

## **Purpose and Need for the Boulder Creek Restoration Project (BCRP)**

### **Aquatic Resource**

Maintain and improve the aquatic ecosystems (watershed and fisheries) in Boulder Creek and its tributaries. Reduce the risk of sediment from entering the stream systems from sources such as roads, trails and recreation sites.

### **Vegetation Resource**

Maintain and improve forest landscape resiliency by providing for tree species, stocking levels, and landscape patterns that better resist insects, disease, and stand-replacing wildfire(s). Needs that are specific to the Boulder Creek project include:

- Restoration of white pine on habitat types that historically supported the species
- Reduction in acres of moderate and high hazard lodgepole pine stands
- Maintenance and restoration of ponderosa pine and western larch on habitat types that historically supported these species
- Maintenance and restoration of dry-site old growth stands
- Increased patch size of forest openings (seedling/sapling)
- Decreased patch size of immature forests (small and medium)
- Conserve existing whitebark pine populations and enhance opportunities for restoration
- Reduction in the amount and the potential threat of noxious weeds along road sides, trails, recreation areas and near sensitive plant habitat.
- Retention or restoration of ecological conditions and processes that sustain the habitats currently or potentially occupied by sensitive plant species.

### **Fire and Fuels**

Protect the communication site infrastructure and Black Mountain lookout tower from potential wildfire damage.

- Reduce hazardous fuels around the facilities and along access roads to help protect the sites and provide for firefighter safety.

Return the role of fire back into the ecosystem.

- Disrupt the continuity of fuels and create a mosaic of stand structures across the landscape to increase flexibility in management options for future fires.

## **Recreation**

Maintain and improve recreational sites and experiences in the Boulder Creek area.

- Provide opportunities for visitors to learn about the local history.
- Protect off road areas and connecting trail systems from illegal ATV use.

## **Wildlife Habitat**

The project area contains stands that are relatively similar in size and age, and therefore, not providing a wide range of wildlife habitats. Promote the long-term persistence and stability of wildlife habitat and biodiversity by trending toward an ecosystem composed of vegetation that more closely resembles the historic range of variability.

- Improve the diversity of forest and riparian structures.
- Emulate historic disturbance patterns.
- Contribute to meeting the standards of the Grizzly Bear Access Amendment for the Bear Management Units by increasing core habitat.

## **Economic Potential**

Provide opportunities to bolster local economy.

- Maintain and improve the recreational visitor capacity and potential in the Boulder Creek area.
- Utilize any forest products that may be produced as a result of the restoration activities.