



## Winterization Without Pests!

from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

Rodents love to be warm and cozy in the winter just like we do. They make themselves comfortable in the fiberglass insulation we often see used around the top of well casings.

Fiberglass insulation tends to hold moisture, which can cause mold (you don't want any of this in your drinking water). If you have ever run across a rat's nest I am sure you've noticed they don't keep their nest clean and free of urine and feces. I don't think it is necessary for me to continue to paint this picture. YUCK!

Now is time to make sure your well and water pipes are insulated to prevent freezing. As professionals we recommend that you use foam insulation and keep your pump house above freezing temperatures.

Another solution would be put your pump on a pitless adapter. A pitless adapter is a two-piece pipe fitting that allows well pipe to exit a well casing below the frost line. If you have questions about insulating or just want it taken care of for you, give us a call.

*Water is a geological cocktail, so DRINK MORE WATER!*



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# From fire response to community resilience: An update from Rogue Forest Partners

BY TOM GRECO

For those charged with acting as stewards for the fire-adapted forests of southwest Oregon, the end of the summer wildfire season transitions into a proactive restoration of the landscape and attention to building community resilience. This fall and winter, Rogue Forest Partners will do some ecological thinning and controlled burning in the Applegate Valley and near the towns of Talent, Phoenix, southwest Medford, and Jacksonville. Lead implementation partner Lomakatsi Restoration Project, whose restoration ecologist and technical forestry team have been busy coordinating with landowners and writing and laying out site prescriptions, will oversee operations. Members of their in-house workforce and several contracted local forestry services providers will be putting their hands on the land to make the ecosystem healthier and adjacent communities safer. We're grateful to all these crew members for their skill and dedication, especially after many of them served on wildfire response during a long fire season.

In the Upper Applegate Watershed (UAW) project area, partners anticipate accomplishing about 1,000 acres of ecological thinning on Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest lands this winter.

The removal of overly-dense small-diameter trees and understory brush can help reduce fire severity and promote forest health by reducing issues with insects and disease associated with overcrowding. Partners are also planning to begin 1,300 acres of commercial thinning in UAW. As a Stewardship-based project, any trees with commercial value removed during ecologically-focused treatments will be sold to local mills. Revenue generated from these byproducts of restoration will help offset the cost of the project. In addition to the ecological benefits and the reduction of wildfire risk, this work also supports the local economy by creating and sustaining jobs. Lomakatsi recently led a tour of the commercial project area for interested contractors, with an award anticipated by the new year.

Partners are also accomplishing restoration on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management within the UAW project, including approximately 300 acres of ecological thinning with Lomakatsi in the Star Gulch area and about 407 acres of ecological thinning and prescribed pile burning with Grayback Forestry. The BLM is also working with



Lomakatsi Restoration Project crew members at an ecological thinning project site near Jacksonville.

Photo: Lomakatsi.



Braulio Maya Cortes, Lomakatsi's lead restoration crew manager, thins smaller trees along a roadside near Jacksonville to help reduce community wildfire risk.

the next couple of years. This effort is part of the larger West Bear All-Lands Restoration Project, which spans 27,000 acres of the wildland-urban interface west of Bear Creek and the I-5 corridor from Talent to Jacksonville. Additional ecological fuels reduction and controlled pile burning treatments will be occurring in this footprint through the winter and spring, so residents can expect to see occasional smoke.

Fire professionals follow strict guidelines to conduct prescribed fire operations only on days when the smoke is expected to have minimal impact on communities. We recognize that smoke effects may occasionally happen and thank you for your understanding as we work to reduce the risk of wildfire within our communities.

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Lomakatsi Restoration Project  
*The Rogue Forest Partners (RFP) is a group of four nonprofits and six public agencies working as one for the communities and forests of the Rogue Basin to reduce wildfire risks, enhance wildlife habitat, and create equitable, sustainable jobs. For more information, visit [rogueforestpartners.org](http://rogueforestpartners.org).*

### Sign up for updates

Rogue Forest Partners will provide occasional updates to the community around operations, especially when controlled burning is planned in more visible locations. To stay in the loop, please text "RFPupdate" to 855-594-2793 (or scan the QR code), or follow Rogue Forest Partners at [rogueforestpartners.org](http://rogueforestpartners.org) or on Facebook (@rogueforestpartners).



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