

Date submitted (UTC): 4/4/2016 10:35:28 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: Baker City Public Meeting Notes

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Baker City, OR ? March 31, 2016

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Attendance: 28

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?

- ? Do more thinning- put the product to use don't waste it
- ? Explore opportunities for biomass
- ? Diverse forests- multiple diversity
- ? Explore economic opportunities
- ? Thin watersheds on north slopes
- ? Need a strategy for dealing with appeals
- ? Protect watershed for irrigation
- ? Opportunities for increasing water yield through thinning
- ? Need to open up more areas for firewood
- ? Open type look good for animals
- ? Thinning and prescribed fire-in all dry Forest
- ? Thinning and prescribed fire in moist Forest
- ? Maintain some ground cover during prescribed fire

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?

- ? Listen to local people and local agencies. Use local knowledge of area for helping with prescribed fire or wildfire
- ? Access is important for wildland fire fighting
- ? Locals help clear roads
- ? Manage availability of forage for deer by staggering burns
- ? Biomass an option
- ? Protection around established communities and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
- ? Thinning projects (especially the Baker City Watershed)
- ? Baker City Watershed should be a priority (water supply)
- ? Grazing with livestock
- ? Appeals will halt this work

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?

- ? Start controlled burns near the communities and work away. That way you ensure the most protection for communities (like Sumpter- reduce fuels here)
- ? Use the local communities as a resource for communication during fires (rumor control- before/during/after)
- ? Explain why not all dry forest areas are treated
- o The Whitney Valley watershed? Including town of Greenhorn
- o Broad band to the west of Unity needs treated also

- ? Assess watershed needs in terms of climate change
- ? Utilize grazing to manage the understory (not in watershed)
- ? Catastrophic fires increase the pace of climate change by adding carbon to the atmosphere
- ? Work together for solutions
- ? Grazing is the best defense against forest fires
- ? How do we stop conservationists from appealing?
- ? How to best care for the Baker City Watershed
- o Thinning projects
- o Fire breaks on watershed road
- ? Restoration for Red Mountain fire
- ? Watershed for drinking water and agriculture
- ? No more roadless areas. Roads are needed for fire prevention
- ? Years and years of buildup is going to require proper management
- ? Smoke from slash burning and fires has gotten much worse
- ? Open slash to wood cutters and for biomass production

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?

- ? Clarification of objection process/litigation
- ? Prescribe burning within municipal watersheds
- ? Reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire within municipal watershed
- ? Prescribed fire impacts on huckleberries
- ? Livestock as part of projects to reduce weeds and influence big game movement
- ? Analyze mitigation/impacts to big game (all animals) within alternatives
- ? Concentrated areas for low intensity prescribed fire
- ? Addressing medusa head/thatch
- ? Proposed action was too general
- ? Effects of prescribed fire on water temperatures
- ? Effects of proposed action on municipal water supply (Baker/Sumpter)
- ? Effects on irrigation and water rights/supply (long and short term impacts)
- ? Overall watershed health
- ? Grazing as option to help reduce fuels