**MMG Field Trip (July 11, 2020)**

**Guideline Recommendations for Prescriptions**

**Units 52, 53, 54, 55, 80**

**Meeting Information: We will be meeting adjacent to Unit 53 at the kiosk on Magnolia Road (where the road transitions from pavement to dirt) at 9:00. There should be enough parking for the 10 vehicles close to the kiosk. Depending on time, we may drive, instead of walk, a short distance to another location that accesses Units 54, 55, and 80. The field trip will last from 9:00-1:00.**

**Unit 52 (8 acres)**

USFS Objectives:

* **Reduce the severity and intensity of a wildfire within the wildland urban interface (WUI).**
* **Restore ponderosa pine/mixed conifer stands, aspen, and meadows/shrublands toward their characteristic species composition, structure, and spatial patterns in order to increase resistance and resiliency to future natural disturbance.**
* Expand mature ponderosa pine forest across the landscape and increase resiliency to natural disturbance and climate change.
* Minimize torching potential of individual trees and groups of trees with intermingled crowns during a wildfire. Expand spacing between crowns to minimize crown fire potential between individual and groups of trees.
* Promote conditions favorable to ponderosa pine regeneration by opening the crown canopy in select locations to perpetuate the sustainability of the stand into the future.
* Promote favorable habitats for a variety of wildlife species and maintain connectivity of those habitats both spatially and temporally.
* Reduce existing stand density.

Background:

* The Average Existing Basal Area = 82 ft2 / acre; Average Existing Basal Area (dead) = 4 ft2 / acre.
* The unit is identified as Ponderosa Pine Mixed Conifer Treatment in the DN.
* The unit is dominated with large mature ponderosa pine (~77% of the unit has trees > 12” DBH in the overstory). The unit is a mixed stand primarily with conifers < 12” DBH. Aspen makes up about 12% of the area on average.
* Species Mix (overstory/understory1): ponderosa pine (69%/15%), Douglas-fir (12%/8%), Aspen (12%/16%), limber pine (4%/0%).
* The area is designated as old growth development.

Stop 1- Between Rocky Knolls and North Boundary

Discussion Points:

* Sub-objectives to reach DN; Terminology
* Thinning from below (regen < 2” DBH) / Creating gaps between groups and individual trees
* Ponderosa pine regeneration

Stop 2- Scattered Aspen Clones

Discussion Points:

* Aspen restoration discussion

**Unit 53 (16 acres)**

USFS Objectives:

* **Reduce the severity and intensity of a wildfire within the wildland urban interface (WUI).**
* **Restore aspen toward their characteristic species composition, structure, and spatial patterns in order to increase resistance and resiliency to future natural disturbance.**
* Promote favorable habitats for a variety of wildlife species and maintain connectivity of those habitats both spatially and temporally.
* Promote resiliency of aspen component both spatially and temporally.

Background:

* The Average Existing Basal Area = 58 ft2 / acre; Average Existing Basal Area (dead) = 3 ft2 / acre.
* The unit is identified as Aspen Restoration in the DN.
* The unit is in two parts and is an aspen dominated stand with residual conifers in the overstory and regeneration in the understory.
* Conifers > 12” DBH in the overstory make up over 36% of the unit.
* Species Mix (overstory/understory): Aspen (39%/52%), Douglas-fir (33%/18%), ponderosa pine (23%/8%), lodgepole pine (4%/2%).

Stop 2- Mixed Conifer/Aspen Strip Along Magnolia Road

Discussion Points:

* Strip treatment along border of Magnolia Road and Unit 53.
* Importance of the unit for wildfire strategy.
* Social value of the Unit.

Stop 1- Along road (middle of unit)

Discussion Points:

* Restoration treatment in an aspen dominated unit and DBH measurements

**Unit 54 (18 acres)**

USFS Objectives:

* **Reduce the severity and intensity of a wildfire within the wildland urban interface (WUI).**
* **Restore ponderosa pine/mixed conifer stands, aspen, and meadows/shrublands toward their characteristic species composition, structure, and spatial patterns in order to increase resistance and resiliency to future natural disturbance.**
* Expand mature ponderosa pine forest across the landscape and increase resiliency to natural disturbance and climate change.
* Minimize torching potential of individual trees and groups of trees with intermingled crowns during a wildfire. Expand spacing between crowns to minimize crown fire potential between individual and groups of trees.
* Promote conditions favorable to ponderosa pine regeneration by opening the crown canopy in select locations to perpetuate the sustainability of the stand into the future.
* Promote favorable habitats for a variety of wildlife species and maintain connectivity of those habitats both spatially and temporally.
* Promote resiliency of aspen component both spatially and temporally.
* On south aspects reduce ponderosa pine infested with dwarf mistletoe.
* Reduce the presence of dwarf mistletoe infested ponderosa pine.
* Reduce existing stand density.

Background:

* The Average Existing Basal Area = 73 ft2 / acre; Average Existing Basal Area (dead) = 7 ft2 / acre.
* The unit is identified as Mixed Conifer Treatment Old Growth.
* The unit has a variety of size classes of conifers with trees between 8”- 12” showing dominance at 20% in the overstory. Conifers greater than 12” DBH in the overstory cover about 25% of the area. Conifers < 12” DBH comprise about 55% of the overstory, and approximately 13% of the area has an aspen overstory.
* Species Mix (overstory/understory): Douglas-fir (37%/17%), ponderosa pine (33%/16%), Aspen (13%/10%), lodgepole pine (8%/8%), limber pine (2%/0%), Rocky Mtn. Juniper (2%, 0%).

Stop 1- North facing aspect

Discussion Points:

* Thinning regen < 4 “ DBH and layout for patches of regen.
* Pile burning/scorch potential
* Aspen

Stop 2- Road Treatment Discussion

Discussion Points:

* Treatment along road for ingress/egress

**Unit 80 (12 ac)**

USFS Objectives:

* **Reduce the severity and intensity of a wildfire within the wildland urban interface (WUI).**
* **Restore ponderosa pine/mixed conifer stands, aspen, and meadows/shrublands toward their characteristic species composition, structure, and spatial patterns in order to increase resistance and resiliency to future natural disturbance.**
* On north facing slopes enhance and expand the quality of the aspen component where appropriate to adjacent road that provides igress/egress to private property
* On south facing slopes promote favorable conditions to restore a healthy ponderosa pine dominated stand spatially and temporally and continue stand progression to favor old growth characteristics.
* Promote favorable habitats for a variety of wildlife species and maintain connectivity of those habitats both spatially and temporally.
* Reduce the presence of dwarf mistletoe infested ponderosa pine.
* Reduce stand density.

Background:

* The Average Existing Basal Area = 83 ft2 / acre; Average Existing Basal Area (dead) = 16 ft2 / acre
* The unit is identified as Douglas-fir Mixed Conifer Treatment in the DN.
* The unit is dominated with aspen (~ 33% of the unit has aspen trees in the overstory and ~60% in the understory).
* Species mix (overstory/understory): Aspen – 38%, Douglas-fir – 33%, ponderosa pine – 19%, lodgepole pine – 10%.
* The area is designated as old growth development.

Stop 1- Mixed Conifer/Aspen

Discussion Points:

* Step transect interpretation of unit
* Mixed Conifer overstory/Aspen understory boundaries and treatment

Stop 2-Surface Fuel treatment

Discussion Points:

* Possibility of treating pockets of surface fuels in mixed conifer units