

April 2, 2013

Pilot Joe Post Harvest Field Trip

Summary of Discussion:

- **Cable corridors - do corridors count towards the  $\pm$  15% treatment area as “gaps”?** (BLM- followed up with Silviculturist: Corridors are not considered a “gap” because corridors grow in fairly quickly as a result of releasing trees next to corridors (overstory fills in). The effects of corridors on basal area are accounted for on the stand level. In other words, the prescription calls for retention of a certain range of basal area, and the loss of trees in corridors is included in the final calculation.
- **Monitoring – What does it look like so far? How is it being funded? How does implementation monitoring take place?** There is a meeting scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Applegate Library to learn more about what the Multi-Party Monitoring Team has been up to. Funding has been mostly through Title 2 (RAC) funds in 2012 and more in 2013 is approved. Implementation monitoring is occurring in multiple ways; the contract administration process is one way we monitor and IDT field visits post implementation are another (IDT went on FT on 4.3.13 to Pilot Joe). BLM plans to compile an implementation monitoring report once the project has been completely implemented.
- **How can we improve the process for legacy tree identification and marking? Age is not the only criteria. Are we capturing the age criteria? Can we collect data to help answer this?** BLM will look into a process for collecting tree age data to determine how effectively we are capturing >150 year old and legacy trees.
- **Debris needs to be placed along skid trail as per PDFs (doesn't look like this has happened).** The Pilot Joe EA called for all skid trails to be blocked with an approved barricade where they intersect haul roads, and to be waterbarred. With the Pilot Thompson Project, we have revised the PDF to include “and camouflaged with slash and other debris where they intersect haul roads.” While this is not required for the Pilot Joe Project, the BLM is considering ways to accomplish this in the tractor unit in section 35. (On the 4.3.13, the ID Team did discuss this and came up with some strategies to fix this).
- **Would like BLM to retain some of the manzanita – good food source, wildlife benefit.** There was discussion about the difficulty of implementing this. BLM has tried in the past to retain manzanita for wildlife benefit in stands with an overstory component. The difficulty is that manzanita burns easily and carries fire into the overstory causing crown fires, which is not the desired effect of prescribed fire in these stands. In stands where there is not an overstory component, retaining manzanita does occur.
- **There is a lot of Douglas-fir dying out in more oak dominated area of non-commercial Unit 34-11. Would like to see more complete treatment of this area; a lost opportunity as of now by not treating the commercial component of this stand.** (This unit was eliminated from analysis as a commercial unit for access reasons (need to build a road) and for low economic potential). It was noted that the Douglas-fir will die anyway rather shortly, looking around, most DF are in poor shape.

- Consider that the ecosystems function with and without us and that there are always unanticipated consequences to our actions and inactions.
- Consider using a separate contract geared towards ecological restoration to complete non-commercial work.
- Can we leave trees >7 inches DBH on the ground?
- Can we bring Drs. Franklin and Johnson into the conversation regarding non-commercial prescriptions, diameter limits, age identification and legacy tree retention strategies?
- Firm up prescription language (marking guides) and increase implementation monitoring of the mark.
- Utilize entomologist Bill Schaupp to maximize the chances that the pines we are releasing are healthy enough to benefit from treatments or not – future survivability.
- Collect data as to how much hardwood was damaged (or not) in Pilot Joe timber sale. This is not possible at this point, but we discussed being able to do it for Pilot Thompson.
- Record all snags, legacy hardwoods, and leave tree that get cut as a result of corridors or safety hazards.
- What is the economic recovery for implementation of this project? Gross of shared receipts.
- Understory shrub response – how do we manage for this? How does it effect fuel loading in the future? BLM assesses the stand post-treatment and comes up with a maintenance plan, re-visits site again in 7 years as well.
- Is 150 years an appropriate age cut-off? Would like to see an upper diameter limit and an age limit.
- Better educate markers in Franklin and Johnson's strategy.
- How is BLM capturing retention of smaller diameter trees that are >150 years?
- How do we address larger trees that may not be 150 years but have legacy tree characteristics?
- Was wind throw considered when developing prescriptions?
- Incorporate more of Franklin/Johnson principles in the non-commercial work. Increase variability, more thought into spacing, more favoring of species, and more of the little Douglas-Fir out.