

California Klamath - Siskiyou FIRE LEARNING NETWORK

May 22, 2009

Dear Klamath-Siskiyou Stakeholder,

We would like to invite you to the “State of Our Forests” conference, the first meeting of the California Klamath-Siskiyou Fire Learning Network (CKSFLN). The CKSFLN is a learning network comprised of land managers, practitioners, industry leaders, local communities and county governments, Tribes, local and regional conservation and environmental groups, and fire safe and watershed councils. The “State of Our Forests” conference will be held on July 8th and 9th in Weaverville, CA. Three science panels are scheduled to provide context and create the basis for shared understanding around current forest conditions, fire ecology of the region, and learning around recent local fire events. In addition to the science panels, the USFS will address the group to express their commitment to working in the CKSFLN forum. The Nature Conservancy will share models of successful learning networks they have catalyzed in other regions, and act as mentors as we navigate new partnerships and strengthen existing collaborations. You will have the opportunity to join the CKSFLN and commit to working in the open forum it provides, explore challenges and share ideas and resources, coordinate with existing and potential partners, and determine next steps.

The Nature Conservancy’s Fire Learning Network and The Watershed Center have partnered to convene Klamath-Siskiyou stakeholders. This is an opportunity to engage in land management modeled after the successes of similar groups around the nation. We see the CKSFLN as an opportunity to create the forum for shared learning, transparent dialogue, and collaborative decision making that will allow our region to move forward on forest management issues. With opportunities for local forest planning on the horizon, we hope that the “State of Our Forests” conference will lead to long-term regional partnerships and shared learning through the CKSFLN.

Some of the overarching goals of the CKSFLN are to:

- share our experiences with others working in the region
- commit to working toward decision making in a transparent, open forum
- grow the “middle ground” around forest management issues
- use and share the best available science to inform management decisions
- foster dynamic relationships between network members

This is an opportunity to engage with each other in open collaboration: to work together to define our relationship to the landscape that many of us call home. We hope that the CKSFLN will serve as the regional context in which we partner to steward the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion by providing you with the resources, networks, and opportunities to do your best work. Please share this invitation with your colleagues and partners that are working to conserve and manage the local landscape.

We look forward to working with you to grow the CKSFLN. Please RSVP to the “State of Our Forests” conference before June 15th by calling The Watershed Center at 530.628.4206, or email us at wrtc@hayfork.net. The agenda and logistical information will be available in June. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Nick Goulette
Deputy Director
The Watershed Center

