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NEWS RELEASE

FOREST RESTORATION, PARTNERSHIPS BRING LANDSCAPE BACK TO LIFE THREE YEARS AFTER THE SUPPRESSION OF THE CATASTROPHIC BOOTLEG FIRE

Green Diamond Resource Company, Arbor Day Foundation, Klamath Watershed Partnership, contractors and others collaborated to replant 35,000 acres with 9.2 million trees

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (Aug. 15, 2024) – Green Diamond Resource Company’s Oregon Timber Operations marked the three-year anniversary of the suppression of the devastating Bootleg Fire Aug. 15, with reforestation of 35,000 acres within the company’s burned timberlands in Klamath Falls, Ore.

Green Diamond credits its partnership with the Klamath Watershed Partnership, Arbor Day Foundation, local contractors, and others, that led to the planting of 9.2 million trees in the Upper Klamath River Watershed, offering the community a sign of hope for the future.

“When we looked out on the landscape after hundreds of thousands of acres were burned in the Bootleg Fire three years ago, we knew that we had a heavy lift to restore the landscape and waterways. As a community and alongside solid partners, we came together to heal the land,” said John Davis, vice president/general manager, Mountain West Timberlands. “Over three years, Green Diamond alongside partners including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Klamath Watershed Partnership, Arbor Day Foundation and local partners, including the Klamath Tribes and Trout Unlimited, have completed thousands of acres of reforestation and critical waterway restoration. It took an entire community to accomplish this landscape-scale effort.”

The Klamath Watershed Partnership began discussing and prioritizing restoration needs with Green Diamond soon after the fire was out. Thanks to timely funding from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and U.S. Fish and wildlife, and with support from Oregon Department of Forestry, this partnership has been able to address a spectrum of post-fire needs, including removal of hazard trees along more than 200 miles of public roads, treatment of noxious weeds across 1,800 acres, rebuilding of riparian fencing to protect sensitive waterways, restoration of 16 miles of streams to promote recovery of water quality and fish habitat, and reforestation. This work, which will continue for several more years, will not just benefit the ground on which it is conducted. “Given the location and acres of Green Diamond land impacted, we knew that partnership with them was critical to begin watershed recovery at a scale commensurate with the impacts of the fire,” said Leigh Ann Vradenburg, Project Manager for the Klamath Watershed Partnership. “Active restoration is necessary in a fire of this size and severity to begin recovery of the ecosystem structure and functions that affect everything downstream.”

The Arbor Day Foundation provided funding for the purchase of 4,734,603 trees, which offset the costs and allowed local contractors and Green Diamond’s team to tackle the large project of reforesting the 35,000 acres.

“In the wake of natural disaster, trees are a promise of hope for the future. This reforestation project is an investment in the health of the land and the health of the surrounding community,” said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “We’re grateful the Green Diamond team is committed to their role as stewards of the environment and we’re happy to collaborate with them to drive positive impact.”

As restoration work is completed along riparian corridors and in the uplands, Green Diamond has begun forest resiliency, thinning and chipping, as well as the creation of wildfire breaks.

“Having this work behind us is great, but as a sixth-generation company with a long-term view and focus on sustainable forestland management, we are looking ahead at how we plant and manage the lands to mitigate the frequency and impact of future wildfires,” Davis said.

Green Diamond is also working to develop carbon projects in many areas not impacted by the fire to provide alternative sources of income through the sale of carbon credits. This revenue helps to provide the opportunity to continue forest improvement and resiliency work on the timberlands.

The Bootleg Fire, the third-largest wildfire in Oregon’s history, burned a total of 413,765 acres. In the wake of this catastrophic wildfire and the many others that have taken place across the Western U.S., Green Diamond supports the [Disaster Reforestation Act \(DRA\)](#) recently introduced in Congress. The DRA would amend the U.S. tax code to allow forest owners to deduct the value of their timber prior to the loss caused by a natural disaster, giving them a tool that farmers have when their crops are destroyed by a natural disaster.

ABOUT GREEN DIAMOND RESOURCE COMPANY

Green Diamond Resource Company is a privately held forest products company with roots dating back to 1890. Today, the company owns working forest lands in Washington, Oregon, Montana, and California. A subsidiary, Green Diamond Management Company, provides forest management services in the U.S. South and West. All lands owned and managed by Green Diamond are independently audited and certified for sustainable forest management. More information about Green Diamond's environmental leadership may be found at greendiamond.com.

ABOUT KLAMATH WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Incorporated in 1997, the Klamath Watershed Partnership (KWP) is a community based non-profit organization focusing on the needs of landowners and natural resources sustainability. KWP works in collaboration with landowners, agencies and other partners to conserve, enhance, and restore the natural resources of the Klamath Basin, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the regional economy and local communities. KWP is governed by the board of directors representing diverse points of view in the Klamath Basin. More information is available at klamathpartnership.org/.

ABOUT THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation is the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees. Together with our partners, we have helped plant more than 500 million trees in neighborhoods, communities, cities and forests throughout the world. Our vision is to lead toward a world where trees are used to solve issues critical to survival. Through our members, partners and programs, the Arbor Day Foundation inspires people across the globe to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. More information is available at arborday.org.

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