

The Principles of Agreement for Active Conservation: A Snapshot




Forest Bridges' Principles of Agreement are living, evolving, and rooted in collaboration and trust that began in 2015. They are viewed as reasonable among our partners and approved by the Forest Bridges Board of Directors.

Forest Bridges aims to shift the management paradigm across the 2.9 million acres of O&C lands and public domain lands of western Oregon managed by the BLM, as well as controverted lands managed by the US Forest service. We believe that Active Conservation -- continuing active and let-grow management strategies -- can benefit forest health and increase fire resilience to


- Protect legacy trees & support the progression of forest aging over time
- Sequester more carbon and add biomass
- Decrease the risk of destructive wildfire AND
- Address climate change impacts & promote forest sustainability

We look to Cultural Burning practices, partnering and co-management with Indigenous Tribes on their terms, as also integral to our proposals.



The Present Condition of O&C Lands differs greatly from precolonial conditions due to the removal of Indigenous people, fire exclusion, and past forestry activities and inactivity.

Our management vision & recommendations are based on applicable federal laws, including the O&C Act of 1937. Forest Bridges' approach to sustained yield is to pursue the outcomes of sustained and renewed diversity of sensitive and multi-species habitats across the O&C Lands through Active Conservation.



Short-Term Risks for Sustained Healthy Forests and Habitats: Actions that create short term risks should be weighed against the long-term potential for beneficial outcomes for species habitats, carbon storage and climate change.

PRINCIPLES OF AGREEMENT SNAPSHOT (CONT.)

Dry Forests in SW Oregon need immediate site-specific density and fuels management. The aim is to restore historical widely spaced, fire-resistant stands and forest structure for multiple and sensitive species. After thinning, use low intensity fire and other tools to reduce fuels. Keep wildfire at low to moderate intensities on 95% of acres burned.

Moist Forests, coastal and inland, will be managed to regularly create complex early seral habitat with legacy while increasing toward the goal of 50% structurally complex old growth forest. Variable retention regeneration harvests in younger age classes will leave 25-40% of existing stands.

A Transitional Forest Strategy, intermediate between the Moist and Dry Forest Strategies, should also be developed.

Monitoring and Adaptive Management: sustaining robust monitoring and integrating collaborative input into adaptive management changes are critical to successful long-term forest management for sustainability. Forest Bridges promotes applying seasoned professional experience, time-honored Indigenous knowledge and practice and cutting edge Western Science to management actions.

Post Wildfire Recovery: Future Forest Plans shall anticipate entry into burned stands following stand replacement wildfire with the flexibility to relocate planned green forest harvest acreage allocations into the forest plan anywhere on agency-managed O&C lands.

Addressing Barriers: Legal consistency, regulatory (e.g., flexibility using fire) and financial barriers to sustainable forest management on the O&C Lands will need to be addressed, along with safe and inclusive public access.

Restoration of Subsurface Groundwater Flows through road relocation, retaining public and private access.

Sustainability Funds: Covering the cost of Forest Bridges' proposed management approaches for the O&C Lands will require reallocations (e.g., a portion of fire response funding as wildfire risks reduce) and additional "21st century Active Forest Conservation" appropriations, on top of current agency budgets.

Framework: The O&C Lands to remain under Federal ownership, with continuing revenue distribution consistent with the Federal O&C Act of 1937.

Continue and improve cooperative agreements with adjacent landowners to recognize and address inclusive public and private lands access, firefighting/management needs and landowner liability safeguards. Habitat improvements on non-O&C Lands would be voluntary and require federal funding for commensurate compensation.

The complete set of Forest Bridges Principles of Agreement is available on the "Home Page" of our website: www.forestbridges.org

Please Consider Becoming a Friend of Forest Bridges while you're there!