

# FORSYTHE II UNITS 29

## PRESCRIPTION EVALUATION

### Unit 29

**USFS Objectives for Unit 29**

- 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.
- Emulate natural disturbance in lodgepole pine dominated stands to mimic variable structural and spatial patterns across the landscape in order to increase resistance and resiliency to future natural disturbance.

**Background Information for Unit 29 (164 acres; 49.2 maximum treatable):**

- The Average Existing Basal Area = 101 ft<sup>2</sup> / acre; Average Existing Basal Area (dead) = 8 ft<sup>2</sup> / acre.
- The unit is identified as Lodgepole Pine Treatment in the DN.
- The unit is dominated with generally pole to medium sized conifers (~59% of conifers are < 12” DBH in the overstory and ~30% of conifers are > 12” DBH in the overstory). The unit is comprised of a mix of stands dominated with lodgepole pine and variable stand structures. Ponderosa pine, limber pine, and Douglas-fir are lightly mixed among the lodgepole pine. Aspen makes up approximately 6% of the unit in the overstory and 16% of the understory.
- Species Mix (overstory/understory): lodgepole pine (63%/37%) ponderosa pine (12%/3%) Douglas-fir (10%/9%) Aspen (6%/17%) Engelmann spruce (3%/10%) limber pine (1%/1%).
- Approximately 25-35% of the unit is identified as either inventoried or retention old growth; approximately 25% is identified as interior forest.
- Two neighbors have indicated that they would like to see treatment through the defensible space zone to the shared boundary. These neighbors are located on the southeast corner of the unit.

**Data information from existing condition step transect surveys.**

<sup>1</sup>**Overstory/understory: Data is gathered by taking points systematically through the unit. At each point, the associated tree in the highest part of the crown canopy directly above the point is noted by size and species and is classified as “overstory”; the next tree crown beneath the associated highest tree is noted by size and species and is classified as “understory”. Some areas may have more than one canopy layer, but only the two highest canopies are captured in this survey.**

MFG comments	USFS comments
<p>Unit 29 is a LP unit shown on the map with approximately 1/3 of it Old Growth and 1/3 of it Interior Forest. This is a unique combination of forest characteristics in one location, which also distinctly limits locations which are appropriate for cutting.</p> <p>The western side of the unit is easily accessible by road, and already attracts some recreationists. Where the LP occurs it is relatively flat, which would allow for mechanical treatment.</p>	<p>Field Observations:</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Largely, this unit seems more unique with respect to tree species composition and snag components.</li> <li>▪ Down woody debris is at an advanced state of decomposition and snags in many cases have deep cavities and loose bark.</li> <li>▪ Live trees are also providing loose bark (useful for roosting bats) and cavities.</li> </ul>

The PC furthest west (marked by Track 16 and added on to by Track 26) is a LP stand with more SF than most of the surrounding area. By treating here we will be meeting both objectives in the DN. This PC is also adjacent to an aspen unit (61), as well as PP present in the eastern bulge. This would allow for the expansion of the aspen as well as the PP. Track 26 was added as additional acreage to this PC after measuring distance between the 2nd PC in this part of the unit. Also located in this PC is a discarded chair/lazy boy, which should be removed.

The second PC in the western half of the unit is marked by Track 15. It encompasses an aspen stand, dense LP regen, and some larger LP. Cutting here will provide room for the aspen to expand while also addressing the LP regen, which currently serves as ladder fuel.

Pin TB 18 between the 2 PCs marks SF treatment needed between the cuts.

Located on the MC, north slope of the western part of the unit are Pins: TB 26, 27, & 28 marking potential locations for SF treatment. Cutting an individual tree here and there in order to pile would be acceptable.

Pins TB 29, & 30 in the central part of the unit mark locations for SF treatment if it is permissible within Old Growth.

In the eastern part of the unit Track 19, 20, & 21 mark different sections of 1 PC. Track 19 & 20 are easily accessible from the road and relatively flat for mechanical treatment. Track 20 is easily accessible from the road, but sloping - either mechanical or manual treatment. Track 19 would essentially widen the road corridor as a holding feature while also addressing the regen under the power line, which is a fire risk. Track 20 focuses on a patch of LP with heavy SF. On the southern edge of this section are PP & aspen, which could expand into it. On the northern side are MC, which could also expand into the PC. Track 21 is a section of medium dog hair LP leading up to the rocky knoll between Track 20 & 21. Cutting here would provide clearings on both sides of the rocky knoll as well as access immediately off of the road for fire fighting purposes.

Adjacent to the Track 21 PC is Track 17, which encompasses a MC thin leading west from the saddle between the two rocky knolls. This would enhance the MC component that already exists on the landscape here while also providing access for fire fighting purposes. On the opposite side of the ridge we are

- Aspen within unit are moving out of optimal browse stage, enhancing the mature aspen and encouraging growth of new, young aspen fits well with the goals of interior forest and old growth in the area.
- Unique structure of living trees also could provide a variety of nesting locations
- Overall, unit is providing a high variety of habitat components in such a small area
- Treatments which enhance the current character of the forest could be very useful here. With that advanced state of decomposition, and maturity of the trees, some thinning and release of new regen could work to maintaining this forest type in the long run.
- Consider thinning trees 5-7 inches DBH on northern, denser slopes, 7-9 inches DBH on more open southern slopes.
- Consider expanding aspen aggregation treatments to extend further, incorporating more surrounding aspens groupings.

#### Fire

- From a fire perspective, patch cuts to expand on Aspen Unit 61 with Tracks 16/26 would be beneficial. This area is heavily utilized by recreationists and is a location for fuelwood gathering due to its relative flat contours and extensive two-track road systems.
- Fire prefers the treatment of surface fuel concentrations throughout the unit where feasible.
- There is a topographic ridge feature on the East side of the unit running North-South (Flagpole to Emory Rd) that could be a strategic suppression control feature. There are some proposed treatments (Tracks 18,21-23) that could improve this potential control feature. With additional treatments between Tracks 21 and 23 along the ridge and saddle, it could be a viable topographic, aspect and fuel type change to create an opportunity for firefighters. One proposal was to promote areas of existing aspen by cutting smaller diameter Douglas Fir and Lodgepole Pine within and around these aspen aggregations.
- Emory Road: The road is both a potential control feature and the sole ingress and egress for residents and firefighters in the event of wildfire. We discussed how to address the fire concerns with the fact that the majority of Emory road is within old growth designation (either retention, inventoried, or both). We also discussed the integrity of the old growth condition.

maintaining denser forest cover for wildlife passage/habitat diversity. This would be done manually.

The east side of the unit is apparently very rarely used by recreationists, and contains Interior Forest. As such it is inappropriate for mechanical treatment, beyond what is immediately adjacent to the road.

North of the first MC thin is another one circled by Track 18. This is located in Interior Forest and must retain at least 40% canopy cover per the DN. Thinning in this location would decrease the presence of LP, while providing a more open area in the forest for wildlife. Just to the east of this is also the ridge of a rocky knoll for firefighting purposes. This would also be done manually.

In the northeast corner of the unit is an aspen/MC thin marked by Track 22, which is composed of aspen, DF regen, and some very large DF. Taking out the DF regen will allow the aspen to expand, while maintaining 40% canopy cover (this is also Interior Forest). This will provide diversity on the landscape. Adjacent to this patch is a very small PC marked by Track 23, which is full of LP regen. Removing these will allow the adjacent stand to expand. This would all be done manually.

Tracks 24 & 25 encircle aspen and MC/PP respectively. Removing the LP from this location would provide diversity to the forest and allow the aspen and PP to expand. This is within Interior Forest, and current canopy cover will need to be verified first. This would be treated manually.

The currently unmarked access road on this eastern side should be gated at its origin with Emery Road to prevent any motorized vehicle use, which would lead users directly into Interior Forest, which would threaten its designation as such.

Finally for the length of the unit we suggest cutting all conifers under the power lines, except aspen to reduce fire risk. Xcel would undoubtedly share a common interest in having this done, and the acreage could go towards the Forsythe II targets.

- To the extent practical, fire supports the idea of removing conifers under and adjacent to the powerlines to reduce potential powerline ignitions, but I am unsure if this effort is redundant to ongoing utility line maintenance by utility companies.

#### Vegetation

- Due to the limited proposed acres and volume within the provided polygons to treat mechanically by the MFG, it is not economically feasible to conduct mechanical operations in this unit.
- Tracks 16 and 26: These identified polygons to patchcut have conifers that are primarily greater than 8" DBH. Larger material won't be piled with a manual treatment, but due to the heavy fuelwood gathering in the area, would most likely be picked up. There is potential to extend these polygons to the west towards track 15 which is an aspen aggregation.
- Track 15: There are two different types of aggregations to treat within this track. The eastern aggregation is dominated with younger lodgepole pine and can be treated with a patchcut. The western half can be treated as an aspen aggregation. This aggregation can be extended to the north from the existing polygon boundary about ¼ the distance between the polygon's northern edge and TB26.
- Surface Fuels (TB 26, 27, 28): As we walked the area, we began to evaluate if old growth characteristics and conditions were present to classify it as old growth stand. We determined the area did have some characteristics of an old growth stand but felt the area is still developing and appropriately identified as old growth development. In this same area surface fuels could be addressed incorporating existing fuels to a specific diameter. There was discussion about the diameter of existing fuels to pile and how the overstory would be affected by burning in such a dense condition.
- Two adjacent residents have requested that the USFS treats the defensible space buffer to the boundary. We evaluated options for treatment along the southeast portion along Emery Road. This area is a mix of dense lodgepole pine and aspen aggregations. Retention old growth exists on the far southwest end of the shared boundary.
- We need to still evaluate the defensible space buffer along the eastern boundary from the southeast corner of the unit.

- We visited various locations of interior forest and old growth and discussed the condition, integrity, and scale of each.

**MFG Proposal/Recommendations (Bold) with USFS Responses/Commitments (*in Unbolded Italics*)**

**Within the ORANGE outlines create Patch Cuts (mechanical in the 2 on the west side, and in the 1 on the southeast corner to the extent feasible).**

*The USFS will be treating unit 29 manually due to the small number of acres identified by the MFG to treat with mechanized equipment. The locations of the patchcuts will be utilized and possibly modified to evaluate the larger material that would or would not be cut and the residual biomass that may be left on site.*

**Within the BLUE outlines carry out mixed conifer thins manually.**

*The blue polygons primarily follow the north-south ridge that is preferred and beneficial to mitigate with a thinning prescription. These areas may be modified/expanded to facilitate the efficiency of implementation in order to meet the fire resource objectives. The polygons (Tracks 16 and 23) would have a prescription that maintains the integrity of the entire interior forest designation.*

**Within the GREEN outlines carry out aspen treatment, or mixed conifer thins depending on size of aggregation (manually).**

*The USFS commits to follow the guidelines for aspen treatment outlined in the DN. These areas may be expanded to include adjacent aspen clones and encourage the expansion of aspen and enhancement.*

**Require placement of gate on the eastern access road/driveway into the unit to prevent unauthorized motorized use within the unit (including Interior Forest & Old Growth) following the project.**

*The USFS is assuming the road that is referenced is not the one that leads to the private residence at the end of Emory Road, but instead the two-track just to the west of that location which leads to private land on the northern side of Unit 29. This road is permitted for access to the landowner and additional coordination would be required before the USFS can commit to this.*

**At Purple points (outside of treatment circles) carry out surface fuel treatment as discussed in the MMG.**

*Surface fuels (1'-4" in diameter) identified with Purple points located in treatment polygons will be addressed accordingly along with the activity fuels. Purple Points outside of identified polygons will either be incorporated into their own polygon for surface fuels or evaluated and incorporated to include with an appropriate vegetation treatment.*

**Beneath the power lines patch cut all conifers leaving only aspen where they occur.**

*This will be incorporated into the Emory Road Corridor prescription below.*

**USFS Additions to MFG Proposal/Recommendations**

**Polygons (Tracks 16/26) will be patchcut with the boundary extended and add approximately 1 acre from the middle eastern boundary.**

**Polygon (Track 15) will be split into two separate polygons (the western half would receive an aspen treatment and a patchcut prescription will be applied in the lodgepole pine dominated eastern half of the polygon. The new aspen treatment polygon would be expanded to the north and east to include additional aspen clones.**

**A small stand of younger lodgepole pine about 100 yards east of Purple Dot TB 26 and south of a small opening will be added to treat with either a patchcut or regeneration thin (depending on the average size of the conifers – needs to be further evaluated).**

**An aspen aggregation treatment polygon will be added between Tracks 18 and 25.**

**Thinning Diameter Limits in identified blue polygons or other thinning units**

**Interior Forest: On north aspects conifers < 6" DBH would be thinned and on south aspects conifers < 8" DBH would be thinned.**

**Forest Matrix: On north aspects conifers < 7" DBH would be thinned and on south aspects conifers < 10" DBH would be thinned.**

**Surface Fuel Points (TB26, TB27, TB28): A polygon will be drawn, and acres accounted to pile existing surface fuels (1"-5" diameter) and subsequently burned. To minimize scorch in the mid to over-story conifers, trees (1"- 7" DBH within 5' of the edge of the constructed pile may be cut to facilitate pile burning).**

**Emory Road Corridor - We made the following observations and determinations:**

- 1. The Emory Road corridor is delineated by the powerline on the north that parallels the road and the defensible space buffer on the south side of the road.**
- 2. The road corridor showed characteristics of both mixed conifer and lodgepole pine old growth.**
- 3. The road corridor had a substantial amount of large aspen tree clones mixed with the conifer species.**
- 4. For safety concerns within the corridor (ingress/egress) all conifers < 12" DBH will be cut and piled.**
- 5. All existing slash < 4" in diameter would be piled in addition to activity fuels up to 8" in diameter.**
- 6. Strategically located retention pockets of conifers will be retained to deter off road vehicle use or additional campsites.**

**Defensible Space Buffer (Southeast corner of unit that parallels Emory Road) – approximately 8.5 acres Aspen (located primarily along the road): Treatment will follow the DN guidelines to restore aspen. Some pockets of conifers may be retained to deter off-road use.**

**Lodgepole pine (located from edge of aspen to shared boundary at fence line): One to three patchcuts (1-4 acres in size) will be implemented.**

**Old Growth and Interior Forest**

**The identified old growth north of Emory Road will not have a thinning/patchcut prescriptions implemented except for the Emory Road corridor (emphasis for fire resource and safety purposes). Proposed surface fuel treatments, identified with Teagen's Purple points, will have minimal impact to the integrity of old growth stands with the proposed treatment methods.**

**Interior forest conditions on the ground have either changed or were mis-identified since 1997 when the Forest Plan was signed. Because of the extent of recreational use and two-track roads in this area, classifications and locations of interior forest need to be re-evaluated and re-mapped for accuracy. We have begun the process and at this time have not made any alterations to the mapped interior forest.**

**Final Decision: Guidelines Moved Forward**

# FORSYTHE II UNIT 30 PRESCRIPTION EVALUATION

Unit 30	
<p>USFS Objectives for Unit 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the severity and intensity of a wildfire within the wildland urban interface (WUI).</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Emulate natural disturbance in lodgepole pine dominated stands to mimic variable structural and spatial patterns across the landscape in order to increase resistance and resiliency to future natural disturbance.</li> </ul>	
<p>Background Information for Unit 30 (14 acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Average Existing Basal Area = 62 ft<sup>2</sup> / acre; Average Existing Basal Area (dead) = 14 ft<sup>2</sup> / acre.</li> <li>The unit is identified as Lodgepole Pine Treatment in the DN.</li> <li>The unit is dominated with generally small lodgepole pine (~70% of conifers are &lt; 12" DBH in the overstory). Ponderosa pine, limber pine, and Douglas-fir are lightly mixed among the lodgepole pine. Aspen makes up approximately 8% of the unit in the understory.</li> <li>Species Mix (overstory/understory): lodgepole pine (50%/30%) ponderosa pine (7%/0%) Douglas-fir (7%/8%) Aspen (0%/8%) limber pine (7%/0%).</li> </ul> <p><b>Data information from existing condition step transect surveys.</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup><b>Overstory/understory: Data is gathered by taking points systematically through the unit. At each point, the associated tree in the highest part of the crown canopy directly above the point is noted by size and species and is classified as "overstory"; the next tree crown beneath the associated highest tree is noted by size and species and is classified as "understory". Some areas may have more than one canopy layer, but only the two highest canopies are captured in this survey.</b></p>	
MFG comments	USFS comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The flagged patchcut (1.21 ac) in the western portion of the unit is placed in an area with heavy SF, or denser, or less healthy trees. Overall it appears to be a reasonable place for a patchcut.</li> <li>Concern: There is a ravine, or ephemeral stream that runs near the northern end of the identified patchcut. Teagen has drawn an orange line (Track # 4) on the top side of the PC that reads 1.21 acres.</li> </ul>	<p>Field Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The unit has limited opportunities for treatment.</li> <li>Dwarf mistletoe is present and is affecting the overall health of the stand.</li> <li>Steep slopes, rocky soils, and limited access off La Chula Road to unload mechanical equipment.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a small ephemeral on the north side of the patchcut identified within the unit.</li> </ul>
MFG Proposal/Recommendations (Bold) with USFS Responses/Commitments ( <i>in Unbolded Italics</i> )	
<p><b>The boundary of this unit should be pulled down (or rather uphill) to the line to buffer more from the ephemeral stream, which is much more pronounced down here.</b></p> <p><i>The USFS commits to moving the boundary to the recommended location.</i></p>	

USFS Additions to MFG Proposal/Recommendations

**In the patchcut: Hand constructed burn piles shall be located at 50 feet from the stream or outside the inner gorge, whichever is less.**

**Existing surface fuels 1"- 4" in diameter will be incorporated into the handpiles along with the activity fuels.**

Final Decision: Guidelines Moved Forward

# FORSYTHE II UNIT 31 PRESCRIPTION EVALUATION

<b>Unit 31</b>	
<p>USFS Objectives for Unit 31:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the severity and intensity of a wildfire within the wildland urban interface (WUI).</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Emulate natural disturbance in lodgepole pine dominated stands to mimic variable structural and spatial patterns across the landscape in order to increase resistance and resiliency to future natural disturbance.</li> </ul>	
<p>Background Information for Unit 31 (73 acres):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Average Existing Basal Area = 47 ft<sup>2</sup> / acre; Average Existing Basal Area (dead) = 10 ft<sup>2</sup> / acre.</li> <li>• The unit is identified as Lodgepole Pine Treatment in the DN.</li> <li>• The unit is dominated with generally small lodgepole pine (~75% of conifers are &lt; 12” DBH in the overstory) and approximately 10% of the area has conifers ranging between n 12” and &gt; 20” DBH on average. Aspen (some up to 10” DBH) is present in both large and small clones throughout the unit and is found either in the overstory, understory or both.</li> <li>• Species Mix (overstory/understory): lodgepole pine (85%/58%) Douglas-fir (1%/1%) Aspen (6%/10%).</li> </ul> <p>Data information from existing condition step transect surveys.  <sup>1</sup>Overstory/understory: Data is gathered by taking points systematically through the unit. At each point, the associated tree in the highest part of the crown canopy directly above the point is noted by size and species and is classified as “overstory”; the next tree crown beneath the associated highest tree is noted by size and species and is classified as “understory”. Some areas may have more than one canopy layer, but only the two highest canopies are captured in this survey.</p>	
MFG comments	USFS comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flagged two patchcuts (2.94 ac and 4.13 ac) in the northern portion of the unit (upper part of the “r” shape of the USFS land ownership) is placed in an area with heavy SF, or denser, or less healthy trees. Overall it appears to be a reasonable place for a patchcuts.</li> <li>• Concern: There is a ravine or ephemeral stream running through or near the two patchcuts (blue tracks on Teagen’s map). The right hand one (4.13 ac) is less pronounced than near the bottom of the left hand one (2.94 ac).</li> </ul>	<p>Field Observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The unit has varying levels of dwarf mistletoe in the lodgepole pine.</li> <li>▪ Access for mechanical equipment is limited especially south of Wedgwood Road. Rock content in the soil would also limit some areas to be treated.</li> <li>▪ Denser homogenous lodgepole pine found on northerly slopes.</li> <li>• Aspen drainage south of Wedgwood Road may pose a problem to create handpiles and meet DN Design Criteria.</li> <li>• Remnant Forsythe I units exist both in and out of the defensible space buffer.</li> </ul>
MFG Proposal/Recommendations (Bold) with USFS Responses/Commitments ( <i>in Unbolded Italics</i> )	
<p>As far as the leg part of the “r” our recommendation is to remove both parallel patch cuts (1.69 &amp; 1.57 acres). These patch cuts are composed of decently spaced Lodgepole on a wet, north facing slope above and to the west of what appears to be a perennial stream. These patch cuts were also laid out last summer</p>	

**before our recent conversation about Lodgepole, where both the USFS and MFG members discussed preferences for patch cuts on south slopes.**

*The USFS does not commit to remove these patchcuts. These dense patchcuts will break up the continuous canopy closure and subsequent fuel loadings associated with this dense lodgepole dominated stand. Including the patchcuts and ensuing planting of mixed conifer species would provide stand structural diversity, a heterogeneous species composition to minimize the negative effects of dwarf mistletoe infection, and a more resilient stand to natural disturbances.*

**Below these patch cuts (in the middle of the “r” leg) is an area of very unhealthy Lodgepole, partially dead (standing, or on the ground - heavy surface fuel), and many remaining trees with mistletoe. This area is also located on a plateau, or ridge, with easy access from the road for firefighting purposes. The USFS had begun to layout a patch cut in this area but didn’t complete it last summer. Teagen’s orange line (Track #5) outlines the area recommended to the USFS for placing a patch cut (either all, or part of the area).**

*The USFS agrees to include this patchcut as identified with the track line identified by Teagen.*

**Within this patch cut there are some very widely spaced Lodgepole regen, some healthy, some not. The healthy regen could be left during treatment to provide for age diversity in the future stand, and also help to maintain ground cover.**

*The USFS agrees to maintain healthy lodgepole pine regeneration in the prescription for treatment.*

#### USFS Additions to MFG Proposal/Recommendations

**Referring to the map provided by the MFG during June’s zoom meeting: On the south side of Wedgwood Road, the USFS would like to add a patchcut (approximately 3-4 acres) located on the eastern defensible space boundary buffer that follows the contour west to a rock outcrop and then south along the contour back to the eastern buffer boundary.**

**For all patchcuts: Hand constructed burn piles shall be located at 50 feet from the stream or outside the inner gorge, whichever is less.**

**Existing surface fuels 1”- 4” in diameter will be incorporated into the handpiles along with the activity fuels.**

#### Final Decision: Guidelines Moved Forward

# FORSYTHE II UNITS 61 PRESCRIPTION EVALUATION

## Unit 61

### USFS Objectives for Unit 61

- 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 Information for Unit 61 (7 acres):

- The Average Existing Basal Area = 61 ft<sup>2</sup> / acre; Average Existing Basal Area (dead) = 5 ft<sup>2</sup> / acre.
- The unit is identified as Aspen Restoration in the DN.
- Species Mix (overstory/understory): ponderosa pine (13%/7%) Douglas-fir (7%/0%) Aspen (60%/67%).
- Conifers > 12" DBH in the overstory make up approximately 20% of the unit.

### Data information from existing condition step transect surveys.

<sup>1</sup>Overstory/understory: Data is gathered by taking points systematically through the unit. At each point, the associated tree in the highest part of the crown canopy directly above the point is noted by size and species and is classified as "overstory"; the next tree crown beneath the associated highest tree is noted by size and species and is classified as "understory". Some areas may have more than one canopy layer, but only the two highest canopies are captured in this survey.

### MFG comments

- Track 15 adjusts the unit boundary to avoid the wetland included in the unit.
- Track 14 outlines an area of the unit more than 30' from the edge of the aspen, and very rocky. No conifers within this area should be marked for cutting
- There are several trees on the edge of the aspen unit at the DBH limit, which we would like to flag for retention per the agreement at the 12/8/19 MMG meeting.

### USFS comments

- Field Observations:
- Aspen unit with mixed conifer species intermixed through the unit.

### MFG Proposal/Recommendations (Bold) with USFS Responses/Commitments (*in Unbolded Italics*)

**Exclude areas circled in RED from marking for conifer removal.**

*The USFS agrees to the boundary modifications.*

**Return to unit with MMG to flag trees at the DBH limit to exclude from cutting in line with the agreement at the 12/8/19 MMG meeting.**

*The USFS agrees to have the MMG flag trees at the DBH limits (ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir > 14" DBH and lodgepole pine > 12" DBH) to retain within the aspen unit boundaries.*

USFS Additions to MFG Proposal/Recommendations

**The USFS will follow the aspen treatment as described in the DN.**

Final Decision: Guidelines Moved Forward