Integrated Fireshed-Level Adaptive Management Evaluation Sites (iFLAMES)

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Site

Alder Ditch, near Hot Springs, Montana, located on the western, drier portion of the reservation. Annual precipitation is around 15 in/yr. Prior to fire suppression, this area would have been subjected to a low severity/high frequency fire regime. This area has a high chance of experiencing fire in the near future. In 2007, Chippy Creek Fire burned several thousands of acres N & W of this site. Elevation starts at appx 2,850 ft., dominated with Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus Ponderosa)* and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga Menziessi)* trees. Expected entry date for logging is mid to late summer of 2014.

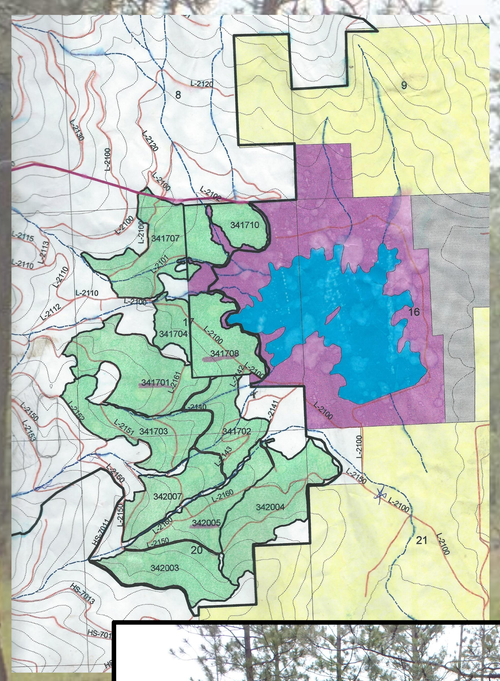
Abstract

Active fire suppression, land use practices, and climate change have resulted in an increase in more intense and severe wildfires. Prior to fire suppression, much of the landscape was subjected to frequently occurring natural and anthropogenic fires. Our project will monitor firesheds on the Flathead Indian Reservation that have been treated with thinning and prescribed burning to restore them to a precolonial state. This data will measure the effectiveness of treatment prescriptions after being subjected to wildfires. A network of data created from multiple agencies will allow managers to share and analyze the effectiveness of their management practices to reduce catastrophic fire events.


Cambium Scar

Methods

- Nine units total, appx 100 acres each
- 3 Seed Tree cuts = heavily thinned
- 3 ITS = light thinning
- 3 control = unmanaged
- All managed areas will be followed up by Px burning. Long term monitoring of regeneration on treated sites.



Discussion

Pre-treatment data collection as well as post-treatment monitoring will be synthesized to analyze effectiveness of thinning regimes in silvicultural prescriptions and biomass utilization to alter landscape level fire hazards. Assess amount of woody debris after harvest that can be utilized for biomass versus slash pile burning, decreasing environmental impacts by reducing carbon emissions. Our project utilizes logging units defined by CSKT Forestry and control areas, adjacent to managed areas, to be defined this summer. Data will include Site history summary, GIS and permanent plots, overstory and understory data, and monitoring implementation and effectiveness of treatments.


Seed Tree

Conclusion

A synthesis of data from several federal Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) groups, states, and tribes will be compiled using Integrated Fireshed-level Adaptive Management Evaluation Sites (iFLAMES). The data collection of pre- and post-treatment conditions will allow tribes and landowners to analyze the effectiveness of fuels/restoration treatments. Regeneration of treated areas will be monitored over time, as well as exposure to wildfires and how effective treatments were in reducing fire hazards. This will also be beneficial for educating the public and gaining support for silvicultural treatments for fuel reduction/restoration projects.


Unit 342004, light thin


Unit 341701 89 acres, thin to 50 BA

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