

Community Forests: A path to prosperity and connection

MT. ADAMS COMMUNITY FOREST / PINE FLATS

NOTABLE BENEFITS



FOREST-BASED PRODUCTS



FOREST-BASED SERVICES

ACRES: 299

YEAR ESTABLISHED: 2014

OWNERSHIP: Mt. Adams Resource Stewards

MANAGEMENT: Mt. Adams Resource Stewards

COMMUNITY SERVED: Town of Glenwood, Washington

POPULATION: 457

TOTAL ACQUISITION COST: \$800,000

FUNDING BREAKDOWN:



Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

Cost Share

JIM CHOATE / FLICKR



The Mt. Adams Community Forest (MACF) is an initiative of the Mt. Adams Resource Stewards (MARS), which is focused on linking locally driven land and forest stewardship with efforts to sustain and enhance the well-being of several small rural communities in southern Washington. MACF includes the 90-acre Mill Pond Tract near Glenwood Washington that was protected in 2011 as well as the 299-acre Pine Flats forest that was protected in 2014. The Pine Flats acquisition protects productive forestland, reduces wildfire risk, sequesters carbon, preserves the community’s rural character, and provides opportunities for hunting and gathering. MACF has been incredibly successful and is popular in the community. Since the time of this analysis, an additional 576 acres of forest have been added to the community forest, bringing total acreage in this ownership to 965 acres.

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For a comprehensive review of the community and economic benefits provided by this forest and others, go to the full report at www.tpl.org/economic-benefits-community-forests



Supporting the forest products industry: The forest management activities on MACF and the adjoining Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge (CLNWR), which is managed by MARS because of the community forest, provide economic benefits to the local community. Between 2014 and 2017, MARS completed four timber harvests and three prescribed burns on

the MACF that generated **\$610,000** in direct gross timber receipts and contracts for forest management activities. These activities resulted in the equivalent of

5.5 months of full time equivalent employment, which supplements the earnings that logging crews capture each year from other landowners in order to provide full-time, year-round work. Of the four total harvests, 96 percent of the direct effects were due to the Pine Flats Forest. In addition to the harvests on MACF, MARS also oversaw seven harvests on CLNWR between 2013 and 2017. Together, these harvests generated \$26,000 in timber excise tax, paid back to the community. The community also works together to harvest and deliver firewood for local senior citizens in need.



Mitigating wildfire risk: MACF also helps lower risk of wildfire, which in this part of the country poses significant risks to residential homes and agricultural operations. MARS plays a leadership role in the resiliency of their forest from wildfire risk perspective. A recent study found that fuels treatment and restoration activities on MACF reduce the risk of wildfire on the community forest by 20-30 percent. This risk reduction leads to a 1 percent reduction in wildfire risk for the neighboring 10,000 acres, which reduces residential wildfire risk by at least **\$10 million**.

Sequestering and storing carbon: The two tracts together sequester 332 tons of carbon dioxide per year, worth **\$17,000**. The forests also store 23,400 tons of carbon dioxide, valued at **\$1.2 million**. This quantity of storage is the equivalent to offsetting the annual emissions of 72 cars.

Enabling recreation: The community forest provides access for hunting and mushroom harvesting. MARS estimates that their properties are used for approximately 70 hunting days per year, which is worth approximately **\$2,300**.

This project was completed in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and would not have been possible without generous support from the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

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