

## Pompadour Bluff Infrastructure Phase I Completion Report

This project replaced a degraded bridge to Pompadour Bluff, providing safe access to an iconic, newly conserved 55-acre natural area preserve in the upper Bear Creek valley east of Ashland. Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) completed the bridge construction that was the project's main outcome on time and on-budget.

Bridge replacement immediately facilitated anticipated activity at the Harry and Marylin Fisher Preserve at Pompadour Bluff, including site re-development and initial use as a nature preserve with managed natural resource-oriented recreation.

Fabrication by Pacific Bridge began shortly after grant approval in January. Initial pre-cast bridge components arrived in late March. Contractors piled wooden pieces of the decommissioned bridge for later use as parking stops.



Initial excavation along the irrigation ditch revealed no bedrock, allowing rapid completion of new footings the first week of April. Construction activities paused during wet weather, extending completion of the bridge deck until April 8. Installation of railings completed the construction on April 13.



SOLC immediately began utilizing the new bridge and its capacity, preparing for “Burn to Learn” training exercise by Jackson County Fire District 5. Firefighter trainees assisted with clearing out of the preserve’s barn, and preparation of the house on the site for a training burn. The new bridge supported safe access for disposal dumpsters in preparation, and large fire equipment including an engine and hook-and-ladder for the live fire training on the final day. The Burn to Learn helped certify and prepare 20 new firefighters for public safety, while removing the

residence that SOLC had determined was beyond repair, and clearing the site for future interpretive program facilities.



The new code-compliant bridge (center above) provided safe access for fire equipment for a ‘Burn to Learn’ training to clear the decayed house from the preserve site, training 20 firefighters.



The week following the Burn to Learn, SOLC hosted the first of a series of small group hikes to explore the preserve. Part of a revived post-pandemic spring hike series, Pompadour hike reservations filled in minutes, immediately compiling a wait list of over 100 people.

**Project Budget Summary**

Item	Budget	Actual Expense
Project Expenses Amount	Project Expenses Amount	
Manufacturing a pre-cast concrete bridge, railing attachments	\$42,500	\$42,500
Removal, disposal of previous bridge and installation of new bridge, railings	\$42,500	\$42,500

**Conclusion**

We consider the project a complete success and are grateful for Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund support that was instrumental in completing the first phase of infrastructure upgrades at the Harry and Marilyn Fisher Preserve at Pompadour Bluff. This investment is already yielding dividends through initial programs, site infrastructure transition, and stewardship in a unique environment that has significant community interest and support.