

Date submitted (UTC): 4/4/2016 10:34:15 PM

First name: La Grande Public Meeting Notes

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Comments:

La Grande, OR ? March 30, 2016

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Attendance: 19

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?

- ? Need to harvest more
- ? Thinning on smaller stuff- help the economy
- ? Leave decent trees (reduce post treatment fuze)
- ? Create more open conditions
- ? Mark key areas that need to be cut
- ? Maximize growth
- ? Want to see more management and sustainable forests
- ? Manage for Ponderosa Pine and Larch
- ? Get rid of underbrush with control burns
- ? Invasive weed problem
- ? Manage for native plants and tree species
- ? Leave healthy trees
- ? How to accomplish desired conditions is the challenge
- ? Tamarack is a high value for fall colors
- ? Need both open and closed (including hiding cover for wildlife)
- ? Need a variety of age and size classes
- o Leave small young trees for regeneration
- ? Leave and enhance huckleberries (don't fertilize, don't disturb them)
- ? Ground disturbance and fire helps produce mushrooms
- ? Get in early to do restoration before the conditions get too dense to do anything about it
- ? The project area size is ok, and more is actually needed
- ? Some Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) are in poor condition, but outside the project area
- ? The more merchantable timber produced, the more jobs, but has to be at a sustainable rate
- ? Leave fire resilient trees, which is a function of species and size and age
- ? Some places will benefit from more structured heterogeneity (old fires, old treatment units)
- ? What do you do with small cut biomass? Chipping, biochar
- ? Can increase structural diversity by mimicking natural disturbance (fire, insects/disease, etc.) and the range in disturbance sizes
- ? Large diameter snags and logs- can be lost if no attention is paid to them (smaller scale issue)

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?

- ? Concentrate on dry forest- prioritize dry
- ? Focus on small (5-10") and medium (11-18") diameter trees
- ? Some cool/moist work needed to meet project objectives
- ? Post-treatment for blow down
- ? Use stand boundary for strategic fuels not an arbitrary distance

- ? Powerline right of way
- ? Remove bug kill trees
- ? Do more thinning and fuel reduction
- ? Grazing increase after treatment to deal with re-growth
- ? Wood cutters can get rid of dead
- ? Remove surface fuels from base of large trees
- ? Open some roads to be able to treat

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?

- ? Job creation
- ? Working with surrounding landowners
- o Education (how to think your property effectively)
- ? How our projects on private and federal land work together
- ? Treat federal land to prevent fire transmission from Forest Service land to private land
- ? Provide adequate access and supply of quality firewood
- ? Gathering of huckleberries (for people and animals)
- ? Special firewood areas within project areas
- ? Post and pole and biomass production opportunities (reliable and sustainable supply)
- ? Increase in merchantable timber
- ? Clear language in the document with less acronyms (use plain language)
- ? Describe the project better
- ? Either narrow the scope or be more specific about activities within project
- ? Evaluate more difficult logging ground (steeper slopes) for feasibility. Implementation of easier logging ground may make these feasible (financially)
- ? Evaluate roadless areas for their value as unaltered conservation units
- ? Fire cannot be reintroduced without restoration first
- ? Job creation is tied to the success of the Forest Service (i.e. maintain forestry infrastructure)
- ? Wood cutters can contribute to restoration efforts if restrictions were lifted (road closures, etc)
- ? Multiple use (deer and elk hunting/viewing, firewood, ATV/OHV use, healthy Forests)
- ? Designated "mudding/play" areas to help protect the rest of the Forest
- ? Maintaining quality recreation (including viewing wildlife opportunities)
- ? Viewsheds for logging operations
- ? Use local contractors for firefighting operations
- ? Work with private businesses for fire suppression (partnership opportunities)
- ? Thinning the forests will make firefighting safer

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?

- ? Prescriptions take into account big game habitat (cover/forage)
- ? Aggressive treatment of invasives in alternatives
- ? Modified treatments in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) to slow potential spread of fire-sight specific
- ? Effect of proposed actions on deer and elk
- ? Effects to distribution of elk
- ? Analyze potential for increase in forage
- ? Analyze disturbance possible from increased open space
- ? Effects on threatened and endangered species
- ? Analyze types of treatments that are more effective on specific types of invasives
- ? Timing and coordination of prescribed burns
- ? Management of prescribed fires