

RECOVERY OF HUMAN COMMUNITIES AFTER WILDFIRE

A McIntire-Stennis supported project
(2022-2025)



Forest fire activity has dramatically increased throughout much of the western US over the past few decades, posing serious challenges to many human communities. As communities recover from these wildfires, they will go through phases, from an emergency period (of rescue and relocation) to rehabilitation (when essential infrastructure is re-built) to reconstruction, when long-term physical and social needs of residents are addressed and the community attempts to rebuild in a way that increases its resilience.

This project investigated the recovery process in three communities in Northern California and Southern Oregon recovering from the 2020 wildfire season. We worked alongside non-profit community organizations at each case study to incorporate community members into the project and to share findings back with residents.



About McIntire-Stennis

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy resilient forests and communities and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.



COLLABORATION

Our non-profit partners included: the Mid-Klamath Watershed Center and Happy Camp Community Center in Happy Camp, CA; the Watershed Research and Training Center in Hayfork, CA; and the Firebrand Resiliency Collective in Talent, OR.



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Community-based non-profit organizations were included as partners in the project.

IMPACT

At each case study, our partners requested different research products, including: a hardcover book with reflections on the fire (Happy Camp), a dinner and information session (Ruth), and an interactive timeline (Talent).



110

Books printed for residents of Happy Camp, CA that contained lessons, stories, and photos from the Slater Fire.



2

Master of Science students have been funded to work on this project.



100+

Community members across cases were interviewed, attended information sessions or field trips, or were otherwise engaged through the project.