**Multiparty Monitoring Group (MMG)**

**Landscape-Scale Values**

**May 8, 2019**

*Note: MMG members identified the following landscape-scale factors as being of particular importance to them at the group’s November 19, 2018 meeting. US Forest Service (USFS) representatives listened as other members shared their views and shared their priorities at the April 15, 2019 meeting. Those priorities are listed on the other side of this page.*

**Landscape-Scale Values: MMG Members**

* **Big trees** of all cover types are valued for ecological, fire risk, and spiritual reasons (e.g., forest bathing).
* **Cumulative impacts** from Gross Dam, the Magnolia Trails Project, Forsythe II, Boulder County’s work at Reynolds, housing construction, defensible space work, etc. are important to consider for ecological and social reasons.
* **Diversity** in all cover types (at the stand scale) is valued for ecological, social, and human health reasons.
* **Fire mitigation**: ladder and surface fuels are of particular concern for fire safety, aesthetic, and ecological reasons.
* **Property values** are important to consider and are influenced by all of the other values and are particularly reduced by nearby clear cuts.
* **Interior forest** of all cover types is valued for social and ecological reasons and for its rarity.
* **Shady, wet areas** of all cover types are valued for ecological, fire risk, and social reasons.
* **Viewsheds** from all perspectives (houses, driving into town, vistas, etc.) are valued for aesthetic reasons.
* **Wildlife** (including big animals like moose and bobcats, migratory birds, wildflowers, etc.) is valued for its general diversity and for ecological reasons.
* **Wildness** (including the protection of old and large trees) is valued for spiritual, ecological, social, and aesthetic reasons.

**Landscape-Scale Values: USFS Representatives**

* The overarching goal of the Forsythe II project is to reintroduce fire to the landscape.
* The objectives and corresponding treatments of the Forsythe II project fall into three primary buckets:
  + Protecting life and property in the WUI (fuels mitigation treatments occurring regardless of a restoration need).
  + Treatments occurring for the purposes of ecological restoration.
  + Authorizing private landowners to treat on USFS lands adjacent to their property for the purposes of protecting their life and property (defensible space).
* The objectives specified in the Decision Notice are:
  + Restore the severity and intensity of wildfire within the wildland-urban interface (WUI).
  + Restore ponderosa pine/mixed conifer stands, aspen, meadows, and shrublands.
  + Create defensible space and 300-foot buffers between USFS and private lands.
  + Emulate natural disturbance in stands dominated by lodgepole pine.
* Methods for achieving those objectives include:
  + Reducing stand density
  + Prescribed broadcast and pile burns
  + Buffer mitigation
  + Defensible space mitigation
  + Reducing canopy, ladder, and surface fuels
  + Cutting conifers and enhancing meadows, shrublands, and aspen
  + Creating variable stand structure
  + Clear/patch cutting, planting mixed conifers, and thinning regeneration
* Components of the USFS’s multi-use mission include:
  + Social
  + Wilderness
  + Fuels
  + Wildlife
  + Hydrology
  + Recreation
  + Invasive weeds
  + Timber
  + Fisheries
  + Botany
  + Heritage