



Economic and Community Development through the Mt. Adams Community Forest

*Summary of results from the Economic Impacts
of the Mt. Adams Community Forest: 2014-2017*





What are Community Forests?

Community forests are working forests owned and managed by municipalities, government agencies, Tribes and non-profit organizations for the benefit of local communities.

Introduction to the Mt. Adams Community Forest

Founded in 2004, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards (MARS) promotes sustainable connections between the land, local economies and rural communities in the Mt. Adams Region.

Beginning in the late 2000's, MARS and community stakeholders began exploring innovative ways to address concerns around regional forestry trends including: changes in ownership on industrial forestland, loss of traditional public access to forestlands, concerns around forest health and wildfire risk and a lack of opportunity to engage forest management decisions.

From these conversations, MARS decided to explore opportunities to establish a community forest as a way to restore local ownership of important forestlands, improve stewardship of forest resources and engage the community in forest management decisions.

In 2011, the organization completed the purchase of the 90-acre Mill Pond tract as the first piece of the Mt. Adams Community Forest (MACF). This purchase was followed in 2014 by the acquisition of the 299-acre Pine Flats tract.

From 2014-2017, MARS completed four timber harvests and three prescribed burns on MACF properties. These activities produced \$610,000 in gross receipts and contracts. In addition, MARS leveraged its forest management expertise and management to secure stewardship contracts on the adjacent 7,000-acre Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge. These contracts resulted in a further six timber harvests and \$1.1 million in gross receipts and contracts.

In total, these activities paid \$26,000 in timber excise taxes, created approximately 59 months of full-time equivalent (FTE) employment and resulted in a countywide economic expansion of approximately \$8 million.

Community Benefits

389 acres of working forestland protected from conversion

424 acres of community forest and federal lands treated for fuels reduction with prescribed burns

\$1.7 million in revenues generated for supporting living-wage jobs and forest stewardship efforts

\$8 million in countywide economic benefits

59 months of FTE employment opportunities created within Klickitat County

23,444 metric tons of carbon dioxide stored

The 2008 Cold Springs fire on the flank of Mt. Adams started many conversations about local forest health and the potential risks that wildfire poses to the town of Glenwood.

Finding an innovative way to address these concerns was central to the founding of the Mt. Adams Community Forest.



Making it Happen

Organizational Capacity

MARS is a non-profit organization supported by three full-time staff and a three-member seasonal stewardship crew. The organization is overseen by a nine-member board comprised of local community members and regional stakeholders.

MARS Staff

- Executive Director (full-time)
- Stewardship Monitoring and Outreach Coordinator (full-time)
- Stewardship Crew Project Lead (full-time)
- Three Stewardship Crew Members (seasonal)

Community Input

MARS holds an annual community meeting to describe upcoming management and stewardship goals and to collect input and feedback from local residents to inform its decision-making.

With offices at the local grange hall in the heart of Glenwood, staff also make time throughout the year for small and individual meetings about local concerns over regional land use and management.

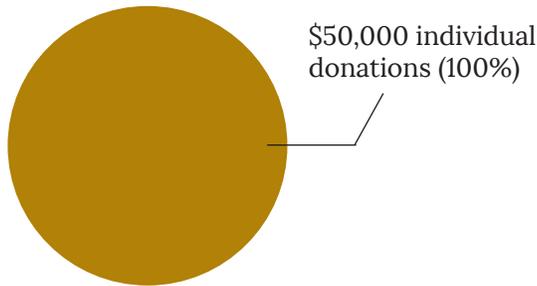


Land Acquisition

MARS secured approximately \$850,000 from the federal government, foundations and private individuals to purchase MACF properties.

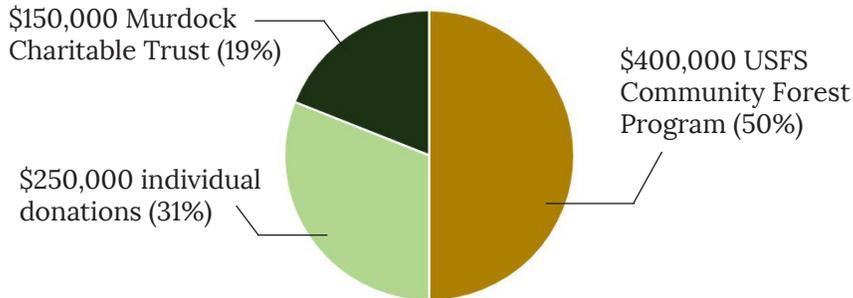
Mill Pond Tract

purchase price:
\$50,000



Pine Flats

purchase price:
\$800,000



Forest Management

The MACF permanently protects working forestlands from conversion and development.

Management goals on the community forest are to focus on improving forest health by reducing fire hazards, creating multiple age-classes within the forest and favoring the growth and development of underrepresented fire adapted ecosystems while continuing harvest activities that support a viable local forest industry.



Timber Harvests and Stewardship: Revenue and Local Jobs

Typical harvests on the MACF are designed by MARS staff to meet the goals of the MACF forest management plan. Local logging contractors are hired to complete the harvest activities. On the Conboy Lake NWR, further guidance on allowable harvest activities is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

MACF:

\$610,000 in timber receipts and contracts

763 MBF* harvested

5.5 months of direct FTE employment

10 months of indirect and induced FTE employment

\$1.78 million in countywide economic expansion

\$6,000 in timber excise taxes

Conboy Lake NWR:

\$2.64 million in timber receipts and contracts

3,588 MBF harvested

18 months of direct FTE employment

35 months of indirect and induced FTE employment

\$6.24 million in countywide economic expansion

\$20,000 in timber excise taxes

* MBF: thousand board feet

Ecosystem Services

Wildfire

Scenario modeling suggests that fuels treatment and restoration activities on the MACF and Conboy Lake NWR provide an estimated \$4.1 million in protection against impacts from large wildfires to the local housing and agricultural sectors.

These activities also reduce public health risk by reducing exposure to harmful emissions associated with wildfire.

Carbon Sequestration

The MACF is a carbon sink, storing an estimated 23,444 metric tons of carbon dioxide. Based on average annual emissions recorded by the EPA, this amount is enough to offset the carbon impacts of 72 cars annually.

Depending on the harvest regime, total carbon stocks on current MARS properties will increase by 20-38% by 2035.

A firefighter in a yellow jacket and orange helmet is working in a forest. The firefighter is holding a red fire extinguisher and a long-handled tool. The forest is filled with tall, thin trees. In the foreground, there is a large fire burning, with bright orange and yellow flames. The background shows a dense forest of tall, thin trees under a clear blue sky.

424 acres treated with
three prescribed fires from 2014-2018

Future Economic Development Opportunities



Future Land Acquisitions

MARS has identified two parcels as near-term acquisition priorities for the MACF. These acquisitions are expected to be completed over the next two years. In total, these properties cover 607-acres. If brought into the ownership and management of the MACF these properties will provide a combined direct and indirect economic benefit of \$14.2 million and 166 months of FTE employment at the median wage rate over a 15-year period.



Stewardship-based Economic Development Efforts

MARS currently holds a lease from DNR on a 10-acre log yard. This area has previously been the site of efforts by the organization to pilot new and innovative ways to utilize sustainably harvested small-diameter wood. While no specific plans for future use of the site have been identified, it remains a goal of MARS to find a way to use the site to incubate new, small, value-added businesses around wood harvested from the MACF and nearby properties.

MARS will also continue its stewardship efforts on the Conboy Lake NWR and in partnership with other public and private landowners to facilitate sustainable timber harvests. This work will also address forest health and wildfire risk within the Mt. Adams area.



**For more information,
please contact:**

Gabe Kaemingk
Department of Natural Resources
gabe.kaemingk@dnr.wa.gov
360-972-0012

Jay McLaughlin
Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
jay@mtadamsstewards.org
509-364-4110