12 Nov 2015 - Panther ACCG

Thursday, November 12, 2015

4:41 PM

Comments and Concerns

* It would be helpful to describe the commercial harvest targets in terms of % cover or trees per acre (as used on Power Fire documents).
* Could you add target planting density for pine regeneration?
* What % of the treatment is NOT in the fire break (meaning treated but with no herbicide)? Is 5348 the total project area or the total treatment acres?
* Do you have a rough estimate of if or when this treatment plan may bring the landscape back to a state where fire is the only treatment needed? (We may have addressed this comment in the discussion of fire suppression in this WUI…)
* Would the prescriptions described in GTR-220 provide sufficient fuel break in this landscape? IF so, why not use? If not, perhaps state this in the background.
* Could a change in grazing patterns be used as a treatment here, especially for brush maintenance?
* The map and treatment descriptions are biased toward fuels not forest health (community structure). This may be a matter of packaging than content, but it could be helpful to describe the treatment outcomes (desired conditions) in terms of GTR-220/ecological concepts as much as fire breaks.
  + A more complex map or a pair of maps showing the desired outcomes, especially the heterogeneity across the landscape, would be helpful. The broad "fire break" category seems too homogeneous.
  + Similarly, describing the heterogeneity in terms of % cover or trees per acre - lower on the ridges, very dense in the owl territory.
  + Point out the non-treatment areas as either recently or under current treatment plan (not just ignored here).
* Key phrases to try in include:
  + "Return fire interval"
  + "Reduce risk of catastrophic fire"
  + "Pre-treatment of brush will reduce herbicide use in treatment area"
* Describe brush species in area, especially in terms of more desirable for wildlife (deer), fire (height), or treatment (resprouting).
* Is there any way to estimate the amount of herbicide that may be used? Both high estimate and more realistic scenario?
* Include owl PAC and other ranges on map to show how home ranges, etc. overlap treatment areas. How much treatment area is contained within the 0.7 mi. radius?