

# KREIST CREEK PROJECT

## Purpose and Need

- Maintain and improve forest landscape resiliency by providing for tree species, stocking levels, and landscape patterns that better resist insects and disease.
- Promote forest conditions that reduce fire hazard on National Forest System lands and aid fire suppression efforts to reduce the potential impacts of wildfire to private lands within and adjacent to the project area.
- Maintain and improve aquatic habitat.
- Contain or control existing noxious weed populations along road and trail systems in the Kreist Creek project area, and reduce the potential of new weed infestations into the area.
- Examine the road and trail systems to determine long-term transportation and resource needs.
- Provide opportunities to utilize forest products and provide economic opportunity through restoration and road maintenance work.
- Maintain the scenic integrity and sustainability of areas adjacent to county road 34 to reflect healthy, resilient vegetation conditions.

These goals would be met through the following actions:

- Provide for tree species, stocking levels, and landscape patterns that reduce the risk of insect and disease occurrences.
- Reduce the acreage of mature and over-mature lodgepole pine stands that are considered high-risk for mountain pine beetle attacks
- Increase the acreage of stands where western white pine is a significant component
- Regenerate and expand aspen clones where they currently exist
- Reduce surface fuels and crown densities to create a low-intensity and severity fire environment.
- Remove small trees in dry forest stands that were historically formed and maintained by fire.
- Repair or improve drainage along roads where interactions between roads and surface water exists.
- Improve fisheries passage through roads using natural channel design.
- Pre-treat weed populations along trails and roads (including haul routes, temporary roads, landings, unused roads, and roads proposed for storage or decommissioning) within the project planning area using accepted herbicides and weed management practices.
- Provide follow-up weed treatments (contractor/Forest Service) in the area to keep existing weed populations and potential new weed invaders in check.
- Create vegetation openings and patterns that emulate natural disturbance processes.
- Modify existing geometrically shaped openings to better mimic those created by natural disturbances.
- Increase the species diversity and age classes of existing vegetation.

## Kreist Creek Details of the Proposed Action

### Vegetation

Prescription	Acres
Seed Tree	982
Group Selection	408
Prescribed Burn	207
Shelterwood-burn	186
Shelterwood	101
Improvement Cut	44
Commercial Thin	27
Precommercial Thin	362
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,317</b>

Other	Acres
Aspen release	650
Mountain Pine Beetle	1300

### Logging Systems

Systems	Acres
Tractor	936
Skyline	662
Helicopter	150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1748</b>

### Transportation/Roads

Treatment	Existing/miles	Proposed/miles	
			Total
Temporary Road Construction	0.6	0.6	0.6
Decommission	0	.99	.99
Road Storage	5.925	.45	6.375
Open Seasonal	3.5	.3	3.8
Open Year	33.36	(-1.74)	31.62
Closed Year (gated)	8.536	8.536	8.536
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51.321</b>		<b>51.321</b>