

DMS - Annual PI and Site Coordinator Meeting
May 18, 2005 - Eugene, OR

Present: Jeanette Griese, Larry Larsen, Charley Thompson, Miles Brown, Klaus Puettmann, Peter O'Toole, Hugh Snook, Paul Anderson, Dede Olson, Shanti Berryman, Andy Moldenke, John Cissel

Information sharing

John C

- A complete draft of the Establishment Report and Study Plan is nearly complete and will be ready for review in June. It will be published by USGS as a Scientific Investigations Report, hopefully by the end of the calendar year. Data will be reported in both English and metric units according to the format requirements of USGS. Charley and Jeannette expressed a willingness to review; please let John C know if you are willing to review the draft.
- GIS layers are essentially complete for all sites; thanks to all who assisted with this work
- Despite all the back and forth earlier in the year, funding is in place for FY05 and modifications to existing agreements will be moving forward soon.
- The Steering Committee reviewed the proposal for new treatments at their meeting in November, and endorsed the proposal with the caveat that BLM and PNW leadership needed to be briefed and given a chance to critique and ask questions. Briefings were conducted in the winter and a BLM Instruction Memo will be forthcoming with direction to proceed with planning of the new timber sales according to our treatment schedule

Klaus P

- Shanti will be leaving after the field season; the plan is to fill her position with another post-doc with a start date of 1/1/06.
- Bob Fahey is analyzing his data on vegetation response to gaps and gap edges with the intent of defending his thesis next winter.
- Will be hiring a post-doc to work on young stand study integration in cooperation with Paul A with Forest Service funds made available under the auspices of the Settlement Agreement.
- Plan to have a German post-doc start late summer to work on the DMS planted regeneration component

Shanti B

- Have hired a six-person crew; by the end of the summer will have measured all BLM plots twice and all OSU plots once.
- Data management is now caught up; data should be available via the website in July.
- Summary of initial responses handed out; complete results will be available in the June 30 progress report.

Andy M

- Data collection and data management complete; terrestrial arthropod analysis complete; working on aquatic arthropod analysis.
- Due to detached retina problems he will need an extension of his agreement to the end of December, 2005. Good luck with recovery Andy.

Charley T

- Timber volume estimate for 2009 sale of 4 million BF; should be very economical.
- Resource Area working on a timber sale for a former DMS candidate site (Lookout Point) where lichen and arthropod data was collected; sale is the Gordon Creek sale and is planned for sale in 2009.

Hugh S

- BLM silvicultural working group went to Black Rock and Sand Creek; group supported the re-rethin proposal.
- Working on GPS coverage of the Sand Creek and Callahan Creek controls.
- Green Peak was retagged.
- Sale date set for Sand Creek and Callahan Creek

Miles B

- Just getting up to speed with DMS; am particularly interested in the riparian buffer components

Peter O'Toole

- Access to Ten High from Holton will be blocked for culvert replacement this summer - contact Peter for specifics; access from Alpine will be easier; also, a half-mile road segment along Lake Creek will be paved in 06, also temporarily blocking access
- Have initiated marbled murrelet surveys at Bottomline in preparation for 08 sale
- A spotted owl is nesting in the Bottomline control, could have implications for 08 sale if nesting continues

Dede O

- Stephanie Wessell is defending her leave island work on 6/17; Dede will distribute the thesis when it is complete
- Matt Kluber (Masters student) is looking at amphibian use of downed wood by down wood condition and size along transects from streams to uplands across streamside buffers, variable break buffers, and controls at Green Peak, Ten High, and Schooner Creek (Siuslaw NF)
- Will be finishing year 5 post-treatment surveys in 2005 and 2006
- Five papers in process: pre-treatment aquatic vertebrate community structure and abundance, sampling methods evaluation, terrestrial amphibian response to

- treatments; aquatic vertebrate response to treatments; description of ensatina nests at Keel Mountain (apparently a first for Oregon)
- Planning on a riparian buffer synthesis paper in 2006
 - Submitted a brief description of the DMS collaboration as a “Flagship Partnership” for PNW
 - Have submitted several abstracts for the Headwaters conference in November

Paul A

- Analysis complete for microclimate and microsite, writing up results, draft by end of May - no near-stream effect on microclimate
- Two publications planned
- Received funding from PNW to evaluate sample design for riparian vegetation, working with Temesgen (OSU)

Opportunities and research needs

The final chapter of the Establishment Report and Study Plan (in preparation) will include discussion of density management information and research needs and opportunities for further collaboration with interested scientists. The following list resulted from a short brainstorming session:

Stand development

- What stand structures and spatial patterns of stand development favor hardwood tree and shrub regeneration and development?
- How does thinning affect changes in crown structure, especially in terms of platforms for wildlife and wood quality?

Effects of young stand management

- What is the response of small mammals and songbirds to density management? (subject of ongoing work in Willamette Young Stand Study and elsewhere; possible scale issues)
- How does density management affect fruit and seed consumption by wildlife?
- What is the response of deer forage to thinning?
- What are the effects of thinning on erosion, compaction, stream temperature, and hydrology?

Landscape context

- Are there significant landscape influences on stand-scale responses, e.g., sources of plant or animal propagules, connectivity of stream network?
- Can wildlife responses to landscape-scale young stand management be discerned through retrospective studies?

Methods

- There is a need to expand riparian buffer lengths to increase measurement rigor

- There is a need to develop better methods to quantify temporal, spatial, and response variability

General

- How do various density management and riparian buffer approaches affect reciprocal aquatic-terrestrial subsidies in headwaters? E.g., does thinning influence aquatic invertebrates that are food for birds, bats, etc.?
- Are there important whole-treatment responses? What are effective scales for designing variable density thinning?
- There is a need to integrate results across young stand studies in the region - integrate by geography or response variables

Stewardship contracting

Jim Hallberg (BLM OSO Stewardship Contracting lead) gave a Powerpoint presentation on what stewardship contracts are all about, what they're for, how they work, etc. (handouts summarize key points). If we go this route for the next round of timber sales, the goal would be to apply revenues from the sales to the post-treatment measurement work done by our existing collaborators. John C and Jim H will meet with Bob Heaton and Steve Shapiro in the State Office to determine if this is a viable mechanism.

Next treatments - getting organized

We agreed that these are the steps to follow to ensure that the DMS units will get treated in the designated year:

1. Decide if stewardship contracting is feasible
2. Decide how sale units will be packaged for planning and sale purposes considering roadwork needs, stewardship contracting potential, economics, and needs for other non-DMS work in the area
3. Place plan and sale on outyear sale schedule
4. Conduct marbled murrelet surveys, if needed
5. Conduct NEPA analysis and documentation
6. Conduct pre-sale work
7. Tag the site with DMS treatment and subtreatment tags
8. Sell the sale

RMP revisions

Opportunities for DMS scientists to assist with the revision process:

- Field tours with stakeholders and cooperators
- Videotape a field tour
- Develop a virtual tour for the website

Outreach

- Presentations and posters at the Headwaters Workshop in November