

Date submitted (UTC): 3/18/2016 8:25:32 PM
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Comments:

Prineville, OR ? March 16, 2016

Ochoco National Forest

Attendance: 29

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?

- ? Preventing uncharacteristic wildfire to avoid uncharacteristic post-fire brush growth
- ? More logging contracts, harvest more timber. We need marketable timber
- ? Sustainable solution to restore forest health
- ? Need infrastructure to support timber and restoration
- ? Fire prevention- fight fire aggressively while they are still small
- ? Fuel loading creates fire hazard
- ? Harvest larger mature trees (not restricted by 21" rule). Not all large trees are old growth. Consider health of large trees, not just the size
 - o Harvest and remove dead and dying trees of all sizes
- ? Do more salvage logging of every diameter/size on entire landscape to reduce fuel loads and improve forest health
- ? Promote growing young stands and reduce number of dead trees and fuel loading that creates fire hazard
- ? Don't focus too much on historical conditions
- ? Remove ladder fuels
- ? Need more resilient trees
- ? Harvest timber
 - o Promotes economics
 - o Promotes forest health
- ? Manage forests to deal with overstocking
- ? Balance fish and wildlife needs with forest resiliency needs
- ? After opening stands, close roads created for implementation and other roads that adversely affect other habitats
- ? Open/maintain road access for fire and other forest management
- ? Create mosaic to support wildlife habitat. Don't treat to look like a park
- ? Overstocked species choke out other species like aspen. Thin out to restore other species (particularly in riparian areas)
- ? Create large woody debris in streams when removing vegetation
- ? Focus treatments on restoring forest health and promote diversity of forest conditions
- ? Promote habitat for wildlife and wild horses
- ? Promote understory species (grass/forb/shrub)
- ? Remove non-native species on Ochocos to promote native species
- ? Ecosystem balance and forest balance
- ? Cut Juniper out of forest
- ? Too dense of stands, thin out stands
- ? There is not a one size fits all, read the land and use good science
- ? Make sure plenty of young trees to replace old trees when they die

- ? Manage with chainsaw versus fire
- ? Grow thicker trees with less limbs to help reduce flammable needles on forest floor

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?

- ? Concerns about inversions from fires. Log mistle toe infested trees. Manage forests for all classes
- ? Salvage log
- ? We are thinning too heavily, keep trees together to grow less limbs
- ? More prescribed fire
- ? EPA- won't let us burn, regulated. Work with the people that monitor smoke
- ? Do what mimics fires and remove biomass
- ? Reduce fuel loads
- ? Use chipping
- ? Selective logging
- ? Economics- need more logging
- ? Need to educate and re-educate the public- why this project is important and why we need to do it
- ? Manage borders of wilderness areas
- ? Change in policies
- ? Take out some old growth diseased trees, all age classes and size classes
- ? Watershed restoration (i.e. meadow and the high value places)
- ? Forest follow up with comprehensive restoration

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?

- ? Concern for the timing of individual treatment areas. How will public know when the Forest Service will treat a given area?
 - ? Wildlife for enjoyment/hunting/economics
 - ? Forage for wild horses- see as positive
 - ? Snowmobile enjoyment
 - ? Summer trail riding and all recreation activities
 - ? Liked the projection around the wilderness- fire protection
 - ? Elk displacement to privates- resource damage concerns
 - ? Improved wildlife habitat (structural diversity)
 - o Maintaining thermal and hiding cover for big game
 - ? Improve watershed health (particularly for redband trout and minimizing disturbance)
 - o Economic value of fishing
 - ? Economic value of wildlife viewing and hunting
 - ? Forest health of large old stands and perpetuation of insect/disease mortality
 - ? Fire risk of riparian areas
 - ? Economic value of wood products and long term production of fiber for industry
 - o Fiber needed more than fire
 - ? Protection of wilderness from stand replacing fire
 - ? Treatment of inventoried roadless areas
 - ? Treat in ways that won't create too much regeneration
 - ? Economically feasible for logging companies to bid on sales (haul distances/locations)
 - ? Leave a variety of age and size classes for future forest (forest health and economics)
 - ? Removal of old and diseased trees
 - ? Fire protection around private property
 - ? Recreation in general
 - ? Smoke monitoring in Prineville by DEQ
 - o Air quality- prescribe fire and smoke impacts to residents. Timing of prescribed burns can create more smoke
 - ? Climate change and how it affects fire behavior
- #### 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?
- ? Potential creation of forage is good
 - ? Annual timing of treatments especially winter forage

- ? Streams- sedimentation and temperature
- ? Concern with cumulative effects to water quality from all the projects going on
- o Vegetation projects
- o OHV projects
- o Road densities
- o User created roads
- o Wildlife habitats
- ? Road management- cannot decouple with loss of cover
- ? Red band trout
- ? Spotted frog
- ? Steelhead
- ? Annual invasive species
- ? Pay attention to where we have good understory (and not invasive)
- ? Use trees for large woody debris in streams
- ? Effectively close temporary and closed roads used during implementation
- ? Effectively close already closed roads to mitigate loss of cover
- ? Elk and deer- loss of cover. Elk and deer are moving to private lands all year long (particularly during hunting season)
- ? Small game- loss of down wood and loss of bitter brush
- ? Prescribed burning
- ? Noxious weed spread risk is increased through management and wildfire
- ? Riparian habitat- loss to wildfire
- ? Dispersing of cattle in riparian habitat
- o Increase forage in uplands through vegetation management
- ? Manage ALL lands (i.e. wilderness)
- ? No damage to stream beds (water is very important down stream)
- ? Skips and gaps- wildlife cover
- ? Wildfire sedimentation is bad
- ? Ceanothus
- ? Roads/access-keep as is
- ? Invasives- use best management practices during management
- ? 4-wheelers bring in weeds and stock