDING HISTORY

<i>Forest Legacy Program FY 2013 Funding</i>	<b>\$ 3,861,000</b>
<i>FY 2013 Non-Federal Cost Share</i>	<b>\$ 1,287,000</b>
<i>FY 2013 Project Costs</i>	<b>\$ 5,148,000</b>
<i>FY 2013 Project Acres</i>	<b>1,287</b>
<i>Forest Legacy Funding to Date</i>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<i>Total Project Costs</i>	<b>\$ 5,148,000</b>
<i>Total Project Acres</i>	<b>1,287</b>



<i>Tract Name</i>	<i>Size (acres)</i>	<i>Tract Cost</i>	<i>FLP Funding</i>	<i>Non-Fed Cost Share</i>	<i>Status</i>
Ball Mountain	987	\$ 3,948,000	\$ 2,961,000	\$ 987,000	Proposed 2013
Caledonia Ranch	300	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 300,000	Proposed 2013
Total	1,287	\$ 5,148,000	\$ 3,861,000	\$ 1,287,000	

**General Description** – The West Klamath Lake Forest project, on the Pacific flyway for migratory birds, is along the west side of Upper Klamath Lake, the largest lake in Oregon, and in the Klamath Basin which has received national attention for severe water shortages impacting the farm economy and endangered fish. The project consists of three tracts threatened by resort overlay zoning. The Ball Mountain parcel is a lake fringe mixed conifer forest with 4 miles of proposed critical habitat for ESA federally listed shortnose and Lost River suckers. The Denny Creek parcel, habitat for endangered suckers and trophy redband trout, contains a mixed conifer forest and historical landmarks. The Caledonia Woodlands, which shares fence lines with the Running Y resort, is one of the last Oregon white oak–conifer woodlands east of the Cascade Mountains and supports over 80 bird species, most of which are at risk due to loss of available habitat. Two ranching families joined in this project to address environmental and economic issues in the Klamath Basin. The project will protect and restore 1,887 acres of working forests, stream, and lake habitats by improving forest health, bird and fish habitats, and Klamath Lake water resources.

### PROJECT FEATURES

#### Important:

- A. ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM TIMBER AND POTENTIAL FOREST PRODUCTIVITY:
  - A1. Forest types are comprised of Ponderosa Pine, white fir, Douglas fir, Englemann spruce, incense cedar, juniper, Oregon white oak, mahogany, and aspen.
  - A2. This bullet left intentionally blank.

- A3. All properties have Forest Stewardship Plans approved by the Oregon Department of Forestry.
- A4. Saw logs and secondary wood products from the properties provide substantial economic benefit to the local area. 15 Klamath Tribal members are being trained for restoration and reforestation on Caledonia Woods (CW).
- A5. BMT owner was named runner up as Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year in 1993 & 2009. Property is American Tree Farm certified.
- A6. Soil types on properties are productive and are able to generate significant volumes of timber.
- A7. The BMT owner selectively harvested conifers in 2005 & 2006 for a total of 1,547 million board feet.
- B. ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM NON-TIMBER PRODUCTS:
  - B1. Upper Klamath Lake and tributaries draw people worldwide for trophy redband trout fishing, a species found on BMT shoreline and in DC.
  - B2. Bird watching on parcels is a major tourist activity and contributes to the local economy as a nontraditional forest product.
  - B3. In 2008 Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife estimated bird watching and other wildlife viewing contributed \$14 million and fishing contributed \$5 million dollars to Klamath Basin; project will provide ongoing support to wildlife based economy.
  - B4. Landowners have received grants from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Secure Rural Schools for forest restoration, bringing jobs into the area.
- C. THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT:
  - C1. The endangered shortnose and Lost River suckers are found ONLY in and near Upper Klamath Lake and use 4 miles of shoreline of BMT as adult habitat. These two species are culturally important to The Klamath Tribes.
  - C2. DC will protect key habitat for Pacific fisher, a federal Candidate Species under the Endangered Species Act.
  - C3. All properties are in the Pacific flyway, the most important migratory bird corridor in North America. The Klamath Basin has the largest over-wintering population of bald eagles in the continental US.
  - C4. Bald eagle nests have been located on properties.



Selective Logging Ball Mountain



Mt. McLoughlin seen from Ball Mt



Bald Eagle on Ball Mountain



Oregon White Oaks



Endangered Lost River Sucker

- C5. Oregon Conservation Strategy and Species of Management Concern include the following species which occur on these properties: northern goshawk, mountain quail, great gray owl, and white headed, black backed, acorn and Lewis' woodpeckers.
- C6. Oregon Conservation Strategy bats occurring on these tracts include: Pacific fringe tailed, Townsend's big eared, Pacific pallid, long eared myotis, long legged myotis, and silver haired bats.
- C7. The American Bird Conservancy lists oak habitat as one of the top 20 most endangered bird habitats in the U.S.
- D. OTHER UNIQUE FISH, AND WILDLIFE HABITATS:
- D1. All properties host unique forest types; CW oak stands comprise the eastern most reach of oak habitat, and Engelmann spruce reaches its southeastern distribution limit on DC.
- D3. Oregon white oak ecosystem supports up to 200 species of vertebrates and invertebrates. Neotropical migrants, black bear, bald eagles, and many species specific to oak woodlands are found on CW.
- D4. Vertebrates and birds associated with oaks include western skink, California mountain kingsnake, dusky-footed woodrat, black bear & black-tailed deer plus 80 bird types identified by Klamath Bird Observatory.
- E. WATER SUPPLY AND WATERSHED PROTECTION
- E1. Upper Klamath Lake fails to meet requirements of the Clean Water Act. Homes along lakeshore impact water quality. The project would maintain water quality versus damage to the watershed if 1300 plus homes were built.
- E2. Project will improve water quality by protecting forest connectivity & health, and stream & wetlands. Restoration of Denny Creek will lower water temperatures, help balance pH and improve level of dissolved oxygen.
- E3. Enrollment of parcels will provide long-term protection of the lake watershed by preventing impacts to ground water supply, protecting the integrity of surface waters and aquifer recharge zones.
- E4. Enrollment of BMT & DC in Forest Legacy will provide capital that would allow landowner restore and connect Denny Creek to the lake, addressing the Clean Water Act in 4 out of 5 recovery goals for 2 endangered fish.
- E5. This type of restoration combined with landowner commitment to restore oak woodlands demonstrates that inclusion of the properties in Forest Legacy converts each property's development value into restoration value.

- F. PUBLIC ACCESS:

- F1. Land owners offer access for classes, guided hikes, boat tours, bird watching, forestry education courses, and other public events organized by International Migratory Bird Week, Winter Wings Festival, and Oregon Small Woodlands Assoc.
- F2. Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon University, and OSU Extension are interested in conducting projects or holding classes on the properties.

- G. SCENIC:

- G1. Properties are located on Scenic State Hwy. 140 and viewed by thousands of people each day. Properties are visible from boat on Upper Klamath Lake.
- G2. Crater Lake National Park and Mount McLoughlin are viewed from properties, State Scenic Hwy. 140 and the lake.

- H. HISTORIC:

- H1. Landowner's grandparents bought properties, dating back to the 1880's. The properties have been managed for farming, ranching, timber and wildlife since.
- H2. DC contains the May 1846 encampment site of John C. Fremont and Kit Carson – a State Historical Monument.

### **Threatened:**

- A: LEGAL PROTECTION:

- A1. Properties are within Klamath County's Resort Overlay Designation and do not have legal protection from development through zoning.
- A2. All tracts are highly desirable development properties. The Klamath County property assessment states that CW can be developed at an average of 1 home per every 2 acres; 150 homes could be constructed on the 300 acre parcel.
- A3. BMT had a recent approved development plan for 1200 housing units and a golf course.

- B. LAND AND LANDOWNER CIRCUMSTANCES:

- B1. Landowners of three parcels are in their 60s and 70s and want to protect intact property while the opportunity exists. The heirs or next generation is comprised of many people who are unlikely to take initiative to keep property intact.
- B2. Landowners have received multiple offers to sell or develop property.
- B3. Much of the original homestead of CW has been sold; current landowners have bought additional small parcels from relatives in order to conserve last intact 300 acres.

- C: ADJACENT LAND USE:

- C1. CW shares a property line and has the same development potential as the immediately adjoining 3600 acre Running Y Resort, which has 1000 buildable lots. Running Y also offers condominiums, a lodge & an 18 hole golf course.

- C2. The properties are located along designated Scenic State Highway 140, where development and forest fragmentation is increasing.
- D: ABILITY TO DEVELOP:
- D1. Properties are located within 15 minutes of nearby city, and have gentle slopes, developed road access, ground deemed buildable, desirable views over the lake, and forested lakefront lots. Utilities are either already onsite or readily available.
- D2. If the 1,887 acres were developed, the opportunity to create a significant forest–lake habitat corridor valued by wildlife and the public would be eliminated.

### **Strategic:**

- A. STRATEGIC FIT WITH CONSERVATION PLANS:
- A1. The Northwest Forest Plan identifies protecting the connectivity of forests, such as West Klamath Lake Forest, in Oregon as a major priority.
- A2. The Oregon Statewide Forest Assessment identified the following priority area categories along Klamath Lake: landscape wildfire risk; forestland vulnerable to loss of timber markets; and general forest considerations. This project would help Oregon fulfill the opportunity to maintain or improve conditions in priority areas rather than see downward movement.
- A3. The Upper Klamath Lake Watershed Assessment prioritizes restoring historic connections & migratory pathways for fish as well as restoring wetland & riparian habitats along Klamath Lake. A comprehensive plan exists to restore stream form & function on entire DC, reconnect the channel & protect water quality. DC contains one of the last streams that can be reconnected to the lake.
- A4. Oregon white oak woodlands are a Strategy Habitat in the East Cascades as identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Oak woodlands are Priority Ecological Systems in the Klamath Basin as identified by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The Oregon white oak on CW provides an important connection to the oak woodlands within the Klamath River canyon and northern California. Because the majority of Oregon's oak woodlands occur on private lands, easement acquisition is crucial to long–term conservation of this key wildlife habitat.
- A5. Conservation of oak habitat & late successional mixed conifers are supported by Oregon Habitat Joint Venture Plan for Bird Conservation & Oregon/Washington Partners in Flight.
- B: COMPLIMENTS PROTECTED LANDS:
- B1. DC, BMT, and CW contribute to a corridor of protected land along Upper Klamath Lake for federally listed and sensitive species as well as migratory birds, and are additive to currently protected lands along the lake (see map): Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife (1246 acres), Eagle Ridge County Park (627 acres), Oregon Dept of Transportation wetlands (75 acres), Oregon Dept of State Lands (120 acres), and Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge (15,000 acres).
- B2. The properties have an enhanced value to the watershed by their proximity to Fremont–Winema National Forest, Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Sesti Tgawaals State Wildlife Area, and a deed restricted site protecting mixed oak/conifer forest and associated wildlife.
- B3. Project is packaged with a wetland easement that would protect and restore over 500 acres of lake fringe wetlands, actions identified in the Recovery Plan for the Federally Endangered Lost River & shortnose suckers. Reconnecting DC to the lake would provide 2 miles of fish passage, providing BEST chance to fulfill a new spawning population of Lost River & shortnose suckers and steelhead. Restored wetlands are most important spot on lake; stream reconnection would increase access to spawning habitat. Both actions provide crucial larval habitat for listed fishes.

**Ready:**

- A. Landowners have clear title to the mineral rights and have completed forest stewardship plans for the three tracts.
- B. Financial match for the conservation easement will be provided through in-kind contribution from the private landowners at 25 percent of the appraised value.
- C. Landowners worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on a wetland restoration project. The landowners have acquired additional parcels and adjusted property lines to collectively maximize the extent of protected forest lands.
- D. Status of Transaction/Due Diligence A level 1 environmental assessment has been completed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- E. Landowners are eager to complete conservation easement promptly. Multiple community partners support project. Appraisal of BMT was recently completed.
- Supporting parties include: Fremont–Winema National Forest, Klamath Basin Audubon Society, Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust, Klamath Bird Observatory, Klamath County Museum, Klamath Lake Land Trust, Klamath Sustainable Communities, Klamath Watershed Partnership, Lomakatsi, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon University, The Klamath Tribes, The Nature Conservancy and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

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