

# “The State of our Forests” Conference: California Klamath-Siskiyou Fire Learning Network

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July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> - Weaverville, Trinity County, CA

## *Our Situation*

As we near the end of the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the health of our region’s forests and communities hang in the balance. The effects of our forest and fire management legacies, coupled with the mounting influence of climate change, are contributing to frequent and significant wildfire events and impacts across the region. Meanwhile, our rural communities are experiencing social and economic stress and decline under the weight of a recession not of our making. All of this is taking place amidst a changing policy and budget climate with a new administration in Washington and with new leadership emerging at the land management agencies that are responsible for such a large portion of our landscapes.

It is in this context that we must come together to forge a path forward for our region that will help us get a handle on forest health, manage and live with fire in these landscapes, continue to protect the wildlife that depends upon our ecosystems, and help lift our communities up with an elevated role as stewards of the Klamath-Siskiyou region.

## *The Event*

We envision this two-day event as building on the long history of collaboration and partnership in this region, and on outstanding past learning and networking events, such as last year’s “Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium” convened by the Mid Klamath Watershed Council in Orleans, CA. We hope to accomplish the following:

- *Share learning from the 2008 fire events around the region*
- *Explore our current scientific understanding of regional fire ecology in the contexts of forest and fire management, climate and ecosystem services*
- *Share examples of existing and emerging approaches to landscape-scale forest and fire planning that are being, or could be, applied in the Klamath-Siskiyou to yield better conservation and community outcomes*
- *Explore opportunities for stronger partnership and collaboration in upcoming forest and fire planning efforts*
- *Set partnership goals for future planning, development and networking opportunities in the CA Klamath-Siskiyou region through the Fire Learning Network*

## *The Partners*

We can all acknowledge that landscape-scale conservation and community wellbeing in the complex Klamath-Siskiyou cannot be accomplished without strong collaboration, cooperation and coordination. At this conference we hope to bring together the following communities, institutions, agencies and partners seeking new synergies and solutions:

- *Local counties and communities, Tribes, Fire Safe Councils, and Watershed Councils*
- *Federal Agencies, Forest Service R5, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity and Klamath NF, Bureau of Land Mgt., Natural Resource Conservation Service, Resource Conservation Districts, National Park Service*
- *State Agencies, CalFire and Dept of Forestry, State Water Board, Air Quality Mgt. Dist.I, Dept. of Fish and Game*
- *Local and regional conservation and environmental groups*
- *Forest industry, contractors and businesses*