

Forestry/Fuels Collaboration Effort  
General Meeting Notes  
September 26, 2007 Field Trip  
Park Place Timber Sale (28 acres)  
Evening facilitated by BLM Foresters Bruce Reid and Brad Eckert

- ▶ Bruce thanked the private landowner who provided everyone access for tonight's meeting
- ▶ Bruce apologized for calling Warm Springs Canyon Maiden Canyon
- ▶ Meeting objectives
  - Handout two surveys related to collaboration effort and stewardship projects
  - Re-group after summer
  - Discuss differences at the Park Place Timber Sale site versus site we looked at in June at the top of the hill
- ▶ Brad discusses surveys
  - U. Michigan Student Lauren Pidot's survey
  - Flathead Economic Policy Center/Pinchot Institute Carol Daly's survey
  - Mail these surveys in directly or drop off at the Lewistown BLM Field Office to save on postage
  - If mailed in directly, feedback will be completely anonymous
  - Please take the time if you can to complete these surveys
- ▶ Bruce shows map of Park Place Timber Sale
- ▶ Bruce discusses Park Place Timber Sale
  - This site has a lot more to work with than the site on top of the hill that is predominantly decadent lodgepole.
  - This site is well stocked with healthy ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir
  - Target stand composition is 60% ponderosa pine and 40% Douglas-fir
  - We want species and structural diversity in the stand, because a more diverse stand is generally more resistant to insect and disease outbreak and also may provide better habitat for certain species of wildlife
  - Lodgepole is old and will not intentionally be left, but the species will naturally come back in following treatment as a result of the more open forest conditions and also through time as a result of forest disturbance (i.e., wind throw, snow damage, etc.) that creates openings in the forest canopy.
  - Whereas the site on top of the hill will require several entries and many years to achieve forest composition targets, one entry will yield a forest very close to target condition
  - Basal Area is the "stump area" per acre. Imagine cutting all the trees down on this site and then measuring the surface area of all of the stumps. The surface area measured in square feet per acre is the Basal area.
  - Basal area is a measure of forest or stand density. Trees per acre is another measure of stand density.
  - The basal area target for the stand is 60 square feet per acre; however, the stand will be cut below this to allow advanced regeneration (understory trees) to grow while still remaining below or at target stand density.
  - Forest entomologists generally recommend maintaining stand density below 80 sq. ft. per acre to reduce the risk of mountain pine beetle outbreaks.
  - Forest density will be reduced to reduce the risk of high-severity stand replacing fire, increase residual tree resistance to insect and disease, and to promote development of aspen and understory vegetation for wildlife habitat.
  - Treatment of smaller (sub merchantable) trees will probably be completed by the BLM fire crew.
  - Plans are to burn slash piles at a minimum and to possibly prescribe burn. We will discuss this in much more depth over the next couple of years before doing any burning, if this is what we all agree to do.

- Firewood will be made available following the timber sale. The purchaser also has the right to sell firewood directly. The sale will be sold lump sum, so once the purchaser buys the sale, the wood that is not marked to leave is his to do with as he pleases. In the past loggers have been known to deliver loads of wood to others who bought firewood and paid to have it delivered.
  - Pulp is sold to the purchaser at a low price to encourage the contractor to remove this low value product. This helps the BLM treat hazardous fuels and encourages use of the product and possibly development of a local biomass plant.
  - The area in which we are standing will likely be used as a landing. Opening the area up will also encourage adjacent aspen stands to expand.
  - The project should be offered by the end of October.
  - Contracts typically run for 18 months.
  - Primary objective is not to maximize timber revenue. Large trees of good form and health will be left for wildlife and aesthetic value as well as for a seed source.
  - Many snags will be left for wildlife habitat.
- ▶ Bruce suggests taking 15 minutes to look through the stand to see what trees have been marked to leave while
    - Visualizing what the forest will look like with only the blue trees remaining and an occasional smaller tree (<5 inches in diameter) of good form and health left as well
    - Paying attention to what species are marked to leave
    - Paying attention to the quality of the trees that are marked to leave
  - ▶ Everyone is happy with what they see, but participants are anxious to see what the site will look like after it is logged. Some also express interest in monitoring contract implementation and subsequent mitigation.
  - ▶ Thank you for coming tonight, we really enjoyed discussing this project and spending time with you.
  - ▶ Tentatively, the next meeting will be October 24<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting we are thinking of having a couple of presentations on fire ecology and forest insects and disease.