

## Horse Fire Management Unit

The Horse FMU is 69,666 acres in size. Although it occurs entirely within the National Forest boundary, private land makes up the largest percentage of this FMU. The entire is Federal Direct Protection Area (DPA) responsibility.

Fire Protection Responsibility	Acres	Percent of FMU
Klamath National Forest	69,666	100%
Wildland Urban Interface	Acres	Percent of FMU
Community At Risk	505	1%
Defense Zone	6,278	9%
Threat Zone	24,065	35%
Total WUI Acres	30,848	44%

### 3.2.2 Guidance

LMP guidance specific to Management Areas located in this FMU are listed below.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of FMU
Late Successional Reserve	20,775	30%
Special Interest Areas	109	<1%
Riparian Reserves*	3,992	6%
Retention VQO (Matrix)	1,127	2%
Recreational River	184	<1%
Partial Retention VQO (Matrix)	7,254	10%
General Forest (Matrix)	4,358	6%
No Data	42	<1%
Private Lands	32,133	46%

### Management Area 5 - Special Habitat

TES species habitat in this FMU includes a portion of the Collins Baldy and Johnny O’Neill LSRs and five Northern Spotted Owl activity centers. The Collins Baldy LSR is in a “checkerboard ownership” pattern, with every other section privately owned.

#### Description

This management area includes the following types of special habitat: Late-Successional Reserves, which are designed to provide for the viability needs of all late-successional species in an ecosystem approach; other lands are designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Forest as habitat needed to support the recovery of Federally listed T&E wildlife populations and habitat for the Sensitive plant, *Calochortus persistens* (Siskiyou mariposa lily).

Each of the T&E species requires different habitat. When the habitat of these species overlap, the management priority shall be placed on the species with the most specialized habitat needs (that is, the rarest occurring habitat).

Management actions proposed for these areas will be consistent with the recommendations for habitat management provided in the USFWS Recovery Plans for these species and the Forest Service direction applicable to the recovery plan.

### **Late Successional Reserves**

Late-Successional Reserves are designed to provide for the viability needs of all late-successional species in an ecosystem approach. Meet the habitat requirements as outlined in the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* signed April 13, 1994 and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* dated February 1994 (FSEIS).

#### **Management Goals**

The objective of LSRs is to protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and "old growth" forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and "old growth"-related species including the northern spotted owl. These reserves are designed to maintain a functional, interacting, late-successional and "old growth" forest ecosystem.

#### **Desired Future Condition**

The characteristics of individual areas vary according to the dominant vegetative species, site class, topography and other site factors. Well-dispersed and continuous areas of multi-layered forests with high quality habitat characteristics and attributes are common: (1) under optimum conditions on north slopes, (2) at high elevations, and (3) in cool, moist areas. The overstory trees are large diameter, tall and have obvious signs of decadence. Some are broken-topped, have mistletoe, or have platforms of branches capable of holding organic materials that serve as a nest. Snags are common and fallen trees visible on the ground, providing for adequate prey populations. Within true fir habitats or where hardwoods occur, mid-seral stage forested areas provide suitable habitat as well. Although overstory trees are smaller and stands are less dense, important structural elements, such as snags and nesting platforms, are present. South slopes and drier areas are more open due to frequent natural fires.

#### **Fire Management Standards & Guidelines**

**MA5-35** Each LSR will be included in fire management planning as part of watershed analysis. Fire suppression in LSRs will utilize minimum impact suppression methods in accordance with guidelines for reducing risks of large-scale disturbances. Plans for wildfire suppression will emphasize maintaining late-successional habitat. During actual fire suppression activities, fire managers will consult with resource specialists (for example, botanists, fisheries and wildlife biologists, hydrologists) familiar with the area, these standards and guidelines and their objectives, to assure that habitat damage is minimized. Until a fire management plan is completed for LSRs, suppress wildfire to avoid loss of habitat in order to maintain future management options.

**MA5-36** - In LSRs, a specific fire management plan will be prepared prior to any habitat manipulation activities. This plan, prepared during watershed analysis or as an element of province-level planning or a LSR assessment, should specify how hazard reduction and other prescribed fire applications will meet the objectives of the LSR. Until the plan is approved, proposed activities will be subject to review by REO. REO may develop additional guidelines that would exempt some activities from review. In all LSRs,

watershed analysis will provide information to determine the amount of CWD to be retained when applying prescribed fire.

**MA5-37** - In LSRs, the goal of wildfire suppression is to limit the size of all fires. When watershed analysis, province-level planning, or a LSR assessment is completed, some natural fires may be allowed to burn under prescribed conditions. Rapidly extinguishing smoldering CWD and duff should be considered to preserve these ecosystem elements.

**MA5-38** - Utilize an aggressive prescribed fire program to maintain long-term habitat quality and ecological processes within LSRs once LSR assessments and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis are completed and site-specific decisions are made. Specific fire prescriptions shall be used until PNF can be effectively used. The use of PNF is outlined in the Wilderness Fire Management S&Gs. Those S&Gs also shall apply to LSRs.

**MA5-39** - Report wildfires within activity centers to the appropriate District and/or Forest biologist. The biologist shall determine the need to contact the USFWS. Report fires that escape initial attack to the USFWS. Motorized and heavy equipment may be permitted by the Incident Commander to assure habitat protection.

**MA5-40** - Wildfire prevention should be critical to habitat maintenance. During critical fire danger periods, increased prevention efforts should be undertaken, especially in high use recreation areas within LSRs and in areas adjacent to populated areas.

## Special Interest Areas

There are three SIAs located partially or wholly within the Beaver FMU. The acres listed in the Management Area table do not include all SIA acres, since two of the LSRs occur within LSR. The 200 acre Horse Creek Botanical Area is located entirely within the FMU in the lower reaches of the Horse Creek drainage. The 100 acre White Mountain Botanical area is located along the Siskiyou Crest Zone on the northern boundary of the FMU. The Condrey Mountain Blue Schist Geologic Area is partially located within the FMU on the eastern border shared with the Beaver FMU.

### Description

Special Interest Areas (SIAs) are sites designated for recreational experiences where education and interpretation of unique or special natural resource values are emphasized. Highlighted are botanical and geologic features to increase Forest visitor appreciation of resource values and natural diversity within the Forest.

### Management Goals

Manage for ecological processes and the unique features for which the area was designated. Promote public use, education, interpretation and enjoyment of the special interest values of the area when such activities do not harm the values for which the area was designated.

### Desired Future Condition

The vegetative, geologic and other natural features are enhanced to emphasize the unique resource for which the area was designated. Few signs of management activities are present, other than to provide public access and accommodations. Minor vegetative clearing is evident to allow Forest visitors to see vistas and utilize the areas. Educational or interpretive information on the ecological or scenic values of the area is provided. Sites are developed to various degrees. Sites range from no trails or facilities (fostering an educational, primitive recreational experience) to development of facilities such as parking

lots, restrooms, information displays, boardwalks, or trails suitable for heavy visitor use. Visitors are directed to SIAs through maps, signs, and other publicity as appropriate.

### **Fire Management Standards & Guidelines**

**MA7-20** - Manage **prescribed** natural fire, prescribed fire, and biomass utilization to maintain the ecological processes within the SIA. Protect all facilities and developments.

### **Retention**

This prescription applies to those areas identified as having a Retention VQO. Refer to the Forest VQO map (in the Final EIS map packet). These areas are scattered throughout the Forest. They typically are found: (1) in the foreground of high visual sensitivity roads, trails, etc., (2) in the foreground or middle ground of areas with Variety Class A scenery or (3) areas seen from local communities (USDA Agriculture Handbook #462, National Forest Landscape Management, Vol. 2, Chapter 1). These roads and trails typically receive high levels of public use, or access recreation sites or areas with visually pleasing scenery.

#### **Management Goals**

Provide a level of attractive, forested scenery by maintaining the areas in a natural or natural-appearing condition. Manage human activities so they are subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Also, manage human activities so they are not evident to the casual Forest visitor.

Manage for a programmed, sustained harvest of wood products in areas that are capable, available, and suitable for timber management.

Maintain stand health, as well as resilience to wildland fire, insect, disease, and other damage.

#### **Desired Future Condition**

The signs of management activities are not apparent. Views from visually important roads and trails appear forested and provide a natural or natural-appearing forest.

Vegetative or ground-disturbing management activities that have been implemented repeat form, line, color, and texture that represent characteristics of the landscape. Changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc. are not evident to the average Forest visitor.

### **Fire Management Standards & Guidelines**

**MA11-14** - Use prescribed fire to reduce natural fuel buildups, to treat post-harvest fuels and to influence vegetative development or composition when there is no market for the slash or down wood.

**MA11-15** - Design fuelbreaks to mimic the natural characteristics of the area. On steep ground, design units that are operationally feasible and effective to treat fuels.

### **Recreational Rivers**

The fisheries are the Outstandingly Remarkable Values in the recreational segments of the Klamath River.

#### **Description**

This prescription applies to those Recreational River segments of either designated components of the National WSRs System or rivers being recommended for possible inclusion in the National System.

The Recreational classification applies to those rivers or sections of rivers that: (1) are free-flowing, (2) are readily accessible by road or railroad, (3) may have some development along the shorelines and (4) may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

For a complete listing, in the Forest Plan, refer to Table 4-25, Acres Allocated to Designated and Recommended Recreational Rivers (page 4-155).

### **Management Goals**

Preserve the Recreational Rivers in a free-flowing condition. Protect the rivers and their immediate environments for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable value(s) for which the river(s) are or would be designated, while providing for public recreation and resource uses that do not adversely impact or degrade those values.

### **Desired Future Condition**

The waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance. The physical and biological integrity of the aquatic system is maintained. Habitat for anadromous and resident fish species is in good condition, capable of supporting viable populations of indigenous species. The river area may be developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry practices show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest or include some residential, commercial, or similar development.

### **Standards and Guidelines**

**MA13-17** Fire management strategies should normally follow those of the surrounding area. Recognize and incorporate the Recreational river values into the fire suppression tactics. Prescribed fire may be used within the management area to maintain the ecological functions, if it maintains the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated.

## **Partial Retention**

This prescription applies to those areas identified with a Partial Retention VQO. It encompasses 188,500 acres. Refer to the Forest VQO map (in the Final EIS map packet). These areas typically are either in the foreground of moderate visual sensitivity roads, trails, etc., or the middleground of high sensitivity roads.

Scattered throughout the Forest, these areas are primarily in the middle distances (1/2 to 3 miles) from selected roads and trails.

### **Management Goal**

Provide an attractive, forested landscape where management activities remain visually subordinate to the character of the landscape. Manage human activities so they are subordinate to the character of the landscape.

Maintain stand health as well as resilience to wildland fire, insect, disease, and other damage.

### **Desired Future Condition**

Areas managed to meet a Partial Retention VQO may show evidence of management activities but are visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape in form, line, color, or texture of landscape elements. Views from visually important roads and trails appear forested and provide a nearly natural looking landscape.

Lands capable of growing coniferous vegetation are forested.

### **Standards & Guidelines**

**MA15-15** - Use prescribed fire to reduce natural fuel buildups, to treat post harvest fuels and to influence vegetative development or composition when there is no market for the slash or down wood.

**MA15-16** - Design fuelbreaks to mimic the natural characteristics of the area. On steep ground, design units that are operationally feasible and effective to treat fuels.

## General Forest

Lands that are capable, available, and suitable to be managed for a host of resource conditions, including structural component and commercial outputs. They currently support a variety of vegetation including shrubs, hardwood species, and various tree species in varying sizes and densities. They are areas where timber outputs, consistent with Forest-wide management goals, are of a high priority.

### Management Goals

Provide a programmed, non-declining flow of timber products, sustainable through time. These levels may vary from year to year, based on ecological processes. Maintain conifer stocking levels and high growth rates commensurate with the capability of the site to produce wood fiber. Intensively manage young regenerated stands to maximize growth potential.

Maintain stand health, as well as resilience to wildland fire, insect, disease, and other damage. Emphasize salvage and restoration from catastrophic events. Reforest capable, but currently non-stocked, lands.

Emulate ecological processes and stand and landscape patterns where possible. Within harvest units, maintain appropriate structure, composition, and ecological functioning of the area.

Provide for snags and hardwood habitat to help maintain viable populations of wildlife species that require these structural components.

Meet the VQOs. Achieve less modified visual conditions when possible.

### Desired Future Condition

The mosaic of healthy forest stands is comprised of a variety of vegetative species. The composition of individual stands varies considerably depending on forest type and seral stage development. Although openings with hardwoods, shrubs, grasses, and forbs are apparent, forest stands consist primarily of conifers. In some areas, the conifer component of the vegetation is sparse (due to vegetative manipulations or natural conditions). All areas maintain some structural components of older stands. Some areas support mature forest stands. The oldest stands are between 80 and 120 years old. Generally, this portion of the forest has younger trees than the surrounding areas. Stand sizes vary with topography and the landscape pattern of surrounding areas.

Habitat for species, which use early and mid-seral stages, is abundant.

## Fire Management Standards & Guidelines

**MA17-15** - Use prescribed fire to reduce natural fuel buildups, to treat post harvest fuels and to influence vegetative development or composition when there is no market for the slash or down wood.

**MA17-16** - Design fuelbreaks to mimic the natural characteristics of the area. On steep ground, design units that are operationally feasible and effective to treat fuels.

## 3.2.3 FMU Characteristics

Agency Administrator for FMU lands and major stakeholders:

- The FMU Agency Administrator is the Happy Camp District Ranger
- Fruit Growers Supply Co. and Timber Products are major stakeholders

### 3.2.3.1 Safety

- Wooden suspension bridge across the Klamath River at Horse Creek weight limit & access issues for large equipment

- Rattlesnakes, Poison Oak, Stinging Insects
- Potential Marijuana Gardens
- Narrow, Mountainous Roadways that can be very slippery when wet
- Aviation hazards, utility lines crossing the Klamath River
- Military Training Route VR1251

Major access points into the fireshed are from Highway 96. Traveling down the river, the first good access point would be on the 12 road, this is a major haul road used when logging that gains entry into the east side of the fireshed on the ground north of the Klamath River; in the Doggett Creek area. On lands south of the Klamath River, cross the Klamath River on the Highway 96 Bridge just before getting to Horse Creek and turn immediately onto Walker Road, this follows the river on the south side and accesses the Klamath River School, Collins Creek, and surrounding areas.

There are two bridges that you can cross over the Klamath River to go up Horse Creek. The upriver bridge is a wooden, suspension bridge that goes up a gravel road on the east side of Horse Creek valley, this bridge is narrow, and has weight limit issues that would most likely prevent crossing with loaded transports and large water tenders, this bridge has a 12 ton limit for 2 axle vehicles. The better access into Horse Creek is from the down river bridge (Chester Barton Bridge) that has a paved road for the first three miles, and is a better road since it is straight, compared to the gravel road that has numerous blind curves that is accessed from the wooden, suspension bridge.

The fireshed has an extensive network of forest service and old logging roads, especially in the checker board ownership. Most of these roads are in good to moderate condition, with many of the roads on the private timber company holdings not having posted numbers and having company locked gates on them. Contact information is listed below for Fruit Growers Supply Co. and Timber Products to gain access into these privately owned sections of land.

Older roads may require vegetation brushing, but most may be accessed by type 3 Engines. These are typical, mountainous roads which are narrow, and normal precautions should be taken. Most downhill sides of roads are steep, with long drop-offs. Turnouts are available, but on a limited bases for passing. During times of heavy or lengthy rain, roads may be slick or impassable due to muddy driving conditions or debris slides. The Oak Knoll Fire Dispatch Map is the best source for road locations in the FMU.

Aviation hazards include the presence of utility wires crossing the Klamath River. Consult with KNF aviation personnel and refer to the KNF Flight Hazards map for exact locations.

Military Training Route VR1251 exists through the FMU. This aircraft flight route can be deconflicted through the Yreka Interagency Command Center.

Other safety concerns in the fireshed would include the presence of rattlesnakes, poison oak (under approximately 3,500 feet in elevation), and stinging insects, such as yellow jacket hornets; all of these are common in this area.

The potential exists to have marijuana gardens anywhere in the FMU, these historically have been present.

### **3.2.3.2 Physical**

The Horse FMU is under the jurisdiction of the District Ranger located in Happy Camp, who is the Agency Administrator for this land base. Federal fire protection duties are supervised by Klamath NF Division One, who works out of the Oak Knoll Work Center in Klamath River.

Adjacent and assisting operators to this fireshed include the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (Siskiyou Mtn. Ranger District). The Fruit Growers Supply Co. and Timber Products (MichCal) are major stakeholders inside the fireshed.

The Horse FMU is framed to the North by the Siskiyou Crest that divides the Klamath National Forest (KNF) from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Along the Siskiyou Crest is found the highest point of the FMU, at 7,090 foot Condrey Mountain. The boundary on the West is predominately Johnny O'Neill Ridge, before dropping into the Klamath River, where the Scott River has its confluence with the Klamath at 1,535 feet.

The FMU crosses the Klamath at this point and includes several drainages to the South, with Collins Baldy and its lookout tower being the landmark. The line then drops back to the river and turns east to Beaver Creek, where it turns back to the Siskiyou Crest over Round and Dry Lake Mountains.

The major drainage is Horse Creek. The landscape south of the Klamath River encompasses Collins, Everill, and Kinsman Creek's. Going to the East of Horse Creek are Doggett and Kohl Creek's, with several gulches and coves being found approaching Beaver Creek.

While portions of the FMU to the east and in lower elevations along the Klamath River have soils that support Oak Woodlands, the majority of the FMU has productive, rich soils.

With the numerous creeks and gulch, this is a somewhat typical landscape for this area, with steeper slopes and incised drainages. An exception to the steeper slopes generally found here is in the Dry Lake Mountain area, which has gentler slopes and broad benchy areas that are conducive to the use of dozers.

The majority of the private property is owned by two land management companies; Michigan California Lumber Co. (locally operated as Timber Products with an office in Yreka) and Fruit Growers Supply Co., with an office in Hilt, this creates a checker board pattern of ownership in the FMU.

In addition to the timber company in-holdings, there are numerous private parcels concentrated mainly along the Klamath River and up Horse Creek, with developed structures on many of these parcels.

Air quality issues are fairly minimal, limited to local residents in the immediate area. Smoke issues would be elevated by large fires venting to the east (Yreka area), or northeast into the Applegate and Rogue Valleys (Medford/Ashland).

### **3.2.3.3 Biological**

- Late Succession Reserves (LSR) designated lands
- Botanical Special Interest Areas

A large part of the Horse FMU contains LSR (30%). There are parts of two LSR's located here, the largest being found in the western portion of Horse Creek, along the Siskiyou Crest and adjacent to Johnny O'Neil Ridge. Smaller pieces of LSR are located around Collins Baldy Lookout in the southern part of the FMU. These LSR designated lands retain the better old-growth characteristics found in the FMU.

### **Horse Creek Botanical Area**

This 200 acre area encompasses about 2 miles of low elevation "old growth" riparian forest dominated by Douglas-fir, big leaf maple and Oregon ash. The dense, multi-layered vegetation at this site provides a high degree of biological diversity. It serves as good habitat for many species of fish, aquatic invertebrates and insects, as well as birds and other wildlife species. This area is located along Horse Creek at the mouth of Fish Gulch.

### **White Mountain Botanical Area**

Located on the Siskiyou Crest Zone at the top Horse Creek on White Mountain, this 100 acre area is 2 miles northeast of Cook and Green Pass. Varying in elevation from 5,400 to 6,400 feet, it contains diverse vegetation on schist and ultramafic geology and has the only population of *Sausseria Americana* in California.

#### **3.2.3.4 Resources**

#### **Key Contacts**

##### **Fire Officials:**

1. Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest: (541) 618-2200
  - Applegate Office (541) 899-3816
  - Ashland Office (541) 552-2604
2. Klamath River Volunteer Fire Department
  - Janet Jones (Chief) (530) 496-3361

##### **Private Parties/Companies:**

1. Fruit Growers Supply Co.: (530) 475-3453
  - Terry Salvestro (Regional Manager) (530) 598-4860
2. Timber Products: (530) 842-2310
  - Mark Fleming (530) 598-0807
3. Caltrans: (530) 842-2723
  - 4. Klamath River Fire Safe Council 465-2411
  - 5. Siskiyou Telephone Company 467-6000

### **Siskiyou Crest Zone Scenic Area**

The Siskiyou Crest Zone provides some of the highest, easily accessible viewpoints on the Forest. A 47-mile long area along the crest road provides distant views of California and Oregon landmarks. Several landmarks are visible including Pilot Rock, Mt. Bachelor to the north, Mt. McLoughlin to the north east, and Mt. Shasta and the Marble Mountains to the south. Within the 15,000 acre area is an exceptional diversity of plant species and features, such as large meadows, rocky outcrops and high-elevation forest stands. Recreational opportunities within the area include hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail, two-and-four wheel drive roads and cross-country skiing.

### **Pacific Crest Trail**

The Pacific Crest Trail runs along the Siskiyou Crest in the top of the Horse Creek drainage. It runs through or is adjacent to many of the Special Interest Areas located on the Crest.

### **Condrey Mountain Blueschist Geologic Area**

This area is dispersed across 500 acres in the Siskiyou Crest Zone and overlaps between the Beaver and Horse FMU's in the Dry Lake Mountain area. It consists of several outcrops of blueschist, a metamorphic rock formed under high pressure and relatively low temperature.

### **Condrey Mountain Backcountry Area**

A semi-primitive, non-motorized area of 2,700 acres located around the Pacific Crest Trail in the top of Horse Creek. This area would overlap with the White Mountain Botanical Area and LSR designated lands.

- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) concerns
- Special Interest Areas
- Collins Baldy Lookout – Collins Baldy RAWS
- Oak Knoll Work Center – Oak Knoll RAWS
- Grazing Allotments
- Seedling Seed Orchards & Gene Conservation Plantations
- Telephone Microwave reflector site

The Horse FMU has approximately 140-150 structures located in and immediately adjacent to it. These range from year-round residences, cabins, an elementary school, a Forest Service lookout, a commercial store, a post office, a commercial telephone equipment building, and a Forest Service Work Center. Most of these structures are located along Highway 96 and up into the Horse Creek area. The large majority of these are situated in settings that make them safe from wildfire threat or easily defendable. Of concern would be the approximately 12-16 structures that are in upslope situations and/or have access and defensive issues; such as a lack of safety zones or lack of clearance.

These structures, if they were to be occupied at the time or structure protection planned, are sprinkled throughout the FMU. These listed here should not be considered all inclusive, but through site visits have had triage issues raised, and were noted as "of concern" when visited in 2005, but as conditions dictate, other structures could be an issue in the FMU, or these may have improved. Additional structure mapping and reference material is located at the Oak Knoll Work Center fire office as most structures in the FMU have been visited and inventoried. The following information with structure reference numbers comes from this material.

- Structure #4, T46N R10W S21, in Everill Creek, 41° 86.536 x 123° 00.326 , narrow access road
- Structures #16, 17, 18, and 31 in the Middle Creek area up Horse Creek have access/clearance issues T46N R10W Sections 5 & 7.
- Structures #38 & 39 are cabins up in Buckhorn Creek that have not been visited but are isolated.
- Structure #53, 41° 49.4049 x 123° 59.7157, T46N R10W S15, narrow access, high brush concentrations near mobile home.

- Structure #91, 41° 49.3069 x 122° 57.7864, T46N R10W S24, Brush and debris surrounding fuel tank.
- Structure #106, the Maplesden Ranch, in the vicinity of #'s 128 & 129 has large meadows/fields for safety zones but is upslope with poor road access.
- Several structures, #'s 119-122, in the Oak Knoll Work Center area, up the road past the Center, have access and defensibility issues.
- Structure #128 T46N R10W S3, 41° 51.8142 x 122° 59.2089, isolated cabin.
- Structure #129, is very unsafe, T46N R10W S11, 41° 50.940 x 122° 58.006
- Structure #172, T46N R8W S6, 41° 51.953 x 122° 49.746, narrow, winding access, poor clearance, unoccupied structure.

The Siskiyou Telephone Company has a microwave relay facility located adjacent to the Oak Knoll Work Center. As a part of this facility, which is a metal structure and not a protection issue, is a reflector screen located upslope on the hillside overlooking this facility. Microwaves are bounced off this screen through a series of other screens that relay the phone traffic over into Scott Valley. While an all metal device, this screen is located at approximately, T46N R9W S12 and consideration should be made for it from any fires burning in the vicinity.

The Oak Knoll Work Center is located on the east end of the FMU. It is the base for two Type 3 engines, a water tender, the Klamath Hotshots, and is the office for Division 1 and staff. It is in an upslope situation, but has an active fuels reduction program around the facilities so is in a fairly good defensive position. It is located approximate ½ mile above Highway 96 on Oak Knoll Road.

At the Oak Knoll Work Center and Collins Baldy Lookout are located Vaisala 555 RAWS. Both of these are part of a larger grouping of RAWS providing weather inputs for indices and fire danger ratings.

The Oak Knoll Work Center has a portable RAWS available for deployment on incidents.

Reference the attached structure map for a visual aid concerning locations of structures in this FMU.

The Klamath NF maintains a staffed lookout on Collins Baldy, co-located with the Collins Baldy RAWS. A Forest Service employee staffs the lookout during the fire season. An evacuation plan has been prepared and is provided below.

**Evacuation Instruction- Collins Baldy Lookout**

**A.** If it appears that an evacuation from the lookout may be necessary start preparation early:

1. Maintain radio communication with YICC (Dispatch).
2. Shut off propane at tanks.
3. Gather lookout documentation & Items.
4. Review the trigger points map & descriptions below.
5. Keep this plan and a forest map at hand.

**B.** When ordered to evacuate the lookout:

1. Close shutters and secure the tower
2. Inform Dispatch:
  - a. That you are evacuating now.
  - b. What route you intend to take.
  - c. What your destination is.
  - d. What your estimated time of arrival at destination is.

**C.** Aerial Evacuation.

If road access has been or is expected to be cut off before a safe ground based evacuation can be completed; Lookout personnel can be evacuated by helicopter.

Collins Baldy Lookout has one suitable helicopter landing site:

1. The road that's near to the Lookout at, N 41°46.508 / W 122°57.087

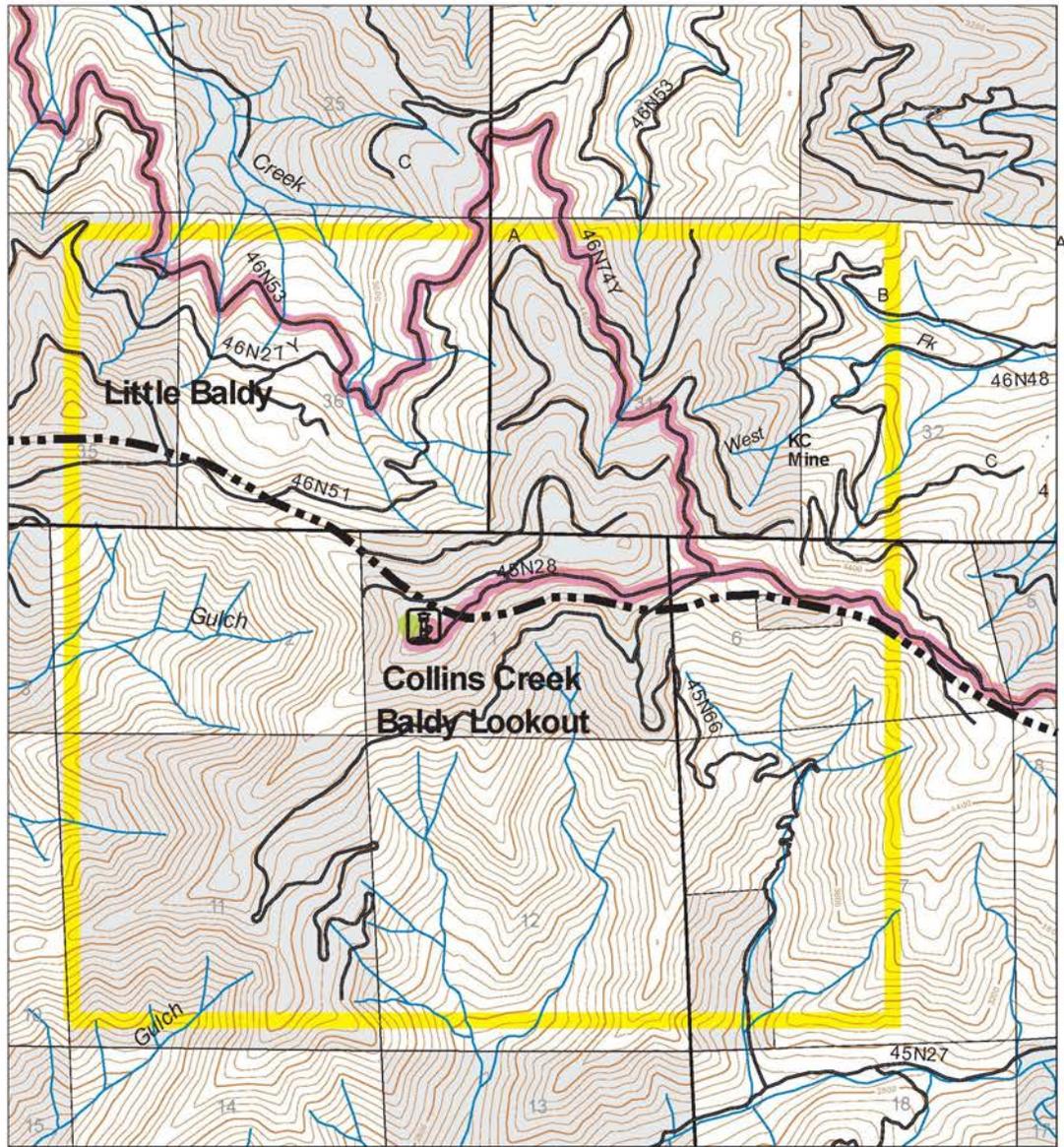
**D.** Trigger point map showing LZs & escape routes



# Collins Baldy Lookout



## Vehicle Evacuation Plan & Trigger Points



Private Land within the National Forest Boundary



Evacuation Routes  
Trigger Points  
Type II Landing Zone

0.5 0.0 0.5 Miles



June 29, 2005

### Grazing Allotments

The following tables are allotment descriptions and permittee contact information for active Oak Knoll allotments that may have livestock within the Beaver FMU as of 2010. As cattle have a tendency to drift, adjacent allotment information is provided. You can also contact Stephanie McMorris, KNF Range Specialist, at 530-468-1226 or 530-598-9330, and she can pass on fire information to the Permittees.

### Allotment Descriptions

Active Allotments/ Permittees	Acres	Location	On/Off Dates
Dry Lake  <i>Hagedorn, Hammond, R. Rainey</i>	41,511	<b>General Area:</b> Doggett Creek and Jayne's Canyon Drainage <b>Boundary:</b> Condrey Mt. East along the Siskiyou Crest to Wards Gap. Follows West Beaver/Beaver Creek South to Hwy 96. Follows Hwy 96 West to Oak Bar. North back up to Condrey Mtn.	4/15-10/15
Horse Creek  <i>G. Rainey, R. Rainey</i>	37,057	<b>General Area:</b> Horse Creek, Middle Creek, and Buckhorn Creek drainages <b>Boundary:</b> Copper Butte along the Siskiyou Crest to Condrey Mtn. South to Hwy 96. Follows Hwy 96 West past Horse Creek and then follows O'Neill Ridge. Turns South up through Seiad Low Gap back to Copper Butte.	4/15-10/15

Cattle are turned out in the spring and stay in the lower elevations until June or July. Then they drift or are driven up to the higher ranges for the summer months. Throughout the season the permittee checks on the cattle, herds them to other areas, and replenishes salt licks. Some cattle start to make their way home in the fall and the remaining cattle are rounded up by the permittees starting in early October.

### Permittee Contact Information

Permittee Name	Permittee Phone	Permittee Address	Allotment(s)
Hagedorn, Harvey	459-3843	7124 Ager Road Montague, CA 96064	Dry Lake, East Beaver
Hammond Ranch (Clyde)	467-5224	1220 N Hwy 3 Etna, CA 96027	Dry Lake
Rainey, Gary	496-3283	1930 Horse Ck. Rd. Horse Creek, CA 96045	Horse Creek
Rainey, Robert Jr	496-3362	1115 Horse Ck. Rd. Horse Creek, CA 96045	Horse Creek, Dry Lake

### Genetic Tree Sites

Klamath NF- Seed Orchards and Gene Conservation Plantations	Lat.	Long.	Location	Elevation	Ownership
Morgan	41° 53.83	123° 3.2	T47N R10W Sec 30	3,850	FS
Collins Creek	41° 47.666	122° 56.915	T46N R10W Sec 25	3,850	FGS

The Morgan seed orchard has been identified as a critical resource needing protection from fire. This orchard had a dozer line established around it in 2009.

#### Incident Facilities and Support

While there are numerous large fields located along the Klamath River and in Horse Creek, these would have utility issues and would make fairly poor base camp locations. The local areas used for an incident base on recent incidents are the Klamath River Community Hall and the Klamath River School. Both of these have limitations and lend themselves more to smaller incident size. Also used recently, or that should be considered, would be the Collier Rest Area on I-5 or the Siskiyou County Fairgrounds in Yreka, these areas offer much better logistical support locations.

Helibase considerations should be the Siskiyou County airport for type 1 helicopters and perhaps the Scott Valley Helibase for type 2's. Both of these are within reasonable flight times and offer better support facilities than anything in the local area.

With the high overall road density in the FMU, helispot needs would be at a minimum, with rotor wing use being confined to external applications. Water for helicopter bucket support would be available from the Klamath River.

Water sources are fairly common in the FMU with the road system being used extensively for logging, waterholes for road watering were developed as the road building progressed, and some of these are older and may need maintenance. The "best of the best" of these water sources are located on the Oak Knoll fire dispatch map and a table exists showing road numbers, legals, and a lat/long for each one. However many drainage crossings lend themselves to short-term development on an as needed basis.

## 3.2.4 Fire Environment

### 3.2.4.1 Fire Behavior

Current vegetation patterns and fuel loadings have been greatly influenced by timber harvest practices and fire suppression. Fairly extensive harvest has occurred in the fireshed, especially on the private timber lands. In stands that have been partial cut, fuels treatments were minimal. Combined with fire suppression activity this has created dense stands of smaller diameter trees with accumulations of highly flammable woody debris.

As mentioned, fire has diverged from its historic behavior patterns and severity levels. Although ignitions still occur, most fires are quickly suppressed. Fire suppression efforts have reduced the amount of burned area annually, resulting in a change in species composition, forest structure, and expected fire behavior.

Suppression efforts are aided by the extensive road network due to the mixed ownership and industrial use of the area. Suppression forces have good access to this fireshed leading to aggressive responses, plus the large amount of private ownership, on lands used for timber extraction, results in close working partnerships with the timber company stakeholders. Any large fire management must include dialog and a close working relationship with these landowners

A majority of the fireshed is dominated by Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, with White-fir at mid and higher-elevations. Brushfields are found throughout the FMU, especially on drier south aspects and old fire scars. Oak woodlands occupy lower elevations along the Highway 96 corridor on south slopes in the eastern part of the FMU.

With the available fuels and condition class, potential to control problems from established fires that would exhibit high rates of spread and intensities should be expected. Dominant topographic features may need to be used in the management of large incidents. Direct actions would most likely be successful only under optimal conditions.

While potential for large fires is high in the FMU and rapid fire growth expected to be the norm during burning periods, one advantage from the high road density found in the FMU is that fire fighting resources can usually gain quick access to emerging incidents. This can lead to containment objectives being achieved more rapidly than similar incidents found on the west side of the KNF, and could, or should, help in the prioritization of available resources, especially in light of the high concentration of private property found in the FMU.

### **Fire History**

Using the definition of a large fire as 100 acres or greater, the FMU has had an active history of fires. Every decade since 1930 has experienced at least one large fire. In addition to this large fire presence, there are recorded numerous smaller fires in the tens of acres. Lightning fire frequency is recorded as fairly high in the FMU compared to other areas of the KNF in a density analysis spanning 1922 – 2003. While these fires have been largely slope driven, several have exhibited intense behavior with sustained crown runs and long range spotting observed. Large, wind driven fires have been recorded as early as April in the FMU. Fire occurrence and behavior should continue or increase compared to historic levels.

### **3.2.4.2 Weather**

Weather patterns trend to dry summers typical of the area, where periods of up to 90 days without rainfall are not uncommon. Rainfall averages approximately 25-30 inches per year, with snowpack on the Siskiyou Crest melting off by about July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Winds during high pressure periods are relatively light, local, and diurnal in nature. Higher winds are normally associated with frontal passages. These calm conditions can result in smoke inversions that may influence incident management, especially aviation operations. This is somewhat typical for the incised and poorly ventilated drainages in the regional area that is reflected in the Horse FMU.

Thunderstorm activity has a pattern of development to the south, over the Scott Valley area, and tracking north through the FMU and up to the Siskiyou Crest. This is a common pattern usually seen several times a year.

Along the Klamath River on summer afternoons a local wind condition can set up that blows until sundown. These winds are straight up the river and usually do not have much depth, with gusts to 10-15, higher in restricted areas and river bends.