SBEADMR Pre-treatment review Field trip to Bald TS

8/11/2020

General SBEADMR Update (Clay Speas)

This year we had 10 recommendations on Design Feature changes that went through the AMG and FLT review process and were all approved for inclusion moving forward. We also updated Appendix E on the public comment period, moving it to after the February meeting.

Thus far 80 miles of temporary road (out of 360 miles estimated in the EIS) have been created under SBEADMR – 40 miles of road has already been decommissioned.

Stop 1:

This area was shelterwood harvested in the late 1960s/early 1970s. There is also a spruce clear-cut/plantation area (we do *not* clearcut green spruce anymore). The Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment generally does not allow for us to implement shelterwood cuts anymore.

The planted spruce has struggled to survive due to lack of shade and rodent issues. Multiple planting attempts have failed over the years; GMUG has funding to plant Engelmann spruce once more this year; Cari is hopeful that the lodgepole planted on site will act as a “cover crop” for the new spruce seedlings, hopefully providing enough shade that they can survive. She does not expect the lodgepole to survive/thrive in the longer term – it currently looks pretty weird/bushy. There is some Douglas fir in the project area that regenerated naturally (not planted) and is generally doing well.

Tony noted that CLFR noticed major edge effects/lack of regen in the center of 1 ac circular group selections put in spruce stands on the W side of the Uncompahgre Plateau back in the 1990s. Need to balance the ecology of Engelmann spruce with operability constraints.

This area is heavier spruce near the parking spot, but with more subalpine fir (and budworm activity) as you move north in the stand.

Rx planned for this area is group selection – in general, groups should make up about 20% of the stand, with a planned return every (30-) 40 years to harvest new groups. 20% of the stand is never harvested on this rotation schedule, so in theory you would return to your first groups to harvest again in 160 years.

It is harder to protect advanced regeneration in green tree treatments compared to salvage treatments. Generally anything over 30 feet tall will be fine, but we tend to lose the smaller trees. Use herringbones off of skid trails to protect the matrix (matrix is area between groups)

Stop 2:

This stop is the far NW upper corner of the project area. It has seen similar past management activity to stop 1, but generally has much less advanced regeneration – no obvious reason why.

Other discussion:

Is AMG interested in citizen science related to SBEADMR? Lexi notes that SMA members are definitely interested in monitoring out towards the Telluride area.

What indicators are useful? Who should be involved?

Relationship with schools/teachers is critical. Also great to involve those who are deeply familiar with the land/area (permitees, ranchers, etc)

AMG is starting to maintain a SBEADMR website through CFRI – this will be the landing place for all things SBEADMR, and easier to navigate than the USFS website.