



# Lakeview Stewardship Group

WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE JOBS, RESTORE OUR FORESTS  
AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE



## What is the Lakeview Stewardship Group?

Formed in 1998 to restore the 500,000-acre Lakeview Federal Stewardship Unit in the Fremont-Winema National Forest, the Lakeview Stewardship Group is an award-winning collaborative effort that includes conservationists, timber workers, local government officials and other civic leaders. In 2005, the group completed a long-range management strategy for the Unit. The successful collaboration between members of this group has become an inspiration and model in forest conservation by incorporating ecological restoration and community values in land management goals.



Jack and Jenny Buttes

## A Common Vision for Healthy Forests

The Lakeview Stewardship Group's long-range strategy reflects a common vision developed by the group members:

*A sustainable forest that will ensure quality of life for present and future generations.*

The primary goals for the Stewardship Unit are to:

- Sustain and restore a healthy, diverse and resilient forest ecosystem that can accommodate human and natural disturbances
- Sustain and restore the land's capacity to absorb, store and distribute quality water
- Provide opportunities for people to realize their material, spiritual and recreational values and relationships with the forest

The strategy builds on regional and local studies, including a multi-year monitoring program conducted by Lakeview-area high school graduates.

## Accomplishments

The Lakeview Stewardship Group has made considerable progress toward achieving the goals of the Lakeview Federal Stewardship Unit. Recent accomplishments include:

- Designed, funded and implemented a holistic forest monitoring system
- Increased thinning and prescribed burning to reduce fuels and restore more natural fire conditions in the Unit
- Installation of a small diameter log mill, helping to sustain 100 local jobs
- Construction planned for a biomass energy plant to better utilize thinning treatments
- Formation of the Lake County Resources Initiative, a non-profit organization, to promote workforce training and sustainable economic development
- Decommissioning of unneeded roads to improve wildlife habitat and water quality and to reduce maintenance costs



Fremont Sawmill

The Collins Companies  
 Concerned Friends of the Fremont/Winema  
 Defenders of Wildlife  
 Fremont/Winema National Forest  
 Lake County Chamber of Commerce  
 Lake County Resources Initiative  
 Lakeview High School  
 Lakeview Ranger District  
 Oregon Department of Economic & Community Development  
 Oregon Wild  
 Paisley Ranger District  
 Sustainable Northwest  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 The Wilderness Society  
 Local Citizens

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## Steps to Restore Our Forests

### Fire Protection Projects

Decades of aggressive fire suppression and old-growth logging have created dense forests and a greater risk of severe fires. The long-range management strategy recommends more thinning and prescribed burning in the Unit to solve the fire and fuels problem.

### Restore Water Quality

Past road building and grazing have changed stream flows, altered vegetation and degraded stream banks. The strategy proposes closing unnecessary roads to benefit big game and improve water quality and stream habitats.

### Control Invasive Species

Juniper trees and invasive species such as cheatgrass are spreading rapidly in the Unit, harming native grasses, aspen groves and other important habitats. The strategy addresses this concern by calling for restoration efforts to eliminate non-native, noxious species and address grazing, roads and off-road vehicle concerns that contribute to the spread of these invasive species.

### Improve Recreation Opportunities

The Unit offers many recreational opportunities that contribute to the quality of life that local residents and visitors enjoy in Lake County. As federal funding for recreation declines, some campgrounds and other recreation sites are put in jeopardy. The strategy will improve opportunities for people to fish, hunt and view nature while preserving campgrounds and recreation facilities that residents enjoy today.

### Provide Economic and Community Benefits

The communities of Lake County have struggled to maintain and diversify their economy. Lake County's remote location and lack of transportation options pose special difficulties for economic development. Building a biomass energy plant is a promising opportunity to improve the local economy and help accomplish ecologically beneficial thinning projects within the Unit. This strategy should also help keep local existing industry, such as the Fremont Sawmill, viable into the future.

## Testimonials

*Like many other western rural communities, Lake County has been affected by shrinking timber supplies on federal lands. What's different here is the collaborative effort to redefine our land management goals in a way that nurtures and sustains the special relationship this community has with the national forest. I think it could become a successful model for other places that are looking for ways to restore forest health and create local jobs.*

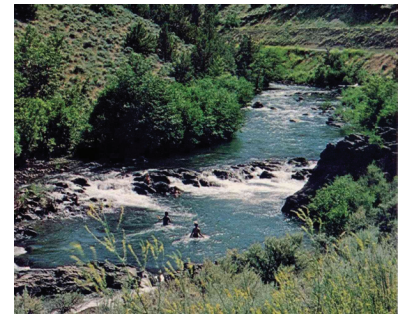
Jane O'Keeffe, Former Lake County Commissioner

*The emotional health of a community is dependent on its being able to be engaged and effective in determining its future. Economic health will mirror the emotional health of a community. A community that continually fights change but has no control over it will suffer emotionally – all of the way down to the children in school. Part of our goal within the community was to figure out where the management of the forest was going and be a part of that rather than fighting the change. Some big risks were taken by all of the participants of the Lakeview Stewardship Group. It has been a successful and very powerful collaboration. But the final measure of success is not in the concept but rather what ultimately happens in the forest and the communities.*

Paul Harlan, Vice-President of Resources, Collins Pine Company



Site monitoring



Chewaucan River



Lakeview High School graduates conducting soil monitoring tests