|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **F2 Unit 107 – PRESCRIPTION & IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE** | | **WRITTEN and CERTIFIED BY: *K. Zimlinghaus 10/31/2018*** | |
| **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:** Forsythe II Project | **DECISION DATE: 7/10/2017** | **NEPA ACRES: 5**  **GIS ACRES: .97** | **BASE FISCAL YEAR: 2018** |
| **EXISTING HSS:** 3B 100%  **DESIRED HSS:** 2T 20%; 3B 80% | |  | |
| **COVER TYPE:** Existing Overstory LPP 65%, LM 25%; AS 10%  Desired Overstory LPP 60%, LM 25%; AS 15% | | | **EXISTING BASAL AREA = 100 ft2/ac**  **DESIRED BASAL AREA = 75-80 ft2/ac** |
| Existing Condition  In this even-aged unit, lodgepole pine is the dominant species mixed with a few limber pine on rockier soils. The unit is located on a north slope with a canopy cover between 50-90%. Trees range in size from 2’ tall to 12” DBH with the majority ranging 5”-8” DBH. A small aspen clone (< .5 ac in size) on the northwest end of the unit is slowly succumbing to conifer encroachment. Minor incidences of dwarf mistletoe are present, but localized.  Desired Condition  The desired stand conditions would include patches of varying seral stages distributed across the unit. The heterogeneous pattern of lodgepole pine stands would exhibit patches of even-aged stands to provide a discontinuous crown level that provides a greater resiliency to large natural disturbances. Some of these patches would have other conifer species and aspen mixed in with the dominant lodgepole pine stand. Healthy aspen clones would range from ½ to 1 acre in size and would be free of conifer encroachment while providing cavity-nesting habitat for specific bird species. **The aspen aggregation is less than ½ acre so it cannot be treated per the decision.** Insects and diseases are kept at endemic and manageable levels.  Objectives   * Reduce the severity and intensity of a wildfire within the WUI. * Emulate natural disturbance at a minor scale in lodgepole pine dominated stands to mimic variable structural and spatial patterns in order to increase resistance and resiliency to future natural disturbances.   **Note:** This unit will be manually cut and the slash would be hand piled and burned. | | | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ACTIVITY** | **TIME** | **AC** | **DESCRIPTION, MARKING GUIDES, MONITORING, ETC.** |
| Lodgepole Pine Treatment | 2019 | .97 | Cutting Guides   * Establish 1 to 2 patchcuts, ranging in .3-1 acres in size. * Cut all live and dead lodgepole pine > 2’ tall within the identified patchcut boundary. * Retain all other healthy conifer species (>30% live crown without signs of insects or disease) and aspen regardless of size. |
| Slash Treatment | 2019 | .97 | * Cut all of the limbs from the boles of cut trees to a 2” top. * Hand- pile existing and activity slash material 1” to 6” diameter and 2’ or longer. Any slash that must be moved more than 50’ to meet minimum required pile size may be lopped and scattered to a maximum depth of 18”. * All treated material shall not be left beneath or within 10’ of the dripline of a retained tree. * Piles should be at least 6’ x 6’ in diameter, 15’ apart, & 10’ from residual tree boles. Cut conifers in order to create piles when needed. * Treated bole wood 6” in diameter or greater must be scattered and be in contact with the ground. Individual boles of 8” or greater must be bucked into 4’ lengths beginning at the large end. * Pull back slash and construct piles at least 50’ from any infrastructure and private property boundaries. * Retain an average of 2 piles per acre for wildlife habitat, including any piles remaining from previous vegetation treatment, distributed randomly throughout the unit. * Do not construct handpiles on rock outcrops. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BOUNDARY DESIGNATION AND TREE MARK** | * + Boundary trees marked with orange flagging and painted in orange (if needed). |
| **TIMING RESTRICTIONS** | * Raptor nest areas, including species-specific buffers, will generally have no treatment activity from March 1 through September 15, depending on species, or until determined unoccupied by the wildlife biologist. Access through buffers during this period will be assessed by the wildlife biologist. * No operations from December 1 through April 30 for elk, unless determined appropriate to treat by the wildlife biologist. * Project operations will not be conducted on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day holiday weekends and on Sundays. Operating time for heavy equipment and chainsaws shall be limited to the hours of 7am to 7pm. |
| **MMG CONCERNS** | * None |
| **FOR MORE INFO:** | Forsythe II EA |