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The Middle North Umpqua Watershed Analysis was produced to provide information and recommendations to help guide line officials in making management decisions within the analysis area. The Watershed Analysis is an iterative process requiring modifications to keep it up to date and relevant to current environmental conditions. Changes in the environmental base line, occurring as unplanned disturbances, may require broad sweeping or site specific modifications or addendums to the existing document in order to facilitate management decisions. Due to the Apple Fire of 2002 an addendum to the Middle North Umpqua Watershed Analysis is justified at this time.

Response to Unplanned Disturbances

Changes in future conditions will undoubtedly occur through unplanned disturbances. Small-scale disturbances (e.g., small pockets of windthrow, insect-induced mortality, or small fires) create additional variability and are biologically desirable. Changes in the overall schedule of activities would not generally be necessary, and salvage logging of these small patches of mortality should generally be avoided. Large-scale disturbances should trigger reevaluation of landscape objectives and projected management activities. While the long-term landscape and watershed objectives would likely still be applicable, changes in short-term plans may be appropriate. For example, a large, severe fire may produce early seral conditions over a significant proportion of the analysis area. An appropriate response might be to reschedule timber cutting to delay further regeneration harvests of live forest until the post-fire stands have closed their canopies. Salvage logging of a volume of timber approximately equal to that scheduled to be removed over that time period may be appropriate to maintain projected timber flows. The condition of adjacent areas, both within and adjacent to the matrix land, provides important context for this evaluation. The recommended management response to disturbance would depend upon current conditions and knowledge, and should include consideration of these factors:

- Location of disturbance in the area: For example, if reserves were burned, the landscape blocks may need to be reconfigured to provide new reserves; or it may be desirable to redraw blocks to better align block boundaries with new, post-disturbance edges, if fire occurs in landscape areas where timber harvest is planned.
- Timing of disturbance relative to the block schedule: For example, if a fire occurred relatively close in time to when a block is scheduled to be harvested for timber, the block



could be salvaged as a substitute for its scheduled cutting. If timber harvest is not scheduled for many decades, though, it may be appropriate to leave the block unsalvaged to provide patches of dead wood habitat.

- Extent of disturbance: For example, small areas of blowdown may be considered a biological bonus adding diversity to the landscape. Large areas of blowdown may trigger a reevaluation of block configuration and scheduling.
- Condition of surrounding watersheds: For example, burned patches may serve particularly important ecological roles if they are the only patches of high snag densities in the entire watershed. Ecological functions of burned patches need to be considered if salvage for timber values is contemplated. Relative to natural conditions, managed landscapes are generally characterized by low levels of snags, and especially by the lack of high-density snag patches. Leaving fire-killed patches unsalvaged and maintaining the overall block harvesting schedule may be the most appropriate response to unplanned disturbance in many cases. Unplanned disturbances should also be viewed as opportunities to refine understanding of disturbance processes and patterns, and post-disturbance recovery trajectories.

The large stand replacing fire return interval with the watershed analysis area is between 30 and 80 years. The last large stand replacing fire that occurred in the area that burned during the 2002 Apple Fire was in the late 1800's. Based on the above discussion and analysis of surrounding landscapes, salvage would be an appropriate response to the 2002 Apple Fire. Other disturbances that have occurred in the analysis area, the Spring Fire and the Limpy Fire, occurred across land allocations that were not appropriate for salvage.

Within the Middle North Umpqua Watershed Analysis, watershed recommendations are outlined in Chapter 6. Recommendations listed under Watershed Restoration include deferring timber harvest in the Fairy Creek Drainage until 2010. This deferment was recommended to allow for effectiveness monitoring of the large wood placement project that occurred in 1995. The Apple Fire of 2002 has reset the environmental base line in the 2,055 acre drainage, invalidating the need to continue effectiveness monitoring.

Changes to other recommendations found within the watershed analysis may be warranted as the environmental base line changes over time.

This document serves as an addendum to the Middle North Umpqua Watershed Analysis.