Twin Sisters North Units 54, 55, 80

Alex Markevich comments based on site visit on Sunday, May 17, with Teagen

Unit 80

Previously treated during Winiger Ridge Project
North facing slope
Conifer dominated with intermixed aspens

- Conifers are primarily Douglas Fir (70%), then Ponderosa (25%), then Lodgepole (5%). The percentages are very rough estimates

There is some regeneration of young conifers, mostly Douglas Fir but including some Ponderosa

Geographically, Teagen's track outlines the rock outcropping / ridge that runs along most of the South side of this unit. Red Pin TB 5 marks the area as "Exclude ridge from cutting".

- Ridge is more sparsely forested and has almost no regeneration growth of conifers

There is a small patchcut running North-South in the Eastern part of the unit
Another patchcut / clear area between South edge of the South East lobe of unit 80 and the private house
And a large patchcut running North East from North East part of unit (this does not show up well in Google Earth)

Bottom line

Unit was well treated during Winiger Project

- Canopy was opened up a bit – no more canopy opening needed or even useful on this North facing slope

Forsythe treatment should seek to maintain the Winiger result
This requires:

- **Exclude rocky ridge area from any treatment**, as defined by Teagen's track and red pin TB 5
- **Cut most regen of conifers up to 2" DBH**. Possibly leave some regen – perhaps 10% - for generational diversity. And perhaps prefer Ponderosa for the leave regen, but this is really more Doug Fir terrain, so may be appropriate to mix Doug Fir and Ponderosa in regen that is left
- **Perform light ladder fuel thin of conifers in 2" – 4" DBH range within the understory**. This needs to be weighed against generational diversity.
- **Possibility of some slash clearing**, particularly within the clear cut that runs North-South in the Eastern part of the unit. Trade-off here is fire danger vs. animal cover

Area marked by Green Pin TB 4 "Cut regen up to 2" DBH. Possibly leave some regen for generational diversity. Light ladder fuel thin 2 - 4" DBH"

Overall, the unit is fire safe due to

- North facing, moist slope
- Reasonable canopy spacing from Winiger work for such a environment
- No excessive regen – but this we will control further as per prescription above
- Open fire fighting staging areas available due to adjacent open areas and rock ridge

Unit 54, South Section South of Boundary with Unit 80
Unit 54 is Old Growth
Ends just east of Unit 54 / 55 boundary line
Teagen short, roughly North-South track, south of Green Pin TB7, defines the boundary

Previously treated during Winiger Ridge Project
South facing, somewhat steep slope – dry, rocky ground
Very open
Widely spaced conifers
- Mostly large Douglas Fir
- Significant number of large Ponderosas, many with mistletoe

Some widely spaced, mostly Doug Fir regen
A few large Junipers – but all in isolation, so not a fire danger

Everything is widely spaced, so no fire danger – this is good fire fighting terrain
Very little to no ladder fuel
Reasonable amount of slash on the ground – the right amount to help grass / flower growth without allowing invasive species (and also in some place OK small animal cover)

Overall, no reason for any treatment
- Even the limited regen is good for generational diversity and does not present any ladder fuel fire danger
- Leave the few large Junipers – they are widely spaced from other trees, so not a fire danger, and certain animal species depend on them for food
  - **Acceptable to cut Ponderosa pine with heavy mistletoe up to 14" DBH**
  - But many Ponderosa with mistletoe are too large to take out (over 14" DBH)
  - IF some mistletoe infested Ponderosas are taken out, use mistletoe infestation rating to focus on the ones that are most infested
  - And also consider generational diversity – preserve a good age mix

***Area marked with Purple Pin TB 10* "Acceptable to cut PP with heavy mistletoe up to 14" DBH"**

North Section of Unit 54 along North facing slope, extending to North side of part of Unit 55
Teagan track defines the boundary
Unit 55 area to be included here is market with Purple Pin TB 14 "Include with unit 54"

Previously treated during Winiger Ridge Project
Similar to Unit 80, but in some places denser, and with less Aspen
Mostly Doug Fir
Lots of regen
Mostly classified as Old Growth

Treatment discussion need
Overall, treatment could include light ladder fuel and regen reduction to help with fire safety

- Potentially alternate patches of untouched, denser areas with thinned patches. Thinned patches could be located to enhance Aspens
- But need to preserve Old Growth character and cover for animals

***Marked with Green Pin TB 13* "Cut DF regen in patches (mosaic) OR Light DF thin"**

South Section of North half of Unit 54 along South facing slope facing toward Unit 80, and East and South sections of Unit 55.
Teagan track defines the boundary with North section of North half of Unit 54

Previously treated during Winiger Ridge Project
Classic South facing Ponderosa area with some Doug Fir
Generally in good shape, but could perhaps use a bit of regen / ladder fuel reduction to further enhance Ponderosa character

- **Reduce Doug Fir regen / ladder fuel to the extent that it exists (there is not much)**

Unit 54 area is marked by Purple Pin TB 17 "Light DF/regen thin"
Unit 55 area is marked by Purple Pin TB 16 "Light DF thin"

There is an aspen clone in the area just in the neck of unit 54 between units 55 and 80

- Not large enough to be an aspen aggregation
- In very good shape, but has a bit of conifer regen within it
- **Treat by removing the Conifer regen within the Aspen clone**

Aspen clone is marked by Green Pin TB 7 "Aspen patch, remove regen"