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Subject: Scoping Comments – Calapooia Project

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) strongly supports the proposed Calapooia Project, its stated Purpose and Need and associated science based active forest management.

The Calapooia project is stated to be a thinning of 1132 ac of 40 to 60-year-old overstocked plantation stands located primarily on MATRIX LUA. The project information provided also states the project area contains no early seral stage forest vegetation.

RMEF submits the following ideas, suggestions, and proposals for consideration in developing and analyzing the various action alternatives for the Calapooia project:

1. Make restoration of early seral forest vegetation to its historic prevalence a stated objective within the Purpose and Need for the Calapooia Project.
2. Thin to 35% crown closure to allow sunlight for development of understory vegetation with forage value to early seral obligated wildlife.
3. Provide large 2-5-acre gaps for development of longer term early seral vegetation. Consider allowing gaps to naturally regenerate conifers and reseed with native forage mix of grass and forbs.
4. Restore wet and dry meadows to their historical size by removal of encroaching conifers.
5. Seed all soil disturbed by operations using native seed mix of grasses and forbs of high forage value for big game, i.e. landings, skid trails, decommissioned roads.
6. Make control of non-native invasive vegetation a part of the project.
7. Collaborate on this project with the local Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's District Wildlife Biologist.
8. Determine how much of the project area is designated as Big Game Emphasis Area and provided with management Standards and Guidelines by the Willamette NF LRMP. The Forest's LRMP also designates elk and black-tailed



deer as management indicator species. RMEF expects the Forest's LRMP direction will be adhered to in so far as possible.

9. Utilize the Westside Elk Nutrition and Habitat Utilization Models for analysis of action alternative impacts on elk.
10. Address the requirements of Presidential Executive Order 13443 – Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation, Section Two.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat, and our hunting heritage. The Elk Foundation also works to open, secure and improve public access for hunting, fishing and other recreation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this project.  
Sincerely,

Bill Richardson  
Oregon & Washington Sr. Lands Program Manager  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation