



**Mt. Hood National Forest, Barlow Ranger District
North and South Fork Mill Creek**

Location:

The project area is located in The Dalles Municipal Watershed, North and South Forks of Mill Creek, on the eastside of the Mt. Hood National Forest in Fire Regimes I and III, and Condition Classes 2 and 3. Hazardous fuel reduction projects for this area are authorized in Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

Purpose:

The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk wildland fire poses to the quality of The Dalles Municipal Watershed and adjacent areas. There are 6,000 acres in the planning area. Initial planning will begin in the fall of 2005. The first HFRA project is slated for an estimated 700 acres.

The current condition of the Watershed and adjacent areas includes overstocked stands and increasing levels of insect caused tree mortality, mainly from mountain pine beetle and fir engraver, contributing to an increase in hazardous fuels.

Stewardship contracting authority will help the forest achieve its vegetation management and hazardous fuels reduction goals to protect the municipal water supply, as well as provide jobs within the community. Specific projects may include timber harvest, prescribed burning and mechanical treatments for fuel reduction, and may also include road de-commissioning, culvert replacement, and wildlife habitat enhancement.

The project will be designed through collaboration with the City of The Dalles, managers of The Dalles watershed, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, adjacent landowners and forest users and local citizens. The forest is contracting with a professional facilitator to guide the collaboration and help facilitate the establishment of a collaborative working group(s). The facilitator will help develop collaborative skills within the working group so the group can self facilitate. A news release will invite other interested citizens to participate.

Partners:

The planning team identified specific organizations and agencies to invite to participate in the collaborative process such as: City of The Dalles Watershed managers, Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, adjacent landowners, and special interest groups.

Contact:

Nancy Lankford, Forest HFRA Coordinator, (503) 668-1663