

PROPOSAL TABLE DERIVED FROM DECEMBER 18

RIM FIRE TECHNICAL WORKSHOP #2

Friday, January 31, 2014

DEVELOPMENT OF THIS TABLE

The table comes directly from the group reports and plenary discussions at the first Rim Fire Technical Workshop, held on December 18, 2013. It includes the range of ideas proposed at that time, which are the foundation for today's work.

It aims for accurate descriptions of the landscape, but has not been edited by the Forest Service and/or peer reviewed, and may contain some inaccuracies or miss some nuances about specific parts of the landscape.

Sometimes there may be competing ideas in the same section, because there were different ideas proposed within as well as across groups.

The purpose is to provide a foundation for scientists and stakeholders to further develop ideas and provide input to the Recovery EIS. The Forest will then need to conduct further analysis and feasibility studies based on the today's input, and implement the decisions it makes. Some design criteria may be outside the scope of the Recovery EIS (e.g., replanting strategies), but nonetheless should be documented because they may inform subsequent decisions; a column is provided for this purpose in the proposal table.

The geographic units identified cover most but not all the ground in the Forest. They are both meant to be representative, and to help minimize guesswork about where the ideas should apply. At the same time, the characteristics associated with a given unit can also be applied by staff to areas that are not within bounded units, and in that way cover the remaining portions of the landscape.

The workshop is not making recommendations on treatments for private lands. The Forest does not have authority over private lands.

The workshop workbook contains the landscape goals and themes from December 18, which should be considered in all geographic regions.

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT A – NORTHERN UNIT

CHARACTERISTICS	OBJECTIVES	DESIGN CRITERIA	
		RELEVANT TO EIS	LONGER-TERM AND OUTSIDE SCOPE OF EIS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire severity pattern generally finer grained with few larger patches 2. Significant large tree component in pre-fire condition 3. Lower density of roads and significant area without roads 4. Significant portions of this area were burned by an intentionally lit back burn 5. Part of area is the Clavey River watershed – proposed wild & scenic 6. To access that area there would need to be road construction or improvements 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire and climate resilient landscape 2. Intermixed forests of variable age and species 3. Disturbance creates a mixture of low, mid and high-severity burned areas 4. Fire is the primary management tool 5. Reestablish fire as a disturbance regime 6. Maintain and enhance less common or under-represented structural elements (e.g., legacy elements) 7. Support regrowth of riparian vegetation 8. Provide a variety of habitats for post-fire and snag dependent species 9. Retain high value areas for BBWO and other post-fire/snag dependent species 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain and enhance the remaining green tree islands – increase their resiliency to future fire 2. Promote seed source through protection of individual green trees and islands 3. Retain legacy structures 4. Retain high severity burn patches adjacent to green forest 5. Focus on densities and size classes in retained islands that are in shorter supply 6. Focus on densities and size classes best located to provide a seed source 7. Focus on densities and size classes that connect critical habitat remnants 8. View effect of fire as desirable; as the “first” treatment received by the area 9. Identify a network of fire control points to support enhanced use of managed/prescribed fire 10. Apply managed/prescribe fire to green islands within next 2-5 years 11. Avoid salvage logging within groups of green trees 12. Establish fuel breaks to protect green tree areas not yet ready for fire reintroduction 13. Retain trees with any chance of survival 14. Use habitat model for BBWP to identify important habitat areas to avoid salvaging 15. Use climate projections to guide reforestation species compositions and densities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up an experimental design 2. Create heterogeneity by planting in between retained green tree islands 3. Avoid applying fire in planted areas until trees are resilient to fire (likely 3 to 4 decades) 4. Plant areas in patterns that allow for managed fire to be applied 10-15 years after planting

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT B – SOUTHERN UNIT

CHARACTERISTICS	OBJECTIVES	DESIGN CRITERIA	
		RELEVANT TO EIS	LONGER-TERM AND OUTSIDE SCOPE OF EIS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire severity pattern generally fine grained with occasional larger patches 2. Lower levels of large trees 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a variety of habitats for post-fire and snag dependent species 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain and enhance the remaining green tree islands 2. Retain high value areas for BBWO and other post-fire/snag dependent species 3. Use habitat models for BBWO to identify important habitat areas to protect 4. Avoid salvage logging in areas intended to provide habitat for BBWO 	

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT C – WESTERN UNIT

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Near to developed communities 2. Canyon lands and near to recreational river access 3. Prone to frequent unnatural ignitions 4. Steep hard to access 5. Lower elevation habitat 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control human ignitions and spread of fire to wildlands 2. Improve ability to control or suppress fire originating from canyon 3. Emphasize use of managed fire to provide resiliency 4. Manage for chaparral and hardwood types 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treat strategically (e.g., network) to address canyon landscape with chaparral, snags, and oaks 2. Use fire to manage this landscape 3. Treat above (to north) to provide a control point for landscape 4. Emphasize mechanical treatments first to bring landscape into condition that could be then managed with fire 5. Promote natural regeneration of riparian vegetation to establish shade and wildlife cover/forage 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop strategy for fire management that confronts steep landscape and inaccessibility 2. Identify areas of north slopes, cold air drainages where conifer establishment may be desired
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GEOGRAPHIC UNIT D – CENTRAL UNIT

CHARACTERISTICS	OBJECTIVES	DESIGN CRITERIA	
		RELEVANT TO EIS	LONGER-TERM AND OUTSIDE SCOPE OF EIS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High proportion of high severity fire effects 2. Significant areas of high soil severity 3. Eastside: Significant amounts of pre-fire vegetation in CWHR types 4M and 4D with 5M and 5D more limited 4. <u>Westside</u>: Significant amounts of pre-fire pine, hardwood and chaparral 5. Large patch sizes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transition to a vegetative condition that is variable at the stand scale (100 to 1,000 acres) 2. Reestablish fire as a disturbance regime with variable fire effects 3. Regenerating forested areas are variable in size and age 4. Anticipate warming climate when regenerating vegetated landscape 5. Retain habitat for post-fire and snag dependent species 6. Watershed treatments to ameliorate high watershed soil burn severity 7. Transition to a vegetative condition that is variable at the stand scale (100 to 1,000 acres) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain and enhance the remaining green tree islands 2. Reduce standing dead in riparian area to reduce fuel loading 3. Protect recovering riparian vegetation and avoid planting conifers that will shade hardwoods 4. Poke holes in large high severity patches to increase heterogeneity, introduce seed source 5. Create pockets of salvage for future planting 6. <u>Westside</u>: Manage landscape for riparian and hardwood species 7. <u>Westside</u>: Establish deer corridors along island edges and remove barriers to movement 8. <u>Eastside</u>: Retain high value areas for BBWO and other post-fire/snag dependent species 9. <u>Eastside</u>: Use habitat models for BBWO to identify important habitat areas to protect 10. <u>Eastside</u>: Avoid salvage logging in areas intended to provide habitat for BBWO 11. <u>Eastside</u>: Significant prescribed fire may not be feasible in areas adjacent to private lands; apply fuel treatments to limit fire entering private land 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Westside</u>: Don't plant conifer species except along stream areas and canyons (e.g., Douglas fir in moist areas). 2. Design a study to compare effects of private land salvage to actions undertaken on federal lands and varied by fire effects (USFS and NPS) 3. Design a study to evaluate the response of spotted owl to different levels of salvage on public and federal lands 4. Study designs (above or other) could also evaluate BBWO response, evaluate planting strategies, and elevational gradient 5. Plant pockets created by salvage and manage pockets to enhance tree growth (e.g., practices to control shrub growth)

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT E – EASTERN UNIT

CHARACTERISTICS	OBJECTIVES	DESIGN CRITERIA	
		RELEVANT TO EIS	LONGER-TERM AND OUTSIDE SCOPE OF EIS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas that have a high departure for fire return interval 2. Considerable amount of residual green trees (but may disappear in coming 6-12 months due to delayed mortality) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a variety of habitats for post-fire and snag dependent species 2. Maintain strategic locations to manage intentional or desirable wildfire 3. Apply managed fire to complement NPS fire use strategy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify a network of fire control points; use areas rehabilitated by BAER activities and dozer lines from fire as control points in near term 2. Manage strategic control locations to meet fuel objectives 3. Retain high value areas for BBWO and other post-fire/snag dependent species 4. Use habitat models for BBWO to identify important habitat areas to protect 5. Avoid salvage logging in areas intended to provide habitat for BBWO 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set long term fuel objectives for control points 2. Apply prescribe/managed fire to green islands within next 2-10 years

ADDITIONAL NOTE-TAKING SPACE

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