

Katkee Fuels Project – Field Trip Summary

May 16, 2024

The following information is draft because we are still early in the analysis process.

Project Objectives – Purpose and Need

The following purpose and need / objectives are needed to address the gap between the current resource conditions and the desired conditions by resource:

Fire and Fuels Resource

- Decrease wildfire impacts on resource values and private land through hazardous fuels reduction activities on public lands.
 - o Reduce fuels in all layers so that expected wildfire behavior is modified to a lower intensity allowing for safe and effective fire suppression.
 - o Create, enhance, and maintain fuel breaks where feasible.

Vegetation Resource

- Maintain and improve forest resiliency by managing for composition and structures that better resists insects and disease and more closely mimic historic landscapes.
 - o Increase the acreage of stands where Western White Pine and Western Larch are major components.
 - o Regenerate, maintain, and expand the dispersed aspen clones where feasible.
 - o Allow and promote healthy mature stands to trend towards old growth.
 - o Reduce the acreage of lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and grand fir at risk from bark beetle attacks.
 - o Develop and maintain stands consisting of more fire-tolerant species over intolerant species.

Aquatic Resource

- Decrease sediment sources to maintain or improve water quality and aquatic habitat.

Wildlife Resource

- Maintain habitat for grizzly bears by increasing the amount of open-forest structure to improve forage for grizzly bears while maintaining or improving existing security.

Economic Resource

- Landscape restoration work proposed in this project may contribute to the local economy through the sale of commercial forest products and other associated fuel reduction activities.