

Unit 360

Unit 360 was visited on February 28, 2020 by Dave Barta. The unit is accessible and not under any snow. There's a large tree spanning the road on the way there, but a sedan-height car can drive under it safely.

This unit is very steep - generally 50-55 degrees. Average stand age is 42 years according to Appendix C, and that seems about right. The forest is mixed Douglas fir and Hemlock ranging from 6"-30" DBH, though very few at the large end of the range. This is a young plantation forest with a fair amount of Big Leaf Maple scattered throughout. There are very large old stumps.

This unit is crossed by many streams that likely run most or all of the year and the FS has done a thorough job of documenting them. The trees in this unit are quite dense in most of it, though I did not go to the bottom to be sure.

The EIS calls for a 125' riparian buffer on the streams going down the hill but doesn't show a buffer along Scott Creek itself on the map (Figure 26). Even though the plan for this unit calls for a thinning leaving 57 trees/acre, and no shelterwood harvest, a significant buffer along Scott Creek is imperative because the unit is so steep.

Unit 1140

Group: Sam, Ben, Albert

We entered the north portion of this unit from the hiking trail that circles nearby Lake Robinson. Almost immediately upon entering the unit boundary there is an evident decommissioned road that heads roughly north-south along the eastern side of the stand. The trees surrounding this decommissioned road are mostly 20-30" in diameter with scattered legacy trees throughout. We noticed a great deal of species diversity including douglas fir, hemlock, silver fir, and noble fir. We also noticed a healthy agree diversity with a healthy midstory coming up. Despite this stand being more closed in areas, there are many gaps in the forest canopy and downed wood providing space for younger recruits. It looks as if a prescription fire may have occurred after this stand was logged last because there is evidence that a low-burning fire came through the stand and minimal groundcover/herbaceous layer in the unit.

We followed the decommissioned logging road south and noticed a lot of animal tracks and scat along its course. Specifically, we identified elk, cayote and bear scat in a short distance of the path. This decommissioned logging road looks to have been newly decommissioned, indicating that this area has been entered for management perhaps within the past handful of years. Aside from simply to generate timber revenue, it is unclear why the Forest Service would consider further logging in this area and there

doesn't seem to be any ecologically supportable reason to pull more standing wood from this healthy stand.

Given the state of the forest in this unit, it would be a shame to re-open the extensive decommissioned road and further open the canopy to more windthrow. The forest floor clearly has a glut of downed wood and does not need to be opened further to recruit another generation of young trees. This forest also clearly functions as a stable habitat for many species who would be displaced by extensive logging operations in the area.

Heading into the southern portion of this unit, the forest becomes even nicer. The canopy opens up quite a bit and there are a lot more large legacy trees scattered throughout. The forest in this area is very healthy, diverse and clearly leaning into old growth characteristics. As we walked toward the southeast corner of the unit, we ran into a wilderness trail going east-west that joins a path leading to Robinson Lake with Kuitan lake to the south and crosses over the border into the Washington-Jefferson Wilderness. We were surprised to find that the southeastern portion of this logging unit directly abuts this well-loved wilderness trail and the beautiful old growth forest that surrounds it. It makes no sense to bring logging machinery into this remote area that borders a designated wilderness, and there are no easy access points into this corner of the unit that would not require road construction through this special place. We spoke to a number of folks hiking along the recreation trail who were upset to hear that a timber sale was planned for this area. This unit should be dropped from the timber sale for its value as a recreation area.

Unit 1150

I visited this plot and found a delightful diversity of understory and tree species. The complexity of this area was a delight knowing that with diversity comes a healthy forest. I was able to identify a display of Grand Fir, Hemlock, Douglas fir, Vine Maple, White Pine and least 9 snags. The size of the largest Douglas fir in plot 1150 measured 55 inches with several more close to the same size downhill from it and very close to the boundary line.

I very much enjoyed seeing a tree frog and lots of evidence of animal shelter sites, burrows amongst the downed trees and lots of wood pecker activity (both pilated and sap sucker).

One special observance was spotting two Agarikon (a valued plant of the native Americans and valued for its medicinal qualities, its a rare mushroom and is native to old growth conifer forests of North America and Europe and may be one of the longest living mushrooms in the world.)

The forest floor had a bounty of plants both beneficial for forging and fun to identify. This area was easy to get to and had a delightful variety of plant species. I plan to return with friends and family to share this area of the forest.

Adjacent to recent clearcut to west. Even slope of 30 degrees throughout upper part of units. No stumps, never logged, high variety of age and tree species, high canopy closure with gaps. 60-80%. Nurse logs, many deer and elk beds. High ground cover diversity.

Old growth forest, snags and adjacent to a roadless area (very close to wilderness).

Slightly compacted soil.

Roads bordering unit above and below.

Plants identified: huckleberry bracken fern vanilla leaf twinflower wild rose bear grass oregon grape boxwood prince's pine bunchberry trillium rattlesnake plantain agarikon (44 17004.4 N 121 5728.1 W) rhodies, tiger lily, vine maple, trailing blackberry

Unit 1200 Field Report - July 25

Unit 1200 is a beautiful area, surrounded by heavily managed younger forest. Cumulative impacts would be huge.

Predominantly 40-50" DBH douglas firs, with 15-20" hemlocks scattered throughout. Also found a handful of 40" noble firs in the southern portion of the unit. Anderson Creek, which flows through the unit, as well as another creek, were both dry. Maybe this is due to the surrounding timber plantations and the low flow effect?

Steep slopes in the northern portion of the unit, reaching up to 45 degrees. Patches of young trees, and signs of natural disturbance make this area very interesting and unique. Canopy cover varies greatly throughout the unit, but generally falls in the 60-80% range. Signs of animals including pileated woodpecker, coyote, bear, deer and elk. Plenty of snags throughout the unit. This forest likely the result of the same stand replacing fire we assume cleared unit 1200 in approx 19th century. Tons of rotting wood and only found 3 stumps. Could potentially have been lightly logged in the early 20th century pre-industrial logging technologies, but minimal human impact on the landscape.

Unit 1210

The eastern $\frac{2}{3}$ of the unit is made up of older forest (150-250 years old). No signs of past logging in this portion of the unit make me inclined to believe that it was the product of a stand replacing fire. Primarily douglas firs in the 35-45" DBH range, with a 15-20" DBH hemlocks throughout. Plenty of snags offer habitat for a wide variety of species. Signs of pileated woodpeckers, black bear, deer, elk and coyote.

The western portion of the unit is much more dense, made up of primarily young trees (approx. 20" DBH douglas firs). The forest shows signs of previous logging.

The slopes on the unit are very steep, with the north portions reaching up to 45 degrees.

Field Report, July 25, 2020

Flat Country, Unit 1320

This is a small and extraordinary unit.

To get into the unit you walk up from the road through an area that has scattered large firs that are heavily scarred by relatively recent fire. There is no understory just very thick undergrowth, predominantly of ferns.

Once you reach the crest of the hill you enter a forest of predominantly second growth Douglas Fir ranging from 12-30" dbh. You've come up a 30° slope and this section is relatively flat. The canopy is 70% average and there is much sign of fire and little if any sign of logging. At this point the sound of water or wind is quite apparent. It's water.

The flat section suddenly comes to a steep slope (45°) of 100-200' down to a rushing stream with much wood over and in it. It's likely that this is a salmon stream if they make it this far up the Mackenzie as there is ample water and woody debris.

This hillside is covered by Fir, Hemlock, and Cedar ranging from as small as 12" to 44", and that's a natural range, not just a few older trees left from the last logging. There is no sign of logging and not much sign of fire either.

At about the middle of the unit, running along the stream, we found a gushing waterfall coming out of the ground and leaping out into the gorge about 20-30" above the stream. We dubbed this Becs Falls since she was the one who wanted to go down the slope to see what was there.

The entire slope above the stream is a legacy forest with multilayer canopy, species diversity, and every reason to believe it will mature and prosper if left alone. A 100' buffer is not enough. It should be at least to the crest of the gorge. Above that, the northern part of the unit could sustain minor thinning or be left alone to mature.

The gorge up both sides if this rushing stream is stunningly beautiful and likely fish habitat and should not only not be logged but is a place of public recreational beauty.

Unit 1340 Field Report -

Somewhat homogeneous 18-30dbh mixed DF + hemlock forest with a few 40"+ DBH DFs. Cedars and seedling yews were also found in the unit. Hazelnut, dogwood, chinkapin and vine maple.

Signs of fire throughout. Scattered signs of long-ago logging. Snags present, contiguous forests present, riparian zones present, decommissioned road through the middle of the unit. Slope was approx 15 degrees. Soil was loamy and thick with duff.

Ollalie creek goes through the middle of the unit. Perennial stream which was currently dry with logs, gravel, etc.

Campsite present on the closed road.

Canopy cover - 80%. Multilevel. Open understory. Top later very tall. Alot of downed trees of all ages.

Snags up to 50DBH

Animal signs: Burrows, woodpecker, forage on snag, deer and elk tracks. Very diverse understory including thimble berry, ocean spray vinemaple, snowberry, brackenfern, wildrose, prince's pine

1810

We entered unit 1810 from the northeast side of the unit and found ourselves in a Doug fir, hemlock, Nobel fir, and grand fir forest with a bunchgrass understory. There was good spacing between the trees and tree size from 20-40 dbh. There were downed trees and snags as well. As we hiked through the unit we continued seeing these same tree species with a couple groves of Nobel fir and some Doug firs up to 54 dbh. This part of the unit circled a previous logging operation which did not look healthy and was overly thinned. We went up in elevation and found some white pines and multiple dried creek beds that look like they have significant flow certain times of the year. The rest of this unit contained pretty much the same thing we had been

seeing. Doug firs up to 50 dbh, dried creek beds, bunchgrass, Doug fir, hemlock, Nobel fir, and grand fir all well spaced.

Unit 1970

Legacy trees throughout

Flat Country Units 1980 and 460 visited February 28, 2020

Road 2647521 is covered with snow and blocked by trees a long mile from these units. Right now road 2649619 gets the closest before it, too is covered by snow and blocked by many sizeable trees. But you can drive to less than a half mile from the beginning of the units.

Unit 460 is on a south facing slope ranging from almost flat to parts that are 30-45 degrees. It is mostly young fairly dense fir hemlock and alder. The largest tree I saw was 20" DBH. But most of this unit is very wet. Even the EIS shows that of the 28 acres of the unit, 21 are riparian reserve, but they they propose to thin 15 acres of that. Parts of the riparian area are very thick and could benefit from some gentle thinning, but part is more open and should be left alone. The water coming through this is a major source of the salmon stream below.

Unit 1980 is bigger and older and I didn't get too deeply into it from the road because of fairly deep snow. I did walk along about half of the unit going from east to west. The western part of this unit is quite flat and is a fairly open forest down below. Mostly Douglas fir and Hemlock with some small trees down to 6" DBH but many, even most, in the 29-35" DBH range. The canopy is thick - 80-90%, but there are also openings. There are some very old and large stumps and also evidence of old fire. The eastern end of the unit is much steeper - 35-45 degrees - and there are significant openings where there are scree slopes. If anything, the trees on average are even bigger here. This unit's average stand age is shown as 150 years, and that looks about right. About half of this unit is scheduled for shelterwood with reserves treatment, which is a shame because it already has some openings and is well on the way to becoming an older wild forest. Lots of animal tracks including deer, bear, and rabbit. It would be reasonable to do some careful thinning and create a few more openings, but anything other than very gentle treatment is just about board feet.

Units 2120 2110

Legacy trees throughout - well over 50 DBH. RA32 through most of this unit.