

Greys River Forest Collaborative

Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Treatments on Tri-Basin Divide to enhance forest resilience, reduce fuels and improve recreational opportunities.

Objectives: this project will produce timber while enhancing wildlife and fisheries habitats and improve forest resilience. Specific objectives to address are:

- i. Timber
- ii. Wildlife
- iii. Fisheries
- iv. Remove dead trees to increase forest health and resilience
- v. Improve roads (East Fork Loop)
- vi. Create diverse age classes
- vii. Remove fuels to reduce risk of catastrophic fire
- viii. Increase safety of environment

Methods: Use a categorical exclusion (CE) under the National Environmental Policy Act to reduce fuels, improve aspen stands, remove timber and improve the East Fork Loop road in 2018 on 250 acres or less. Suggested methods to consider:

- ix. Commercial “sanitation” harvest (250 acres)
- x. Remove encroaching conifer to encourage aspen regeneration
- xi. Work with WGFD to examine/install culverts for fish (locations TBD)
- xii. Under a separate CE, “jack straw” stands for aspen regeneration
- xiii. Start with CE and start to plan EA
- xiv. Timber harvesting
- xv. System road maintenance
- xvi. Preferred cut in 2018

Recommendation 2: Restore and protect watershed, improve recreational opportunities and enhance wildlife habitat in Grover Park

Objectives: Take measures to protect and enhance the municipal watershed in Grover Park while enhancing recreation opportunities, stimulate aspen and plan motor vehicle travel.

- xvii. Watershed restoration; watershed protection for municipality
- xviii. Recreation; enhance for recreation opportunities
- xix. Wildlife; improve wildlife habitat
- xx. Reduce fuels for WUI
- xxi. Commercial timber
- xxii. Stimulate aspen
- xxiii. Improve open routes
- xxiv. Plan motor vehicle travel

Methods: Create an Environmental Assessment to achieve the above that includes a commercial timber sale, prescribed burns, road and drainage improvements and travel management planning. Other considerations:

- xxv. Timber harvest; commercial timber sale
- xxvi. Prescribed burn; followed by prescribed burn to improve shrubs for wildlife and regenerate aspen
- xxvii. Road maintenance and drainage improvement for all roads; improve existing roads
- xxviii. Amend/supplement travel management plan through EA
- xxix. Connect road system with motorized trails
- xxx. Create looped trails for non-motorized users
- xxxi. Designate ORV-specific, looped trails
- xxxii. Use EA to permit Annual Hill Climb on a 5- or 10-year basis instead of the current process of annual renewal
- xxxiii. Explore ways to mitigate the Annual Hill Climb (with specific reference to the displacement of ungulates during the event)
- xxxiv. Prefer to start EA now for implementation in 2019

Recommendation 3: Improve forest resilience by diversifying age classes and stand types and improving riparian areas in the Bear Creek and Three Forks.

Objectives: to diversify age classes by removing dead and older trees in mixed conifer and aspen stands and to decrease erosion into riparian areas through road improvement. Specific objectives to address are:

- xxxv. Remove dead trees
- xxxvi. Remove older stands
- xxxvii. Diversify age classes
- xxxviii. Improve road conditions
- xxxix. Improve wildlife habitat
 - xl. Decrease erosion into riparian areas
 - xli. Healthy forests

Methods: The collaborative invites methods to be proposed by the USFS to address the above objectives, and taking below preferences into consideration, within a CE:

- xlii. USFS to propose methods to the collaborative that achieve above purposes
- xliii. Preferred award 2018 or 2019
- xliv. Strategic timber harvest
- xlv. Timber harvest or prescribed fire to promote aspen and mountain shrubs
- xlvi. Selective cutting or thinning of dead/decadent aspen and conifers in encroached areas to promote aspen resprouting.

Recommendation 4: Diversify age classes while enhancing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities on Lower Greys/Murphy-White Creek

Objectives: Improve wildlife habitat by diversifying age classes in mixed conifer, improve aspen, forbs and shrubs and enhancing recreation opportunities.

- xlvi. Commercial timber sales
- xlviii. Diversify age classes
- xlix. Travel management to reflect legal motorized routes on Lower Greys and map it; travel management
 - l. Improve existing roads
 - li. Improve wildlife habitat by increasing forbs, shrubs, and aspen; important wildlife area
 - lii. Enhance recreation opportunities
 - liii. User safety

Methods: Create an Environmental Assessment to include timber sales to improve safety, prescribed fire to improve wildlife habitat and update travel plan with user groups and counties.

- liv. Commercial harvest; timber sales to improve safety for trail users
- lv. Prescribed burning; prescribed fire to improve wildlife (elk/mule deer) habitat for calving (elk) and winter range (moose/mule deer)
- lvi. Update travel plan with user groups and counties
- lvii. Need motorized and non-motorized trails; designate trails for specific uses (especially mountain bikers)

Recommendation 5: Enhancing motorized recreational opportunities in the Greys River district.

a. The above projects will be conducted during the day and a water truck will be used during forest management operations to keep dust to a minimum.

b. For 2018 the USFS and Lincoln County Commissioners will convene to submit all the necessary paperwork, including a signed MOA with the USFS to submit grant funding requests for treating the entire length of Greys River road. If funding cannot be obtained, the Forest Service pay for the treatment.

c. The USFS will save monies from the proceeds of the timber sales to use to repair and dust treat the roads after the damage caused by lumber trucks.