Meeting Notes

Roseburg District Collaborative Forestry Initiative

Wednesday, April 7, 2010
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Roseburg BLM District Office, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd

Attendees

Members of the Public Attending:

Cindy Haws, David Monnet, DD Bixby, Dean Byers, Dennis Morgan, Doug Heiken, Francis Eatherington, Gary Groth, Grant Ruhlman, Jake Ritter, Janice Reid, Javier Goirigolzarri, Jim Thraikill, John J. Patrick, Joseph Patrick Quinn, Ken Carloni, Laura Long, Maxwell Wightman, Michael Kaech, Mike Bormuth, Patrick Starnes, Richard M. Chasm, Rick Sparks, Scott Aycock, Stan Martindale, Stan Vejtasa, Stanley Petrowski, Steve Erickson

BLM Employees Attending:

Jay Carlson, Craig Kintop, Meagan Conry, Jake Winn, Lisa Renan, Abe Wheeler, Liz Gayner, Rex McGraw, Ward Fong, Bob Hall, Jonas Parker, Kristen Thompson, Susan Carter

US Fish and Wildlife Service Employees Attending:

Jim Thraikill, Brian Woodbridge

Facilitator

Karen Bolda

Meeting Ground Rules—Karen Bolda

Karen asked all attendees to introduce themselves and then reaffirmed the following list of meeting agreements from previous meetings:

- Cell phones silent or turned off
- Raise hands before speaking
- Address the issue and not the person
- Keep questions and comments brief
- No side conversations

Welcome and Opening Remarks —Jay Carlson

Jay Carlson welcomed the attendees and then made the following remarks:

- Tonight is more of an informational session about our proposed dry site, the Major Glasco Project Area. You will hear about stand conditions, owl habitat, and fire risk/hazard from BLM staff.
- In addition, you will from Brian Woodbridge of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He has been working with the Klamath Province working group as part of the Spotted Owl Recovery Planning Process [the proposed dry site project is on the northern end of this province].

Presentations

BLM Staff gave presentations about several aspects of the project area.

1. Stand Conditions – presented by Abe Wheeler, BLM Forester
2. Wildlife Habitat and Needs – Lisa Renan, BLM Wildlife Biologist
3. Fire Hazard and Risk – Krisann Kosel, BLM Fire Ecologist

Copies of the presentations can be viewed at http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/plans/collab_forestry/maps-ppts.php.

Brian Woodbridge of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Yreka Office) made the following comments:

- I serve as chair of the Klamath Province Working Group as part of the Northern Spotted Owl recovery planning process. This started as part of the dry forest working group but then split off because issues in the Klamath Province are unique.
- The group is working to bring all the disparate parts together spotted owl habitat, including looking at the role that fire plays.
- I also part of the Ecological Services Group. We participate in meetings like this. We have done this in a number of cases from start to finish. I have to point out that one of the most important aspects of projects is the collaboration and application of science.
- With the Klamath Province group, we are breaking the analysis up into zones based on bio-geo-climatic zones and considering issues like what species are indicative of these zones and what condition is the landscape in. I'm not sure where this project lies within our zones. It seems to be east of the tanoak zone and appears to be on the dry end of the spectrum.

- What does the information from previous presentation on stand condition and history do for decision making? There is a lot of literature that would indication managing for historical conditions. The working group struggles with this. How realistic is it to look at the historical range of variation, since we are in a novel landscape. This site is doing something it hasn't done since the last ice age. This is different than looking at standard changes within the forest.

At this point, attendees were offered the opportunity to ask Brian Woodbridge and the BLM presenters questions.

John Patrick: Lisa [Renan], you check for red tree voles. How about wood rats or flying squirrels? If so, how many are in the stand?

Lisa Renan: No. We check for red tree voles, because they are included in Survey and Manage [a requirement of the Northwest Forest].

Patrick Starnes: How big a scale does the Klamath Province Working Group look at to get to a project and what can you tell us about the barred owl?

Brian Woodbridge: The Working Group is still looking at province level considerations and hasn't established an appropriate scale for project choice. For projects we have completed [in northern California] we started with aggregations of 7th field watersheds. We tend to do these in critical habitat and Late Successional Reserves. I can see that this might be limiting at the landscape level in areas that are quite different from historical patterns. We haven't worked in a checkerboard ownership pattern as extreme as the one this project is in.

Javier Goirigolzarri: Lisa, could you go over the history of the Wood Creek owl sites [shown in the presentation]? Also, what is the Land Use Allocation in this area?

Lisa Renan: Wood Creek did produce young last year. South Myrtle hasn't produced any for five years. The Land Use Allocation is Matrix.

Stan Vejtasa: Brian, you stated that you would not expect to see owls in this area [the project site]. Is this a last refuge?

Brian Woodbridge: What I meant is that in my experience with owls, this is a fascinating area to find them—in a site so dry. As you move south, the birds are much more associated with diverse habitat types. Up north they are much more associated with just a few habitat types and features.

Cindy Haws: Lisa, regarding red tree vole abundance in the prey base, in the literature (Forseman) how significant are they for survival? How did the study account for forest condition and the representation of red tree voles?

Lisa: Carey's research looked at the availability, but focused on wood rats and flying squirrels because of their importance in the diet [of northern spotted owls]. Forseman's just evaluated the pellets. Carey didn't look at the red tree voles because they were so insignificant in the diet.

Question: Is starvation common in northern spotted owls?

Brian Woodbridge: Reproduction is well linked to diet. When eating wood rats they do well. Wood rat abundance varies annually and from place to place in a given year.

Jim Thraikill: Large prey seem to tip the scale in favor of reproduction and survival.

Mike Bormuth: What are you counting and not counting as fuel [tons of fuel per acre from presentation on fire risk/hazard]?

Krisann Kosel: It is based on down fuels only.

Mike Bormuth: So, when looking at multilayered canopies, you are con considering the ladder fuels in your fuel loading?

Krisann: That is correct.

Stan Martindale: Did you [Lisa Renan] say that 2.2 percent of the owl diet was red tree voles?

Lisa Renan: I wanted to show that even though we survey for them, they are not significant in the diet.

Stan Martindale: Why don't you survey for the other prey types.

Jay Carlson: Suitable habitat criteria are focused on habitat components, not prey. We assume that the prey base comes along with the suitable habitat. To look at rodent populations—they are all over the board. A survey would be just a snapshot in time.

Stan Martindale: But couldn't you say the same thing for the red tree vole?

Jay Carlson: Yes, but we have an obligation to do this [red tree vole surveys] under the Northwest Forest Plan [a Survey and Manage requirement].

Brian Woodbridge: For a whole host of reasons, we split out foraging habitat from nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat. Much of the prey base lives in conditions that are not classic

nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat—black oaks and big leaf maple for example. But we don't count prey directly. Instead, we associate it with habitat features.

Doug Heiken: I thought I heard that we want the owl habitat features in this stand. We may have these already. But then I heard that fire resiliency needs a park-like structure. Can we have both of these? Do we need to worry about fire?

Krisann Kosel: The fuels are ripe for this [a fire]. It is a game of probability. I think that we can have both.

Brian Woodbridge: I agree with the balance part but with a spatial element. Owls use structural elements associated with nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat. Studies in the Klamath Province show that when eating wood rats, owls are either with in habitat or at the edge. A mosaic creates these conditions and owls are closely associated with this. For example, owls in the Klamath province tend to avoid upper slopes and south slopes. The owls are using the mosaic. We can't balance this in every stand. It really has to be distributed in the right proportion across the landscape.

Closing Remarks—Jay

Jay made the following remarks:

- The field trip will start here at the BLM on Saturday at 8:00 am. We have provided a map of the site and first stop.
- The e-mail exchange is becoming a platform for comments back and forth. The exchange is healthy. What I would like folks to do is object without being objectionable. But I challenge you to think past your first urge. We end up having to deal with the concerns beneath the words. Look at the concerns and address how we can go forward.
- Lastly, I have received requests for the recordings of the meetings. We will make these available. We are working toward getting them put on DVDs.

Meeting Adjourned