

Engelmeyer, Paul Record of communication

From: Paul Engelmeyer
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 12:41 PM
To: Holman, Michele - FS, OR <Michele.Holman@usda.gov>
Cc: Fisher, Lawrence - FS, OR <lawrence.fisher@usda.gov>; Vogel, Donni - FS, OR <donni.vogel@usda.gov>; Emmons, Iain - FS, OR <Iain.Emmons@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Can we check in - when would be a good time for you?

Hello Michele,

I agree - having Iain participate makes sense - let's make a plan - so later in September will work - and I am thinking a small group - not the full Forest Collaborative.

Paul Engelmeyer

From: Holman, Michele - FS, OR <Michele.Holman@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 5:06 PM
To: Fisher, Lawrence - FS, OR <lawrence.fisher@usda.gov>; 'Paul Engelmeyer'
Cc: Vogel, Donni - FS, OR <donni.vogel@usda.gov>; Emmons, Iain - FS, OR <Iain.Emmons@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Can we check in - when would be a good time for you?

Hey Paul- I've been talking with Chuck and others about sitting down with you to discuss things like interior habitat, mamu, herbicides, etc. Iain Emmons will be gone for 3 weeks beginning Wednesday and he's critical to those discussions and it looks like we have scheduling conflicts tomorrow and Wednesday. I'll have Chuck work with you, and whoever else you think appropriate, to set up a meeting after September 23rd, which is when Iain will be available.

I am wondering if this would be better as an in-person Forest Collaborative meeting? I'll leave that up to you.

It will be good to see you again. Thanks Paul.

Michele Holman
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Central Coast Ranger District-Oregon Dunes NRA Siuslaw National Forest Forest Service Pacific Regional
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From: Paul Engelmeyer
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 2:12 PM
To: Fisher, Lawrence - FS, OR <lawrence.fisher@usda.gov>
Cc: Vogel, Donni - FS, OR <donni.vogel@usda.gov>; Holman, Michele - FS, OR <Michele.Holman@usda.gov>; Emmons, Iain - FS, OR <Iain.Emmons@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Can we check in - when would be a good time for you?

Thanks for getting back to me but first - August 26th is today - and Wed is the 28th - and I will be out of town that day but Friday could work as would Sept 2nd or the 4th.

And looking thru the maps - I could not find the interior forest patches map but in the Smith WA there is the 6th field interior forest assessment which will help point in the right direction for our discussion I am hoping to have - in that WA there were connectivity recommendations as well as road decommissioning recommendations - I cannot remember the Table in the document but I was hoping to get the update - was there a monitoring effectiveness report on those recommendations? Like I said it may be in the document but I could not find it yet.

Let me know if those dates work for you - also, I know David Eisler had some questions that he would like to draw attention to you - could he or anyone else be included - no idea if he would be available on such short notice.

Also, a while ago I had shared the Pacific Seabird Group Habitat recommendations for the MAMU- but could not see any reference to the use of the document - should we ask one of the authors walk us thru the document at some point - Lindsay Adrean from American Bird Conservancy was engaged in the process. She may be available - she participated in our MAMU Community science effort this summer and was a part of the OSU MAMU team. She could easily be included in the connectivity panel - connecting the fragmented patches / canopy closure issues and interior forest species.

Jim Fairchild would be interested in our discussion - and did we plan on meeting in Corvallis or Waldport? I look forward to our discussion.

Paul Engelmeyer

From: Fisher, Lawrence - FS, OR
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 1:22 PM
To: 'Paul Engelmeyer'
Cc: 'donni.vogel@usda.gov' <donni.vogel@usda.gov>; Holman, Michele - FS, OR <Michele.Holman@usda.gov>; Emmons, Iain - FS, OR <Iain.Emmons@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email]Can we check in - when would be a good time for you?

Mr. Engelmeyer.

If you are available to meet on Wednesday, August 26, 2024, we would like to find to meet with you per your request. Please let me know what time is convenient for you. Late morning or afternoon may work well.

If you think it would be beneficial for us to prepare for the meeting (i.e., maps, documents, other) please let me know.

Lawrence H "Chuck" Fisher
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From: Fisher, Lawrence - FS, OR
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 3:38 PM
To: Paul Engelmeyer ; willow kasner
Cc: Vogel, Donni - FS, OR <donni.vogel@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Fwd: Manual Veg Control SNF

Paul,
You sent this to me just over a year ago (see email below). I have not been able to identify it. I apologize but it appears very old.

If I recall, this was concerning a clearcut on private property. I am unsure why you are sending it again.
Please let me know if this is a comment specific to the NF Smith Project

From: Paul Engelmeyer
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 1:09 PM
To: Fisher, Lawrence - FS, OR <lawrence.fisher@usda.gov>
Cc: Vogel, Donni - FS, OR <donni.vogel@usda.gov>; Holman, Michele - FS, OR <Michele.Holman@usda.gov>; Emmons, Iain - FS, OR <Iain.Emmons@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: [External Email]Can we check in - when would be a good time for you?

Hello Chuck - Thanks for getting back to me - let. Me know when would be a good time to discuss a few things.

Paul Engelmeyer

From: Fisher, Lawrence - FS, OR
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 11:59 AM
To: Paul Engelmeyer
Cc: Vogel, Donni - FS, OR <donni.vogel@usda.gov>; Holman, Michele - FS, OR

<Michele.Holman@usda.gov>; Emmons, Iain - FS, OR <Iain.Emmons@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: [External Email]Can we check in - when would be a good time for you?

Hello Mr. Engelmeyer.

I received your voice message from Wednesday, August 21, 2024, requesting that we talk. I have also received a copy of the email that you sent Iain Emmons requesting the same from him. The Ranger, Michele, is out this week, but is expected back next week. We recognize that working with you is important and we would like to ensure that Michele has a chance to be involved with meeting with you.

After Michele returns, I will reach out to her to make arrangements to contact you.

Thank you for your interest in the NF Smith Product.

From: Fisher, Lawrence - FS, OR
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 10:02 AM
To: Paul Engelmeyer
Cc: Vogel, Donni - FS, OR <donni.vogel@usda.gov>; Holman, Michele - FS, OR <Michele.Holman@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Help Finding NF Smith Documents

Mr. Engelmeyer.

After you access this website (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/siuslaw/?project=59122>), please scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the “**project window**” for the NF Smith Project. This window should have a blue background a white cloud and a black. You will need to drag the white cloud to the black cloud to access the project documents. If you don’t see the blue background and clouds, you will not need to complete that step.

If either case, you should see two folders instead of the clouds. When you see the two folders, please click on the folder named “**2024 Combined Scoping - 30-Day Comment Period**” to access project documents.

Please do not select the folder titled “2022-2023_ProjectDevelopmentFiles”. They are old files from previous public engagement. They are no longer up to date.

I hope this helps.

From: Paul Engelmeyer
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 9:12 AM
To: Fisher, Lawrence - FS, OR <lawrence.fisher@usda.gov>
Cc: Vogel, Donni - FS, OR <donni.vogel@usda.gov>; Holman, Michele - FS, OR <Michele.Holman@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Help Finding NF Smith Documents

Chuck thanks for getting back to me - but I got to the SNF page but no clouds to drag and could not get the information I am interested in.

Let me know if you have the time to check in

From: Fisher, Lawrence - FS, OR
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 5:02 PM
To: Paul Engelmeyer
Cc: Vogel, Donni - FS, OR <donni.vogel@usda.gov>; Holman, Michele - FS, OR <Michele.Holman@usda.gov>
Subject: Help Finding NF Smith Documents

Hello Mr. Engelmeyer. I received your phone message. I believe you are following an old path to files on the internet for the NF Smith Project.

Please follow this link to the NF Smith Project website. [Siuslaw National Forest - Home \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/siuslaw-national-forest). When you arrive, “grab” the white cloud with your mouse (right click and hold) then “drag” it to the dark cloud spot and let go of the mouse button. This proves you are human, I guess. You should see two folders after that. Please click on the **2024 Combined Scoping - 30-Day Comment Period** folder on the page. In there, you will find the Draft EA, a folder with maps you are looking for, a folder with appendices, and other associated documents. If this works for you, you are welcome to share with others if they are not able to find the documentation.

As far as the old document that you have a copy of concerning using manual control of invasives, I was not able to find any trace of the document. Sorry.

Thanks for your interest in the NF Smith Project, the Central Coast Ranger District - Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, and the Siuslaw National Forest.



Lawrence H "Chuck" Fisher
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MANUAL VEGETATION CONTROL ON THE SIUSLAW NATIONAL

The Siuslaw National Forest is located in the central Coast Range, and contains some of the production in the world. Conifer growth is due to favorable moisture conditions, and good soil fertility. The Douglas-fir site index is 161, and is generally uniform throughout the The same agents which promote favorable growth tend to complicate stand establishment, as salmonberry, red alder and other vegetation are vigorous competitors with newly planted seedlings. In addition, deer, elk and mountain beavers find this habitat highly desirable, and the impact to seedlings is often extensive.

MANAGEMENT

The normal method of regeneration harvest is between 350-400 seedlings per acre with the objective of at stand age 10. Over the last 5 years, an average of 5500 acres per year has been reforested by planting. Most of this acreage required some form of animal control, with tubes and netting being used most frequently. Approximately 55% of the sites were prepared by broadcast burning. In addition, approximately 5000 acres are treated each year to release seedlings from competing vegetation.

REASONS FOR MANUAL CONTROL OF VEGETATION

Prior to 1984, the primary method for controlling vegetation during plantation establishment was with herbicides. The Siuslaw chemically treated an average of 5,500 acres each year. Treatments were primarily for site preparation and stand release, but were also used for facility maintenance, road rights-of-way, and noxious weed control. At that time, as a result of a lawsuit, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management were enjoined from using herbicides, pending the completion of a satisfactory Worst Case Analysis. Since that judgment, silvicultural needs on the consider herbicides in managing vegetation, the has not used Forest herbicides since 1983.

CURRENT

Since 1983, all site preparation and release have done by manual yet the percentage of acres receiving treatment is actually less the acreage that was treated with chemicals. This graph percentage of acreas treated by chemical and manual

<u>Activit</u>	<u>Chemical</u>	<u>Manual</u> <u>Treatment</u>
Site	40	
Preparation	%	12%
Brush Release	26	41%
Alder Release	%	31%
All percentages include		acres

We will now take a closer look at each of these activities:

Site preparation--During this phase the target vegetation is usually salmonberry. Salmonberry is established in the existing stand before harvest and generally increases in vigor after harvest. To obtain adequate site preparation, hand slashing of vegetation prior to burning is sometimes used to help carry the fire on the site to obtain an adequate burn.

This must be done far enough in advance of burning to allow proper drying, but not so far ahead as to allow resprouting of the vegetation. To be cost effective, the vegetation is slashed at a height where the contractor is not cutting any more vegetation than necessary to carry the fire. A successful burn for site preparation usually gives a plantation a 1-2 year head

Release from brush occurs at stand age 1-4. Although 41 percent of the acres planted on the forest each year will require manual release from brush, the percentage varies considerably depending whether the unit is burned or not.

Only 22 percent of burned acres require release, while 95 percent of non-burned units require release.

With the downward trend in our burning program, the number of acres needing release will likely increase. Only those seedlings that are unable to maintain a dominant or co-dominant position over the brush are released. To release seedlings, all vegetation within a three foot radius of a conifer is cut to a stump height of not more than six inches. In addition, all vegetation growing beyond the three foot radius that may overshadow the seedling, is cut back along a forty five degree angle to ensure that the seedling receives adequate sunlight. This is particularly important on north aspects on steep slopes. The success of these treatments is often affected by big game browsing from

To improve effectiveness of treatments a research study was conducted to identify a cutting window for salmonberry. This research was done cooperatively with the Pacific Northwest Range and Experiment Station (Corvallis Lab) and the Forest. Results from this study indicate an optimal cutting period for hand release of salmonberry from June 1 to August 15th. Implementation of this strategy along with improved animal control techniques and better quality seedlings has resulted in a significant improvement in managing salmonberry competition, although successful release may require from 1-3 treatments.

Release from red alder--Red alder can overtop a plantation and severely decrease its annual growth. If the alder is left too long, conifer mortality will occur. Release typically occurs at stand age 4-8. To release conifers, all red alder is cut below the lowest live limb and not more than six inches above the ground. When conditions make it

Research has also been conducted on the Siuslaw to determine a "Window of Success" for hand release of red alder. This research was conducted by PNW (Olympia Lab) and the Forest. This research indicates that successful hand release can be conducted on red alder between the ages of 6 and 10 years, when it is cut between June 1 and August 1.

Following this prescription has given the forest a success rate of up to 96 percent on mortality of red alder using hand release methods. This treatment, if properly timed, is needed only

prior to age 6. When this occurs, treatments will most likely

RESULT

The movement away from chemical treatments to manual methods has not in significant changes in growth and survival of seedlings. Analysis of 3-staked row data indicates survival prior to 1984 (using herbicides) was 81% and survival after 1984 (using manual methods) was 86%. Analysis of survey data indicates that 5-year height growth was 6.4 feet prior to 1984, and 6.2 feet after 1984. The percentage of acres requiring replant was 25% versus 6%. While some of these differences in results can be attributed to other than treatment effects (such as better quality seedlings, less broadcast burning, reduced stocking levels), the

BENEFIT

The discontinued use of herbicides has provided some beneficial values to wildlife and has had a favorable impact on the social acceptance of vegetation management.

1 Vegetation on harvested areas is recovering much faster, thus the areas are providing cover and forage sooner. Following harvest and site nearly all of the species on the site resprout, providing more habitat and forage for all kinds of wildlife. Cover and forage is available more quickly for small mammals such as brush rabbits, snowshoe hare and mountain beavers. Because of increased cover, big game browse is being utilized over entire units instead of being concentrated along

2 Certain social impacts have been Contracts for both preparation and release treatments have increased significantly. contracts have created a significant number of new jobs for the unskilled labor force. Needless to say, a wider distribution of money is expended from our contracts. There is also a wider acceptance and understanding of our vegetation management programs than in the

COSTS

This graph reflects the contract cost per acre for release of
per from both brush and red alder:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>199</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Release/Brush	26	11	12	12	14	14	14	14

While these costs may be reasonable or excessive depending on the agency they are working for, they are not unreasonable when comparing them with a alternative for the Siuslaw National Forest. The Final Environmental Impact Statement for Competing and Unwanted Vegetation states that herbicides will only be used when other methods are not effective or their costs would be unreasonable. We have not been able to show that these costs are unreasonable for standard silviculture activities.

It is realistic to believe that costs could actually be higher using herbicides due to all of the requirements that must be met

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the necessary site preparation, reforestation and release treatments are being accomplished successfully on the Siuslaw National Forest without herbicides. The work is being accomplished through the site-specific application of a number of silvicultural techniques, and we have not experienced any backlog to date. District silviculturists have had to hone their remaining tools and learn to treat only those areas that actually need treatment. With the assistance of research during the last 8 years, we have learned much about our vegetation treatments. The use of herbicides would make our job more efficient in some areas, but the silviculturists have found alternate means to get the job done to acceptable standards.

Without the use of herbicides, more contracts and jobs are being created, which provides a social benefit. From these jobs, the dollars expended

The impact on other resources, specifically wildlife, has been beneficial. The major benefit to wildlife has been the more rapid recovery of vegetation, which in turn provides more cover and forage.

The loss of herbicides on the Siuslaw National Forest has been less traumatic than anyone on the Forest would have expected. This loss required us to look at new alternatives in vegetation management that would otherwise have taken years to develop or never developed at all.

Unless management activities change dramatically, we are confident that we can continue