

APPENDIX 1 – COLLABORATIVE GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE USDA FOREST SERVICE

I Highest Priority Areas Surrounding Camp Baldwin

Priority I areas are divided into two separate areas, the majority of the areas identified on the USFS maps and then separately the portion of the 40 acre USFS parcel which the boy scouts use for camping (approx 20-30 of the 40 acres) be thinned.

The areas within the 40-acre USFS parcel of land where boy scouts use for camping should be treated primarily to reduce hazard trees and fuels. We recommend more aggressive thinning of dead and dying trees in this area, though where possible sound snags that do not pose a safety hazard could be left as wildlife trees. We recommend that dead, dying or diseased trees be removed as well as ladder fuels (thinning from below). Smaller diameter trees under 12 inches* should be thinned to provide a healthy residual stand with reduced fuels. Thinning should specifically target grand fir.

We recommend the USFS treat the priority I (minus the 40 acre parcel with camping) with variable density restoration thinning to reduce fuel loads. The primary goal here is to return the *forest conditions* to a point where fire can play its natural historic role. We recommend that crown density has to be reduced to a level that a crown fire could not be easily sustained through the forest. This should be roughly 60% canopy closure. *We recognize that to meet objectives the 40-acre parcel with camping may end up with a 40% canopy closure.* We recommend thinning trees under 12 inches dbh* that provide ladder fuels. Thinning should specifically target the grand fir. It is important to note that the likely commercial output from this project is a bi-product of restoration activities and not goal in and of itself.

**Diameter limits: There is common agreement among everyone that the focus of the thinning should be on trees under 12 inches dbh. There is not agreement if there should be flexibility in individual cases to allow the occasional tree over 12 inches dbh to be cut.*

Map note: We recommend Phase II areas on the map receive the same treatment described above (excluding the 40-acre parcel exceptions).

Snags and wildlife: We recognize the 40-acre parcel, the Camp Baldwin land, and the private lands have a snag deficiency. The largest diameter snags in the remaining priority I areas should be retained for wildlife. We also recommend retaining the most likely next generation of large snags (prioritizing sound species such as Pine, Western Larch and Douglas Fir). We recognize that diseased trees can play an important role for wildlife. Trees with mistle-toe for example provide ideal nesting for spotted owls and other species, and will be the next generation of wildlife snag. In some instances if the mistle-toe is on branches lowest to the ground, we recommend pruning those branches. We also recognize that soft snags can be a danger to forest workers. Soft and dangerous snags such as Grand Fir should be dealt with in a manner that provides a safe work environment for the forest workers.

II Prescribed Fire

A large portion of this area has been burned previously, and we recommend a maintenance burn. We also recommend the USFS treat any area in the interface zone with prescribed fire where it is appropriate and ready for fire. If portions of the area being considered for prescribed fire require mechanical treatment ahead of time, the recommendations for the priority I area applies. *Map note: Areas we recommend for prescribed fire are not keyed to phase boundaries on map, but are recommended to be carried out where appropriate as determined by USFS staff.*

III Plantation Thinning

We recommend variable-density thinning of plantations that focuses on trees less than 12” dbh coupled with fuels abatement. For the purposes of these recommendations, plantations were defined as follows:

“Stand of trees initiated-

(A) through direct or indirect seeding; or

(B) by planting seedlings following any harvest method, including salvage logging, that removed more than 90 percent of the over story of the original stand on contiguous areas larger than 5 acres.”

Obviously very young plantations that are just starting to grow don’t require thinning yet.

IV Road Decommissioning

The collaborative group recommends the USFS decommission roads within the interface zone that would improve wildlife habitat without limiting fire-fighting efforts. We recognize in some areas this will mean simply gating roads, and in other places would result in ripping and replanting roads. To maximize our efforts we recommend the USFS consider ripping only the first ¼ mile of road as this will deter individuals, but minimize costs and allow other roads to be treated as well. The 100-acre LSR west of camp has excellent old-growth habitat and would benefit from a lower road density. We therefore recommend specifically ripping the 120 road and the unofficial road off the 120 road west of camp.

The collaborative group recommends the USFS improve and restore elk habitat. Specifically we recommend efforts to return a herd to Heslan Canyon. We recognize that elk specialists are nearly universal in recommending that elk need solitude, and that closing roads is one of the best ways to improve elk habitat.

V Underhill Site

The collaborative group recommends the USFS create an interpretative hiker trail in this area to educate the public as to the role fire plays in the region. There could be plaques with information explaining the historic, future and current role fire plays in the area, ideally placed in areas where applicable along the trail.