

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/15/2016 7:00:00 AM
First name: Tom
Last name: Hesseldenz
Organization: Ecological Landscape Architecture
Title: Owner/Principal
Comments: RE: Lower McCloud Commercial Harvest

Sorry this took so long Andrea-I've been swamped. The attached map shows thinning areas extending from the confluence of Tom Neal Creek and Squaw Valley Creek downstream to the McCloud River Club's property line. The double lines through the middle correspond to the Club's road. Squaw Valley Creek is along the western edge of the hatched areas, but didn't come through clearly on the base map I used.

I stopped at Tom Neal Creek because upstream from there the Club's road switches back-and-forth across Squaw Valley Creek and the fuels reduction project as currently planned is limited to the east side of the creek. Within the area shown the road stays on the east side of the creek. There is one area that could be added on the east side of Squaw Valley Creek just downstream from the mouth of Beartrap Creek if deemed desirable to include it.

The red hatching covers areas that are under 30 percent slope where some form of low-impact yarding machines could be used, totaling 141 acres. The magenta hatching covers steeper areas that are within 200 feet of the road and/or adjacent to red-hatched areas in which some form of plastic chutes or light cable yarding methods could be used, totaling 176 acres.

The foresters involved in the project could fine-tune these prescriptions; I'm presenting some basic ideas here to capture the potential scope of what is being proposed. Also, I prepared this map in AutoCAD using a USGS map for the base mapping. You could have a Forest Service GIS specialist query the database to automatically highlight areas under 30 percent slope, thereby preparing a similar but more accurate map for your NEPA analysis.

I am suggesting that within these thinning areas selected trees be removed that are the result of many years of fire suppression, yielding a stand structure that is resilient to fire and either representative of the historic condition or of late seral stage composition. I word it this way because even though the ideal would be to restore the entire area to historic conditions, the importance of retaining and improving as much late seral stage forest as possible will be of overriding importance, given LSR status and loss of late seral stage habitat elsewhere. Also, there would be no new road construction, consistent with West Girard Roadless Area protection.

Advantages of including thinning in the fuels reduction project are:

- * More immediate and complete habitat restoration and enhancement.

- * Protection of streamside corridor visual quality and habitat against potential fire damage during prescribed burning.
- * Generation of income that could be used to offset the costs of fuels reduction, reintroduction of fire, and repair of hauling damage to the Club's road.
- * Provision of a demonstration project to encourage similar treatment of fuels-loaded forest stands elsewhere.

The McCloud River Club is interested in a similar treatment on its adjacent land, and could do the work sooner under its existing NTMP to serve as a near-future demonstration project and work out logistics. I've cc'd Mike Jani, the Club's forester, regarding this and to keep him in the loop on the above information. He may likely have more to add.

Tom

From: Shortsleeve, Andrea -FS [mailto:ashortsleeve@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 2:26 PM
To: Tom Hesseldenz <tom@thadesign.com>
Subject: RE: Lower McCloud Commercial Harvest

Thank you, Tom! I look forward to seeing your map. Enjoy the long weekend -

Andrea

Andrea Shortsleeve
Biological Scientist (Detail)

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Tom Hesseldenz [mailto:tom@thadesign.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 8:14 AM

To: Shortsleeve, Andrea -FS <ashortsleeve@fs.fed.us> <<mailto:ashortsleeve@fs.fed.us>> >

Subject: RE: Lower McCloud Commercial Harvest

Your map shows harvesting on both sides of Beartrap and Squaw Valley Creek. I'm not suggesting crossing either creek. The upper portion of the Club road crosses SV Creek several times. Harvesting would be only on the side of the creeks on which the road is located.

Removal of dense small conifer trees should be done in riparian areas where their encroachment is clearly the result of fire suppression, but a very light-on-the-land approach would be used. Small dense tree removal would benefit riparian areas by removing completion for desired broadleaf vegetation and removing fuels that could result in damage to riparian vegetation during prescribed burning.

I'm swamped at the moment, but I'll prepare a map that reflects road location and adjacent topographic considerations, and will prepare some suggested prescriptions on how upland and riparian areas would be treated.

Tom

From: Shortsleeve, Andrea -FS [mailto:ashortsleeve@fs.fed.us]

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 1:47 PM

To: Tom Hesseldenz <tom@thadesign.com> <<mailto:tom@thadesign.com>> >

Subject: Lower McCloud Commercial Harvest

Hi Tom -

Sorry to bother you again, but could you take a look at the attached map and see if we have the area that you are thinking of harvesting logs out of highlighted correctly? Without ever being to the project site, I want to make sure that I understood what you were describing.

The fish biologist was concerned about harvesting in the riparian area, but I wasn't totally sure if you had envisioned that either. Could you clarify on that point?

Thank you, and have a good day!

-Andrea

Andrea Shortsleeve
Biological Scientist (Detail)

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Tom Hesseldenz [mailto:tom@thadesign.com]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 10:50 AM
To: Shortsleeve, Andrea -FS <ashortsleeve@fs.fed.us <mailto:ashortsleeve@fs.fed.us> >
Subject: RE: Contact information

Thanks Andrea. I look forward to seeing/helping this project move along!

From: Shortsleeve, Andrea -FS [mailto:ashortsleeve@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 9:23 AM
To: Tom Hesseldenz <tom@thadesign.com <mailto:tom@thadesign.com> >
Subject: Contact information

Hi Tom -

Thanks for the info, I definitely appreciate hearing your insight! My contact information is included below. Have a good weekend -

Andrea

Andrea Shortsleeve
Biological Scientist (Detail)

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