



### **South 102 - 3 years after fire (2 pictures)**

Residual insect kill – could be due to damage from fire weakened trees.  
Perennial bunchgrass in understory and would be desirable for grazing but need to take into account where the area is in relation to water and if cattle are moved through area. It helps if ranchers use riders to move cattle into less desirable areas to utilize undergrazed areas or get them off more desirable areas.







**Area in #103 – approximately 450 acres** pre-commercial thinned. Fuels piled and burned with a prescribed fire in spring 2016. This is an area that did not have any commercial logging/ timber in this last treatment. There have been commercial harvests since 1980s. It is a long haul for the timber to come out of here and get to the mill in John Day. Currently, it is not economical to log in this part of the forest. Some of the bitterbrush was burned but it is fire tolerant and should resprout but it can't be burned too often (less than 10 years). The prescription achieved the goals of maintaining the big trees, removing needle/ duff buildup. The wildlife cover clumps were burned but they will be the future wildlife openings in this area. The prescription stayed within NEPA guidelines. This forest work was paid for through the Hazardous Fuels Reduction program – and the goal of the program is to maintain large, old trees.

The cost of this prescription is approximately \$250/ acre to thin, pile and burn. The cost of prescribed fire is \$20-\$40/ acre. Total cost of this prescription is approx. \$270-290/ acre.

On a landscape scale we want to have a lot of variability as it provided variability on the landscape. Comments: Would like to see more mortality of the small trees, looks like most will survive. This forest area will not be resistant to fire in August.

Historically, this landscape was more park like and did not support high numbers of wildlife. When we can put prescribed fire on over 18,000 contiguous acres that is significant and can help make the forest resistant to fire in August.







#### South #109 area – Small Aspen site

Burned in a prescribed fire in April 2016.

History – 5-6 years ago pines were cut out of this small aspen grove and the material was left on the ground. The purpose for leaving the slash on the ground is to provide some herbivory protection from ungulates (wild and domestic) from browsing on the aspen sprouts.

When the fire came through this area the additional dry fuels that were on the ground created a hot fire that heavily damaged the mature aspen trees and small sprouts in this area.

The tour participants noticed the aspen was already resprouting and felt that the aspen will respond favorably and will sucker and resprout heavily and the group believes that the stand may be able to withstand some level of herbivory after being reinvigorated by fire. Overall too expensive to fence every small aspen stand.



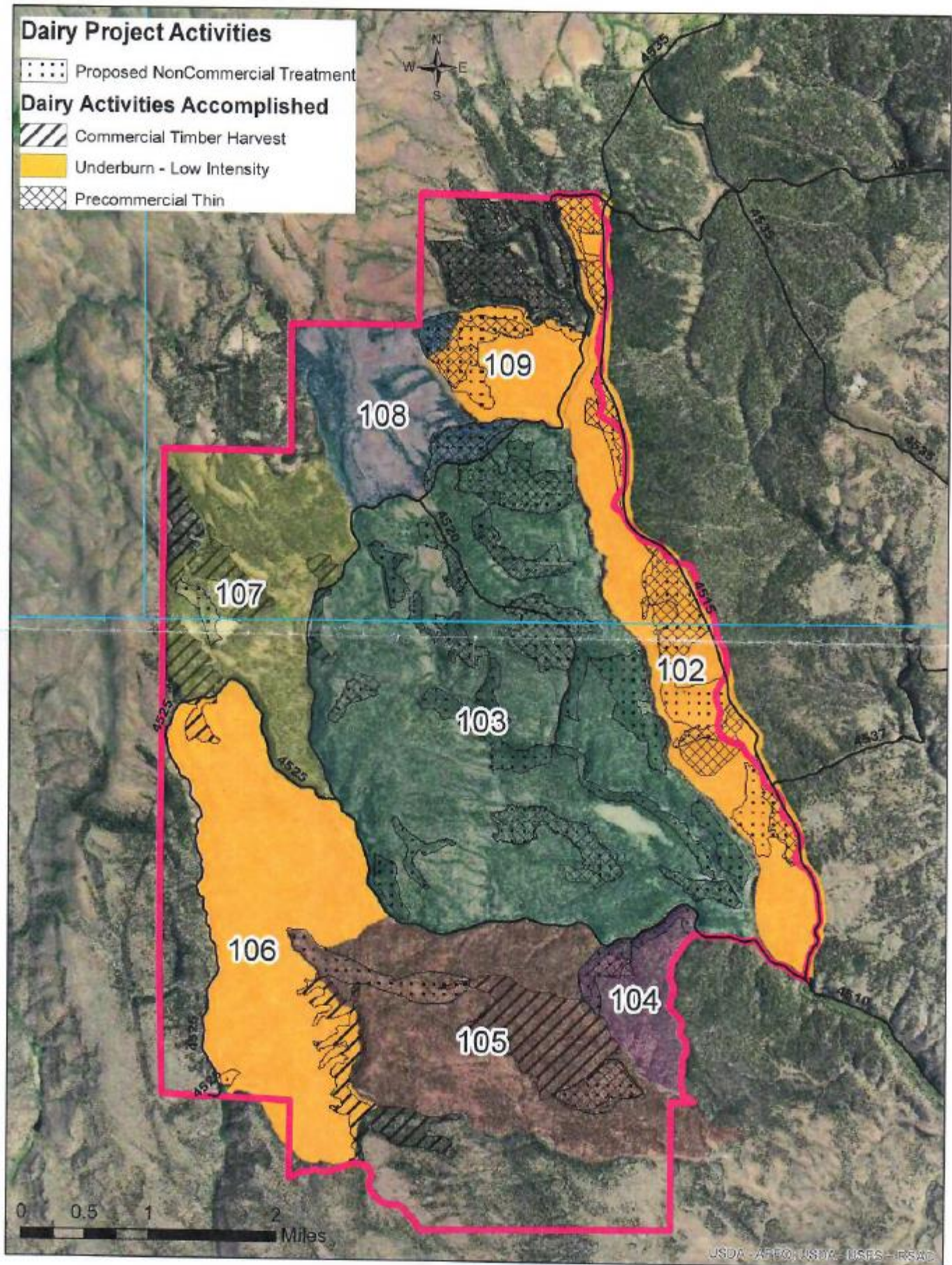




South #103 - Area thinned with fire, no pre-commercial thinning was done before fire. Area was burned in Spring 2016 – it was an unusual day for spring fire conditions. Hot day –high temp was 81F, with relative humidity in the high teens, similar to a summer burn, so it burned hot in this area. There was higher mortality in this burned area. The hotter spots will be the future new openings in the forest. Wildlife biologists liked what they saw for future wildlife needs and would like to see more of this type of prescribed fire across more acres.

It was suggested and the group agreed that roads, especially spur roads should be closed after these prescribed fires to benefit wildlife. Prescribed burns create a mosaic pattern of vegetation types that are considered a positive ecological response for species diversity.





Overall discussion and take home messages from the Dairy Project Tour:

1. The HCRC group on this tour indicated that what they saw with the prescribed burning should be seen and understood by the broader general public and would like to see how to get some educational information out to the public. The group feels there is ignorance and apathy about land management and general public does not realize the complex set of decisions of managing on a landscape scale.
2. The group if they could change things in the forest to a more positive benefit would be to get more latitude from Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to burn. For the benefit of wildlife and the forest ecology, the Forest Service prescribed burns would be more beneficial in the fall when the fires would burn hotter.
3. The HCRC is complementary of Emigrant Creek FS personnel for taking more risk and actually being on the cutting edge of forest science with completing landscape scale prescribed burns.
4. FS personnel wanted the group to know that prescribed fires are an iterative process and that a single burn is often not going to be adequate to create the fire resistant forest that is a goal. Have to keep coming back with fire. If a natural wildfire were to go through these areas that were burned under prescription in the near future, there is still a lot of fuel and it would burn hot and likely kill the old, large trees.
5. Prescribed fire is a good tool, but thinning with fire is messy.
6. The Dairy Project is not under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) monitoring project, so minimal monitoring for developing adaptive management. There is a records of management practices in this area and there are photo monitoring series.



# SIGN-IN HCRC Dairy Project

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