

Burned Out: Deadly National Forest Fires Now Entering Towns

By Bob Zybach, PhD.



Historic downtown of Greenville, California, which burned in 30 minutes during the Dixie Fire on August 4, 2021. Photo courtesy of Doug Stoy and Green Ribbon Report.

The 2025 Los Angeles wildfires caught everyone's attention because of their size and affected population: 29 people died, more than 18,000 homes and structures were destroyed, and 57,800 acres burned. The location, politics, litigation, and insurance claims associated with this catastrophic event will likely be in the news for many years to follow for those reasons.

Compare this with the 25+ towns, 124 fatalities, 31,000+ homes and structures lost, and 4,327,600 acres burned from 2018 through 2024 in northern California and western Oregon within the bounds of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). And consider these were not the only acres and structures burned during those years in NWFP lands -- just the ones that burned

into towns.

More towns have burned in National Forest wildfires in the last seven years -- and mostly in NWFP territory -- than had taken place in the entire US over the previous 100 years -- a lot more. How did this happen? And how to fix?

This article is not intended to be a memorial for these towns and affected residents; rather, it is a much

Table 1. NWFP Wildfires Entering Towns, 2018-2024

Year(s)	Wildfire(s)	Fatalities	Structures	Acres
2018	Camp	85	18,804	153,336
2018	Carr	8	1,881	229,651
2020	August Complex	1	935	1,032,648
2020	North Complex	16	2,455	318,935
2020	Oregon Labor Day	11	4,950	1,140,000
2021	Dixie	1	1,424	963,309
2022	McKinney	4	196	60,138
2024	Park	0	709	429,603
2018-2024	TOTALS	126	31,354	4,327,620

hoped-for action plan to help repair these communities and to resume active management of our public roads and forests to reduce wildfire damage for their benefit and for the benefit of all US citizens.

1897 Organic Act: In The Beginning

In 1897 Congress passed the "Organic Act" to manage and protect the recently created US Forest Reserves. The bill was signed into law by President William McKinley and has never been repealed. The guiding principal of the Act remains fairly well-known to this time, and has been the stated theoretical basis to all subsequent US Forest Service (USFS) planning:

"No public forest reservation shall be established, except to improve and protect the forest within the reservation, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States."

A lesser-recognized portion of the Act also states it was "for the purpose of preserving the living and growing timber and promoting the younger growth on forest reservations" -- and, in that regard, authority was given to "designate and appraise so much of the dead, matured, or large growth of trees found upon such forest reservations" for sale at "not

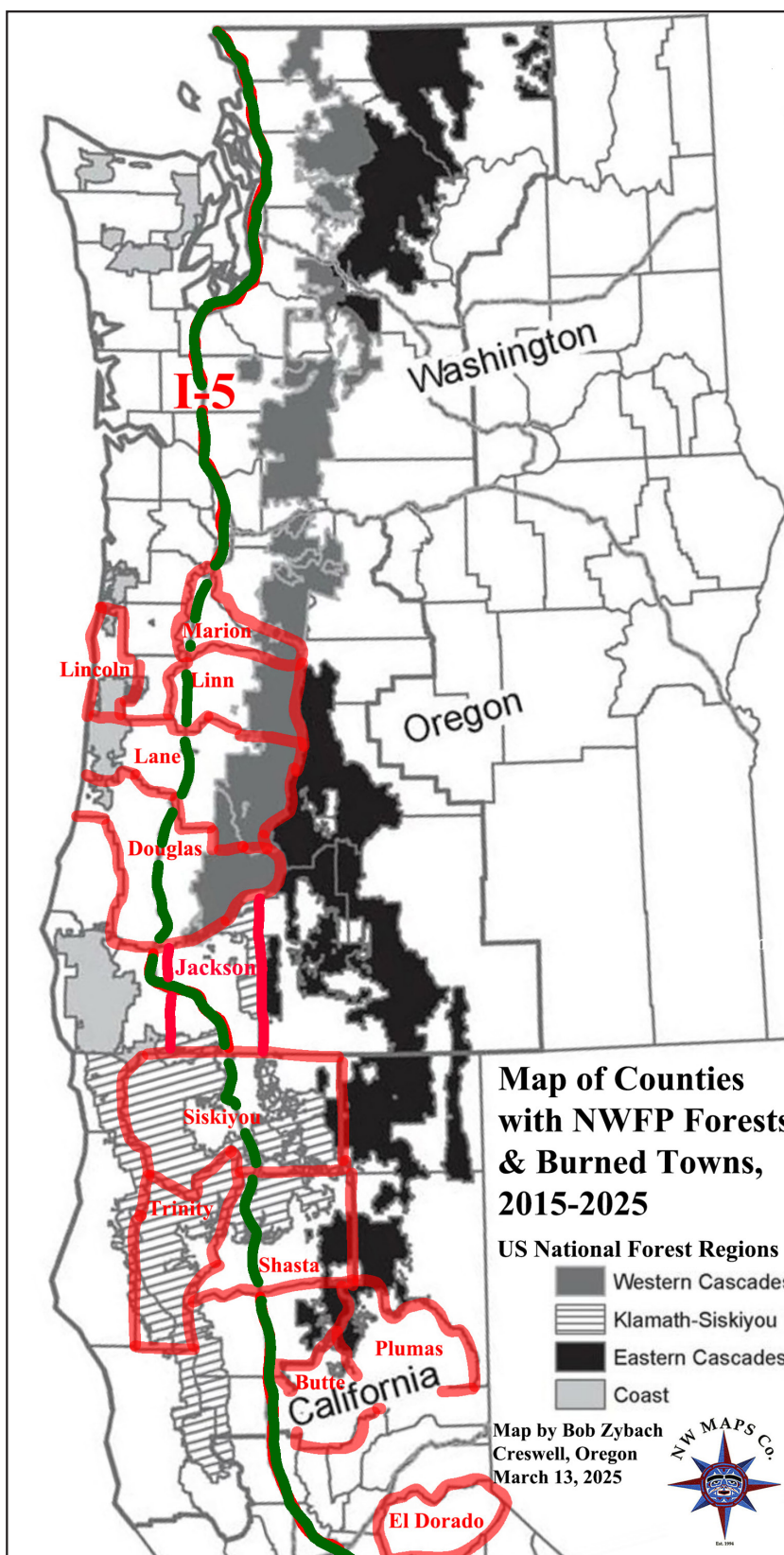
less" than the appraised value, under the sole condition it couldn't be "exported" to another State or Territory.

In a nutshell, "living and growing timber" was intended to be "preserved," "younger growth" was to be "promoted," and a "continuous supply" of "dead, matured, or large" trees were to be sold at market value: "For the use and necessities of citizens of the United States."

In 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt created the USFS by transferring 56 million acres in 60 Forest Reserves from the US Department of the Interior (USDI) to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). His good friend and collaborator, Gifford Pinchot, was put in charge of the new agency as its first "Chief."

Roosevelt signed HR Act 460 on February 1, 1905. On the same day James Wilson, the Secretary of Agriculture, sent Pinchot a letter outlining the basic principles and public-service policy the new "Forest Service" was to follow. Key excerpts included: "In the ad-

ministration of the Forest Reserves, it must be clearly borne in mind that all land is to be devoted to the most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people and not for the temporary benefit of individuals or companies . . . You will see to it that the water, wood, and forage of the Reserves are conserved and wisely





These before and after pictures show the destruction to historic Greenville buildings; several more than 100 years old, and some even having survived the 1881 Greenville Fire 140 years earlier. At that time the town had a population of 500; before the Dixie Fire it was 1100. Greenville was founded as a Gold Rush town in the 1850s and acquired a trading post in 1862. Principal occupations transitioned from mining to logging in the mid-1900s. Photographs courtesy of Doug Stoy and Green Ribbon Report.

used under business-like regulations enforced with promptness, effectiveness and common sense."

And, "... Where conflicting interest must be reconciled, the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." By 1910, Pinchot had been able to

expand the agency to 150 National Forests covering 172 million acres when everything changed.

1910 Fires: Course Change

The year 1910 was when the mission, focus, and budget of the USFS was dramatically changed. An estimated 1700 spot fires were driven together with unex-



The remains of Greenville, following the Dixie Fire, with Indian Valley and unburned portions of Lassen National Forest in the background. These photographs of Greenville were originally published in the Green Ribbon Report, the newsletter of the Family Water Alliance, Inc. (FWA), based in Colusa, California. They are selected from a series of photographs taken and collected by Doug Stoy, who lost his home in the fire. Permission to republish the photos was given by the newsletter editor, Nadine Bailey, who is also Chief Operations Officer of FWA.

pected hurricane-force winds for six hours and burned and uprooted 3 million acres of forestland, destroyed several railroad towns from Montana, through Idaho, and into Washington, and killed 86 people -- mostly firefighters under the direction of the new US Forest Service.

The 1910 Fires galvanized the new agency into action and its mission became "fire prevention" above all else. Funding, research, and a great expansion in personnel took place. In 1915 the first fire lookout tower was built on Mt. Hood, and by the 1930s nearly 8000 were in operation across the US, connected by a functional network of roads, pack trails, and telephone lines.

The mission and focus became to spot and extinguish wildfires in USFS lands as quickly and completely as possible. By 1935 the "10 a.m. policy" was firmly in place, with the "rule" that all fires were to be extinguished by 10 a.m. the following day. With the advent of WW II, airplanes and smokejumpers were added to the firefighting effort.

This system became remarkably effective over time. From 1952 until 1987, only one forest fire in all western Oregon was greater than 10,000 acres; the 1966 Oxbow fire was 42,000 acres in size, and it took place on USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Land, not USDA Forest Service.

But things began to change in the 1960s and 70s. Forest fires were increasingly seen as past events from earlier times and focus changed to Wilderness areas, endangered species, riparian buffers, critical habitat, and Deep Ecology. In 1964 the Wilderness Act was signed into law and created 54 areas over 13 states, including the Kalmiopsis in southwest Oregon.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was enacted in 1966. On December 22, 1969 Congress enacted the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and a short distance away on the same day, 50 other lawyers were incorporating the Environmental Law Institute (ELI).

In 1973, Congress passed a completely rewritten ESA, revised to "protect critically imperiled species from extinction" and including "the ecosystems upon which they depend." The new law distinguished "threatened" from "endangered" species; allowed listing threatened species in just part of their range; allowed listing of plants and invertebrates; authorized unlimited funds for species protection; and made it illegal to kill, harm, or otherwise "take" a listed species. In effect, "the law made endangered species protection the highest priority of government."

In 1978, the Forest Service officially abandoned the 10 a.m. policy, marking a significant shift in strat-

egy from fire suppression to "fire management." This approach included "allowing naturally caused fires to burn" and "the use of prescribed fires." The stated intent was to "return fire to the land."

The Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) was enacted in 1980 to authorize the payment of attorney's fees "and other expenses" to a prevailing party in legal

the Siskiyou National Forest. More than 96,000 acres burned in all, making it the largest forest fire in western Oregon since WWII and the 1945 Tillamook Fire; fully two generations of residents earlier. Lawsuits followed.

In 1990, the northern spotted owl was listed as "threatened" under the ESA. A federal judge placed an injunction on all timber sales in spotted owl habitat



There was a total of 18 aging "trailer parks" and more modern "mobile home estates" destroyed in the towns of Talent and Phoenix between Highway 99 and Bear Creek Greenway during the Almeda Drive Fire on September 8. This videoclip by McKenzie Peters, NW Maps Co., shows the remains of Rogue Valley Mobile Park on October 26, 2020.

actions against the United States. The Act was initially designed to aid very small businesses and poorer citizens, but an odd loophole allowed wealthy "nonprofit" environmental organizations to hire costly legal teams to sue the government at taxpayer expense. Which they did, in dozens of subsequent "environmental" lawsuits.

NEPA, the ELI, the ESA, and EAJA had formed the perfect strategy for environmental organizations to file series of lawsuits to "stop clearcutting" and "preserve old-growth," and "save spotted owls" by ending logging on public lands. The lawsuits, funded by taxpayers, were generally successful and the "Timber Wars" soon developed between litigious environmentalists and the forest industry, creating bitter feelings between the factions, and widespread unemployment and business failures in affected rural communities.

Then, in 1987, more than 42,000 acres of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness burned in the Silver Complex Fire in

until forest managers could "produce a plan to ensure preservation of the entire ecosystem." More lawsuits followed.

1993 Clinton Plan: Environmentalism

In the 1980s and 90s there had been a lot of interest in such concepts as "preserving old-growth forests," "maintaining spotted owl habitat," and "riparian enhancement." These concepts were typically rationalized by untested "ecological" theories of "steady state ecosystems" and idealistic descriptions of such circumstances as "non-declining, even-flow, naturally functioning" forests and grasslands.

The conflict initially involved commercial sales of old-growth trees on public lands in the Douglas Fir Region. A principal claim was "endangered" spotted owls required old-growth trees to survive. Logging old-growth should therefore be illegal.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton held an all-day public "timber summit" in Portland to address the ongoing "tim-

ber wars" between environmental activists and the forest industry. In his opening speech, Clinton told the crowd he wanted to move beyond confrontation and build consensus "on a balanced policy to preserve jobs and to protect our environment."

Clinton's summit resulted in the formation of FEMAT, or Forest Ecosystem Management Team: a small group of like-minded scientists from Oregon State University and University of Washington: forest ecologists, wildlife biologists, GIS technicians, and economists -- but no foresters, Americans Indians, or affected industries.

Clinton challenged FEMAT to achieve "a balanced and comprehensive policy" that recognized the importance of rural jobs and economies to the region, while preserving "our precious old-growth forests." The single, regional plan was to protect spotted owls and local economies for "100 years," and was based on "five principles":

Clinton's first principle was to "never forget the human and the economic dimensions of these problems," that timber sales be based on "sound management policies," and "where this requirement cannot be met, we need to do our best to offer new economic opportunities for year-round, high-wage, high-skill jobs."

Second was to protect our forests for future generations; third, use sound science; fourth, a "sustainable level of timber sales"; and fifth, "make the federal government work together and work for you."

The FEMAT scientists sequestered themselves for 90 days and produced 10 reduced-timber-sales management options. The President's choice then became the "Clinton Plan For Northwest Forests," and then the NWFP.

In 2002, the Kalmiopsis burned again, in the 500,000-acre Biscuit Fire, which remains the largest forest fire in Oregon history. Then it burned again in the 190,000-acre 2017 Chetco Bar Fire, and a fourth time in the 175,000-acre 2018 Klondike Fire.

The selected plan stipulated one billion board-feet of timber sales a year to support rural communities. Today, less than 10% of the amount is, or ever has been, actually sold.

In each instance, salvage logging, site preparation, and reforestation were either severely limited or entirely stopped by litigation from environmental groups, whose lawyers were then well compensated by US taxpayers. And in each instance, the fuels left behind through these actions only made the following fire burn hotter, create more smoke, and kill even more old-growth and wildlife.

2018 California: Paradise Lost

About 15 years ago, retired USFS forester Bruce Courtwright became very concerned about increasing wildfires and wildfire risks to the communities of northern California, so he helped gather a number of other wildfire experts to collectively address the problem. This



This photograph of the remains of a business on Main Street in Paradise, California, was taken by Frank Carroll of Professional Forest Management with a Solocator GPS camera, which records the exact time, location, and direction of documentary field photos. While surveying and recording the destruction of Paradise, Frank noted: "The Camp Fire burned the town in a single burning period. Homes, businesses, schools, fire stations, community buildings, restaurants, and government buildings burned to the foundations across the city. Clean-up and PFAS soil mitigation had not begun. Surveying the destruction, we were struck by the uniform sense of PTSD among residents, government workers, service workers, and emergency personnel. The Camp Fire was a fire bomb cyclone, impervious to suppression efforts and moving so quickly people died in their homes and their vehicles and were isolated on foot. Much of the overhead tree mast in large conifers survived intact, indicating a fast-moving ground fire with radiant and convective heat moving horizontally to the ground. Planned emergency egress and warning systems utterly failed to protect residents, as did an almost universal disregard for Firewise planning and zoning, which appears to have been disregarded to the present day as people rebuild traditional structures and inadequate emergency ingress and egress."

group eventually became known as the National Wildfire Institute (NWI).

In 2016 NWI wrote a formal letter to incoming President Donald Trump expressing strong concerns regarding the increased wildfire risk, and with expert recommendations on how to fix the problem. The paper was titled, "Our Dying National Forests: A Disaster or Perfect Opportunity for Bold Action by a New President." The paper was widely distributed, published by Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities, and then ignored and not even acknowledged.

The following year, 2017, California suffered the worst wildfire losses in its history as more than 3,000 homes burned in the city of Santa Rosa, more than 191,000 acres burned in the northern Sacramento Valley vineyards and farmlands, and 42 people were killed.

In 2018 things became worse.

2018 Camp Fire. The 2008 Butte Lightning Complex burned 50 homes in Cancow, but the town had been largely rebuilt. Ten years later, on November 8, a wind-driven wildfire came out of Feather River Canyon and within six hours totally destroyed Cancow and Paradise, killing 85 people and doing heavy damage to Maglia, Pulga, and Butte Creek Canyon. More than 153,000 acres burned, Pacific Gas & Electric was held liable, paid \$13.5 billion in damages, pled guilty to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter, and went bankrupt.

2018 Carr Fire. The Carr Fire started near Whiskeytown Lake on July 23 when a trailer had a flat tire and the wheel's steel rim began sparking on the asphalt, igniting dry weeds along the highway. Three days later it burned into the town of Redding, causing the evacuation of 38,000 people. The fire caused a 143 mph, 18,000-foot "fire whirl" to develop in town, causing heavy "tornado-like" wind damage and further spreading the fire. The town of Keswick was completely destroyed, Old Shasta State Park heavily damaged, and six people died, including two firefighters.

2020 August Complex. The August Complex began as 38 separate lightning fires on August 17 that combined to burn over a million acres, making it the

Table 2. California NWFP Towns Burned in Wildfires, 2018-2024

County	National Forest	Year	Wildfire	Town
Butte	Plumas	2018	Camp	Concow
Butte	Plumas	2018	Camp	Magalia
Butte	Plumas	2018	Camp	Paradise
Shasta	Shasta-Trinity	2018	Carr	Keswick
Shasta	Shasta-Trinity	2018	Carr	Old Shasta
Shasta	Shasta-Trinity	2018	Carr	Redding
Butte	Plumas	2020	North Complex	Berry Creek
Butte	Plumas	2020	North Complex	Feather Falls
Trinity	Shasta-Trinity	2020	August Complex	Forest Glen
Trinity	Six Rivers	2020	August Complex	Ruth
Plumas	Lassen	2021	Dixie	Canyondam
Plumas	Lassen	2021	Dixie	Greenville
Siskiyou	Klamath	2022	McKinney	Klamath River
Butte	Lassen	2024	Park	Cohasset

largest wildfire in California history. The fire primarily burned in the Mendocino National Forest but also burned the small communities of Ruth and Forest Glen. One firefighter was killed and two injured.

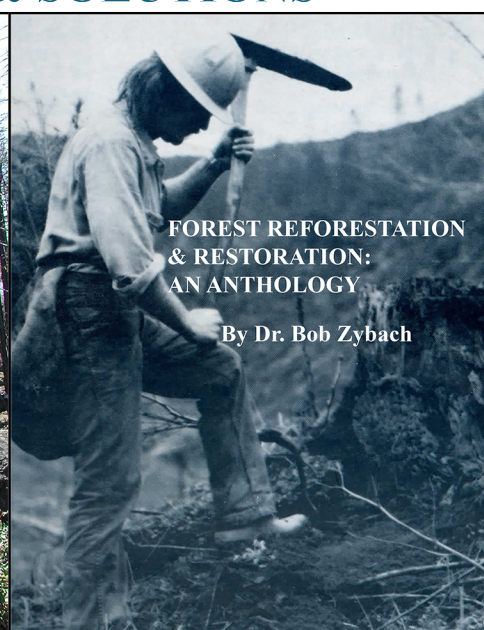
2020 North Complex. The North Complex also started as 21 separate fires ignited by the August 17 lightning storm. A USFS "firing operation" backfired on September 8 when strong winds caused the fire to "blow up" and leveled the towns of Berry Creek and Feather Falls. More than 318,000 acres burned, 16 people were killed, and more than 100 injured. Toxic fumes from the fire inundated Quincy and other nearby communities for weeks.

2021 Dixie. The Dixie Fire began in Feather River

PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS



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Canyon on July 13 and eventually burned more than 963,000 acres. It is the first wildfire known to cross the Sierra Nevada and leveled the towns of Greenville on August 4, Canyon Dam on August 5, and Warner Valley on August 12. An ex-criminal justice professor, Gary Maynard, was arrested and convicted for setting arson fires in conjunction with the Dixie Fire and sentenced to a five-year prison term.

2022 McKinney. The McKinney Fire started on July 29 in the Klamath National Forest, burned 60,000 acres along the Klamath River, and destroyed the town of Klamath River. The fire burned through areas previously burned in the 1955 Haystack Fire and the 2014 Beaver Fire. The fire killed four people and "tens of thousands of fish" in the river and its tributaries.

2024 Park. The Park Fire started on July 24, possibly as a result of arson by Chico resident and ex-convict Ronnie Stout II, who set his mother's car on fire and rolled it over a cliff. The fire burned more than 429,000 acres, more than 700 homes and other structures, and heavily damaged the town of Cohasset.

2020 Oregon: The Labor Day Fires

While California towns have been burning in NWFP wildfires since 2018 at a frequency of every one or two years, all of the Oregon towns damaged or destroyed by National Forest wildfires the past 20+ years took place in just four days. With three days of sustained east winds beginning on the evening of Monday, September 7, 2020,

nearly a dozen major wildfires in western Oregon burned through more than a dozen towns, killed 11 people, destroyed more than 4,000 homes, caused 40,000 emergency evacuations, killed millions of wild and domestic animals, and blanketed much of the state with a thick, acrid smoke that obscured the sun for days.

Because September 7 was a Labor Day, these tragedies became known as the Labor Day Fires. The fires also burned more than a million acres of land, much of it in old-growth and merchantable timber, making them the most catastrophic wildfires in Oregon history, by a very wide measure. The destroyed towns were burned in five of the named fires, described below, and located in five different counties within four National Forests: Rogue River/Siskiyou, Siuslaw, Umpqua, and Willamette.

When the towns, counties, fatalities, and NWFP Forests that burned in the 2020 Labor Day Fires are considered in combination with 2020 California's North Complex and August Complex Fires, the numbers are startling: 28 deaths, at least 16 towns destroyed or severely damaged, and nearly 2 1/2 million acres of burned forestland -- in only two months, seven counties, and seven National Forests.

When considered in combination with all of the other fires in the NWFP region and in the rest of the US, 2020 must be considered one of the worst Fire Years in the Nation's history -- on par with the 1910 Fires and 1881.

Santiam Fire. This was the deadly convergence of



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three fires that had started with August 16 lightning strikes on the Warm Springs Reservation and on the Opal Creek and Mount Jefferson Wildernesses in the Willamette National Forest and blew up with the Labor Day east winds. The fire devastated the towns of Detroit and Gates, with roughly 80% of homes and businesses burned. More than 1,500 structures in the Santiam Canyon were destroyed, including significant damage to the towns of Idanha, Mill City, and Lyons. A total of 402,000 acres burned and five people were killed.

Archie Creek Fire. Much of the fuel in the 131,500-acre Archie Creek Fire was provided by the standing snags remaining from the 2009 Williams Creek, 2015 Cable

Crossing, and 2017 Fall Creek Fires. There is evidence the Fire may have actually started in the Williams Creek snags. The resulting fire was so hot that virtually all plants and animals within the fire's perimeter perished. One person also died and more than 400 homes were destroyed, including several in the towns of Glide and Idleyld Park.

Holiday Farm Fire. This fire started near the Holiday Farm RV Resort in Rainbow on the evening of September 7, ignited by falling powerlines. From there it traveled west down the McKenzie River Valley, destroying or doing great damage to the towns and communities of Blue River, Finn Rock, Nimrod, and Vida. One person was killed, 517 homes destroyed, and 173,000 acres burned.

Almeda Drive. A 41-year old arsonist, Michael Jarrod Bakkela, was arrested for setting fires and

possessing meth on September 8, the day the Almeda Drive Fire killed three people, destroyed 2,400 homes, burned 5,700 acres, and did serious damage to the towns of Phoenix and Talent. These were the only two towns burned during the Labor Day Fires that were not associated with a National Forest. Rather, principal fuels



The Detroit Highway Market with Gene's Meat Market and gas pumps was a popular local landmark on Highway 22 at the corner of Breitenbush Road. It was a well-known stopping place for many of the hunters, boaters, fishermen, and other recreationists who regularly visited Detroit. The market was destroyed in the Santiam Fire on September 9, along with most of Detroit and Gates, and with significant portions of Idanha, Mill City, and Lyons. Photo by McKenzie Peters, NW Maps Co., November 21, 2020.

were provided with the overgrown "buffer" of Himalayan blackberries along the Bear Creek Greenway, and by aging "trailer parks," mobile homes, and RVs sandwiched

Table 3. Oregon NWFP Towns Burned in 2020 Labor Day Fires				
County	National Forest	Year	Wildfire	Town
Douglas	Umpqua	2020	Archie Creek	Glide
Douglas	Umpqua	2020	Archie Creek	Idleyld Park
Jackson	Rogue River/Siskiyou	2020	Almeda Drive	Phoenix
Jackson	Rogue River/Siskiyou	2020	Almeda Drive	Talent
Lane	Willamette	2020	Holiday Farm	Blue River
Lane	Willamette	2020	Holiday Farm	Finn Rock
Lane	Willamette	2020	Holiday Farm	Nimrod
Lane	Willamette	2020	Holiday Farm	Vida
Lincoln	Siuslaw	2020	Echo Mountain	Otis
Marion	Willamette	2020	Santiam	Detroit
Marion	Willamette	2020	Santiam	Gates
Marion	Willamette	2020	Santiam	Lyons
Marion	Willamette	2020	Santiam	Mill City

between the I-5 and Highway 99 firebreaks. Bakkela later pleaded guilty and was given 11 years.

Echo Mountain. A large part of the coastal town of Otis burned, along with a portion of the Siuslaw National Forest, but the entire fire was among the smallest of the Labor Day Fires at 2,600 acres.

There were no fatalities, but 293 homes were burned, and PacifiCorp settled a lawsuit with 403 plaintiffs for \$178 million.

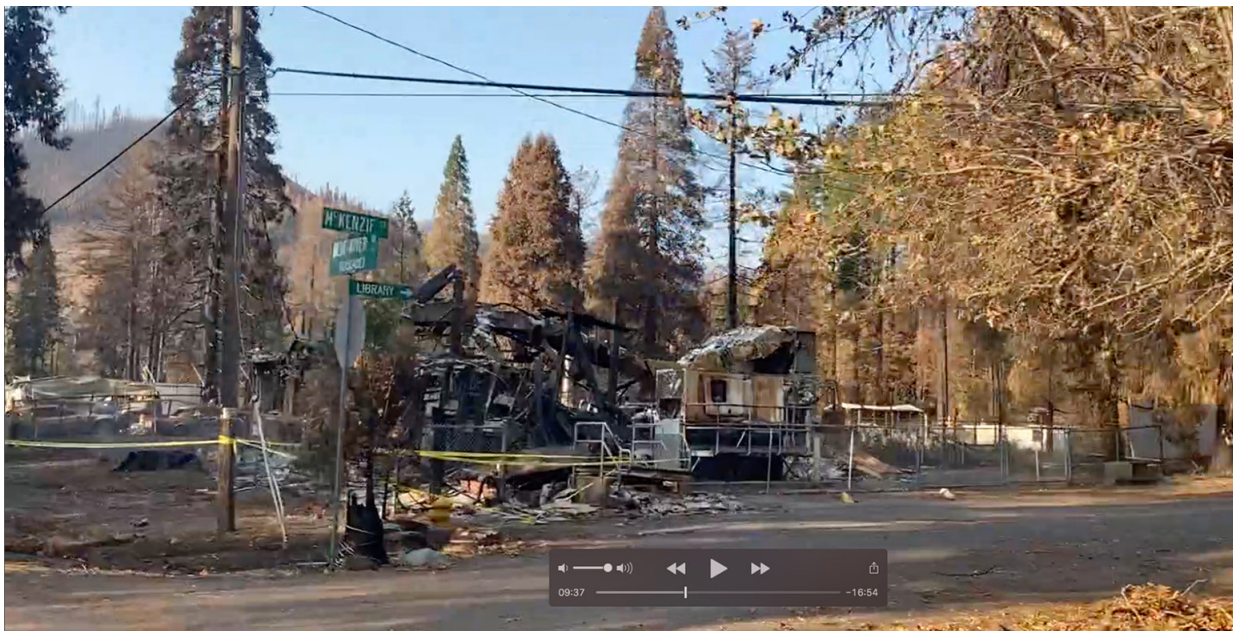
Conclusions & Solutions

Whether intended or not, the US Forest Service has been systematically destroying our public forests and rural communities with fire the past 35 years on physical, economical, biological, and aesthetic levels. Hundreds of people have been killed, tens of thousands of homes destroyed, businesses have gone bankrupt, schools have gone broke, millions of acres of old-growth and tens of millions of wildlife have been killed, deadly smoke has filled our cities for weeks, and somehow there is no accountability -- and all expenses have been covered by taxpayers.

This can be fixed. Our parents and grandparents showed us how. Put an end to these catastrophic wildfires so much as possible; salvage the dead trees as quickly as possible and turn them into building materials for new homes and fuels to heat them; maintain the roads and trails; plant new trees for the next generation; and pick up after yourselves. Then with the money you make, pay your taxes, buy a home, build a school, donate a park, and take a vacation. All documented in publications, film, video, memories, and photographs.

For too many years we've been fed the political propaganda ("science") that a "healthy" forest is full of lots of big snags, big logs, and a "multi-layered canopy" of biodiversity connecting the earth to the highest old-growth canopies. Endangered plants and animals everywhere, safe at last. In such an "idealized" environment, man is a pathogen -- a transitory visitor who leaves no trace and only visits occasionally.

This is one of the most misleading, deadly, and



McKenzie Street and Library sign in Blue River, destroyed in the Holiday Farm Fire on September 7. On November 16, 2024 the Grand Opening of the rebuilt and volunteer-operated Frances Obrien Memorial Library was held in a new location. It marked a very significant day in the recovery of Blue River. Video-clip by McKenzie Peters, NW Maps Co., October 6, 2020.

costly falsehoods imposed by a central government on its rural populations since Russia had Lysenko take over wheat production. Maybe not as deadly for people, but certainly worse for wildlife, and far more costly. And the same "science"-driven process.

Dead and dying trees are signs of a dead and dying forest, as has been clearly observed and documented the past 35 years. For thousands of years before then, the surest sign of a healthy forest was one that was regularly visited and inhabited by healthy human populations.

This can be fixed. We just need to follow the law by returning to the Organic Act of 1897, the Forest Service principles and mission of 1905, the 1935 10 a.m. policy, and the Multiple-Use, Sustained-Yield Act of 1960. And go from there. Start with a clean slate and fix this mess for future generations.

We can start by returning to active management of our roads, trails, and forests, with a focus on preserving the remaining old-growth, restoring our ruined forests, and carefully monitoring our wildlife populations.

The experts on rebuilding our damaged towns, restoring our dying forests, and maintaining our roads and trails are the people rebuilding the towns, managing the local forests, and keeping our roads and trails in good shape. They're the experts -- not the university professors, government bureaucrats, or even the elected officials that have steered us to this result.

In my world, our schools, roads, forests, and visitors should all be managed at the county or river level, with local businesses and residents. There is a lot of work to be done, it will take thousands of people to do it, and long-term, local contracts could be the start.

