

# Benefits from the Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative

*Community and Forest Service Leaders in Crook County launched the Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative in 2012 to address past forest and natural resource conflicts that have hampered much needed forest restoration work on the Ochoco National Forest and local communities now and into the Future (OFRC Website).*

Since its inception OFRC has contributed significantly to the success of land management on the Ochoco National Forest including:

1. OFRC project support likely led to non-litigated decisions for the Wolf and Gap planning areas. The fact that OFRC supported these projects indicated to the greater public that various community interests were involved and their ideas were considered. Results include:

a. Approved Wolf EIS projects:

Activity	Quantity (approximate)
a) Commercial thinning (would be followed by noncommercial thinning and prescribed burning)	a) 4,322 ac
b) Commercial thinning Trees >21" dbh	b) 384 ac
	Total: 4,706
Noncommercial thinning (would be followed by prescribed burning)	988 ac
Juniper removal (would be followed by jackpot and prescribed burning)	481 ac
Underburning only	5,000 ac
Hardwood enhancement	90.2 ac
Road closure	7.8 miles
Road decommission	2.7 miles
Stream restoration	2.2 miles
Culvert replacement	1 location
Headcut repair	6 locations
Temporary road construction	1.8 miles
Temporary road on existing disturbance	17.6 miles
Expansion of Six Corners Material Source	up to 3 acres



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Sold or offered timber sales:

Timber Sales	Acres	MMBF
Honi	1082	4
Cana	551	3
Lobo*	1717	9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3350</b>	<b>16</b>

\*Lobo offered, not sold

b. Approved Gap EIS projects:

Activity	Quantity (approximate)
Commercial thinning (would include noncommercial thinning and fuels treatments)	14,037 ac.
Noncommercial thinning (outside of harvest units; would include fuels treatments)	1,389 ac
Noncommercial thinning only (plantations)	458 ac.
Noncommercial thinning only up to 21" dbh	180 ac.
	Total: 2,027 ac.
Underburning only	5,587 ac
Riparian restoration	13.7 miles/1,345 ac.
Aspen Restoration	213 ac.
Culvert Replacement	6 locations
Road closure	16.3 miles
Road decommission	2.7 miles
New Temporary road construction	1.0 miles
Temporary roads on existing disturbance	38.9 miles
Expansion of Winter Material Source	up to .9 acres
Buck and Pole Fence	.9 miles
Temporary Barbed Wire Fence	4 miles
Water Developments	3

Sold timber sales:

Timber Sales	Acres	MMBF
Edge	391	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>2</b>

2. OFRC recommendations and support led to more restoration activities (Harvest/NCT/RxFire) occurring within RHCA's than potentially would have occurred. Results include:

a. Approved treatment:

Projects	Acres Planned in RHCA's		
	Commercial	PCT	Underburn
Wolf	589	253	1,122
Gap	1,041	1,249	1,725



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Implementation:

Timber Sales	Acres	MMBF
Cana	27	0.2
Honi	130	0.5
*Lobo	180	0.9
*Edge	13	0.1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>1.6</b>

\* Lobo offered, not sold. Edge is from the Gap Landscape Restoration Project whereas the rest are associated with the Wolf Fuels and Vegetation Management Project.

3. Provided guidelines for limited harvest of >21”dbh trees to favor old growth pine. Results include:

Timber Sales	Acres Planned	Actual Acres Harvested	MMBF
Cana	205	205	0.13
Lobo	179	179	0.08
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>0.21</b>

4. Provided recommendations (Zones of Agreement) for treatment of aspen. The Aspen Zones of Agreement emphasize the importance and value of aspen and highlighted the need for restoration on the Ochoco N.F. This resulted in prioritizing more aspen stands for restoration than normally would have occurred in our planning efforts.

Aspen Restoration	Acres Planned	Actual Acres Treated
Wolf	52	2
Gap	213	20

5. Educational opportunities provided by various presenters has led to a better understanding of the need and rationale for timber harvest and other activities. Results include but are not limited to; presentations and field trips developing a shared understanding on a range of topics including:

- i. Aspen Restoration
- ii. Climate Change
- iii. Plant Association Groups
- iv. Socioeconomics
- v. Dry Forest Classifications
- vi. Historical Range of Variation
- vii. Dry Forest Restoration Principles
- viii. Dry Forest Restoration Treatments, Impacts, and Effectiveness



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6. Participation in OFRC by Ochoco National Forest staff has increased trust with at least some public individuals/groups.
7. Formal monitoring for treatment efficacy.
  - a. Hired OSU to provide the collaborative the tools necessary for understanding the effects of restoration treatments on forest structure, composition, function, and fire behavior.
    - i. Installed 38 plots to monitor forest structure, understory vegetation, and fuel loading in response to removal of select trees >21”dbh in dry forest sites.
  - b. Hired OSU to develop protocols to evaluate aspen response to restoration treatments.
    - ii. Conducted pretreatment monitoring on 8 aspen stands in the Wolf planning area.
8. Having OFRC support increases FS competitiveness for grants such as OWEB FIP Capacity, Joint Chief’s Proposals, R6 Challenge Cost Share, etc.
9. Helping to support and push for landscape restoration and associated activities. Currently the Ochoco is performing a variety of landscape restoration activities including:
  - a. Mckay Creek stream restoration
  - b. Deep Creek stream restoration
  - c. Post fire salvage/planting
  - d. Juniper cutting
  - e. Precommercial thinning
  - f. Underburning
  - g. Aquatic organism passage
  - h. Meadow enhancement
  - i. Riparian planting
  - j. Aspen restoration
10. Collaborative members represent and clarify the beliefs, values, and desires representing the community. As a result the FS is able to better serve the public.
11. OFRC members representing industry have provided insight and feedback helping the Ochoco National Forest develop timber sales to be more competitive during unstable market conditions.



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