

Date submitted (UTC): 3/18/2016 8:24:18 PM

First name: HEPPNER Public Meeting Notes

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Province/Region:

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Country: United States

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Comments:

Heppner, OR ? March 15, 2016

Umatilla National Forest

Attendance: 7

Forest Management

[Question posed to the group] A large part of the landscape is overstocked with a combination of small to large diameter trees. What does the landscape need and what can the Forest Service do to achieve that?

? Long-term forest health

o Need to conserve old growth, but need to manage all age classes

o Doing this will help with economics of restoration

? Diseased old growth lost from economic benefit

? Cutting too much of future forest (smaller diameter trees). Too much treatment is focused on one age class

? Small saw logs generate more income

? Stewardship contracting can help use the whole forest (for forest health)

? Income and jobs to Morrow County

? Market is variable for non-saw log material

? Difficult to manage economics when there is so much small diameter material on the forests

Fire

[Question posed to the group] How would you suggest the agency manage the forest landscape to allow for less destructive wildfire events to occur?

? Currently behind on acres cleared for burning (need more capacity to keep up)

? Narrow windows for acceptable burning conditions

? Prescribed fire versus uncharacteristic wildfire- prescribed fire as choice. Use strategic design of burns to increase acres burned with desired outcome

? Large toolbox- diversity of machinery to reduce fuels and maximize acres treated

? Education of community- controlled fire is ok and there is benefit of fuel reduction, which also reduces potential of "bad" fire

o Tactics have a purpose (firefighter safety)

Communities

[Question posed to the group] As a member of the community, what do you believe our top priority should be for this landscape-scale restoration project?

? Healthy forests provide multiple benefits

o Reduced uncharacteristic fire

o Improved range

o Reduced suppression cost and more money for other things, such as restoration

? Improved and new markets to use material removed

? Community resiliency

? Biomass opportunities

o Examples: chip plant in Boardman, Umatilla processing plant and John Day biomass

? Need to adapt to changing outputs

Wildlife, Aquatics and other Sensitive Habitats

[Question posed to the group] What fish and/or wildlife species and habitats are important for us to consider when planning the Forest Resiliency Project activities? What conditions do you see benefiting these species

and their habitats?

- ? Deer and elk
- o Skips and gap strategy. Leave some cover and meet objective for openness
- ? Stream side- diversity of treating and not treating rather than all not being treated
- ? Watershed restoration- juniper removal to increase water flow
- o Larger diameter have market value. Don't limit by diameter
- ? Invasive species- current strategy is working well