

Wildfire Ready Trout Lake

Issue 4 | April 2023



“Good Fire” on the Mt. Adams Landscape

Flash back a few centuries, and the forests blanketing the eastern slopes of the Cascades—those that surround what we now call the Trout Lake Valley—would look very different to you than they do today. Most notably, many of the forest types common to this region were an estimated [half to a third as dense](#) as they are today. Why? Much of this landscape (particularly its drier, pine-dominated forests) evolved with frequent, low-intensity fire that cleared brush and dry needles from the forest floor without causing heavy damage to wildlife and larger trees. Some fires were ignited by lightning, and many others [ignited by indigenous Americans](#) (in our area, mainly the [Yakama and Klickitat peoples](#)) to maintain food and cultural resources.

The true importance of fire to this region became abundantly clear when we took it away. With suppression of regular, low-intensity burns (and the stifling or outright banning of cultural burning), fire-adapted forests over the last century have become overstocked and less resilient to pests, drought, and disease. Built-up fuels set the scene for massive, high-intensity wildfires.

One of the most effective and cost-efficient methods to restore forest health and protect public safety is to [return “good fire” to the landscape](#). This prescribed fire is the planned, professional application of fire in the right place, at the right time. Written “burn plans,”

developed by trained and certified personnel, outline specific objectives (e.g., reduce hazardous fuels, improve wildlife habitat, thwart invasive species) while considering temperature, humidity, wind, vegetation moisture, and smoke management. In combination with mechanical treatments around homes and across landscapes, prescribed fire is a vital tool to engender wildfire resiliency in human and non-human communities alike.

Want to learn more (or even bring good fire to your property)? Find upcoming opportunities under “Monthly Action Item” and “Upcoming Events,” or contact us directly (see left).



Mt. Adams Resource Stewards staff assessing conditions during a test fire preceding a prescribed burn on the Mt. Adams Community Forest.

Upcoming Events

Apr. 23: Wilder than Wild at Trout Lake Hall

Free film screening hosted by FACT. *Wilder than Wild* discusses how the proactive use of prescribed fire can reduce reliance on reactive fire suppression. Followed by a Q&A about prescribed fire with local partners.

When: Sunday 4/23 at 6:30 pm

Where: Trout Lake Hall

Film trailer: [Click here](#)

Apr. 29: Wildfire Prep Week Community Picnic!

Help us kick off Trout Lake Wildfire Preparedness Week with a community gathering. Come for wildfire mitigation resources AND good times with neighbors!

When: Saturday 4/29, 3:30-6 pm. Presentations start at 4:00.

Where: 35 Lonesome Pines Drive Park on the side of the road. BYO picnic food and chair!

Contact Us

If you have questions or want to be added to our email list, please contact:

Sarah Allaben, 440-497-8224

sarah@mtadamsstewards.org

Monthly Action Item

Sign up for Mt. Adams Resource Stewards’ **Learn & Burn workshop** May 18-20, 2023! This three-day event (though you can also register for just one or two days) will include guest speakers, hands-on skills practice, and prescribed fire implementation on the Mt. Adams Community Forest. [Click here](#) for more info and registration.

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from:  Mt. Adams Resource Stewards

For more information, visit: mtadamsstewards.org

Fire Adapted Community Trout Lake (FACT) is a community-led group dedicated to increasing awareness about wildfire risk in Trout Lake and facilitating the work necessary to mitigate that risk. Your FACT committee members are: Daina Bambe, Sharon Frazey, Bob Jolley, Lucas King, and Jim White.