



FOREST BRIDGES

THE O&C FOREST HABITAT PROJECT

2024 Achievements and 2025 Work Plan

In 2024, **Forest Bridges** boosted its output of relevant Active Conservation Management proposals to the BLM and USDA Forest Service during their many land management planning processes, while maintaining a small staff (of just 2.25 FTE), supported by part-time technical contractors and diverse volunteer bodies, including our decision-making Board of Directors, a Council of Advisors, and Group of Independent Scientific and Ecocultural Reviewers. We also expanded our partnerships across conservation, forest industry, the Tribes and other groups and sectors at the local, regional and national levels. We increased our engagement with and education of the public, launching a special “Youth Bridges to Forest” initiative for young adults (ages 18-29), using educational videos and posts to our newly established social media platforms, and we deepened our dialogue with the Oregon Congressional Delegation and other national, state and local leaders. In the policy-regulatory realm, we participated in the advocacy efforts of a national beneficial fire work group. **Select achievements include:**

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) modeled portions of Forest Bridges’ Active Conservation Management dry forest proposal as the land management agency scoped the draft and completed a final Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the **Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM)**. **Forest Bridges was the ONLY organization that submitted a proposed management alternative to be named (and at length) in the draft and final CSNM EMP/EIS.** We responded to the BLM’s recommended preferred alternative--a 100-year restoration proposal--with sound science- and Indigenous Knowledge-based comments advocating for a more intensive active management approach to address the increasing threat of high-severity wildfire, disease and insects on this ecological wonder. Our last step: a protest of the final RMP/EIS, which maintained what we consider an inadequate plan in the face of growing high-severity wildfires in SW Oregon. *Visit the [“Our Project”](#) page on our website to download a copy, or we can mail one to you*
- In February, we submitted to the USDA Forest Service an Active Conservation Management alternative proposal for the **Forest Service O&C Controversial Lands in the Northwest Forest Plan Area** (500,000 acres on six national forests in western Oregon), as part of **the NWFP Amendment process**. We called for measured, metered all-Lands, ecological forestry management, specific to forest type, integrated with Indigenous Ecological Knowledge and Tribal Forestry Practices (e.g., cultural burning & prescribed fires) and increased Tribal co-management opportunities. *Visit the [“Our Project”](#) page on our website to download a copy, or we can mail one to you.*
 - Our Executive Director Denise Barrett provided live testimony to the NWFP Federal Advisory Committee, and our Tribal Liaison Zena Green participated in several Forest Service-sponsored **Tribal roundtables on both the NWFP and National Old Growth Amendments.**
- In October, we responded to the **USDA Forest Service National Old Growth Amendment Draft EIS** with substantial comments on the merits and recommendations for reconsiderations for the Forest Service’s Preferred Alternative 2 (described as “proactive management”). *Visit the [“Our Project”](#) page on our website to download a copy, or we can mail one to you.*
- In September, Executive Director Denise Barrett and Board Member and retired BLM Or/Wa State Director Ed Shepard presented on Forest Bridges’ Active Conservation Management strategies for the O&C Lands at the **Society of American Forester’s National Convention** in Loveland, Colorado. More than 1,600 SAF members, students and scholars attended the Convention. Earlier in the year, the **SAF Western Forester**

magazine published an article about Forest Bridges' work. Visit <https://www.forestbridges.org/media-coverage> to read the full article

- As part of educating and engaging audiences in western Oregon, as well as growing our public base of support, we launched Forest Bridges' YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram platforms, posting daily content and implementing several educational campaigns. **Our communication efforts using social media, meeting with individuals and groups, participating in events and radio interviews, getting published in local newspapers and topical journals, have combined to yield a fivefold increase in our Friends of Forest Bridges, social media followers and other supporters.**

www.facebook.com/ForestBridgesONC/

www.instagram.com/forestbridgesonc/

www.threads.net/@forestbridgesonc

www.tiktok.com/@forestbridgesonc

www.youtube.com/@ForestBridges

www.linkedin.com/company/forest-bridges-the-o&c-forest-habitat-project-inc

- **Special Initiative:** Developed and launched a new **Youth Bridges to Forest (YB2Forest)** communications project, which aims to educate and engage young adults (ages 18-29) on the work of Forest Bridges, especially the weaving of Indigenous and Western Science in our Active Conservation strategies. Our Tribal Liaison Zena Green, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, supported by technical and creative contractors, produced eight high quality engaging videos that can be found on our new YB2Forest TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram platforms:

www.tiktok.com/@yb2forest

www.youtube.com/@YouthBridgestoForest

www.instagram.com/yb2forest/

- Participated in a national beneficial fire coalition, communicating to Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency the importance of eliminating barriers to beneficial prescribed fire as a vital beneficial treatment tool.
- Updated the Forest Bridges website, including adding a "merch store". *Please consider purchasing an item or two. The modest proceeds help support our program activities. The promotion of Forest Bridges (by wearing or carrying an item with our logo) in the community is priceless and very much appreciated! Find items at <https://forestbridges-shop.fourthwall.com/collections/all>*

Plans for 2025

In 2025, Forest Bridges will (among other work planned or in progress):

- Respond to the **Northwest Forest Plan Draft EIS** (by March 17, 2025). At some point in 2025, we also anticipate that the BLM will issue a call for public scoping of its planning amendment for **the RMPs for the O&C Lands of Western Oregon**.
- Continue **growing our public base of support** (i.e., Friends of Forest Bridges and followers), primarily via social media and in-person public engagements. We're especially excited to **realize diverse youth involvement** in our organization as a result of our Youth Bridges to Forest project.
- Finalize, promulgate and post to our website **revisions to our original Dry and Moist Forest Management Papers**. Host technical meetings and field trips on O&C Lands for collaborative learning.
- Deepen **partnerships** across conservation, recreation, industry, the Tribes, scientists, government and community.
- **Take our work to the next level** by developing and building or working with coalitions around **legislative concepts** to address barriers and create new guidance for effective Active Conservation Management of the O&C Lands of western Oregon. Work in this area will include continuing to build relationships with the Oregon Delegation and possibly other key federal legislators.

Thank you for supporting Forest Bridges!