

Watershed Council debuts informational video

By Kevin Winter Lake County Examiner

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Along with its partner the Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership — the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council (LCUWC) recently debuted a brand new informational video on its Facebook page.

Autumn Muir, uplands coordinator for the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, said that the video is part of the continuing outreach and engagement with landowners in Klamath and Lake counties in an effort to let them know what LCUWC can do for them and how the organization operates. Muir said that the funding came from an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board stakeholder engagement grant, and while this is the first video that the organization has produced, she does not believe it will be its last.

Muir said that the project began in late in 2019, and has several objectives; including the development of a fact sheet. The fact sheet was mailed to landowners across the County, letting them know about the importance of forest health and what the LCUWC can do to help them to improve forest and range health on their properties.

The other part of the grant funded the making of a short film, in this case around seven minutes, which was shot in 2020 featuring two different landowners. One in Klamath County and the Lintons in Lake County. Each of the landowners in the video talk about how LCUWC or the Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership was able to help them thin out their forested land, remove junipers and improve habitat for local animals. The Lintons said that since part of their property borders Forest Service property, work was able to be done both on their property and the Forest Service property with the groups working together.

Muir said that they worked with a film company named Wahoo, based in Bend, on storyboarding, outlines, and editing. Over five hours of footage was shot, but was trimmed to only a couple of minutes. The Oregon State University Extension Office helped contribute an animated portion which shows the importance of forest health, and why forests need to be thinned to help prevent catastrophic wildfires.

Muir is excited about the overall result, and said that it further contributes to the outreach the organization undertakes. It will help landowners better understand what LCUWC does and how it can help. She said that it is important to get the voice of the landowner involved in the process and be a part of the larger overall vision, and that LCUWC and its partners do not come in and mandate what work will be done.

To watch the video visit the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council Facebook page.

For more information call Muir at 541-817-5649.