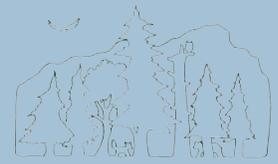




Speak for the Trees



COMMUNITY FOREST PRESERVATION



110 ACRES OF TIMBER LAND CHANGED INTO WILDLAND PRESERVE!

Its been just over two years since the community mounted a perfect storm to successfully stop the logging of 110 acres of private timber lands surrounded by the Rouge River National Forest. Since June of 2012 thousands of volunteer hours and over \$170,000 dollars were raised to purchase 110 acres of steep, wild and beautiful Siskiyou mountain forest from commercial extraction.

A heart felt THANK YOU! goes out to the hundreds of people who donated funds, time, musical abilities, culinary expertise, artistic talents, organizing, travel time and lots of energy in order to save this special piece of land. This was truly a committed community effort.

From the bottom of our hearts and on behalf of the chinquapin, the douglas fir, the incense cedar,

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Inside this issue:

- * Details of success
- * Events: past, present and future!
- * Land update





LAND IN RECOVERY, THE DETAILS OF SUCCESS

Our first major success was a result of a coordinated community effort to stop the logging. The second big win was achieving an expedited non-profit status from the IRS, ensuring that Speak for the Trees could receive two generous and time sensitive matching grants. Last but not least, was the epic purchase agreement meeting between timber baron Merv Spalding, owner of the 110 acres, Neil Koehler, neighbor, SFTT supporter and 4th generation Oregonian, and SFTT representative Lydia Doleman. This meeting hashed out the details of buying the 110 acres over Memorial day weekend.

In our negotiations with Merv Spalding, Neil was a true champion, paving the way to an openness to our offer in not only being such a affable

guy, but as he shared with Merv the trials and tribulations of his father's work as a mill man in the logging industry the tension between the two parties dissipated with Neil's diplomacy and common ground building.

Despite all our attempts to negotiate down, Mr. Spaulding held firm at a whopping \$170,000 for the sale, a full \$14,000 more than what we had negotiated in 2012. Not wanting to have this opportunity pass by and have the price possibly go up in the future, or worse, have Spaulding end negotiations and yard log the property from above where the community would have less power to influence the situation, we agreed to the asking price and were fortunate enough to speedily borrow the remaining funds

from a generous supporter.

Done and done!

As of June of 2014, Speak for the Trees has become the official owner and steward of the 110 acre now wildlands preserve high on the Siskiyou crest! Victory!!!!

With the preserve's first protected winter approaching we are gearing (planning, mapping, inventorying) to get a forest management plan for the preserve in order. A series of fuels reduction parties are planned for

November of this year (see events section for dates and information) and have some upcoming fundraisers planned to help pay off the remaining debt for the land.



Photos clockwise from top left: lightning strike sparks a fire near the preserve, bull thistle invasive in abundance near the area logged, Sam Powell removing invasive species, Grace Powell singing for SFTT benefit, maple growing in the clear cut, remaining trees vulnerable to blow down in the area cleared has occurred.



State of the Preserve: The summer of 2014 was a hot and dry one in Southern Oregon, the latter half colored by smoke filled skies and windy days. A lightning strike started a small fire within walking distance of the preserve. It was promptly put out by ODF firefighters and has put fuels reduction and fire resiliency at the top of the 'to do' list for the preserve. Despite being the hottest, driest year on record there has been a lot of regrowth in the areas most affected by logging. A preponderance of bull thistle and mullein, but interspersed with maple sprouts and other native vegetation. Mountain lion and black bear scat has been seen as well as evidence of elk in the preserve. With the return of the fall rains, mushrooms have been popping up all over the hillside. Despite the damage of 2012 the future is looking bright for this special place in the Siskiyou.



2014 Speak for the Trees Events:

May 14th A celebration of victory!! Music and festivities on the land

July 4th: land hike and invasive species removal

Kids with machetes doing good for the world!

August 1st: Dean Hawn releases SFTT2 a celebration film

October 25th Alice DiMichele, Stevia Corvid and Grace Powell performed at Wilding Center and helped us raise \$1300!

November 16th: Rain or shine 10-5pm Fuels reductions and hotdog roasting on the preserve! Please RSVP to ladystraw@gmail.com so we know how many hotdogs to get!

December 20th in Reno NV at Urban Roots 5pm till late! Danbert Nobacon of Chumbawumba, the Bindlestiffs, and many more for holiday hilarity and lots of feel good items for sale and auction!!!

Help support Speak for the Trees and do your holiday shopping at the same time!

Speak for the Trees T-Shirts! American Apparel: Men's and Women's S-XXL \$20

Custom Made Walnut Cutting Boards!

Lovingly made from salvaged local walnut

Trees. They make great gifts that are exquisite and very durable: \$25 and up

Contact us form more pricing info:

Speakforthetreesoregon.org

