

What is Mt. Adams Community Forest?

Working forests have been the lifeblood of many southcentral Washington communities for over a hundred years. Large swaths of private forest were effectively managed, balancing forest health, log supply to local mills, jobs and community access. That all changed two decades ago with the sale of these lands to distant timberland investors managed through private equity firms. Drawing on the experience and success of a number of similar efforts in New England, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards (MARS) along with local residents from rural, unincorporated communities in northwestern Klickitat County worked together to establish one of the Pacific Northwest's first non-profit owned, working community forests – the Mt. Adams Community Forest (MACF).

In 2011, community members and friends of MARS raised funds that provided for the outright purchase of a 100-acre property that includes Glenwood Valley's Mill Pond. This parcel is located at the East end of town heading toward the Klickitat River. In 2014, the forest expanded with the completion of a second acquisition: the 285 acre Pine Flats Forest located along the county highway between Trout Lake and Glenwood.

The Mt. Adams Community Forest strives to permanently protect high community and conservation value forests critical to the quality of life of our region. The properties of the Mt. Adams Community Forest will remain as working forests in perpetuity, lessening the fragmentation that occurs when forest lands are broken up into smaller and smaller parcels.

Management goals are centered around principles of land stewardship, community benefit, and healthy, functioning ecosystems. Such goals recognize the value of sustainably managed forest resources as a renewable source of wood products and jobs, balanced with the provision of habitat for flora and fauna, and public access for recreation activities including fishing, hunting, and firewood gathering when possible.

Management of the forest is the responsibility of MARS staff under the direction of its Board of Directors. Community input is particularly important to the Board, and each year community members provide guidance on management priorities through public listening sessions and direct recommendations from our community advisory committee.

The MACF has become a focal point for a return to sustainable forestry and local jobs; proactive fuels management and use of prescribed fire; educational opportunities for youth and other forest owners; and local control of a beloved resource.