

Field Trip Agenda

Date: September 19, 2014

Time: 10:00am-3:00pm

Place: Meet at Council Ranger Station

Stops on Mill Creek Council Mountain

- 1) Photo point #4 – Getting a visual perception of the stand before and after treatments **(510 min)**
- 2) Harvested Red Stand (Regeneration Harvest) Unit 86 **(1520 min)**

Discussing the completed treatment in a regeneration harvest unit and verifying the level of cut is acceptable by the PFC. Other aspects to the unit included Aspen, frog, and RCA issues within and adjacent to treatment unit.

- 3) Road 50902 Decommissioning **(1015 min)**

Implementation was completed this summer on 0.3 miles of decommissioning on this road, including 3 culvert removals: two perennial and one intermittent, all within $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of Dewey Creek. The upper (eastern) portion of this road will be put into longterm closure following completion of precommercial thinning activities in that area. Decommissioning treatment included pulling the road prism back to natural slope, and using vegetation transplants (plugs), slash, and natural mulch, as well as wood straw for erosion control and to restore soil productivity. Additional treatment includes seeding and planting, which will be done in the fall of 2014 or the spring of 2015.

- 4) Road Re-Route – Driving the Dewey Creek reroute and stopping for lunch **(30 min)**

Stops in Middle Fork of the Weiser River

- 5) Meadow treatments/opening treatments Retention of Legacy Ponderosa Pine **(10-15min)**

Douglas fir with Mistletoe creates latter fuels and competes with Large Ponderosa pine in a dry site that historically had clumps of P. Pine in grass /shrub/forb openings. Site potential is low can only support a few clumped trees. Will look through historical (1920s and 1940s) aerial photos and compare to current aerial photos

*between these locations look through the dense vegetation along the 245 road on both sides you will see legacy and legacy like P. Pine, P. Pine regeneration, aspen and Western Larch - almost all of these stands along the 245 are considered red or regeneration stands.

- 6) Spruce Budworm/Spruce Bark Beetle/Douglas Fir Bark Beetle

Discussion about the expanse of the spruce budworm outbreak throughout the project area (which is less visible since the wind and rain events knocked off red needles) and the potential for increased spruce beetle and Douglas fir beetle activity.

*between these locations look to the north to North West (passenger side of the car) and see the aspen across the Middle for drainage and spruce budworm activity up close.

7) Red (regeneration harvest) stands and Aspen **(2025 min)**

Red Stand Treatments – Discussing treatments in PVGs 6, 7, and 10. Specifically, the continuous Spruce/Fir vegetation type that is located at higher elevations. Discussion on restoration treatments (e.g., Commercial Thin / Patch Cut (CT/PC) and Modified Shelterwood–Modified Selection (MSh/MSe) Variable Retention Patch Cuts (VRPC))

Aspen area – Large Aspen stand being that is thought to be a part of an Aspen belt that is encroached upon by conifers. Discussion will be about thinning the conifers encroaching into the aspen stands and potential treatment of Aspen in RCAs.

8) Mica Hill – Discussing fuel break within a Regeneration stand along an RCA corridor **(10-15min)**

Mary Bresee

Forester – West Zone TMA / Silviculturist

Payette National Forest

mkbresee@fs.fed.us

Office Phone: 208-253-0127

Cell: 541-403-4225