

Working on Your Land

Preparing your property for wildfire can take a lot of work depending on its size and your desired goals. Forestry professionals conduct treatments to help reduce the amount of fuel (grasses, needles and shrubs) within a forest. Fuel treatments include thinning and pruning trees and prescribed burning. While some of this work can be done on your own, sometimes you may need professional help.

Before hiring a forestry professional, below are a few questions that can help you prepare for your visit and develop a plan for your property.

What do I have?

- Walk through your property and describe what you see. What kinds of trees and plants are present as well as the quantity and condition?
- Map out important features including streams, drainages, and roads.

What do you want to do with it?

- Think about your reasons for owning the land. What do you want your land to look like and be used for over the long term?
- Identify goals that are most important to you.

What assistance is available to you?

- Find out what people and programs are available to help you, including local experts and agencies, neighbors, grants, and cost-share programs (See page 20).

What is your action plan?

- Create a project list, breaking down large goals into smaller, more manageable tasks.

Tips on how to choose a forester:

- Call several foresters before you decide on one and request references from previous jobs.
- Choose someone whose style and approach to forest management is compatible with yours.

Did you know?

The Rogue Valley is home to one of the most active forestry and wildfire protection service industries in the country and the Latino community constitutes a majority of this workforce. This important work often comes at a cost—forest workers are at high risk of injury, are often paid less than a living wage, and disproportionately experience other equity issues including wage theft. **Lomakatsi Restoration Project's Promotora Program** provides forest workers with practical information they need to keep themselves safe on the job. Promotoras de Salud (or Community Health Workers) meet with forest workers around the community to deliver training and offer safety resources, primarily in Spanish. The Promotora Program gives a voice to the highly skilled and specialized forest workers who, on a daily basis, make our communities safer from the risk of severe wildfire and enhance wildlife habitat. For more information, check out Lomakatsi's website: <https://lomakatsi.org/>.



PHOTO: LOMAKATSI RESTORATION PROJECT

Lomakatsi's Promotora Program conducts trainings on forest worker safety and workplace rights. After each training, the Promotoras de Salud pass out their contact information in case the workers have questions or concerns.

For a full list of forest contractors visit:

Southern Oregon: <https://mysouthernoregonwoodlands.org>

Northern California: <https://www.clfa.org/resources> or contact the Northern California Society of American Foresters: 1-800-738-8733

Permits and Procedural Steps to Burning on Your Property

Josephine County

- Determine if you live inside or outside the [‘The Rogue Valley Burn Control Area’](#)¹. Call the Air Quality Program Coordinator at 541-474-5325 to find out.
- Contact your local Fire District or ODF to obtain a burn permit. Follow permit requirements. If you are within the City of Grants Pass, call the city at 541-450-6200.
- Permits can also be obtained on the Illinois Valley Fire District website: <https://ivfire.com/>
- Call the open/barrel burn advisory at 541-476-9663 to hear the daily predicted ventilation index and burn status.

Jackson County

- Determine if you live inside or outside [‘The Air Quality Maintenance Area’](#)².
- Contact your local Fire Department to obtain a burn permit. If you don’t know which fire district you live in, see the [map of fire districts](#)³.
- Call the open/barrel burn advisory at 541-776-7007 to hear the daily burn status.

Curry County

- Contact the Coos Forest Protective Association at 541-247-6241 to obtain a burn permit.
- If you live within city limits, call your local fire department.

Del Norte County

- Burn permits can be purchased or renewed online: <http://www.ncuaqmd.org/index.php?page=burn.portal>.
- Automated burn day status information can be obtained by calling 707-443-7665.

Siskiyou County

- Burning of a 4-ft high by 4-ft square pile does not require a permit. To burn more piles, you must obtain a non-agricultural burn permit by calling: 530-842-8123.
- If you have more questions, call the Air Pollution Control office: 530-841-4025.

1. Google search: ‘Rogue Valley Burn Control Area Josephine County’
2. Google search: ‘Air Quality Maintenance Area Jackson County’
3. Google search: ‘Fire districts Jackson County’

When Burning:

- Have the right tools: McLeod, drip torch, water source (hose, backpack).
- Check your local weather. Do not burn if strong winds or low humidity is forecasted.
- Make sure slash piles are not close enough to damage or torch adjacent trees.
- Slash piles should have a dry ignition point: use a 3’x3’ piece of slash paper to create a dry spot in the pile. Put in the paper when the pile is about half built and then cover with more slash.
- **Do not burn during wildfire season.**



Slash paper in the middle of a burn pile helps keep debris dry for easy ignition.



A propane torch is used to set fire to slash piles and conduct prescribed burns.

PHOTO: RICH FAIRBANKS

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