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**CFLRP Peer Learning Session
March 15, 2011
Implementation Issues**

Due to technical problems, a recast of the March 15th peer learning session is not available. We apologize for this because the presentations and discussion were excellent. The following is a short summary of the topics discussed on the session.

Presenters:

- Hal Gibbs, Colorado Front Range
- Phil Chang, Deschutes Skyline
- Scott Brennan, Debbie Austin, Joe Kerkvliet, Amber Kamps, and Gary Burnett, Southwestern Crown

The major topics presenters addressed include:

- Describe key objectives of the project
- What strategies/mechanisms are you using or do you plan to use to implement the project to achieve the objectives (timber sales, stewardship contracts/agreements, other)?
- How is your project assessing or measuring local benefit?
- How are decisions about implementation made? Who is involved? (organizational structure)
- Describe how NEPA is managed in terms of implementation of on-the-ground treatments.
- What kind of support do you need (answer from whatever perspective you wish)?

The slides from each presentation are attached.

PowerPoint Presentation #1

Colorado Front Range Landscape Restoration Initiative Implementation

Colorado Front Range Landscape Restoration Initiative Implementation

**Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
and Pike and San Isabel National Forests**

Objectives

- Establish **mosaic** of forest density, size and age
- Substantially decrease **density** of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir in lower montane, favoring ponderosa pine.
- Remove ladder **fuels** and reduce continuous tree canopy.
- Increase use and effectiveness of **prescribed fire**.
- Increase meadows, patchiness and herbaceous **understory**.
- Protect and enhance **old growth** conditions within hrv; Reduce opportunity for establishment and spread of **invasive plants**; Decommission, realign and/or restore **roads** and trails as appropriate; Strategically place treatments to maximize **size and effectiveness** on the landscape.



Strategies/mechanisms to implement projects

- **Primary contract mechanism-**
 - Front Range 10-year Long-term Stewardship Contract
- **Secondary contract mechanism-**
 - BLM IDIQ contract
 - Service Contracts
- **Prescribed fire**
- **Force Account Fuels crews**



How measuring local benefits?

- Front Range LTSC awarded to Colorado company
- Currently only using tools available on web-site TREAT
- Multiparty Monitoring group will be developing economic monitoring process



How are decisions about implementation made? Who participates?

- **Front Range Roundtable is collaborative group**
 - 2006 RT identified 1.5 million acres needing restoration (lower montane) or community protection treatments
- **CFLR proposal based upon areas in need of restoration treatment**
 - 2010 to 2012 treatment selected by FS (prep constraints)
 - 2013+- RT currently discussing



How is NEPA managed in terms of implementation?

- NEPA complete through 2015 at maximum funding levels
- NEPA 75% complete through 2019 at maximum funding levels



What kind of support do you need?

- Funding uncertainty creating difficulties- must prepare task orders/contracts for potential maximum funding
- Tracking of matching funding- adds new layer of workplans
- Personnel funding and management- no CFLR funding so charging to appropriate funds for TO preparation- accounting adjustments; conflicts with other programs (other partnerships; bark beetles)
- Simplification of reporting- needs to be derived from current databases



PowerPoint Presentation #2

Deschutes Skyline CFLR Project Implementation

Deschutes Skyline CFLR Project

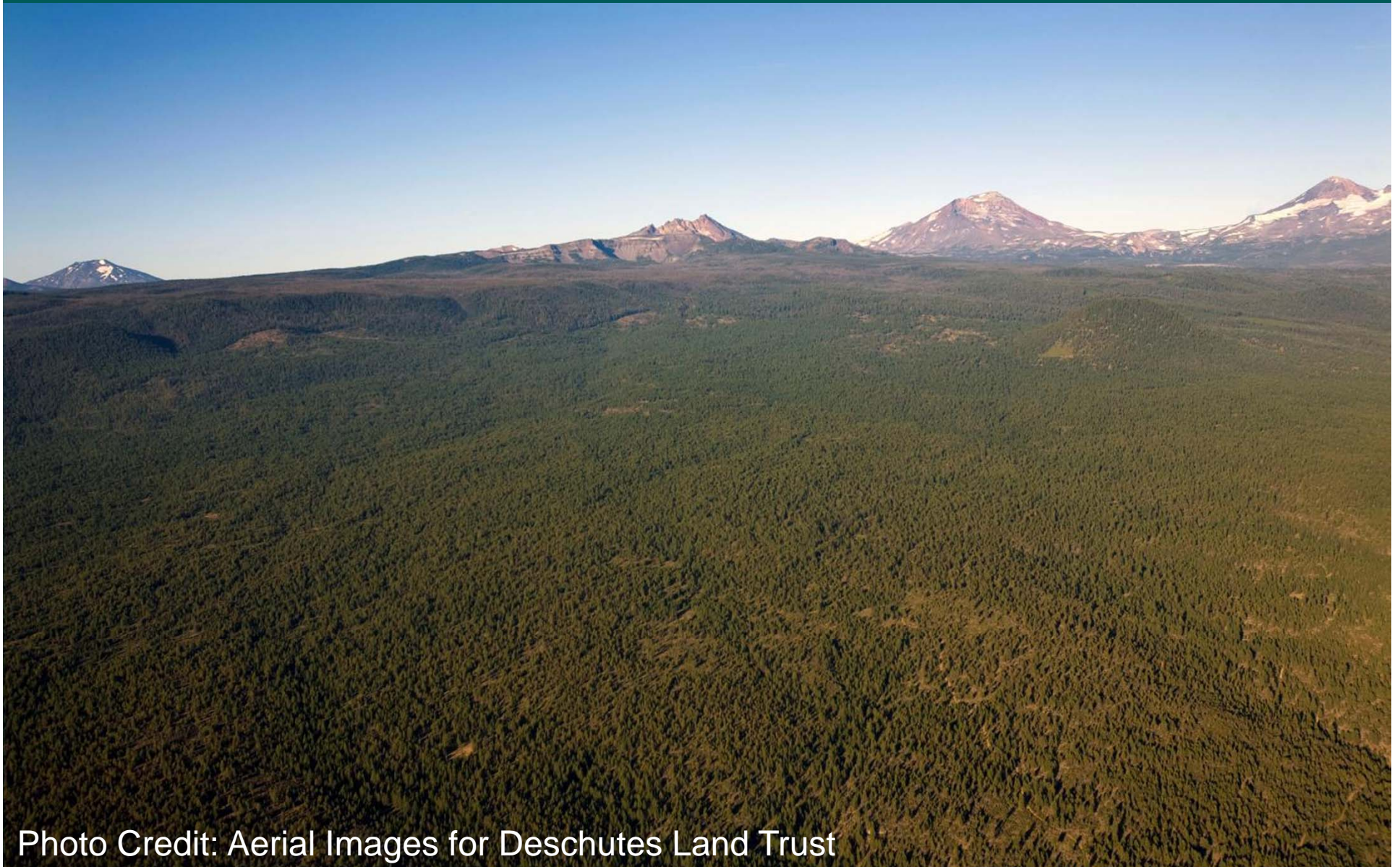


Photo Credit: Aerial Images for Deschutes Land Trust



- Move forest back towards a resilient condition within HRV.
- Reduce risk of high intensity fire in WUI, drinking watersheds and proposed Skyline Community Forest.
- Support watershed restoration and reintroduction of anadromous fish.
- Preserve scenic quality for recreationists.
- Provide restoration jobs and wood fiber for small diameter enterprises

Planned Treatments for 2010-19

Thinning with biomass removal	20,000 acres
Non-commercial Thinning w/ associated fuels treatment	14,000 acres
Mechanical Fuels Reduction:	10,000 acres
Prescribed Burning:	9,000 acres
Fish Passage Enhancements	8 enhancements
Stream Channel Restoration	2 miles
Wetland Enhancement/Establishment	55 acres
Riparian Thinning	100 acres
Road Decommissioning/Closure	150 miles
Invasive Plant Treatments	6,600 acres

Implementation Challenges:
High Densities of Small Trees, Community/WUI,
Short Term Resource Impacts



Implementation Choices



Role of Stewardship Contracting



Stewardship Increases Utilization



Multiparty Monitoring



Stewardship Challenges

Support Needed in These Areas

- Cancellation Ceiling / Up Front Costs
- Contractor Capitalization Costs
- Increasing Agency Staff Familiarity
- Need for Fuels and Timber Coordination



Questions



PowerPoint Presentation #3

Southwestern Crown of the
Continent CFLR Project
Implementation



Implementing CFLR Projects in the Southwestern Crown of the Continent

Scott Brennan (TWS), Debbie Austin (USFS),
Mo Bookwalter (NWC), Gary Burnett (BC),
Amber Kamps (USFS)



Location





Goals

- Restore forest and aquatic ecosystem function
- Improve landscape-level biodiversity, resiliency, and adaptability
- Enhance recreational experiences
- Reduce risks for those living in the wildland-urban interface (WUI)
- Bolster local, rural economies





Objectives

- Within the WUI:
 - Reduce the risk of wildfire by removing fuels, especially small-diameter trees, while maintaining forest structure to protect ecosystem components





Objectives

- Outside the WUI:
 - restore forest structure processes and resiliency
 - promote diversity
 - establish a mosaic pattern consistent with the mixed-severity fire regime where appropriate
 - maximize retention of large trees
 - reintroduce low-severity and low-intensity fire where appropriate
 - remove unnecessary roads





Objectives

- Maintain or restore forest roads to protect water quality
 - Employ Best Management Practices (BMPs) techniques to reduce or prevent sedimentation into lakes and streams
 - Maintain access for fire management and suppression, recreation, and other administrative needs
- Evaluate and adjust future desired conditions relative to the sustainability of forests under predicted climate change





Objectives

- Improve watershed health by reestablishing natural stream channels and riparian environments, removing barriers to fish migration, and replacing inadequate culverts and bridges;
- In vegetative treatments, where appropriate, maximize the productive use of forest products.





Key Outputs

- 73,000 acres treated for fuels and vegetative restoration, with 50% commercial removal
- 81,600 acres of weed treatment
- 3 fish barriers installed to prevent non-natives from moving upstream
- 3000 acres of lakes restored with removal of non-native fish species





Key Outputs

- 937 miles of stream restored
- 9500 wildlife security acres restored
- 650 miles of road BMP work and maintenance
- 400 miles of road storage or decommissioning
- 149 stream crossing structure upgrades
- 280 miles trail improvements
- 6 trailhead improvements
- 33 campsites rehabilitated and restored
- 40 acres placer mine reclamation
- 50 miles of trail decommissioning





Mechanisms for Implementation

- Contracts
- Agreements
- Force accounts





Assessing Local Benefit

- Change in community attitudes about fire as a forest management tool
- Costs of road decommissioning and remediation to inform prioritization
- Effects of fuel treatments on NFS land on private landowner fire-wise actions



Photo courtesy US Fish and Wildlife Service



Assessing Local Benefit

- Community preferences about restoration
- Changes/benefits to local contractors
- Fire management cost reduction due to fuel treatments





Community Outreach

- Contractor Workshops
 - Facilitate planning and investment
 - Provide training and access to resources on SWCC contracting
 - Solicit contractors' knowledge on restoration and fuel projects
 - Educate contractors on the importance of making the economic case for SWCC to improve funding prospects
 - Workshop scheduled for April 2011 in Seeley Lake, MT.





Deciding How to Implement Projects

- Prioritization Committee is developing list of priority areas for treatment within the landscape
- FY 2010 and 2011
 - Chose “NEPA-ready” projects that are consistent with FLRA and the goals of the SWCC.
- FY 2012 and beyond
 - Projects are being developed collaboratively and will be consistent with our goals and objectives.
 - Progress toward output goals will be assessed annually.
 - Treatments will be adapted according to the results of our monitoring program.



Who is Involved?

- SWCC Members and Participants
- Partner Groups
 - Swan Forest Stewardship Committee
 - Lolo Restoration Committee
 - Lincoln Restoration Committee



1748

Notices

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Helena National Forest, Montana, Stonewall Vegetation Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Helena National Forest is going to prepare an environmental impact statement for vegetation management actions north and west of the community of Lincoln, MT. Fire suppression and moist growing conditions through much of this century resulted in a loss of open forest conditions and seral species (aspen, ponderosa pine and western larch). This has created a more uniform landscape comprised of dense forests susceptible to insect and wildfire mortality (Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine). In addition, a large-scale mountain pine beetle epidemic has killed most of the mature lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine. These conditions are elevating fuel levels which pose a wildfire threat to nearby homes and communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI).

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by February 12, 2010. The draft environmental impact statement is expected August 2010 and the final environmental impact statement is expected January 2011.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Amber Kamps, Helena National Forest, 1569 Hwy. 200, Lincoln, MT 59639. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to comments-northern-helena@fs.fed.us, or via facsimile to 406-449-5436.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly

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Project Scoping

STONEWALL VEGETATION PROJECT



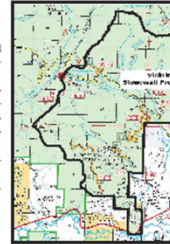
The Helena National Forest (HNF) is proposing the Stonewall Vegetation Project. A watershed analysis was completed by the Forest Service (FS) for the Stonewall vegetation project area. This project is presented by the Forest Service (FS) for the Stonewall vegetation project area. This project is presented by the Forest Service (FS) for the Stonewall vegetation project area. This project is presented by the Forest Service (FS) for the Stonewall vegetation project area.

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Purpose and Need

The purpose and need for the project includes:

- Improve the mix of vegetation composition and structure across the landscape that is diverse, resilient, and sustainable to wildfire and insects.
- Modify fire behavior to enhance community protection while creating conditions that allow the reestablishment of fire as a natural process on the landscape.
- Enhance & restore aspen, western larch, and ponderosa pine species and habitats.
- Utilize economic value of trees with economic removal.
- Integrate restoration with socioeconomic considerations.



The Proposed Action

The proposed action includes using both commercial and noncommercial treatments to accomplish the desired condition. These actions would include: regeneration harvest, intermediate harvest, precommercial thinning, and prescribed burning. The proposed activities are further described in the Proposed Treatment Table. In addition, specific unit-by-unit information can be found on our website or by request.

The proposed action also includes using prescribed fire and tree slashing in two roadless areas (Bear Marshall Scapegoat Swan and Lincoln Gulch). Please see a proximity map on our website.

Approximately five miles of road would be built then obliterated immediately following timber removal. Commercial harvest and road construction would not occur in the two roadless areas.

Implementing the proposed action could include the use of chainsaws, feller bunchers, and cable logging equipment.

Post treatment activities would include underburning, site preparation burning, jackpot burning, hand piling/burning, tree planting, and monitoring of natural regeneration.

In all the areas proposed, the opening size may exceed 40 acres due to the amount of mortality created by the bark beetles and the resulting need for regeneration.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

December 2010



Environmental Assessment

Colt Summit Restoration and Fuels Reduction Project

Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest
Missoula County, Montana



Preliminary issues

1. Restoration of vegetation
2. Grizzly bear habitat
3. Lynx habitat
4. Wildfire hazard, risk, and
5. Habitats including ponds



Proposed area for green
Investment Roadless