

Grasshopper Restoration Project

Wasco County Forest Collaborative

June 4, 2020

Wasco County Forest Collaborative Charter

Within the Wasco County Landscape we will seek to:

- Restore natural processes and functions within a biophysical setting's natural range of variability.
- Support Community Wildfire Protection Plans and reduce wildfire risk to communities and adjacent landowners.
- Provide a meaningful and predictable flow of restoration by-products for utilization by local forest products businesses.
- To provide input and recommendations to the Forest Service on restoration work within the Wasco County Landscape

The Wasco County Forest Collaborative adopts the guiding principles as it seeks to restore this landscape, including meaningful stakeholder collaboration, use of best available science, local economic development, reduction of long-term wildfire management costs, sustainability, and leveraging local resources with national and private resources.

Project Overview

- Badger Creek Wilderness (N), Rocky Restoration Project (S), NF 4880 (W)
- 9,106-acre planning area
- Diverse range of forest types
- Pine Hollow Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to Boulder Lake

Project Timeline & Collaborative Involvement

- Field trip and briefing paper (Fall 2018)
- Sub-Committee (April 2019)
- Purpose and Need & Proposed Action (released July 15, 2019)
- Scoping letter and collaborative comments (August 1, 2019)

Purpose and Need

The overall purpose for the Grasshopper project is to conduct activities within the planning area to improve the health and vigor of forested stands. There is a need to reduce risks associated with high-intensity wildfires, to protect and enhance wildlife habitat, and to contribute to a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products that will help maintain the stability of local and regional economies. In order to meet this overall purpose, this project aims to:

- enhance and restore forest diversity, structure, and species composition including pine/oak habitat and riparian reserves;
- maintain a road network that provides for public and firefighter safety in the event of a wildfire;
- enhance, restore, and protect wildlife habitat; and
- provide forest products in alignment with the Forest and Northwest Forest Plans.

Proposed Action

- Conduct silvicultural treatments ~5,658 acres
- Fuels treatments (~300' wide)
- Prescribed burning
- Riparian Area Enhancement
- Snag creation
- Road closures

Scoping Letter – Collaborative Response

- Terrestrial and aquatic habitat improvement
- Transportation
- Fuels
- Recreation
- Vegetation Management
- Grazing

Project Updates (Feb 2020)

- Drop fire/fuels treatments in National Recreation Area
- Secured Regional approval to keep 200 acres of treatment in Inventoried Roadless Area
- Added 280 acres of shelterwood along 4860 road (second alternative)

Follow up science presentations

Dr. John Bailey – Fire and Fuels Treatment Effectiveness (April 2, 2020)

- Fire occurred more frequently than previously thought
- Modified shelterwood treatments

Dr. Chris Dunn – PODS (May 7, 2020)

- Pre-fire planning tool
- Analytical approach to identifying operational areas for fire response that improve fire fighter safety, protect highly valued resources, and utilize existing control features

Mount Hood National Forest Presentation

- Silviculture (Whitney Olsker)
- Fire and Fuels (Rick Lancaster)
- Wildlife (Patty Walcott)

Discussion Questions

- What reactions or questions do members of the group have?
- What are emerging areas of collaborative agreement and potential consensus?