

Jan. 20, 2015

In regards to the Middle Fork of the Weiser Restoration Project I only had the time to look at the area north of road #50186. No Business Saddle to where the road goes onto Potlach. I am disappointed with the maps. I am finding areas that are natural clearings (scab) that the treatment called for is non-commercial thin or free thin and old plantations that are not on the map. I am basing this on what I see in Google Earth and what I remember from when I worked in these areas.

South of No Business Saddle to south of Tamarack high on ridge I noticed fingers of free thin clear up to the ridge top. Has anybody really looked at these areas? All the highest area are a combination of AF, LPP, DF and ES. Mostly small diameter, lot of limbs, short, low quality and a lot of is in wet area. The patches of larger DF up high are short and lots of limbs and in areas heavy mistletoe. The ATV trail that is along the top of the ridge get a lot of use during the summer and a fair amount during the fall. North of section 36 where Tamarack is there is a small piece of ATV trail that is planned to be closed. Looking at the location of this it will be a waist of time. In a short period of time there will be a new ATV trail there. Then there will be two eye sores there rather than one. Is it worth the cost of getting an excavator up there or doing it with a hand crew? The same for trail #502183000. I would recommend leaving as is to avoid greater problems latter. Across the road from 502183000 is a short road that goes to a camping site. This an excellent dispersed site that I feel the road should be improved to avoid erosion and left as is. Road #51305 what is going to be done to it? If not needed for logging I feel that nothing should be done in section 15 and most of what is in section 16 and 21. It is grown in to where more resource damage will be done putting equipment on it. In section 15 and 21 you need to see if all of the roads on the actually exist. Example road #51896 in section 21.

I read the definition of Legacy Trees. This is great if these large diameter trees are not diseased. There are areas where the DF mistletoe is very heavy in the large trees. I keep hearing where the marking crew can't mark anything over 16 or 18 inch. I hope this is not the case in this area.

I always support logging when the marking and logging methods are backed by a logical silvicultural prescription.

Jack Paananen
POB 332
McCall, ID 83638-0332
630-4400