

South Central Region

Groups 1 and 2

Paradigm shift: “We are restoring landscapes and as an outcome sustaining landscapes and local communities”

Actions we can agree on to begin a dry forest strategy

- Status quo not okay
- Science on stand-level fuel reduction treatments is settled, landscape-level treatment effectiveness less certain
- Dry forests need management:
 1. Overarching goal of sustainable, resilient landscape
 2. Flow of goods/services (incl. spiritual/cultural)
 3. Recognition that natural disturbance regimes are part of the landscape
 4. True dollar values of ecosystem services are needed to enable management
- Strong support for anchor forest concept
 - Include large private forests in anchor forest concept
- Need to address magnitude of issues → need to move beyond cheap acres, too few acres

Actions we can agree on to begin a dry forest strategy cont.

- Need landscape view that moves beyond boundaries while addressing a diversity of ownerships
 - Significant parts are mesic forest types, which need to be incorporated
- How to measure success?
 - Need long-term quantitative indicators and monitoring
 - We should look to existing management efforts to gauge success e.g. Yakama Nation forest health treatments
- Focus on outcomes
- Better and more effective public communication
- Need catalyst
 - Commitment from USFS
 - Yakama Nation investment in infrastructure

Barriers to implementing dry forest strategy

- Trust issues e.g. dbh caps
- Ability to work at appropriate scale
- Society's lack of interest/knowledge on forest health, value, current state (How to educate?)
- Long-term outlook/planning of issue
- Low/non-commercial value of products

Barriers to implementing dry forest strategy cont.

- Missing infrastructure:
 - assured supply (need long-term contracts)
 - also need to address demand side (markets)
- Legislative issues
- Barriers to innovation at agencies and lack of understanding about this issue outside the agencies
- NSO reserve based strategy in conflict with landscape level approach to forest health
- Smoke restrictions

Identifying initial forest health actions

- Collaboration and communication between sectors
 - Expand partners within Tapash
- Subsidies/incentives are needed for management and fire suppression costs
- How to categorize the costs and benefits?
- **Federal level:** large pilot stewardship contract (earmark/FLRA)
 - + Value of timber is used for services (restoration)
 - + Congress, USFS support
 - - May not generate adequate revenue
 - - Still need markets
 - +/-Build coalition to address trust issues
- **Federal level:** open stewardship contracts to state lands
- **State level:** putting SE forestry program back in Ellensburg
- **Local level:** USFS would successfully compete for FLRA dollars (opportunity for collaborative effort/support)

Identifying initial forest health actions cont...

- Tribe plays increasing management role on USFS/DNR land in tribal ceded lands
- Need resources:
 - Alternative payment mechanisms (e.g. timber deeds)
 - Establish ecosystem services districts (like fire districts)
 - Public benefits rating systems
 - Need subsidies/taxes

How can we foster inter-ownership collaboration, planning and actions?

- There has to be benefits for each participant
- There needs to be agreement on what the final outcome is i.e. future condition
 - Agreement that federal lands should have restoration mandate
- Focus on outcomes not outputs e.g. acres treated vs. MBF
- Need to sum over entire landscape to achieve desired resilience/biodiversity goals

Possible mechanisms:

- Timber stewardship deeds
- Temporary trades of timber rights (addresses the concept of dynamic changes of forest structures and ages)
- Direct purchases

Trust and confidence building

- First steps could be joint collaboration on the large pilot stewardship contract or in competing for FLRA dollars
- Broaden the Tapash coalition

Taking results from meeting and moving them forward

- Strong leader e.g. Brian Boyle
- Use model of prescribed fire council
- Need to move beyond local to regional approach
- Go to legislature and Congress for affirmation
- Bring these issues to Western Forest Leadership Coalition and the Western Governors Association