The Mt. Adams Community Forest Project

Jay McLaughlin, Executive Director
Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
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- 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2004
- Mission “to promote sustainable connections between the land, local economies and rural communities of the Mt. Adams region…”
- Governed by an eleven member board that reside in our operating area
- Currently two full-time staff, two seasonals
“There is growing evidence that local-based entities are as good, and often better, managers of forests than federal, regional and local governments.” (White and Martin, 2002 Forest Trends Report)
What could be better?

- Greater sharing in wealth of forest resource at local level
- Long term, sustainable management that supports jobs in local communities in various sectors
- Access to land, non-timber forest products and by-products of timber harvest (mushrooms, firewood, hunting opportunities, etc.)
- Land ownership structure that places greater value on community values and input from participants that interact with the forest on a daily basis
- Bottom-up vs. top-down/bureaucracy laden approaches
# Mt. Adams Community Forest Project Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Steps</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2012</td>
<td>1. project development</td>
<td>strategic planning, landscape analysis, community outreach, build network</td>
<td>$150K</td>
<td>complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2013</td>
<td>2. demonstration model</td>
<td>100-1000 acre purchase(s), stewardship demonstration</td>
<td>$1M</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013-2016</td>
<td>3. capacity buildout</td>
<td>development staff, administration staff</td>
<td>$300K</td>
<td>planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014-2024</td>
<td>4. forest acquisition</td>
<td>capital campaign, acquisition of ~5000 acres</td>
<td>$10M</td>
<td>planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011-2024</td>
<td>5. longterm stewardship</td>
<td>resource revenue of $500-700K/year, funds organizational capacity stewardship/restoration</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
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</tbody>
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Mt. Adams Community Forest
critical elements and barriers

- Filled a void that no other approach or entity offered
- Community engagement = community support
- Partnerships
- Realistic goals
- Patience

- Local lack of familiarity with community forest model and cultural norms
- Regional lack of familiarity with community forest model and loss of forestry “social license”
- Absence of state support
- Ultra-competitive timberland markets and diminishing inventory of harvestable timber that can service debt, etc.
- Issues with creative tools that could help close gaps (NMTC’s, ecosystem services)
Graphic courtesy of Nils Christoffersen/Wallowa Resources