

*A Workshop for Creating Stand-Level Prescriptions that Integrate Ecological
& Fuel Management Objectives Across Dry Forests of the Eastern Cascades*

October 13-15, 2009
Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond, Oregon

Agenda

Tuesday, PM: Objective: Define restoration, fuel, vegetation, wildlife, and other ecological objectives, i.e., desired future conditions, for high-quality owl habitat and for non-habitat forest types within the context of the NSO Recovery Plan.

- 1300-1310 *Welcome, introduction, goals & objectives of workshop.* Paul Phifer, US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 1310-1340 *Fire ecology of the eastern Cascades and implications for dry forest management or restoration.* Stephen Fitzgerald, OSU Extension Service, Redmond.
- 1340-1400 *The scientific basis for the habitat conservation strategy in the Recovery Plan, with emphasis on stand-scale management objectives.* Jerry Franklin, University of Washington.
- 1400-1420 *Fuel management objectives.* Richy Harrod, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF.
- 1420-1440 *Overstory and understory vegetation objectives.* Carl Skinner, PSW Research Station, Redding.
- 1440-1500 *Spatial patterns: homogenous or heterogeneous patchy stands?* Paul Hessburg, PNW Research Station, Wenatchee.
- 1500-1530 Break
- 1530-1550 *Below-ground ecological objectives.* Jane Smith, PNW Research Station, Corvallis.
- 1550-1610 *Northern Spotted Owl habitat objectives.* Jim Thraikill, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland.
- 1610-1630 *Wildlife and prey habitat objectives.* John Lehmkuhl, PNW Research Station, Wenatchee, & Kim Mellen-McLean, US Forest Service, Portland
- 1630-1730 Break-out groups. Moderator: John Lehmkuhl
Objective: Define measurable objectives, or desired future conditions, for fuels, vegetation, wildlife habitat. etc. for silvicultural treatments. Groups report the next day.

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Wednesday: Objective: Develop stand management and silvicultural options, tools, and procedures for meeting objectives discussed during Day 1.

800-900 *Reports of treatment objectives groups & discussion.* John Bailey, OSU.

900-920 *Summary of silviculture recommendations from Redmond, Ashland, and Wenatchee workshops.* Sue Livingston, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland.

920-940 *Stand management for ecological objectives in the Washington Cascades.* Matt Dahlgreen, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF, and TBA, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Klickitat Unit

940-1000 *Stand management for ecological objectives in the Oregon Cascades.* Jennifer O'Reilly, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bend, and Joan Kittrell, Deschutes NF.

1000-1030 **Break**

1030-1050 *Stand management for ecological objectives in the California Cascades.* Elizabeth Willy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Yreka, and Christy Cheyne, Klamath NF.

1050-1110 *Interagency initiatives: the Tapash Sustainable Forests Collaborative of south-central WA.* Reese Lolley, The Nature Conservancy, Yakima.

1110-1130 *Risk Assessment and Experiences With Silviculture in Owl Habitats.* Larry Irwin, NCASI.

1130-1150 *Integrated forest management by the Klamath Indian Nation.* TBA.

1150-1300 **Lunch** (on your own)

1300-1320 *Silvicultural experiments on the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest.* Andy Youngblood, PNW Research Station, La Grande.

1320-1340 *Silvicultural experiments in northern California.* Eric Knapp, PSW Research Station, Redding.

1340-1400 *Perspectives on developing silviculture for ecological objectives & large-scale management studies.* Paul Anderson, PNW Research Station, Corvallis.

1400-1430 Panel discussion. John Bailey, moderator.

1430-1500 **Break**

1500-1700 Multi-disciplinary break-out groups (geographically organized) to review and evaluate a proposed prescription matrix considering three habitat conditions:

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- (a) Existing high-quality NSO habitat (e.g. dry, mixed-conifer forest),
- (b) Potential NSO habitat as supplemental or replacement habitat, and
- (c) Other surrounding forested areas that likely will not be habitat (e.g., pine-dominated forest)

Modify/add and describe silvicultural tools and techniques within this prescription matrix. John Bailey, Oregon State University, Corvallis.

1645-1700 Wrap-up. John Bailey, OSU.

Thursday, AM: Objective: Continue group discussion from yesterday and develop recommendations. Describe possible next steps for landscape-scale planning, implementation and monitoring.

- 800-810 *Recap of yesterday, focusing on similarities across geographic areas.*
- 810-930 *Group reports to the entire workshop audience relative to the three types of habitat conditions.*
- 930-1015 *Discussion and recommendations. John Lehmkuhl, PNW Research Station, Wenatchee.*
- 1015-1040 **Break**
- 1040-1100 *Methods for landscape-scale planning of fuel treatments. Alan Ager, PNW Research Station, Western Wildlands Environmental Threat Assessment Center, Prineville*
- 1100-1120 *Landscape planning for fire and fuels issues on National Forests in California. Don Yasuda, US Forest Service, El Dorado National Forest.*
- 1120-1200 *Moving forward: How can we best implement, test, and improve these ideas? Implementation in a management study template and a regional study network. Presentation, discussion, & recommendations. John Lehmkuhl, PNW Research Station, Wenatchee.*

Thursday, PM: Field Trip to Pringle Falls Experimental Forest.

Andy Youngblood, La Grande Forestry Sciences Lab, will lead a field trip to visit sites at Lookout Mountain that are planned for treatment under five different experimental prescriptions. The 3000-acre project area grades from mixed conifer at high elevations to pure ponderosa pine at low elevations. Prescriptions involve various levels of thinning and fuel reduction to create and assess different stand structures. Lookout Mountain is on the eastern edge of NSO range, and also has goshawk habitat. The Deschutes NF is very interested in overlaying NSO habitat studies on planned treatments in one block of the

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experiment. Opportunities also exist for collaborative studies of pine-associated wildlife and other issues. The study plan has been approved, and the Deschutes NF is currently working on a major EIS. We will be back in Redmond no later than 6 PM.

Pringle Falls Experimental Forest is a diverse natural laboratory within the Deschutes National Forest in central Oregon. It was formally established in 1931 as a center for silviculture, forest management, and insect and disease research in ponderosa pine forests east of the Oregon Cascade Range. Pringle Falls is maintained by the Pacific Northwest Research Station for research and education in ecosystem structure and function and for demonstration of forest management techniques. It provides outstanding examples of undisturbed and managed ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and higher elevation mixed conifer forests occurring on 6,600-year-old Mount Mazama pumice and ash common throughout central and south-central Oregon. See <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/lagrande/research/pringle.shtml> for more information.