

**SWCC Prioritization Committee**  
**Meeting Notes**  
December 5, 2011

**Present:** Keith Stockmann, Megan Birzell, Cory Davis, Tim Love, Rob Ethridge, Gary Burnett, Jon Haufler, Amber Kamps, Travis Belote, Rich Kehr

- I. Review agenda and approve notes
  - a. Notes from the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved unanimously.
  
- II. Update on EMRI's progress, including when it will be ready for review by this committee
  - a. EMRI has pulled all datasets together.
  - b. The remaining tasks are:
    - i. EMRI will compute existing conditions for the Swan regarding fire severity.
    - ii. Beth Gardner will put together and digitize a fish values map.
      1. Beth's value system is different than what was used in the Blackfoot but is similar. The roads analysis is same across watersheds. In the Swan, invasive species is emphasized more than roads. Vice versa in Seeley and Lincoln. Both will be addressed in all watersheds. Extent of lake trout invasion is much more in Swan than in Seeley and Lincoln, and road disruption issues are less of a concern.
    - iii. EMRI needs to work with the districts to reconcile watershed restoration with terrestrial restoration and fuels mitigation and package that all together.
  - c. EMRI has provided the districts with a proposed description of more specific fuel mitigation objectives as a "straw man." They've asked the districts to respond but haven't received one to date.
  - d. EMRI has also provided the districts with a description of large tree restoration conditions for each ecological site across the landscape. There is a fair amount of detail in that. EMRI is recommending that this description serve as a reference condition for restoration. They've asked the districts if that's a suitable reference condition for them but haven't received a response to date.
  - e. EMRI has met with the districts to discuss what it would mean to have 10% of the mean of the historical conditions represented across ecological sites (i.e. how many acres would need to be treated to reach this goal) as well as large tree distribution across ecological sites. They've asked the districts if that's realistic goal to treat those many acres but haven't received a reply to date.
    - i. Thus far, the 10% historical representation goal has been calculated by District, but it could be calculated across the entire SW Crown instead.
    - ii. To determine this 10% number, EMRI calculated the HRV for conditions across four fire regimes to determine the mean value and then calculated the number of acres that would need to be in a restored condition in order to be at 10% representation of historical conditions across ecological sites.
    - iii. EMRI hasn't yet calculated how many acres are already in a restored condition and thus don't need to be treated.

- iv. Jon, Amber, and Gary will meet with the three district silviculturists on December 15<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the 10% prioritization goal and whether that is appropriate or could be raised or lowered.
- f. EMRI will have a report on their analysis completed by end of December. This analysis is based on 6<sup>th</sup> code HUCs and doesn't take into account feasibility (i.e. management restrictions due to riparian zones, etc., and slope factors).

III. Next Steps regarding baseline analysis

- a. There was discussion about how to update the SWCC on the prioritization work. The SWCC is expecting everything to be finished by the end of December. While EMRI's baseline analysis will be completed by then, the recommendations for prioritization will not be completed because there is more work to do with the districts.
- b. Jon is unavailable for the January 10<sup>th</sup> SWCC meeting, but his associate Carolyn Mehl is available to provide a presentation of their baseline analysis.
- c. EMRI will continue working with the districts to develop recommendations for quantifiable restoration objectives. Their goal is to meet with each district in January and be prepared to present final recommendations to the SWCC at their meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

IV. Next meeting

- a. January 3, 1 – 3pm, Seeley Ranger District