

Harney County Restoration Collaborative Meeting
 August 23, 2016 HCRC Field Day – Monitoring Field Trip
 Marshall Devine Project Area, Malheur National Forest, Burns, OR
 Meeting Notes

Partners: Kerry Kemp, Daniel Dean, Louis Smith, Ben Cate, Calla Hagle, Howard Richburg, Melissa Ward, Jerry Stouley, Kat Morici, Lexi McAllister, Hana Maaiah, Julia Olszewski, Clair Moreland-Ochoa, Jordan Woodcock, Alex Held, Brett Morrisette, Jack Southworth, Tom Segal, Brenda Smith

Purpose: The purpose of this field tour was to learn about the monitoring efforts being conducted throughout the forest as part of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP). The project currently receives \$2.5 million, per year, above normal funding to help pay up to 50% of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on the Malheur National Forest. Each year a monitoring crew is hired for gathering data during the summer months. This data is being used to help inform and provide a measurement on how the restoration treatments conducted in the forest are achieving the desired results.

Location: HCRC met on August 23, 2016 4.3 miles east of Hwy 395 on road 3935 in the Marshall Devine Project Area: The coordinates are N 43.80846 W 118.91692. It is about 4.3 miles total off the 395, following Rd. 2820 (the turn for Idlewild Campground) which turns into Rd 3935. There is a pullout just before a cattle guard about 1.5 miles after a left turn on the 3935. The site is just before you drop down into Trout Creek. If you get to Trout Creek you have gone too far.



2016 Malheur CFLR monitoring crew lead Kat Morici, center, and crew member Jordan Woodcock

Monitoring Crew and Stations: A great crew has been employed this year. A team of 8 led by Kat Morici, a graduate student with Oregon State University has collected data. Our field day was held to find out more about these monitoring efforts and what data is being collected. Kat and crew set up 8 different stations with different activities to better understand the monitoring data collection.



Dated cross section of an old growth pine, showing fire history. Each indentation into the tree rings represents a fire scar.



Woodpecker activity on pine snag.

The stations set up by the monitoring crew covered the following topics:

1. Monitoring protocols for tree data collection – Hana Maaiah
2. Measuring fine fuels – Claire Moreland-Ochoa
3. Measuring percent cover of plants – Julia Olszewski
4. Seedling tree identification – Jordan Woodcock
5. Monitoring protocols for vegetation transects – Alex Held
6. Grass identification – Lexi McAllister
7. Tree aging – Brett Morrissette
8. Fuel loading measurements – Kat Morici

Guess that tree age – Southern Malheur Forest 2016 - All live trees



Tree #1: Ponderosa Pine – DBH 26.2”
Age: 126 years



Tree #2: Douglas Fir – DBH 23.4”
Age: 75 years



Tree #3: Douglas Fir – DBH 20.7”
Age: 72 years



Tree #4: Ponderosa Pine – DBH 21.7”
Age: 87 years

One of the activities at the stations involved participants guessing the age of the tree based on its characteristics and size.

A few of the key take home lessons included:

- We learned how fuel loading data is collected and how 1, 10, 100 and 1000-hour fuel loads are determined. Essentially it is the time any fuel takes to reach current climatic/ environmental conditions – it is related to diameter of the fuels but it is not exactly how fast the fuels burn, it is

how fast they respond to changes in moisture (rain, relative humidity). So 1 hour fuels are ¼ inch or smaller in diameter and they can dry out quickly in response to climatic conditions. Larger diameter fuels 3-8 inches in diameter will take up to 1000 hours to respond to changes in environmental factors. Measuring fuel loads is part of the monitoring data collection.

- We also learned about fine fuels and how to quantify fine fuels on trees. The monitoring crew is essentially taking data on the “fine fuels” on the tree and they are measured by the distance from the ground where the small dead branches occur. This gives an indication how high flames would have to be to ignite the tree.
- There was a station that provided identification of a number of perennial grasses in the forest.



Daniel Dean, retired logger, Alex Held CFLR monitoring crew member and Jerry Stahley, timber restoration business owner



Daniel Dean, retired logger and Calla Hagle, biologist Burns Paiute tribe

The crew did an excellent job – explaining to HCRC members about their work this summer. It was a great exchange of information as one of the HCRC members in attendance was a tree faller in the 1960's in the very place the crew chose to set up the monitoring field day.



A few more pictures of partners participating at various stations. Everyone learned a lot!

Updates on current projects: Information was provided by Melissa Ward on the progress of current projects. The Dove Final Environmental Assessment is being completed and expected to be out for objection in Mid-October. Proposed actions for the Flat Project are being prepared and should be out for scoping in September.