

Dad's Creek Committee summary 3/20/08

Temporary road discussion

- FS presented roads summary information to the group to make a final recommendation on temporary roads and other issues.
- FS uses three different closed road definitions 1) Closed roads needing drainage structures, 2) Closed roads that are grown in, 3) Closed roads by Code Federal Regulations
- Summary table shows that there will be 1.4 miles net loss at the end of the project
- We discussed several concerns over the impacts of temporary roads including 1) Hydrology, 2) Access (illegal OHV), 3) introduction and spread of invasive weeds, 4) soil compaction, and 5) Habitat fragmentation. As well as the issue of the .95 miles temp road accessing units 12, 18, and 10 proximity to the Dixie Butte inventoried roadless area. The other issue is the amount of closed roads to be reopened in the project area ~68 miles (ryan has this info) and the rehabilitation strategy for closing roads. Folks also brought up that roads are meant to be a tool to reach your objective and several folks mentioned the importance of treating these specific units.
- We developed two proposals and the subcommittee voted with the goal of reaching consensus.
 - o The first proposal was to include all five temp rd segments in the analysis. If the FS analyzes the impacts of all five temporary roads and we determine there are unacceptable impacts in terms of hydrological impacts, access (illegal OHV use), invasive weeds, soil compaction and habitat fragmentation that can't be mitigated then the group will recommend that the FS drop the road. We will have the opportunity to visit the roads in the field and recommend including all or some of the temp roads in the final proposal during the objection period of the project. We will also look at rehabilitation strategies other than block and slash for the temp roads. If there are temp roads included in the final proposal we will have a monitoring piece to determine the environmental impacts and effectiveness of mitigation measures. Group voted 6-1 in favor
 - o Tim's addition, examine additional road system in project area with the goal of decreasing road network
 - o Second proposal was to omit the .95 temp road segment that accesses unit 12, 18, 10 include the three shorter temp road segments and shorten the .33 road segment so it is closer to a ¼ mile in length. Look at other ways to access units 12, 18, 10. Include analysis of impacts of temp roads. Group voted 2-5 in favor

Basal Area Discussion

- Eric presented unit by unit draft basal area target as well as information on variability throughout the project area
- Folks mentioned the importance of having other measures in the analysis such as fine fuels and ladder fuels that help frame the discussion in terms of ecological restoration. Folks were fairly comfortable with the proposal with the addition of meaningful discussions in the EA that address other types of measurement than basal area, language included about leaving the largest site class trees.

Restoration Projects

- Folks agreed to brainstorm possible restoration projects to be included as stewardship contracting, which we can prioritize and decided to include a couple as mandatory items and others as optional work dependent on funding. We can explore funding options through the commercial value extracted, appropriations, and grants.
- One of the rationales from selecting Dads' Creek as first project was to reduce some complexity and find some common ground – to include restoration activities in HFRA project we have to have 100% consensus from the group. Group should prioritize restoration activities so that whatever receipts might exist can be used to get started – the rest would be complemented with grants, appropriated \$, volunteers.
- ID team identified several opportunities
 - o 2600369 road closure with gate, intent is to explore decommissioning options in the future by partnering with the Warm Springs Tribe, Fish and Wildlife, and private landowner.
 - o 2600388 earth berm to reduce open road density in winter range
 - o Old mine, possibly has been reactivated, but FS looking into the opportunity of cleaning this up
 - o Restoration of small Aspen stand near unit 34
 - o Maintenance of specific roads near Dad's creek to reduce sediment
 - o Road considered for use in the project, but not being used, rd 233 with three stream crossings
- Subcommittee members suggested the following additional items
 - o Hardwood planting around riparian areas to address temperature issues in stream
 - o Roads that were supposed to be decommissioned in 97, but will be used for this project, 2600436 and 2600369
 - o Determine effectiveness of closures
 - o Culvert replacements
 - o Livestock exclosures to rehabilitate riparian area
 - o Reintroduction of native fish species
 - o Invasive plant treatments without herbicide
 - o Underplanting in understocked areas
- Several folks mentioned prioritizing projects around temperature and sediment issues.
- List gives the FS a good idea of groups recommendations and they will determine what to include in this EA and what will need to go through a different NEPA process

Next Steps

- Give recommendation on temporary roads to the FS, can either be a specific proposal or to say that we are at a impasse
- EA will be reviewed by group through normal public process. Group could write a letter of recommendations, or individually, also members can call FS staff individually.