

Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative
Joint Interdisciplinary Team and Rigdon Collaboration Committee Workshop Notes
 Wednesday, October 25, 2017
 Rigdon Landscape Restoration Goals

***See attendees and key at end**

VEGETATION	
<p style="text-align: center;">Forest Service DRAFT Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a healthy, diverse forest that promotes resiliency and sustains habitats for native plant, wildlife and aquatic species. • Restore and promote the composition, structure and distribution of seral stages to reflect natural disturbance patterns. Examples include more open pine, Douglas-fir, and oak conditions in the lower mixed conifer forests, creating early seral patches of varying sizes, providing late seral patch connectivity, reducing fragmentation, and promoting structure-rich forests. • Allow for natural processes that shape landscape vegetation pattern where possible. • Promote the genetic flow of vegetation by maintaining species presence and distribution across the landscape. Examples include knobcone pine and mixed conifer forest. • Protect and restore unique plant species and communities, such as meadows, from encroachment, invasive threats and resource damage. • Actively reduce the impacts of invasive weeds on the landscape through prevention, education and eradication. 	<p style="text-align: center;">RCC DRAFT ZOAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-establish plant species that have declined over the past 150 years due to a change in the fire regime or disease, such as native bunchgrasses, Oregon white oak, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, and knobcone pine, to their historical abundance and distribution. • Return forest stands which exhibit a change in density and species abundance due to cessation of historical fire regime to their historical, more open conditions. Treatments should place stands on a trajectory for resilience to climate change to the extent possible, consistent with desired future conditions and other social, economic, and legal considerations. • Restore the diversity and resilience of vegetation and forest structure in plantations where intensive management has created unnaturally dense and/or uniform stands. • Re-establish the historical frequent, low intensity fire regime where appropriate by letting natural fires burn under acceptable conditions, and by managed ignitions, when and where needed to achieve resource objectives. • Return non-forest vegetation types, such as meadows and savannas, to their historical abundance and distribution. • Actively control and/or eradicate non-native and invasive vegetation by manual, incendiary, prohibitory, or chemical means as needed and appropriate for site conditions and adjacent resources.
JOINT TAKAWAYS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + there is a lot of overlap + both recognize change in mixed conifer + goals as general as possible to entire area + chemical weed treatment is last resort + both recognize changes in mixed conifer and the change creates risk - IDT goals reflecting natural disturbance patterns - IDT don't see the words "ecological function" - RCC identifies limitations of "social, economic, and legal considerations" - RCC "resiliency" instead of "restoration"- another term? "stewardship" Δ like FS goals for cultural recourses Δ RCC contradiction between 1st and 2nd bullet points- restore to hist. abundance and resistance to climate change Δ FS goals may be at a larger scale Δ why not use the historical temp.? Δ where to expand mixed conifer area 	

AQUATICS

Forest Service DRAFT Goals

- Maintain and restore the health of aquatic and riparian ecosystems by addressing root causes of habitat and water quality degradation.
- Maintain and restore habitat and ecological conditions capable of supporting self-sustaining populations of native aquatic and riparian plant and animal species.
- Re-establish and protect populations of Endangered Species Act listed fishes (spring Chinook salmon and bull trout).
- Improve or decommission roads systems that pose a risk to riparian and aquatic ecosystems.
- Reduce or eliminate impacts from recreational use and land management activities on aquatic systems.
- Prevent the spread of invasive aquatic organism and noxious aquatic weeds.
- Develop strategies to help communicate riparian and aquatic ecosystem services to stakeholders.
- Develop and implement aquatic restoration projects with public and private partners.

RCC DRAFT ZOAs

- Maintain/restore healthy riparian areas.
- Maintain/restore aquatic habitat for songbirds, beaver / terrestrial species dependent on aquatic ecosystems.
- Increase aquatic habitat diversity.
- Maintain/restore healthy, functioning floodplains where landforms allow (e.g., alluvial valleys, confluence areas, unconfined valleys).
- Provide sufficient woody material in streams for habitat and water storage.
- Supply sufficient habitat for large numbers of native and migrating fish species.
- Maintain/restore resilient, functioning ecosystems for current and future climate change effects.
- Provide adequate aquatic passage through man-made infrastructure (e.g., remove barriers).
- Store and treat roads to reduce human dumping and artificial sediment inputs.

JOINT TAKAWAYS

- + a lot of similarities
- + focus on processes and addressing barriers
- + Stream restoration
- RCC avoided “function and process” language because it is vague
- Land management activities
- Prevent spread of invasive organisms
- Δ FS addressed landscape pattern objects
- Δ “healthy”? needs to be defined
- Δ What are ecosystem services?
- Δ Reintroduce species

WILDLIFE

Forest Service DRAFT Goals

- Maintain and restore wildlife habitats to promote biological diversity and resiliency.
- Provide habitat needs for a full range of forest associated species by maintaining areas of early, mid and late seral forest across the landscape.
- Promote structurally diverse habitats that include snags and down wood, open and closed forest canopy, and plant species diversity.
- Ensure habitat connectivity is maintained within and between watersheds by protecting and enhancing critical linkages.
- Protect and enhance special habitats areas such as Northern spotted owl Recovery Action 32 patches, turtle ponds and nesting sites, pollinator and amphibian rich meadows and bogs, and peregrine falcon nesting sites.

RCC DRAFT ZOAs

The Rigdon landscape includes numerous wildlife species ranging from invertebrates, to reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals. Because of the large number of wildlife species that exist within the project area, it is not practical to only address the needs of individual species or suites of species. Ecologically functional habitats provide the necessary components for maintaining robust wildlife populations.

Wildlife occurrence is strongly tied to habitat types and the seral condition within those habitat types. Therefore, wildlife needs will be captured by addressing seral conditions within the major plant series occurring in the project area.

The Rigdon Collaboration Committee recommends the following actions to benefit wildlife:

- Consider the plant series and appropriate associated habitat types for each stand and how habitat types fit with the surrounding plant communities to guide management recommendations.
- Where appropriate, convert mid-seral closed canopy forests into mid-seral open canopy forests when pine and oak are prominent stand components.
- Manage ecologically functional mid-seral open canopy forests using appropriate techniques to encourage their progression into late-seral open canopy forests.
- Manage late-seral closed canopy forests that favor mixed conifer forest communities to maintain the character and functionality of these forests.
- When warranted, treat forests to increase fire resiliency, minimize competition, insect infestation, disease, and hazardous fuels.
- Create a pine and oak plant series in appropriate zones and in order to manage for ponderosa pine and Oregon white oak habitat type.
- Prevent early seral forests from progressing into mid-seral closed canopy forests that enter the stem exclusion stage.
- Consider successional restoration (i.e., complete removal of trees) in mid-seral closed canopy forests that are not suitable for thinning, variable density thinning, or other silvicultural practices.

JOINT TAKAWAYS

- + both groups had difficulty staying at the 30k ft. level
- + both protect habitat, restore
- + overlap- RCC more detail
- + both identify open forest helps creates more diverse wildlife
- IDT goals more general/ all encompassing
- RCC understands that some goals might be controversial
- IDT names specific species
- get out of single species specific management
- RCC specifically does not tell about individual species but focuses on habitat and several stages
- Δ RCC goals seem to be mixed conifer forest focused
- Δ RCC does not mention wildlife
- Δ nonnative species
- Δ change in forest favor spotted owl- historic qualifier
- Δ archeological studies supports biodiversity
- Δ reintroduce species?

HUMAN USE

Forest Service DRAFT Goals

- Promote human use that supports economic sustainability or development for local communities.
- Provide a wide array of recreational experiences by 1) maintaining and improving trails and trailheads, 2) updating directional and informational signs, and 3) maintaining and improving dispersed and developed campsites and their natural resource settings.
- Foster human use in the area while minimizing the impacts of that use on the landscape.
- Identify, maintain, and protect the area’s historic and prehistoric travel corridors and features.
- Increase opportunities to maintain and improve areas for cultural tribal use.
- Promote education opportunities that share the area’s history, recreational areas, natural diversity and natural resource management (i.e. why this landscape is important).
- Provide a sustainable road system that 1) maintains access to recreational areas, administrative sites, private land and forest products, 2) maintains safety corridors and fire evacuation and suppression routes, 3) minimizes resource damage and 4) provides connectivity to key travel routes to adjacent landscapes.
- Collaborate with adjacent private land owners to reduce fire risk.

RCC DRAFT ZOAs

- Ensure a range of economic and social opportunities including but not limited to recreation, multi-use trails, increased trail access (parking) and signage, road to trail conversion, timber harvest, small diameter wood harvest, firewood, and special forest products utilization.
- Provide opportunities for social and economic benefits by contracting and hiring from surrounding communities first (including but not limited to jobs involving reintroducing and managing fire, pre-commercial thinning, habitat restoration, eco-tourism, and recreation).
- Balance ecological and cultural objectives while developing economically viable projects.
- Educate the public about the Rigdon landscape restoration project needs, benefits and opportunities.

JOINT TAKAWAYS

- + Fairly similar
- + Educating the public
- Forest Service gives examples explaining how to achieve the goal, provides context
- FS talks about “minimize impacts” & RCC talks about ecological objectives
- RCC does not talk about tribal use or fire risk
- safety for bridges
- Road > Trail conversion (RCC)
- multiuse trailheads for all users
- IDT more detailed
- maintain & improve disperse campsites → signage
- RCC does not mention cultural/ tribal use
- Δ maintain the trail safety for all users (both groups missed)
- Δ For this topic, it is hard to be project focused
- Δ volunteer train maintenance
- Δ reduce disperse campsites
- Δ Human uses effects other goals
- Δ Tribes want to see historic roots brought back

FIRE	
<p style="text-align: center;">Forest Service DRAFT Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce human ignitions through education, prevention activities, and a minimum road system. • Use prescribed fire as a tool to restore and promote resilient habitats, such as open forest conditions in mixed conifer. • Reduce fire risk around key areas such as private land and infrastructure. • Create opportunities to manage wildfires safely and effectively. 	<p>(The RCC addresses fire in the Vegetation ZOAs)</p>
<p>JOINT TAKAWAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FS trying to balance fire risk and opportunity to use fire • balance recreation access and fire risk with minimum road system goals • need to define “minimum road system” (for the public) • maybe a public education goal is needed for fire • create a goal that address minimum resource damage from fire and achieve resource benefits • create goal about minimizing health impacts from wildfires • What are opportunities for management? • Clearing vegetation from roads • A & C related to human ignitions • B echo’s vegetation discussion • Parameters for growth or suppression annually • Conversation on the parameters out to the public • Ron Wyden conversation on prevention & education 	

KEY

IDT = Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team

RCC = Rigdon Collaboration Committee

+ = similarities between goals

- = differences between goals

Δ = interesting or something to consider

Attendees:

Leslie D, Jean C, BJ K, Fergus M, Lon O, Alan D, Tim B, Susan K-O, Rob M, Matt H, Laurie P, Jane K, Stephen Todd J, Sarah D, Loran H, Kris E, Jim N.

Facilitators: Sarah A-P, David K