

Butte Falls Community Forest Project

Goal: Develop an innovative approach to stewardship of forest lands that will become a model for how rural remote forest communities can use their forests to develop sustainable economies.

Objectives

- 1. Sustainable economy.** We strive to create economic opportunity AND promote the health of our forests. We will --
 - a) purchase the timber land surrounding the town – (391 acres) south section after logging, north section (Butte Creek Falls) before logging. We will explore grant opportunities to acquire the land.
 - b) create jobs by sustainable timber harvesting; utilizing small, low-value tree products (firewood, Christmas trees, wood carving) and engaging in non-wood forest product gathering like mushroom and berries. Forest activities will provide modest incomes and local jobs.
 - c) increase industrial capacity by adding 5-7 acres to the enterprise zone for water bottling plant expansion and new industrial activities.
 - d) develop tourist activities by implementing “The Butte Falls Mill Site Development Feasibility Study” developed with Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Cultural Solutions, and the Bureau of Land Management creating a park at Butte Creek falls including historic interpretation, environmental education, camping sites, picnic tables, and hiking trails. In partnership with the Southern Oregon Railway Historical Society develop an historic railway tourist train from the Landing to the cemetery and create a railroad logging museum.
- 2. Sustainable community.** We are passionate about living close to nature in a remote rural environment. We will --
 - a) adopt resilient forest practices to return forests to a healthy state and prevent catastrophic fires that could endanger the town and surrounding timberlands.
 - b) increase the potential for town growth by expanding the urban growth boundary and our residential zones.
 - c) develop management structures for the project in partnership with environmental, recreational development programs. We will utilize democratic process that will engage the public in land management decisions such as a non-profit board with management. Our priorities will be guided by public listening sessions and town/school as advisory committees.
- 3. Sustainable Knowledge.** Develop the skills, research and knowledge to engage in long-term stewardship of our forests. We will—
 - a) create a land lab for Butte Falls Charter School’s natural resources education program.
 - b) offer a series of field trips for schools and colleges in the region.
 - c) provide research opportunities in woodland management, non-timber forest product development and marketing, stream fisheries management and carbon retention .