

Payette National Forest
Forest Plan Monitoring
Wildlife Field Review

Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project

I made field visits on August 15, 2008 and August 26, 2008 to inspect Forest Plan/monitoring requirements for the Middle Little Salmon Vegetation Management Project. Monitoring objectives for wildlife were to ensure elk habitat and road closure effectiveness and that snag and coarse woody debris (CWD) were in compliance with Forest standards.

The road into the stand used for timber haul had been ripped and decommissioned. This decommissioning should maintain elk habitat effectiveness (EHE). It appeared that the road closure was working as designed as the large amount of slash and CWD impeded use by off road vehicles, ATV's, etc.

The amount of CWD was ocular estimated to be 5-10 tons per acre and higher in some units. Old snags had been retained as recommended and some created due to logging activity.

The riparian corridor and Round Valley Creek had been protected by a 200' + buffer, so riparian dependent species were not directly affected.

Overall the site appeared to be treated as prescribed and wildlife mitigation measures have been implemented and effective.

/S/ Russ Richards
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