

# Project saved homes from fires, but can it be duplicated?

## Buffer zone around Sisters

By ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press

SISTERS — Lightning started a forest fire one August afternoon near this tourist town, and it was spreading fast. Residents in outlying areas evacuated as flames marched toward their homes.

Just a few months earlier, the U.S. Forest Service and a group of locals representing environmental, logging and recreational interests arranged to thin part of the overgrown forest, creating a buffer zone around Sisters.

Workers removed trees and brush with machines, then came through on foot to ignite prescribed burns. That effort saved homes, and perhaps the community of 2,500 on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Range, by slowing the fire's progress and allowing firefighters to corral it.

Scrutiny of the condition of the American West's forests, and of policies that curtailed logging and suppressed wildfires, has intensified amid a devastating wildfire season that has burned a com-



Alexandra Steinmetz/Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project  
The thinning of forests in central Oregon has saved homes amid one of the most devastating wildfire seasons in the American West.

bined area bigger than Maryland and caused widespread destruction in California's wine country.

Until the advent of aggressive fire suppression at the turn of the last century, forests were historically shaped by low-intensity blazes, with the flames clearing underbrush but not killing tall trees. Forests across the West are now so overgrown they've been called powder kegs.

### Normally bitter enemies

The work by the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project in central Oregon, where towns and subdivisions sit in a green ocean of Ponderosa and lodgepole pines, shows the potential of forest thinning. And it shows how loggers and environmentalists — normally bitter enemies — can join forces.

But it also highlights the challenges of replicating the

forest thinning across the West, where a lack of timber workers and money are among the obstacles.

On a recent morning, Forest Service fire manager James Osborne drove into a section of the Deschutes National Forest outside Sisters that was thinned in May. Widely spaced Ponderosas were blackened to twice the height of a person. But higher up, the bark retained its normal orangey

color. Needle clusters shone vibrant green in the sunshine. Four deer trotted through dappled sunlight. This part of the forest looked healthy, not despite of, but due to, the prescribed burn.

"Ponderosa pines are used to low-intensity fires," Osborne said. "Every five to 15 years, a fire would come through. We're trying to take it back to low-intensity fires."

California's situation is different because its wildfires have generally ignited in chaparral — brush that naturally grows densely packed, said Andrew Latimer, plant expert at the University of California, Davis. The temperate coniferous forests that burn in large wildfires elsewhere are historically less dense.

It is the goal of the Deschutes Collaborative, one of 23 projects in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program created in 2009 by Congress, to restore central Oregon forests to their natural state. Overcoming suspicions and stereotypes was one of its first hurdles.

Deschutes Collaborative member Marilyn Miller, an environmentalist, and former member Chuck Burley, who then worked for an Oregon

sawmill, used to call each other names, Miller recalled during a recent tour of Deschutes Collaborative projects. But they got to know each other in Bend, home to more microbreweries per capita than anywhere else in America.

"I hate to say this, but beer really is a good conversation starter," Miller said. "We would sit and talk. We learned we're real humans with real concerns, and what we care about isn't that far apart."

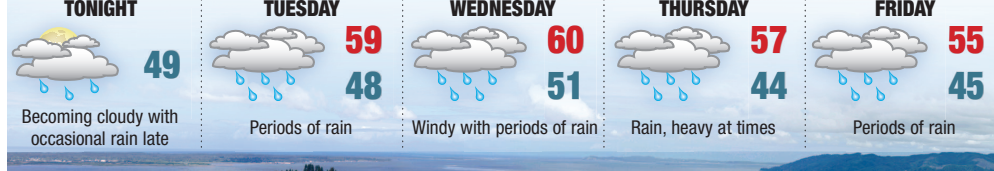
Burley, who's now employed with the Forest Service, said the Deschutes Collaborative made recommendations on where and how much to thin, and the Forest Service almost always adopted them.

"They had a consensus, a starting point," Burley said in a phone interview.

### Governor's support

Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, applauds collaborative efforts, including the Good Neighbor Authority under which states can organize restoration of federal lands. Under the programs, a mill removes the timber after agreeing to buy it at a certain rate. The proceeds stay local, helping finance more restoration.

## FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



### ALMANAC

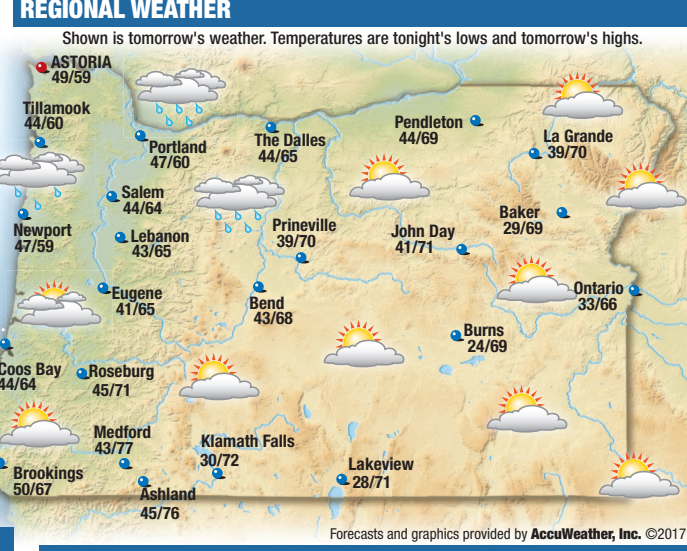
Astoria through Sunday.

**Temperatures**

High/low	64°/37°
Normal high/low	61°/44°
Record high	78° in 1954
Record low	32° in 1992

**Precipitation**

Sunday	0.00"
Month to date	1.23"
Normal month to date	2.20"
Year to date	54.44"
Normal year to date	42.44"



### SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight: 6:27 p.m.  
Sunrise Tuesday: 7:35 a.m.  
Moonrise today: 4:01 a.m.  
Moonset today: 5:26 p.m.

Phases: New, First, Full, Last

Oct 19, Oct 27, Nov 3, Nov 10

### UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Tuesday morning low in the east, the waning crescent moon is near Mars.

Source: Jim Todd, OMS

### TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

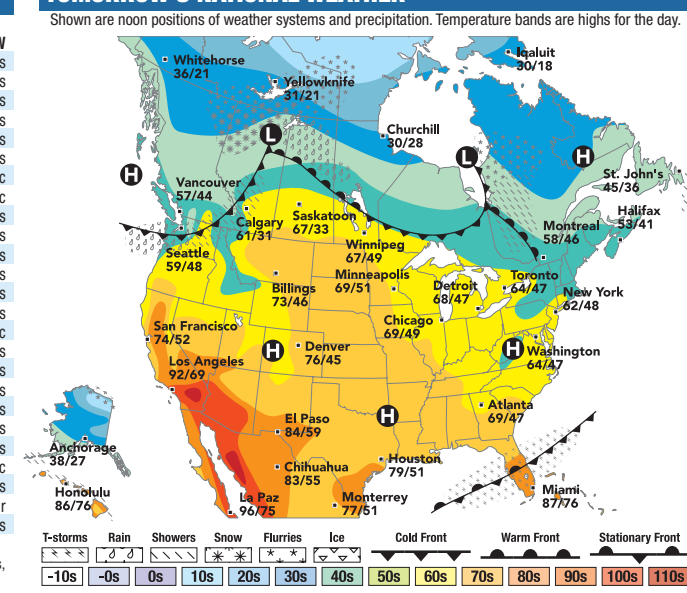
Time	High	Time	Low
12:34 p.m.	8.7 ft.	6:22 a.m.	0.1 ft.
none		6:49 p.m.	0.3 ft.

### REGIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Tues.	W	City	Hi	Lo	W	Tues.	W		
Baker City	66	29	s	69	38	pc	Olympia	65	48	pc	59	45	r
Bend	73	43	pc	68	46	pc	Pendleton	71	44	s	69	51	pc
Brookings	68	50	pc	66	50	c	Portland	67	47	pc	60	51	pc
Eugene	68	41	pc	65	49	c	Roseburg	74	45	pc	71	47	c
Ilwaco	58	50	pc	57	50	r	Salem	69	44	pc	64	52	r
Klamath Falls	74	30	pc	72	30	pc	Seaside	61	48	pc	57	51	r
Medford	80	43	pc	77	43	pc	Spokane	62	45	s	59	43	pc
Newberg	68	44	pc	62	51	r	Springfield	69	43	pc	67	51	c
Newport	60	47	pc	59	51	r	Vancouver	67	46	pc	60	52	r
North Bend	64	45	pc	64	52	c	Yakima	71	38	s	70	43	pc

### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	69	49	r	69	47	s
Boston	60	42	pc	57	47	s
Chicago	62	46	s	69	49	s
Denver	76	42	s	76	45	s
Des Moines	66	48	s	71	50	s
Detroit	58	42	pc	68	47	s
El Paso	78	54	s	84	59	pc
Fairbanks	32	22	c	33	23	c
Honolulu	86	76	pc	86	76	pc
Indianapolis	61	43	s	66	45	s
Kansas City	68	47	s	70	50	s
Las Vegas	84	59	s	88	63	s
Los Angeles	95	66	s	92	69	s
Memphis	67	46	s	72	50	s
Miami	89	76	t	87	76	pc
Nashville	65	43	s	70	43	s
New Orleans	75	58	pc	76	64	s
New York	64	45	s	62	48	s
Oklahoma City	69	44	s	74	48	s
Philadelphia	65	43	s	62	46	s
St. Louis	65	47	s	71	48	s
Salt Lake City	65	43	s	72	44	pc
San Francisco	83	56	s	74	52	s
Seattle	64	51	pc	59	48	r
Washington, DC	66	45	s	64	47	s



## Small earthquake reported near Vernonia

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office did not respond to any emergency situations related to the quake and classes at Jewell School were not delayed this morning.

A similar size quake hit Warrenton early last November. The 3.5 magnitude quake passed with barely an impact on the community. That quake was felt most strongly in Warrenton, Astoria and the southern portion of the Long Beach Peninsula in Washington state.

## MEMORIAL

**Friday, Oct. 20**  
NIKKILA, Richard Lloyd — Visitation from 1 to 5 p.m., Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary, 1165 Franklin Ave. An online guest book is available at [www.caldwellsmortuary.com](http://www.caldwellsmortuary.com)

**Saturday, Oct. 21**  
NIKKILA, Richard Lloyd — Funeral at 11 a.m. in the chapel at Ocean View Cemetery, 575 18th St. in Warrenton, with a graveside service to follow.

## ON THE RECORD

**Assault**  
• At 9:26 a.m. Friday, Henrique Keen, 55, of Seaside, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department on the 1500 block of Lea Way and charged with fourth-degree assault. He allegedly slapped a woman in the face during a domestic dispute.

**DUI**  
• At 10:06 p.m. Saturday, Noreen Lebo, 57, of Astoria, was arrested by the Astoria Police Department on the 5300 block of Lief Erikson Drive and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving.

## DEATHS

**Oct. 13, 2017**  
NEWLAND, Judith Darlene, 81, of Seaside, died in Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory of Astoria/Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

**Oct. 12, 2017**  
MILLER, Mary G., 98, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory of Astoria/Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**MONDAY**  
**Knappa School Board**, 5:30 p.m., Knappa High School library, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.  
**Jewell School Board**, 6 p.m., Jewell School library, 83874 Oregon Highway 103.  
**Astoria City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

**TUESDAY**  
**Astoria City Council**, 9 a.m., work session on strategic planning, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.  
**Port of Astoria Commission**, 4 p.m., Port offices, 10 Pier 1 Suite 209.  
**Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council**, 4 to 5:30 p.m., 800 Exchange St., Room 430.

**Seaside School District Board of Directors**, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin, Seaside.  
**Seaside Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.  
**Shoreline Sanitary District Board**, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

## LOTTERIES

**OREGON**  
**Sunday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 2-4-3-8  
4 p.m.: 8-1-8-9  
7 p.m.: 0-0-5-2  
10 p.m.: 9-8-2-8  
**Sunday's Lucky Lines:** 02-08-12-15-19-23-25-31  
Estimated jackpot: \$14,000  
**Saturday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 4-5-1-1  
4 p.m.: 7-8-0-1  
7 p.m.: 7-5-2-8  
10 p.m.: 6-1-2-4  
**Saturday's Lucky Lines:** 04-08-11-14-18-24-27-31  
Estimated jackpot: \$12,000  
**Saturday's Megabucks:** 2-8-10-29-40-45  
Estimated jackpot: \$8.6 million

**WASHINGTON**  
**Sunday's Daily Game:** 1-8-8  
**Sunday's Keno:** 02-08-12-13-16-20-22-24-31-38-43-52-53-54-59-61-62-63-73-76  
**Saturday's Match 4:** 7-16-19-23  
**Saturday's Daily Game:** 1-2-3  
**Saturday's Hit 5:** 1-16-19-21-36  
**Saturday's Keno:** 02-19-20-21-22-27-29-30-32-35-40-47-55-60-62-63-67-68-71-76  
**Saturday's Lotto:** 1-18-26-34-44-49  
Estimated jackpot: \$1.6 million  
**Saturday's Match 4:** 7-10-11-17  
**Friday's Daily Game:** 0-8-9  
**Friday's Keno:** 01-07-10-19-20-22-35-37-41-46-47-49-51-52-53-55-60-66-75-80  
**Friday's Match 4:** 13-16-20-22

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