MMG Input Moved Forward in Phases 1 and 2

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| Concern/Request | When Concern Brought Forward | Result or Change |
| **Unit 1: Lodgepole Pine Treatment** | | |
| Orchids are present | Avenza point gathering by MMG; Field trip July, 2018 | Patchcuts were located to minimize impact to existing populations. A USFS Botanist also evaluated the two orchids (pink fairy slipper and purple lady’s slipper) and determined that both species are considered to be secure throughout their range. |
| Gullies and erosion | Avenza point gathering by MMG; Field trip July, 2018 | A USFS Soil Scientist, Hydrologist, and Silviculturist visited and evaluated the unit and summarized results for the MMG. Patchcuts were arranged to minimize the potential for excessive erosion during layout incorporating buffers from the edges of the drainages. Individual patchcuts were reduced in size. One landowner agreed to cutting within the defensible space zone adjacent to his property which will minimize effects of erosion by being located near the bottom of the unit. |
| Hummingbirds and nests in a specific location | Avenza point gathering by MMG  Field Trip July, 2018 | The southeast patchcut was located to avoid the identified area. |
| The USFS is underestimating the erosive potential of the winds in the area. | Monthly meetings | The effects of wind are incorporated into the design and layout of the patchcuts and aggregation within the unit. Where possible, the patchcuts were arranged north and south and between the drainages to minimize the impacts of the wind. The aggregation follows the aspen clone and its orientation is not in a north and south orientation; however, given the number of aspen stems present and the intention to remove conifers up to the diameter limits in order to promote and restore aspen, blowdown is expected to be minimal. Some blowdown is expected to occur within and adjacent to the patchcuts. |
| Concern/Request | When Concern Brought Forward | Result or Change |
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| Spring present | Identified during field trip with DAT and through Avenza point gathering by MMG | Treatment areas were laid out to avoid the spring. |
| **Unit 2: Lodgepole Pine Treatment** | | |
| Evidence of dense trees | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The patchcuts that were layed out were in the densest locations that could be treated manually with chainsaws including areas identified with Avenza points. |
| Evidence of downfall or fallen trees | Identified during field trip with DAT and through Avenza point gathering by MMG | A patchcut was identified and layed out as a patchcut adjacent to the Big Springs Subdivision. This patchcut will include the blowdown material and will be piled/burned. |
| Negative Effects of high winds | Monthly meetings  Avenza point gathering by MMG | The effects of wind are incorporated into the design and layout of the patchcuts within the unit. Where possible, the patchcuts were arranged north and south while considering other resource concerns (e.g. spring) to minimize the impacts of the wind. Blowdown is expected to occur in both the areas that are treated and are not treated. |
| Spring present | Identified during field trip with DAT and through Avenza point gathering by MMG | The layout of the unit’s patchcuts avoid the spring. |
| **Unit 3: Lodgepole Pine Treatment** | | |
| Request to thin the small dense lodgepole pine around the vicinity of units 96, 97, 98. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The regeneration areas (pockets) around the existing units were located and determined to be less than ½ acre in size. Individual regeneration aggregations could not be established because individually they did not fit the criteria of the aggregation definition; therefore, the regeneration will not be treated at this time. |
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| Request to cut the southwestern portion of unit 3. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | A patchcut was layed out to be treated in this area. This patchcut is one of the densest “dog-hair” areas in the unit. |
| Stream present in a dense forested condition with adjacent steep slopes. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | On the slope above the creek, the patchcuts were located in lodgepole pine dominated stands. Some of the boundaries extended to the transition of primarily lodgepole pine spruce mixed conifer adjacent to the stream. The smaller diameter (with some mature trees) and more dense were included in the patchcuts. |
| **Unit 4: Lodgepole Pine Treatment** | | |
| Request not to cut the area of healthy, large lodgepole in the northeast portion of unit. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The area identified with healthy, large lodgepole was excluded from treatment areas. |
| Request to cut the angled bottom end of unit 4. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The requested area was not layed out to be treated due to the buffered drainage. |
| The area on the southeastern portion of the unit may be a potential site for treatment. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | A small patchcut west of the suggested area had denser lodgepole pine and was layed out to be treated. |
| An observation about the trees or forest structure in the unit. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | This comment alerted us to the amount of mixed conifer components in the unit. The area was reconned and a small Douglas-fir Mixed Conifer aggregation was identified and layed out to be treated. |
| **Unit 5: Aspen Restoration** | | |
| For aesthetic purposes, some members of the MMG wanted to retain the stringer of lodgepole pine on the trail/roadbed that extends from the southern edge of unit 5 to the edge of unit 4. | Field trip December, 2017  Avenza point gathering by MMG | The lodgepole pine trees on the existing trail/roadbed were excluded from treatment areas and will be retained. |
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| **Unit 7: Aspen Restoration** | | |
| Historic meadow present | Avenza point gathering by MMG | In order to maintain the integrity of the meadow ecosystem, the unit will have a restoration prescription for both aspen and meadow restoration. This will involve the cutting of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir up to 14” DBH and lodgepole pine up to 12” DBH. |
| Historic meadow present | Avenza point gathering by MMG | In order to maintain the integrity of the meadow ecosystem, the unit will have a restoration prescription for both aspen and meadow restoration. This will involve the cutting of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir up to 14” DBH and lodgepole pine up to 12” DBH. |
| Wetlands | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The area with riparian vegetation and void of conifer trees has been excluded from the area being treated. |
| **Unit 24: Lodgepole Pine Treatment** | | |
| Concerns about patchcut treatment and their locations. | Field trip December, 2017 | The unit’s proximity to established roads lends itself to be treated with mechanical equipment. Unit 24 was also part of Forsythe I and was layed out and offered as a small timber sale that did not receive any bids. Some of the previously identified patchcuts were included to be cut in Phase 2. |
| **Unit 39: Douglas-fir Mixed Conifer Treatment** | | |
| Rock outcroppings, some with lichen | Avenza point gathering by MMG | Knolls and rock outcrops are excluded from layout and treatment to maintain aesthetic values. |
| Large ponderosa pine are found within the unit and have little undergrowth or ladder fuels. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | Large ponderosa will be retained with a focus on reducing ladder fuels in the area of concern. Some medium and larger sized trees will be cut if they are heavily infested with mistletoe to improve forest health conditions, to restore meadow or aspen areas, or to reduce existing basal area. |
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| **Unit 40: Douglas-fir Mixed Conifer Treatment** | | |
| Some members of the MMG wanted the northern portion of the unit above the road near the campsites either dropped from implementation or the prescription significantly modified due to the area being located on a north aspect. | Field trip September, 2017 and through  Avenza point gathering by MMG | The area of concern was excluded from treatment. |
| Juniper in gullies | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The silviculture prescription addresses both the cutting and prescribed burn treatments in relation to juniper. During the cutting phase of the treatment, the prescription has been modified to retain up to 3 juniper trees per acre. During the prescribed burning phase, the retention of at least 1 juniper per acre will be prescribed where applicable, allowing for some flexibility and retention of juniper on the landscape. |
| **Unit 42: Lodgepole Pine Treatment** | | |
| Evidence of dense trees | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The layout of the patchcuts were located in the denser, “dog-hair” areas including areas identified with Avenza points. |
| **Unit 45: Douglas-fir Mixed Conifer Treatment** | | |
| The area near the fork in the road has blowdown with open lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine. Openings could be expanded. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | Treatment activities will be implemented in the area identified to expand openings and help meet fuel reduction objectives. |
| North slopes have considerable slash that can be piled and burned. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | Existing slash (1”-4” in diameter and activity fuels (< 8” in diameter including tops and limbs) in mixed conifer units (Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine) will be piled and burned. |
| Open areas or meadows | Avenza point gathering by MMG | Open areas and meadows will be restored/enhanced by cutting conifers to the diameter cap limitations identified within the Decision. |
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| **Unit 63: Ponderosa Pine Mixed Conifer Treatment** | | |
| Rock outcrop, some with lichens. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The rock outcrop bisecting units 63 and 107 was excluded from treatment. |
| **Unit 74: Two-Staged Mixed Conifer Treatment** | | |
| Large or old growth trees were located between units 45 and 74. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The area was visited by Wildlife Biologists and Silviculturist to evaluate stand condition. The area of concern surrounds a stream channel with mature spruce, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir. The boundary of the unit was established above this area and it will not be treated. |
| **Unit 75: Lodgepole Pine Treatment** | | |
| Request not to cut the western arm of unit where well-spaced, larger trees exist. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | Patchcuts were not layed out in this area. |
| Evidence of dense trees | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The layout of the patchcut was located in a denser, “dog-hair” area within and adjacent to the area with mixed conifer. Some ladder fuels will be removed along with the dense lodgepole pine trees. The overstory mixed conifer species and all limber pine will be retained. |
| **Unit 76: Lodgepole Pine Treatment** | | |
| Observations of cryptogrammic soil | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The area was avoided during layout of the patchcuts. |
| Evidence of dense trees | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The layout of the patchcuts were located in the denser, “dog-hair” areas including one area identified with Avenza points. |
| Concern | When Concern Brought Forward | Result or Change |
| **Unit 107: Lodgepole Pine Treatment** | | |
| An aspen aggregation located at the northwest end of the unit was initially identified to be treated. The size of the aggregation was questioned. | Field trip July, 2018 | The aspen aggregation did not meet the criteria of at least a ½ acre and was dropped from consideration. |
| Rock outcrop, some with lichens. | Avenza point gathering by MMG | The rock outcrop bisecting units 63 and 107 was excluded from treatment areas. |
| **Patchcut/Clearcut Units** | | |
| The buffers between patchcuts and clearcuts should have been 100 meters. | Field trip in December, 2017 and July, 2018 | At the July, 2018 field trip, the USFS stated that the distance between patchcuts would be 100’ and between clearcuts, 100 meters. |
|  | **Mixed Conifer Units** |  |
| Some units have considerable existing slash either from past treatments or from blowdown. | Point brought forward at MMG meetings and field trips | Existing slash (1”-4” in diameter and activity fuels (< 8” in diameter including tops and limbs) in mixed conifer units (Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine) will be piled and burned. |