

# Middle Applegate Pilot Project

Applegate School

October 25, 2011

Why does BLM manage forest lands?

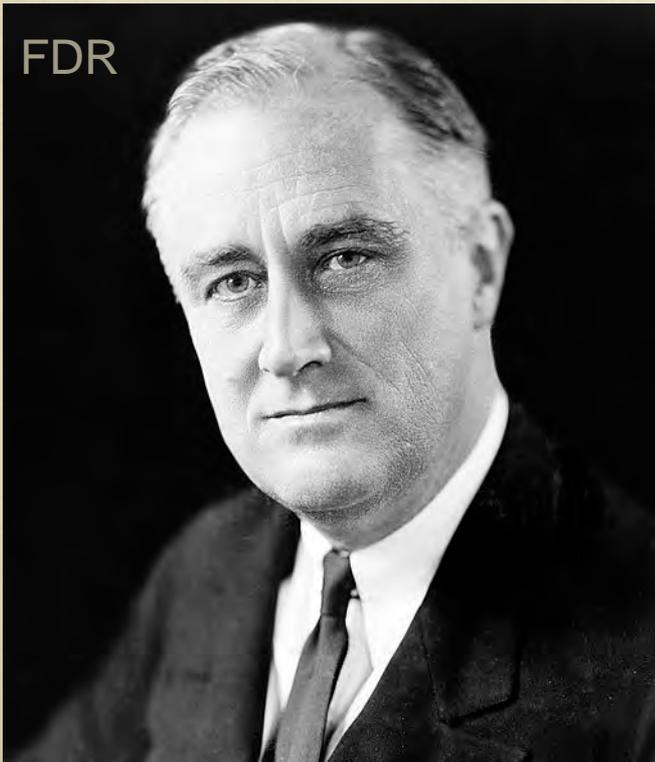


The **Oregon and California** Railroad grant lands were transferred to private ownership in exchange for construction of a railroad line in the late 1800s. The railroad violated the grant terms and the lands reverted back to federal ownership in 1916.

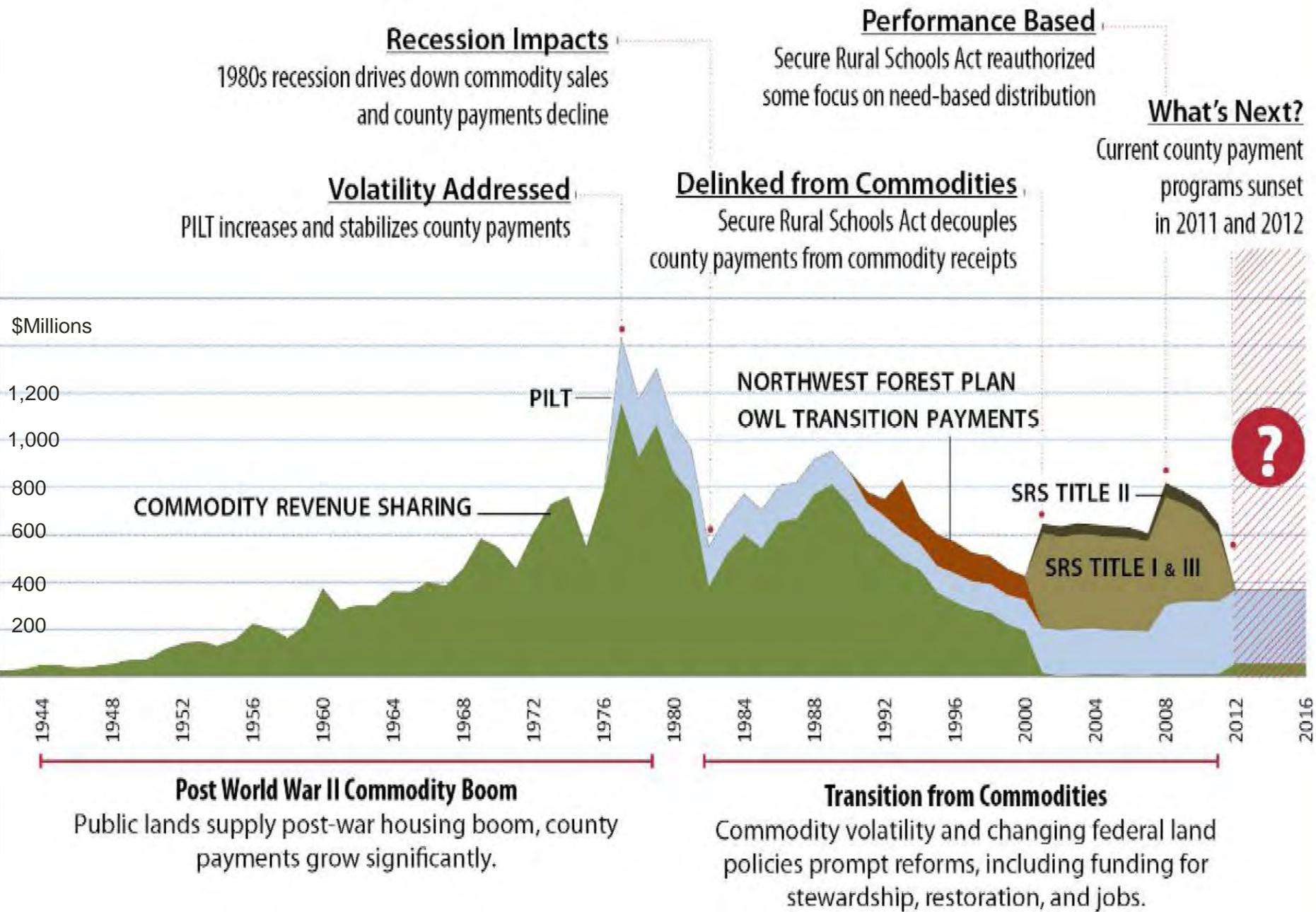


The O&C lands were Congressionally mandated in 1937 to be used for permanent sustained-yield timber production for the benefit of the counties.

FDR



# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF COUNTY PAYMENTS





# Restoration of Federal Forests in the Pacific Northwest: Strategies and Management Implications

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August 15, 2009

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(with the assistance of Debora Johnson, Institute for Applied Ecology (Corvallis, Oregon) in map development, analysis, and report layout)



Franklin and Johnson

# Restoration of Federal Forest in the Pacific Northwest: Strategies and Management Implications

August 15, 2009



**New policies are needed that focus on:**

- **Restoring more functional and sustainable ecological conditions in federal forests;**
- **Conserving old-growth forests and trees;**
- **Recovering threatened species, such as the Northern Spotted Owl;**
- **Sustaining local communities; and**
- **Maintaining a highly skilled workforce and milling infrastructure needed for restoration activities.**

# Purpose of the Pilots



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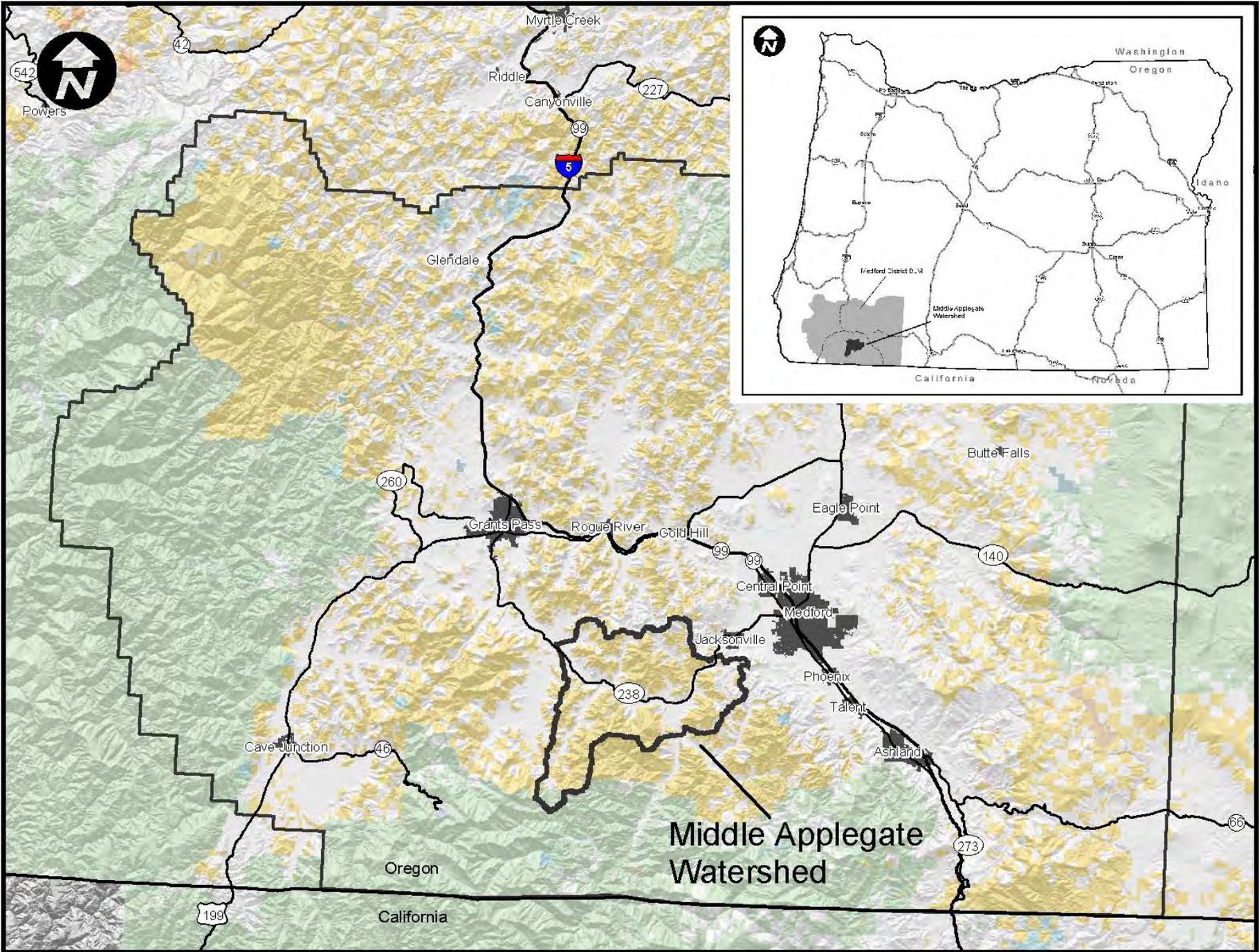
- **1) Demonstrate the application of ecosystem restoration principles**
- move the current conditions toward desired forest conditions that include the maintenance of older trees, restoration of characteristic structure and composition, and increased heterogeneity

# Purpose of the Pilots

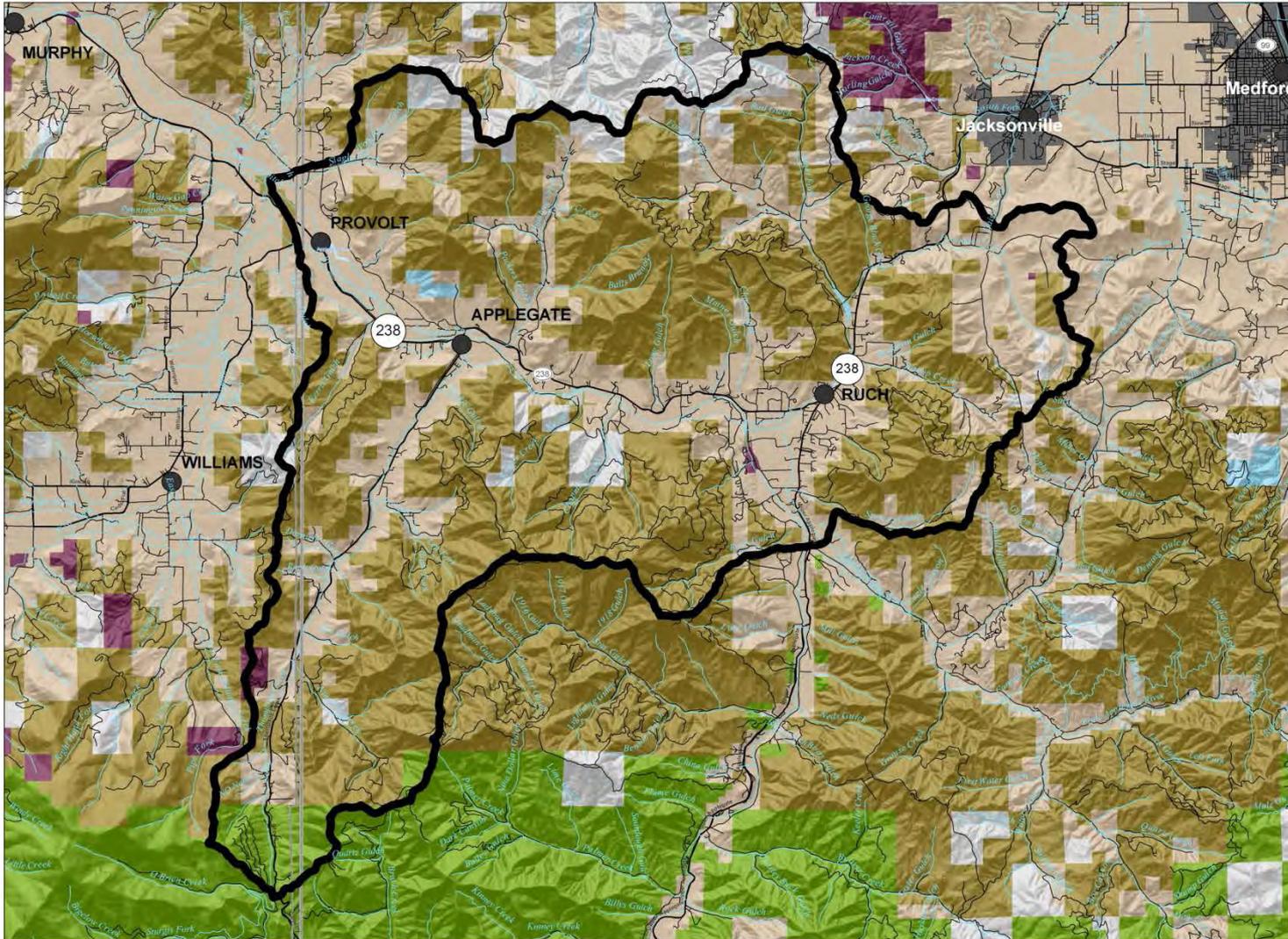
- **2) provide commercially-viable timber sales that provide jobs in local communities from forest management, logging, and wood processing and provide additional employment from stewardship or service contracting**

# Purpose of the Pilots

- 3) Gauge the degree to which active forest management, with a **focus on ecosystem restoration**, has a broader base of social acceptance than traditional management practices

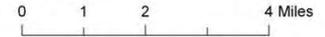


# Middle Applegate Dry Forest Landscape Restoration Pilot



## Legend

-  Watershed Boundary
-  BLM
-  Local Government
-  Private Industry
-  Private Non-Industry
-  STATE
-  USFS



# Strategies for Moist and Dry Forests

Moist Forest contain Hemlock

**Dry Forests** include sites that are characterized by the Ponderosa Pine, Douglas-Fir, Oregon White Oak, and Jeffrey Pine Series as well as the dry plant associations belonging to the Grand Fir and White Fir Series.

Portions of Dry Forest landscapes need to be retained in denser forest states to provide for a diversity of forest structural conditions, including habitat required by specific species, such as the Northern Spotted Owl and its prey species.



# Stand-level ecological restoration including:

**1) Retention of older (>150-year-old) trees and other ecologically important features, such as large hardwood trees, and eliminating competing younger trees and ground and ladder fuels from their vicinity;**

Stand-level ecological restoration including:

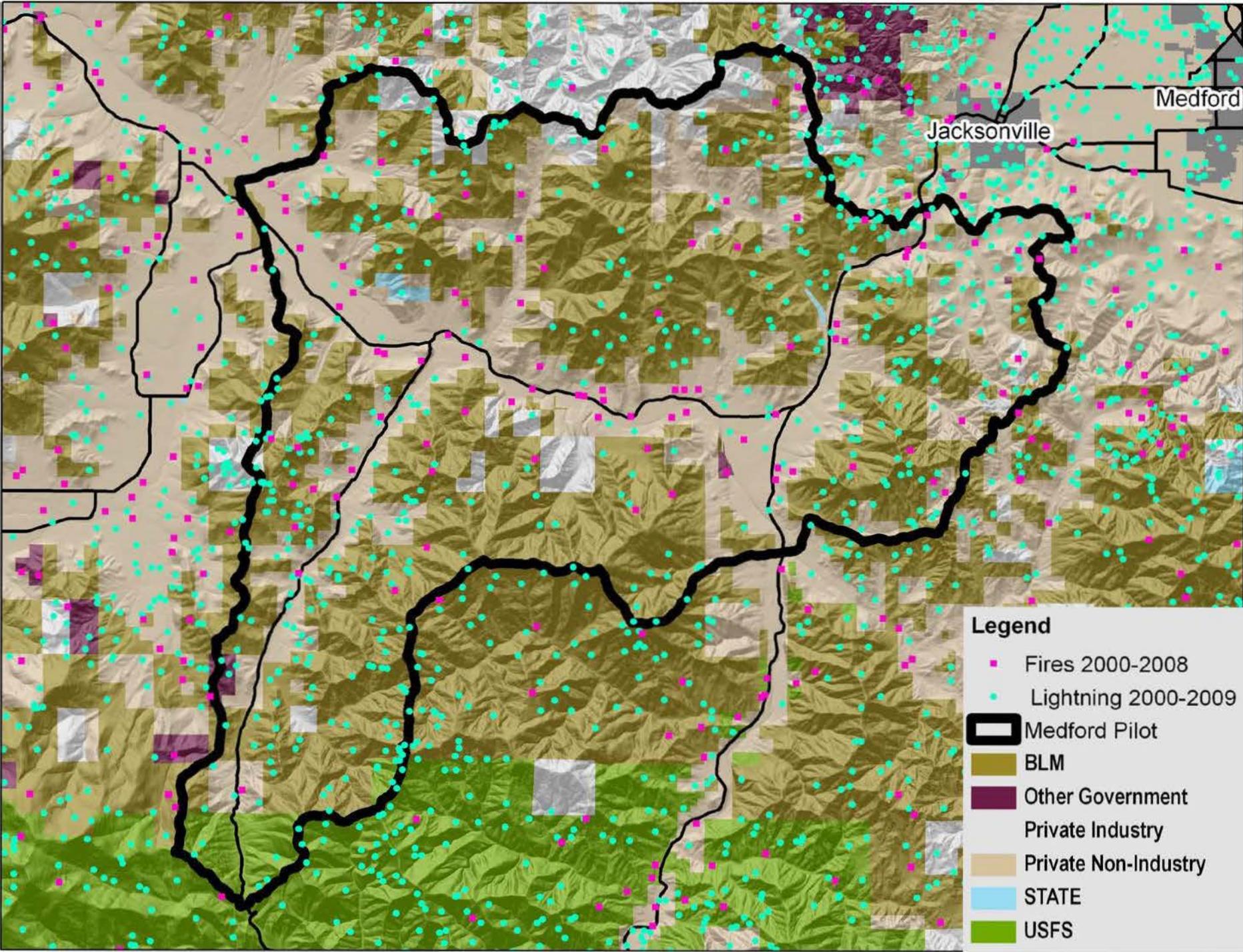
**2) Provision of “skips” where no thinning is done so as to protect important features (e.g., riparian habitats) and provide hiding cover and heavily shaded habitat niches;**

# Stand-level ecological restoration including:

**3) Thinning the remaining stand to a) reduce overall stand densities to a more sustainable level, b) shift stand composition toward greater diversity, including a greater proportion of more fire- and drought-tolerant species, and c) increase average stand diameter;**

# Stand-level ecological restoration including:

**4) Creating “gaps” of small to moderate size (e.g.,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 acres) to provide opportunities for regeneration of sun-loving trees, such as ponderosa pine and Jeffrey pine.**















Large, older  
hardwoods dying due  
to competition from  
conifers



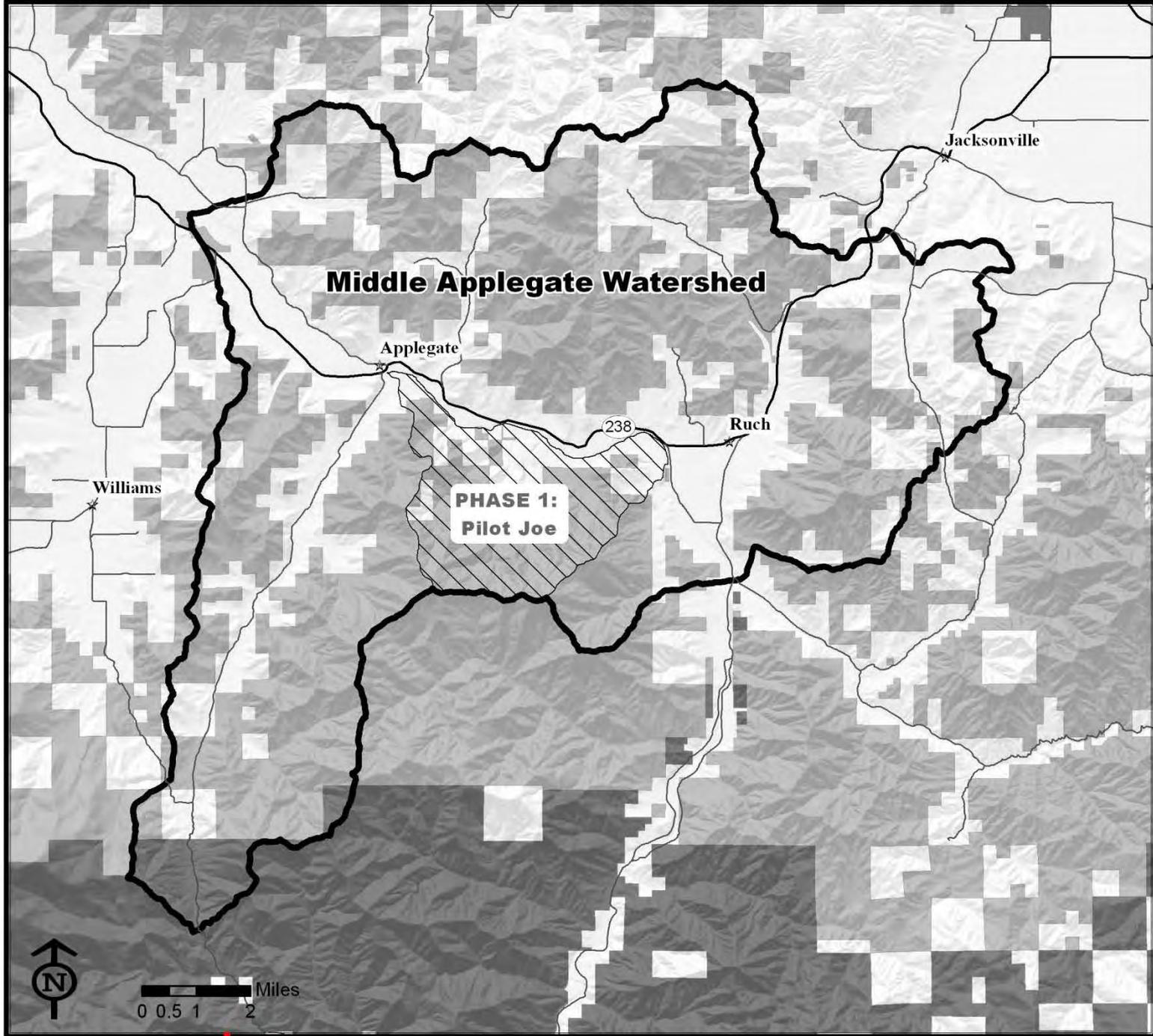












**Middle Applegate Watershed**

Jacksonville

Applegate

238

Ruch

Williams

**PHASE 1:  
Pilot Joe**



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



# Criteria gathered at public meetings included:

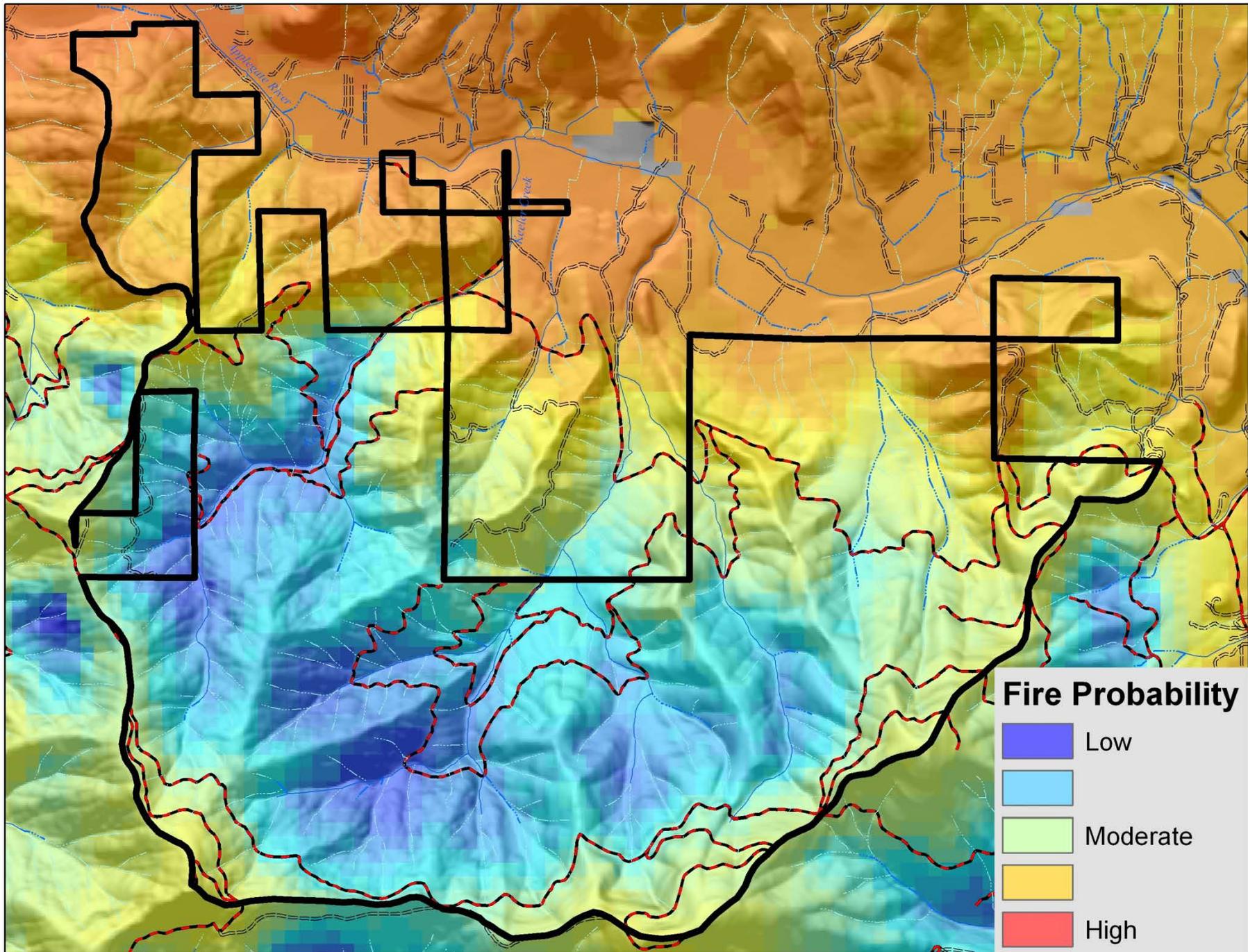
These had strong majority support

- Units should be viewable & accessible to the public.
- Units should be representative of as many vegetative conditions as possible for a good cross section to learn from.
- Prioritize stands uncharacteristically susceptible to fire, insects, or disease.
- Prioritize stands with existing road access

# Criteria gathered at public meetings included:

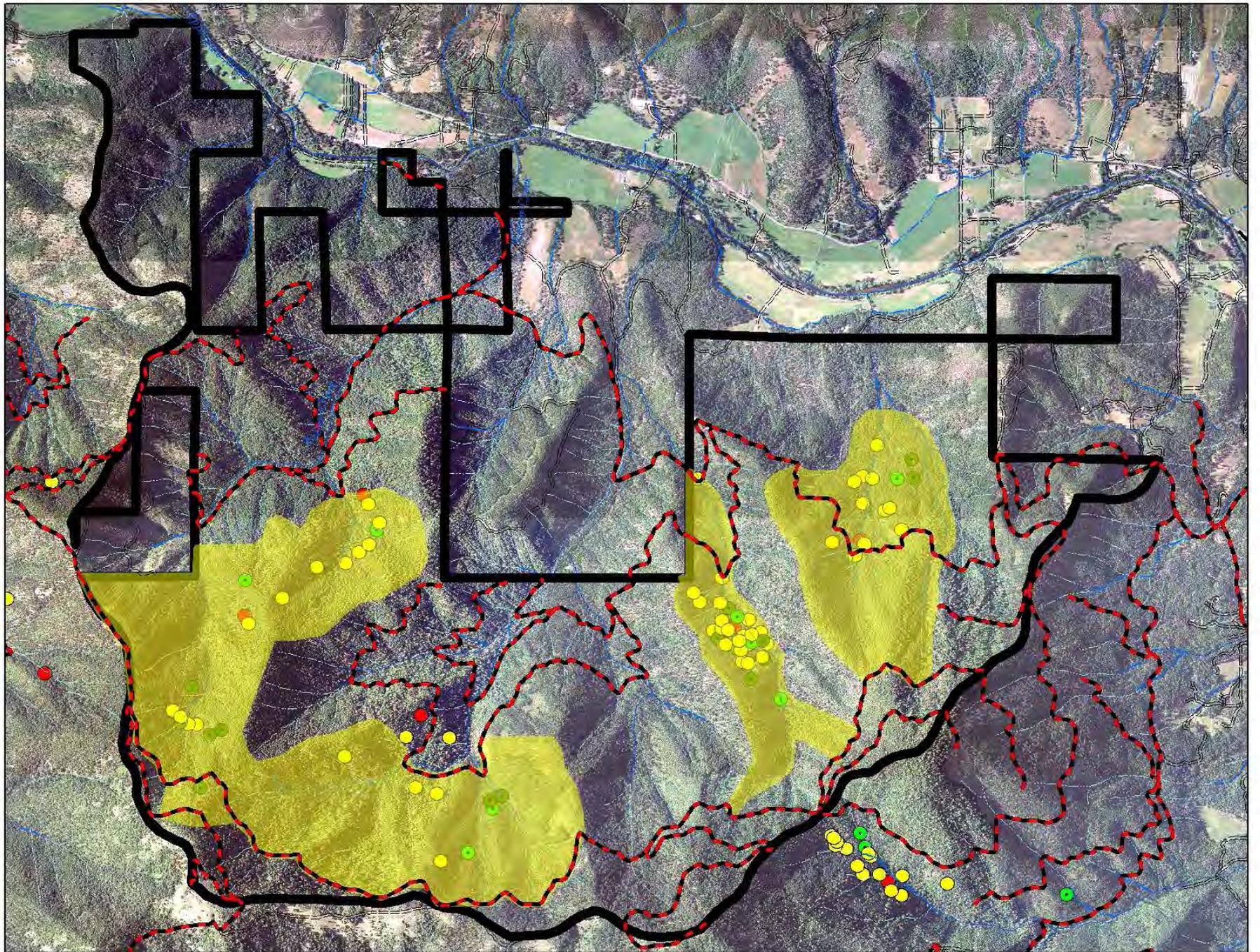
Identified as important but no clear preference of priority

- Ability to maintain treatments over time.
- Young stands (generally ages 0-60).
- Restoration adjacent to the Urban Interface (the value of life and property) as identified in local and regional fire plans.
- Restoration adjacent to highly suitable owl habitat.
- Restoration adjacent to riparian areas.
- Produce timber volume.
- Provide for a mix of resulting contracts (timber sale, stewardship, service).



**Fire Probability**

- Low
- Moderate
- Moderate
- High





# Middle Applegate Dry Forest Pilot

- A Context of Collaboration
- Demonstrate Landscape Restoration
- Integrate Spotted Owl Habitat Needs into Active Forest Management
- Sustain workforce and manufacturing capacity through utilization

To build Community support and  
Agency capacity for landscape-scale  
forest restoration  
Multi-party Monitoring  
is Essential

# Pilot Joe Monitoring: Objectives

- Increase forest ecosystem resistance and resilience.
- Increase spatial heterogeneity to benefit biodiversity.
- Conserve and improve spotted owl habitat.
- Create jobs & support regional manufacturing infrastructure.
- Build public support for active management in federal forests.

