

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/22/2020 6:34:21 PM

First name: ERIC

Last name: JANES

Organization:

Title:

Comments: SALTER VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT

--SCOPING COMMENTS BY E. JANES--

Thanks to the U.S. Forest Service, Dolores Ranger District for preparing a high quality Scoping Package for the Salter Vegetation Management Project.

I notice that on the bottom of page 1, the document characterizes the Ponderosa Pine forests in the project area as "even aged stand structure". This paragraph goes on to state that " the forest condition in the proposed treatment blocks reflects an even-aged structure comprised of densely-spaced, over-stocked medium and large pine trees in a single structural layer." But just a little further into the document Para 2.2.23 (extracted from the SJNF Forest Plan) presents a seemingly conflicting statement that the Ponderosa Pine forest is of an uneven age stand structure. My understanding of the Ponderosa Pine forest stand structure in the Salter project area aligns with the page 1 description. The Forest Plan statement in Para 2.2.23 which I cite above can confuse the reader, especially those who are not familiar with the project area.

I support the Forest Service statement on page 4 that there will be no new roads constructed for the implementation of this project. Temporarily re-opening previously used roads (Maintenance Level 1) that have been put into storage is certainly reasonable, and I concur with Forest Service intent to decommission temporary roads within five years of first use by this project.

My comment on Treatment Type-Single Tree Selection is that I encourage the Service to use the very best and latest scientific knowledge (regarding cone and seed production, forest genetics, and future risk of insect and disease attack) in the decision on which Single Trees are selected for harvest, and which are left. I believe that minimizing the risk of increased round-headed pine beetle infestation into the mature pines that are left standing will be an important criterion in this decision.

My comment on slash material following treatment/harvesting is more of a question on whether there is potential opportunity for the Service to provide forest products permits for citizen- gathering of firewood from large limbs, stems, and undesirable tree boles? Can the Service assess whether this can be done in a way that does not conflict with contracts for timber-sale and stewardship, as well as road conditions? This could reduce the amount slash material that needs to be burned later.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. For the Record, I am a long-time member of the Dolores Resilient Forests Collaborative, based at Cortez, Colorado.

Eric B. Janes