Rigdon Joint IDT

RCC input into FS FLAD process

Oct. 2016 – RCC brainstorm of themes

Input in step 1 landscape elements

Jan 2017 – input into elements and flows

Oct. 2017 – joint IDT for goals (ZOAs)
(FS now calling step 7 - Landscape goals and target landscape patterns)
compare and contrast – did we miss anything?

Rigdon Landscape Analysis – document developed to show what the final outcomes of the FLAD process and will be returned to repeatedly as projects are developed

Step 7 Landscape goals
Target landscape patterns (words) and Landscape Pattern Examples (picture)

- The structure and patterns will look different for different forest types and landscape allocation types
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Pictures help to integrate goals
Wildlife and veg
Riparian and aquatic
Etc

Lidar created stem maps (of the trees)> descriptions of target landscapes > found landscapes that have the desired pattern > overlay onto hill landscape >

Had to use a combo of looking for places on the forest where pattern exists (very hard to find) and cutting and pasting. Much of the forest has an pattern that is very removed)

Cream – open spots; , lightern green = shorter vegetation; dark green = taller vegetation;

- Shows that there are lots of connectivity b/t trees, much of it is closed forest; there are some patches of openings
- It is an EXAMPLE of what the narrative could look like on the landscape
- Purpose to show landscape GOALS at the

STEP 8:
Design phase, where we take these landscape concepts and apply them.
Apply general goals more specifically to each project area

1. Current condition
2. Landscape patterns
3. How we move the landscape to that condition

Devils in the details – have to apply to first project area

- Wokrs beest on smaller landscape,
- Use goals, patterns, pictures and apply to actual landscape
- Will apply to all future prjects in Rigdon landscape

Keep in mind, the landscape “slides" we have in our memories are of a fire excluded landscape

Value added of the pictures:
Comparison of all the pictures
Gives a visual description of goals
Difference b/t current conditions and desired (this will be saved for the EA)
FLAD is a blueprint for all the project that will come out of the project area.
Point out the variability ont eh landscape
Make clear it is a hypothetical
Put pictures and descriptions together on a map
Shows the pattern that a mixed severity fire regime has across the landscape

Q: Impacts of climate change? May play out in mixed conifer area

Working on this large of a scape (FLAD) does help put the projects into context

Q: what about percentages? Need to know what the desired % of landscape types are for the Rigdon landscape to understand where to do work. Ranges would be valuable. This is where is a future climate impacts could fit in. Can capture at this scale and then apply at the project design phase.
Having a range helps with the conservation lens of what we need to preserve? Less of a gardening perspective. The percentages will be moving over the landscape over time but it still has a target.

Q: limits for openings in LSR? Barriers (forest plan and consultation) but still not totally excluded

The conditions are what we want, not how to get there.

YOUNG RIGDON project area

Project initian letter – PIL
Northern spotted owl surveys are completed
Captures work already completed for surveys

Boundary includes floodplains and rec along the Middle fork
A lot of the controversial work will be captured in this projects as a EIS and will possibly allow the District to do only one EIS and future EAs

Maged stands 40-70 years old

Highlights of purpose and need:

- Promote economic sustainability for dev't for local comm
- Managing rec needs and opportunities
- Providing forest products
- Devlt' sustain road system

Fire

- Reduce human ignitions
- Reintroducing fore
- Implementing

Wildlife

- Maintaining and restore habitats to promote biological diversity and resilience
- Provide habitat for full range of

Aquatics

- Manage to address loss of large woody debris
- Improving structural complexity ad diversity
- Improving floodplain connectivity

Vegetation

- Restoration and maintenance of mixed conifer, unique habitats and aquatic areas
- Allow for natural processes that shape landscape vegetation patterns where possible

Collab comments: see flip chart

BRIEF overview
Project acreages:
Silviculture – being surveyed and proposed activity 3K acres of natural stands and 1500 acres of managed stands.

- Any proposal for actions in managed stands that aren't of commercial size
    - Pinegrass stands that were surpassed
    - Looked at w/ wildlife bio
- Activities would be commercial harvesting; non commercial harvesting, tree extraction for aquatics; Early seral creation areas in managed stands, burning

- Q stands w/ oaks – do Oak release?
- Selected manage stands don't have the characteristics that we want in mixed conifer stands. They are stands that had big scattered pine and slowly loosing them
- 2120 pine release – scattered legacy sugar pine along 2120 where release can be done to open up that area. Perhaps trees that are taken out can be used in floodplain restoration below
- purple areas have legacy pine
- Q: analyze stands that are PCT and benefits we can get from treating them – important

Add Pinegrass stands to map to know where analysis coverage is, as well as PCT

Fuels:
treatments provide a starting point and ingress and egress prep landscape to reduce fuel in strategic areas to reintroduce fire to the landscape. Treatments are

- Opportunities for fuel reduction
- 2 types – along private boundary and along some roads
- stand along, no other activities
    - hand piling, machine piling, under burning, thinning loping burning
    - looking at connectivity around private land
- looking for good opportunities to catching fire
- probably do fuels treatments in natural and young stands
- ridges, rivers, roads – opportunities to do treatments that make it easier to catch or direct fire
- both underburning and pile burning
- prescribed fire for now possible use future for natural fire

Meadows

- lots of overlap w/ other project areas
- cutting small trees, piling, burning
- where commercial treatments, looking at actions near meadows
- many meadows in the area that have already had restoration
- many meadow projects have already been analyzed
- at some point we should overlay other layers of previous work
- if miss any meadows will have to add to a future project area

Were some of the natural stands picked to increase connectivity b/t pinegrass – not specifically but it will start to come together as starting to design.

Weed abatement

- weed EA for forest but propose for project in the area
- eradicate noxious weeds and control other populations

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Aquatics

- floodplain restoration opportunites in unconfined valleys and the best potential for restoration
- staley like projects, placement of wood, tree tipping, removing old road andy actions that dcan get water up onto the valley and increase the floodplain
- will access wood for nearby restoration projects
- overlapping a lot w/ roads and looking for roads that have aquatic impacts
- surveys will help identify what is needed in each floodplain area

Seasonals doing surveys
6 hertiage
8 aquatics
12 botany
wildlife 2
2fish
engineering 2-3

Roads:

- realignments (and possible impacts to older stands)
- in prisim road surveys for minimum road systems
- decommissioning
- high storage to load storage

Recreation

- trail re-routes
- bridge replacement/ upgrades
- campground water issues at sandprairie (coincides w/ floodplain restoration)
- dispersed CG minimization
- add a trail portal Rd. 21-120

Add in next steps

Rigdon Presentation
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slide w/ field trips,
How did this process positively, negatively, or neutrally allow collaboration to work.
How did framing the project this way allow you to provide input, understanding NEPA, sideboards, limitations and opportunities
Me – process wise – what worked well and what can be improved – joint FS attending planning committee and group meetings
Building and understanding relationships – physical, biological, social

Understanding takes time and can lead to smoother process and less friction down the end