

Sublette County Forest Collaborative: Recommendations to All Land Managers

June 21, 2017

Recommendation 1: We recommend the following forest treatment projects in three locations on the Upper Hoback using these methods:

- a. Monument Ridge** - South Fork of Hoback Road to Cliff Creek Road (north to south):
Goal: to improve wildlife habitat, reduce fuels in WUI areas and improve hydrological and recreational resources.

Objectives

1. Enhance aspen communities
2. Improve transitional habitat for mule deer and other big game; wildlife (ungulate) habitat
3. WUI: break up conifer fuels along Highway 191; break up fuels continuity (fuels reduction); WUI
4. Improve hydrologic resources
5. Improve recreational access; recreation access
6. Improve trailhead access to and stabilize the lookout
7. Weed control

Methods to Consider

8. Slash and burn; prescribed burns
9. Hand mechanical treatments prior to burns
10. Wildlife-friendly fencing
11. Mechanical cut in persistent aspen
12. Assess and engineer road, trailhead, and lookout.
13. Relocate trailhead to the construction camp east of guard station
14. Follow up on weeds post-disturbance
15. Improve Clark Draw Road for recreational access
16. For recreation, reopen the Hoback guard station parking area.

- b. Hoback Ranches:** including USFS and BLM (Kismet Peak). Goal: Reduce fuels and make area more defensible in case of a fire, while improving wildlife habitat and recreational access.

Objectives

1. Defensible space; WUI
2. Educate landowners and create social license; education
3. Decrease risk to firefighters
4. Improve ingress and egress
5. Improve herbaceous vegetation and aspen for wildlife habitat
6. Remove forest products; timber
7. Wildlife-friendly fences
8. Grazing
9. Public safety
10. Recreational access (BLM)

Methods

11. Shaded fuel break
12. Mechanical
13. Pile burning; prescribed burn (Rim 2 USFS)
14. Timber sales; commercial thinning (Rim 2 USFS)
15. Road work for ingress and egress access
16. Firewise community/fire-adapted communities and Ready Set Go
17. Engage landowners in planning
18. Fence modification and rebuilding
19. Implement Rim 2 timber sale
20. Implement Rolling Thunder, Rim Ranch aspen work
21. Need to establish if there is landowner buy-in prior to discussing treatment
22. Create an overall plan/map to approach landowners with suggested treatments
23. Education regarding “living with fire”
24. Potential recommendation for private lands:
 - a. The county and state will jointly create a plan that includes current conditions, desired conditions, and proposed treatments.
 - b. The county and state will assess landowner buy-in.
 - i. If insufficient, continue education.
 - ii. If sufficient, apply for grant funding to conduct treatments.
25. BLM: Need to secure access first
 - a. Timber sales
 - b. Mechanical, prescribed fire
 - c. Adjacent landowner cooperation/coordination for timber access
 - d. Create permanent public access easement for recreation
 - e. Or create permanent management access easement

- c. East Rim:** From Rim Station to Flying A Ranch. Goal: Create defensible space within WUI areas, while improving wildlife habitat and migration routes and improving recreational opportunities.

Objectives

1. Defensible space; WUI
2. Produce forest products; timber
3. Transitional habitat improvements; wildlife
4. Recreation

Methods

5. Merchantable timber sales; timber sales
6. Mechanical thinning; mechanical treatment
7. Piling; prescribed fire
8. Fix trailhead (expand parking)

Recommendation 2: Boulder

- a. Boulder Lake:** Dead Soda to Meadow Lake. Goal: Reduce cheatgrass, improve wildlife corridors and improve recreational opportunities.

Objectives

1. Reduce cheatgrass prevalence and spread; invasives
2. Wildlife-friendly fencing
3. Enhance trail access to Wilderness and lakes; recreation
4. Reroute the Meadow Lake ATV route and reduce Wilderness trespass; travel management
5. Investigate reroute of Burnt Lake Road

Methods

6. Aerial herbicide application
7. Fence modification/rebuild stock
8. Rebuild Boulder Lake Trailhead
9. Reconstruct first quarter mile from stock trailhead to the main trail
10. Close ATV route that lead up to wilderness – require buy-in
11. Road improvement?
12. Cheatgrass EIS

- b. Boulder Estates:** Note – this WUI is well taken care of. Goal: improve recreational

opportunities and reduce invasives.

Objectives

13. Recreation
14. Invasives

Methods

15. Continual trail maintenance
16. Aerial herbicide application