

## Sublette County Forest Collaborative

February 17, 2017

### Issues

Why are the issues related to forest health in Sublette County?

#### Group 1

- Public education related to forest health to explain what it is, its importance, management actions to get public buy-in for programs
- Allowing natural fire regimes to occur and get the forest where the fire can be beneficial rather than damaging
- Creating conditions that allow for safe fire fighting
- Maintain trail access affected by insects and fire
- Understand the limitations and maximize potential within them (e.g., regulations, institutional mindsets)
- Generate some forest products: provide local businesses with wood, figure out what's possible
- Funding for planning, specialist: time and pre-planning are bottlenecks
- How to find non-government funds and resources
- How to find funding for private fuel reduction treatments
- Fuel reduction: prescribed burns challenging to implement – therefore mechanical?
- Bear watershed health in mind when making recommendations
- Maintain healthy grazing regimes in the context of forest treatments
- Need to create diverse seral classes and restore key vegetation types
- Maintain a diverse spectrum of recreational experiences and opportunities
- Landscape scale fuel reduction treatments regardless of jurisdiction are needed
- Manage invasives: limit or avoid spread of invasives in forest treatment
- Take into consideration the next disease or insect infestation into treatments
- Aspen is your friend
- Take migration corridors into consideration when designing treatments

#### Group 2

- Meadow Lake trail (user conflict between ATVs and horses, human-wildlife conflict between ATVs and elk, safety and strain on Search and Rescue, ATVers need a place to go)
- Travel management – where is USFS at with their plans? Are they in need of revision?
- Access – some areas have better access than others (across private, BLM, closed roads)
- Enforcement of existing travel management through interagency cooperation
- Addressing year-round elk movements, including feed grounds
- Physical infrastructure – deteriorating bridges, roads, culverts
- Improving forest resiliency
- Removal of dead wood behind gates
- Improve mule deer habitat conditions

- Trail maintenance and management of dead fall in burn areas and wilderness
- How to address hazard trees
- Creation of designated motorized routes
- Creation of looped routes and trails
- Wildland-urban interface (designated roadless areas, migration corridors, etc.)
- Invasive plants and insects (weeds, pine beetle, cheatgrass)
- Roads in designated roadless and wilderness areas (what are the available tools for managing these areas?)
- Wilderness Study Areas – three in Sublette County (inform WPLI on issues)
- Water quality, particularly in areas of beetle kill and erosion
- Water quantity, i.e., watershed capacity
- Forage amount and quality for livestock and wildlife
- Public and agency education and information sharing
- Bureaucratic process (red tape)
- Industry capacity – ability to fill bid, contract duration, stewardship contracting authority
- Encroachment along interface of different habitat types
- Lack of data on current forest conditions and areas that need the group's attention
- How to make decisions regarding areas that cross jurisdictional boundaries (e.g., Mosquite Lake in Sublette and Teton counties)
- Impacts of timber harvest and travel on soil condition
- Threatened, endangered, and sensitive species as they pertain to jurisdictional responsibilities
- Poor air quality resulting from smoke
- Public lands transfer
- Wildfire – WUI, public education, resilience, smoke, etc.
- Impact of fire suppression cost on agency resources