

Hood River Collaborative Stewardship Group
Recommendations for the Lava Planning Area
July 2013

Plantation Thinning Recommendation: Variable density thin from below with skips (leave islands) and gaps (openings up to two acres). (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation does not agree on gap size. They prefer bigger gaps for greater quantity and quality forage). If there is a site specific reason, such as white pine planting areas, up to 3 acre gaps is suggested (Oregon Wild does not agree). Base the silvicultural cutting prescription on function and structure of the stand and leave the best. Gaps are preferred on flat ground and not near open roads (wildlife harassment issue) or too close to private timber land (past logging has already created forage opportunities). Incorporate wet areas, legacy trees, and downed timber into skips.

Improvements/Objectives: Scattered openings will foster deer and elk grazing. Thinning will increase species diversity, reduce tree stress, insect and pathogen related mortality, and increase structural diversity.

Riparian Enhancement Recommendation: Some thinning in the Riparian Reserve, but not in the true Riparian zone located directly adjacent to the water body. Some skips and no gaps within the treatment portion of the riparian reserve. Existing openings in the Riparian Reserve can be utilized. Thinning in the Riparian Reserve should not increase water temperature or measured sedimentation.

Improvements/Objectives: We also recommend opportunities for stream enhancement and restoration that create downed woody debris and/or planting (shade tolerant species) for diversity. Fish habitat is improved. Plantation stands are disrupted to create more viable long-term forests and promote restoration of a large tree component. Reduction of the current Douglas fir monoculture is important. Retain minor species (western hemlock, western red cedar, etc). Funds are generated to support restoration activities.

Forest Health Treatment: Majority of members agree with treating Unit 54 for forest health. (BARK and Oregon Wild advocate no cutting in this unit). Utilize variable density thinning. Incorporate areas of downed timber and legacy trees into skips.

Oregon Wild does not see any ecological benefit to logging this never-before-logged stand. This native forest is more complex than much of the surrounding forest. As most of the surrounding forests in this subwatershed have been logged in the past, Oregon Wild believes that it's important to retain some intact untreated stands.

Huckleberry Enhancement Recommendation: Treat units 52 and 53 for huckleberry enhancement according to silvicultural treatment prescription.

BARK and Oregon Wild do not support logging units 52 and 53 for several reasons. The units are healthy intact potential wilderness and roadless forests directly adjacent to the Mount Hood Wilderness. Logging at the Vista Ridge trailhead is in conflict with recreational interests and uses and will degrade the user experience. This forest is high elevation and will not quickly recover as is evidenced by nearby old clear cut scars on the landscape.

Huckleberry growth will be encouraged in numerous stands in this project that are far less controversial. There has also been plenty of opportunity for huckleberry growth in nearby burned areas. With both the burned areas opportunity for huckleberries as well as the majority of other units encouraging huckleberry growth there is no need to include these additional sensitive and controversial units in the project. These units had been included and were dropped from the Red Hill project which we felt was a positive collaborative compromise, seeing them again in this project did not encourage trust. Collaborative group has consensus to defer units 49 and 50 until monitoring of units 52 and 53 show huckleberry enhancement results.

Improvements/Objectives: Greater huckleberry availability for tribal members. Better understanding of where and how huckleberries thrive because we haven't had enough experiments with different logging approaches over the last seven decades on Mount Hood.

Roads Recommendation: For roads not projected to be used in the next 10 years, stormproofing, at a minimum, should be used to improve hydrologic function. Sight lines from major roads should be obliterated to minimize improper use.

Improvements/Objectives: Reduced erosion and improved water quality.

Final Recommendation: Peer review after logging to see if objectives were met.