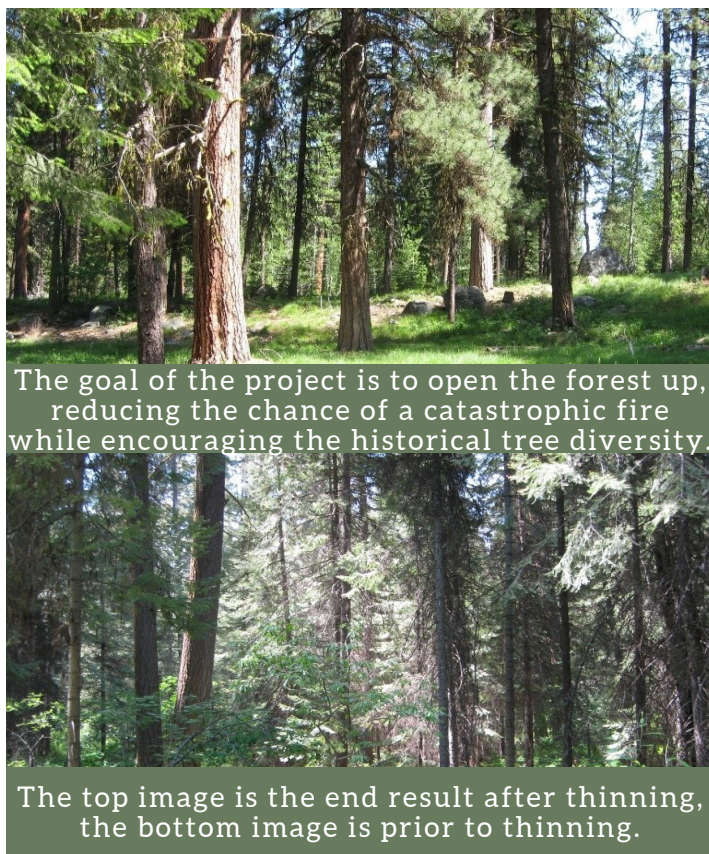
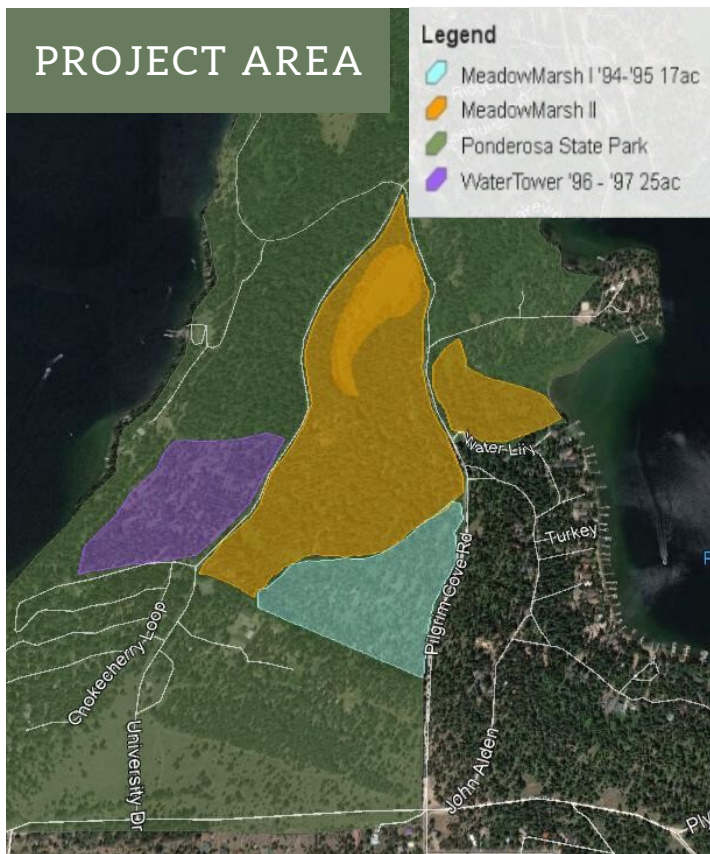


PONDEROSA PINE RESTORATION PROJECT

The **MeadowMarsh II Project** this winter will enhance forest health and improve public safety at Ponderosa State Park.



A combination of selective tree thinning, prescribed burning and other treatments will reduce the density and hazardous fuels on 90 acres of the Park, while improving conditions for native Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and Western larch trees. The project will also include road edge maintenance and creation of fuel breaks that will facilitate faster emergency access and evacuation of the public.

Fire-Dependent Forest Restoration

The original forest at the Park had mostly mature Ponderosa, Douglas fir and Western larch trees as part of a diverse forest habitat. The park's signature Ponderosas, with their thick bark and high branches, are adapted to withstand low-intensity fires, which clear out less-hardy trees and give them space to thrive. Over the past 100 to 130 years, great numbers of Grand fir moved in because of fire suppression, altering the natural balance. Today, a wildfire in the MeadowMarshII area would be unnaturally severe and kill most of the trees, damage soils and reduce genetic diversity.

The project continues natural resource management efforts the Park has successfully conducted for three decades. The project will connect two previously restored areas, creating a more natural forest across the Park. Through ongoing planning, collaboration, education and public involvement, Park staff has strived to make Ponderosa State Park an example of proactive management.