Hood River Collaborative Stewardship Group
Recommendations for the Red Hill Planning Area
November 2011

Plantation Thinning Recommendation: Variable density thin from below with skips and gaps up to two acres. Base the prescription on function and structure of the stand and leave the best.

Improvements/Objectives: Scattered openings will foster elk grazing and disease reduction. Thinning will increase species diversity, reduce 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 riparian reserve. 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 or planting 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 Douglas fir monoculture. Funds are generated to support restoration activities.

***Forest Health Treatment**: There was no agreement on a recommendation due to the lack of documented need for forest management in the units.*

Huckleberry Enhancement Recommendation: No agreement on the Forest Service proposed units. Instead, utilize unit 58 for Huckleberry Enhancement and thin to reduce shading of huckleberries. Look for opportunities in other plantation thinning units to implement similar Huckleberry Enhancements. Consider the blowdown potential when identifying other areas for enhancements. Monitor areas recently burned by the Dollar Lake fire to learn more about best practices for huckleberry establishment and management.

Improvements/Objectives: Greater huckleberry availability for tribal members. Better understanding of where and how huckleberries thrive.

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 and 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.