

Red Hill Treatment Descriptions

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The goal of the Red Hill Forest Health project is to take a more holistic landscape approach to our planning area. We have looked for sub-watershed forest health needs at the landscape level.

The Forest Service started with the Upper West Fork Hood River Sub watershed as the project area. It was 16,270 acres, which included the Bull Run Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) and private land in-holdings and roughly 72 miles of inventoried roads. With no LSR assessment completed for the Bull Run LSR and a desire to protect areas with little to no existing roads, the project area was cut to treat 12,000 acres, which excludes the LSR with roughly 56 miles of cataloged roads. With the a landscape approach in mind, the Forest Service designated 6 different treatments to address the Wildlife Habitat and Forest Health concerns within the sub-watershed on a little more than 3,000 acres.

One treatment would be around 1500 acres of **Plantation Thinning** to address high density issues that are leading to Forest Health concerns. These concerns are stress related mortality, limited species diversity, and limited structural diversity. Nested within more than half of these treatments are also a **Riparian Enhancement** needs. Riparian areas within these plantations have the same forest health concerns as the rest of the plantations. The overall desire for these treatment would be to move riparian areas and the rest of the plantations towards a properly functioning late successional area with a large tree component that is currently absent in the majority of the stands due to high densities.

Another treatment would be a **Fuels Treatment** on around 150 acres. This treatment has the objective of providing a larger area of protection from large scale disturbance by connecting already treated areas to create a continuous treated area. Treatments would be done in stages of thin and pile burn and then several later entries prescribed burns. Later entry burns would be conducted based on site conditions. This would then further protect other resources in the area from detrimental effects of un-natural large scale disturbance.

A fourth treatment component would be some **Habitat Improvement Thinning for pileated woodpeckers and pine martin habitat** on approximately 350 acres. The objective would be to move these areas into a more long-term sustainable habitat that high densities have limited. The goal would be to provide more structural diversity and encourage tree growth to meet a need for a large green retention tree component and future snag development. Also, there is a need to create habitat for regeneration to encourage a new age class which will add to species and structural diversity. These areas have had activities within them over the past 50 years. Activities range from but are not limited to fuels treatments, individual salvage, and commercial harvest.

A fifth treatment would be around 650 acres of **Forest Health Thinning Treatments within densely stocked stands infested with larger areas of Root disease**. The concerns within these stands are due to high densities that are leading to stress related mortality, above normal insect and pathogen mortality, limited species diversity, and limited structural diversity. There is also and need to encourage regeneration to maintain species and structural diversity. These areas have had activities within them over the past 50 years. Activities range from but are not limited to fuels treatments, individual salvage, and commercial harvest.

A sixth would be a **Huckleberry Enhancement thinning Treatment within closed canopy stands** on around 250 acres. This treatment is to address the shading of a culturally important shrub that due to closed canopy structures has had limited regeneration and berry production. The treatment would be to open the canopy up to provide abdicate sunlight for huckleberry to thrive. These areas have had activities within them over the past 50 years. Activities range from but are not limited to fuels treatments, individual salvage, and commercial harvest.

Lastly, an additional 27 acres of **Riparian Enhancement to remove conifer encroachment on an existing wet meado**. Conifer encroachment is a concern due to the detrimental effects that an increase in a tree component has on the properly functioning meadow ecosystem.