

## CFLRA PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

### Projects with signed NEPA Decisions

#### 1. Northern Prairie

##### Objectives:

Restore normal slope hydrology where it has been altered by roads. This includes:

- Reducing the sediment risk associated with stream crossing failures.
- Reducing the potential for roads to create or contribute to landslide occurrence.
- Reducing the production and delivery of sediment from road surfaces and ditches.

##### Opportunities:

- Road Decommissioning on 4.7 miles of roads that are not needed to meet multiple resource objectives and would no longer be managed, including restoring crossings to their natural contours.
- Signing, information for campground hosts, and public service announcements could help reduce public concern with activities around Robinson Lake campground.

#### 2. Ruby Copper

##### Objectives:

Restore normal slope hydrology where it has been altered and improve aesthetic values of the project area.

Enhance wildlife habitat for a range of species, focusing on creating increased foraging habitat for the Canadian Lynx. In this project we seek to:

- Create and maintain vegetation that will provide forage, shelter, and habitat for snowshoe hare, and will meet long-term forage needs for Canada lynx.

##### Opportunities:

- A wildlife habitat burn that covers approximately 182 acres in the vicinity of Copper Creek, to create a diversity of forest structures that would improve big game habitat.
- Pre-commercial thinning (moist-forest types) treatments of 128 acres would focus on the removal of less-desirable submerchantable trees to reduce stocking in order to concentrate growth on the more desirable species.
- Weed and Release (dry-forest types) treatments on 63 acres, in previously harvested stands, would be designed to release sub-merchantable trees from undesirable, usually over-topping competing vegetation.
- Storing 5 miles of roads that are still needed to meet long-term management objectives, but “stored” in the short term. The existing drainage system is removed rendering the road impassable and hydrologically inert.
- Road Decommissioning on 27 miles of roads that are not needed to meet multiple resource objectives and would no longer be managed, including restoring crossings to their natural contours.
- Vegetative treatments on 527 acres (some Dry-site Old Growth) requiring helicopter logging that have not been economically viable, but are still in need of treatment.

### 3. **Templeman** (Templemental Stewardship Project)

#### Opportunities:

- Juvenile-tree precommercial hand-chainsaw thinning (i.e. 2 to 6-inch diameter trees, cut trees left on site) on 100 acres.

### 4. **Twin Skin**

#### Opportunities:

- Weed and Release on 82 acres and favor leaving white pine and larch regeneration over other undesirable lodgepole, some hemlock, and Douglas-fir that are competing with regenerating larch and white pine.

### 5. **Mission Brush** (Brushy Mission, Haller Down, Borderline Stew)

#### Opportunities:

- Ecosystem burns to benefit wildlife would be conducted on 2 areas, totaling 238 acres.
- Existing roads that pose a risk to watershed resources due to active ditch lines and culverts are planned to be decommissioned, a total of 11 miles remain outside of timber sales.
- Existing roads to be placed in storage, with a total 3 miles remaining.
- Upgrade toilets to concrete universally acceptable Sweet Smelling Toilets (SSTs). Also, upgrade the pathways to meet accessibility guidelines for wheel chair access.
- Utilize the old road and skid trail networks in the vicinity of Brush Lake as designated trails that are clearly defined as open or closed to ATVs, motorcycles, stock, mountain bikes, and hiking. Mark the trails with interpretive signs, boundary markers, and maps to delineate areas for motorized and non-motorized use in the Brush Lake area.
- Mission Mountain Trail #156 trailhead would be upgraded to have adequate turnaround and parking for two or three passenger vehicles. The trail would be refurbished to a moderate difficulty level for hikers and stock users. Trail tread at road crossings and at the junction with the Arndt Trail would be reestablished.
- The historic Wildhorse Trail near Brush Lake would not be reestablished in full. A short segment will be identified with an interpretive sign near the Brush Lake campground.
- All non-system cutoff paths, roads, and campsites would be rehabilitated and protected.
- Treat 800 acres to improve, and maintain the development of the larger-diameter ponderosa pine and larch to restore old growth characteristics to the dry site stands, that are currently not economically viable for helicopter logging.
- Girdle overstory trees on 136 acres in and around the plantations with mistletoe infections (larch or Douglas-fir) to kill the mistletoe and alleviate the potential spread to the healthy understory trees.
- Units would be reforested (planted) with ponderosa pine, larch and white pine, where appropriate, to supplement regeneration with desirable species on 202 acres.

**6. Myrtle HFRA (Mini Mack Stew, Snow-Way Stew)**

Opportunities:

- Vegetative treatments on 602 acres of Dry-site Old Growth stands requiring helicopter logging that have not been economically viable, but are still in need of treatment for long-term habitat maintenance. Additionally, 436 acres of regeneration harvesting not included in current contracts due to the lack of economic viability of helicopter yarding. (Opportunities analyzed but decision pending).
- Natural fuels treatments not funded by stewardship projects, including 163 acres of slashing, 142 acres grapple piling, and pile burning.

**7. Myrtle Cascade (Mama Cascade, Salt Lick, Big Mack)**

Restore normal slope hydrology where it has been altered by roads. This includes:

- Reducing the sediment risk associated with stream crossing failures.
- Reducing the potential for roads to create or contribute to landslide occurrence.
- Reducing the production and delivery of sediment from road surfaces and ditches.

Opportunities:

- Treat 346 acres of regeneration harvesting not included in current contracts due to the economic viability of helicopter yarding.
- Girdle overstory trees on 208 acres in and around the plantations with mistletoe infections (larch or Douglas-fir) to kill the mistletoe and alleviate the potential spread to the healthy understory trees.
- Pre-commercial thinning treatments of 101 acres would focus on the removal of less-desirable submerchantable trees to reduce stocking, in order to concentrate growth on the more desirable species.
- Weed and Release treatments on 67 acres, in previously harvested stands, would be designed to release sub-merchantable trees from undesirable, usually over-topping competing vegetation.
- Treat natural fuels by underburning stands adjacent to cutting units on 15 acres.

**8. Bluegrass Bound (Blazing Saddle, NewView, Boundary)**

Opportunities:

- Decommission the remaining 13 miles of old roads that have not been accomplished to date, to reduce the hydrologic risk.
- Treat 2179 acres of overstocked, previously regenerated stands that are in need of precommercial thinning.
- Trees for cover structures will be placed on Grass Creek near road 636, for fisheries habitat improvement.
- Plant cedar or other riparian species along Marsh, Cobble, and Search Creeks where stocking densities are low, for 1.5 miles of riparian stand improvement.
- Use prescribed fire to underburn for wildlife habitat improvement, to increase productivity of big game winter browse on south aspects of Boundary Creek below 4000 feet.

- Plant Englemann spruce in suitable early winter caribou habitat in Management Area 7 units, to supplement natural regeneration with desirable species for caribou.
- Construct slash piles to improve denning habitat for sensitive fur-bearers (lynx and fisher) and monitor the effectiveness with hare snares and winter track surveys for five years afterwards.
- Girdle mistletoe-infected larch trees in previously regenerated units on an estimated 65 acres.

## **9. Whitebark Pine Restoration**

### Opportunities:

- Continue with the Whitebark Pine restoration project by planting the remaining 1400 acres with more tolerant seedlings, and monitor survival plots for effectiveness.

## **10. Pipeline (Pipedream)**

### Opportunities:

- Precommercial thin within existing regeneration units to reduce overstocked conditions and favor desirable tree species on 25 acres.
- Prescribed fire will be used to ecosystem burn approximately 130 acres to rejuvenate browse plants for wildlife. Construct fireline to facilitate the burn, as needed.
- Girdle mistletoe-infected larch trees in previously regenerated units on an estimated 50 trees.
- Slash, grapple pile, burn piles, and plant ponderosa pine and larch on two stands of overstocked and diseased lodgepole pine trees on 11 acres.

## **2011 Projects with NEPA Decisions Pending**

### **11. East Fork Meadow Creek**

#### Opportunities:

- Reroute the existing motorized FS Trail 32, and reconstruct 1 mile of existing road (currently brushed-in) to OHV trail specifications. The new trailhead should be clearly defined and be large enough to accommodate 4 vehicles, 2 of which have trailers.
- Convert approximately 0.8 miles of an old FS road 2499AUB to an off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail. Develop connecting trail spurs to make a logical network.
- Post informational signs at trailheads to help forest visitors understand improvements.
- Approximately 19 miles of roads would be decommissioned.
- 5.3 miles would be put into storage following project completion.
- Treat 152 acres (including a 31 ac dry-site Old Growth stand) requiring helicopter logging that have not been economically viable, but are still in need of vegetative treatments.
- Within the project area, 57 acres of roads and 40 acres of existing “off-road” weed infestations on National Forest lands could be chemically treated with herbicides .

- Reduce the sediment risk by upgrading the Meadow Creek/FS Road 2499 culvert as an Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP). In addition, construct another AOP on FS road 2499A crossing over Meadow Creek.

## **12. Leonia Restoration**

### Opportunities:

- Some old FS roads, 1.8 miles, have been identified for decommissioning, in order to decrease the percentage of open roads in Bear Management Unit core habitat.
- Put 3 miles of FS roads into storage, whereby pipes are pulled, water bars installed, and natural drainage patterns established eliminating the potential for road culvert failure, but the roads remain on the system for potential future access.
- Utilize prescribed fire on an estimated 173 acres, to reduce natural created surface and ladder fuels and mimic low-intensity fire in these stands historically maintained by frequent fire.

## **13. Clark Creek Blowdown**

### Opportunities:

- Slash, excavator pile, and plant on an estimated 20 acres to rehabilitate the site after tree removal and before road decommissioning.

## **14. Ruby Copper (requires another DN)**

### Opportunities:

- Vegetative treatments on 501 acres (some Dry-site Old Growth) requiring helicopter logging that have not been economically viable, but are still in need of treatment.