

# Wallowa Whitman Forest Collaborative

## Lower Joseph Creek Project

The mission of the Wallowa Whitman Forest Collaborative is to improve the social, economic and ecological resiliency of the Wallowa Whitman National Forest and local communities, through collaboration by a diverse group of stakeholders.

The following positions are specific to the Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project as described in the 2014 Draft EIS. These positions are relevant to this project area, site specific conditions, and the social agreement that exists at this time through the W-W Forest Collaborative. They should not be considered precedent setting. No consensus should be assumed in any area where the document is silent.

### Areas of Agreement

**General Forest Acre Vegetation Treatments** – The collaborative supports most general forest treatments outlined in the DEIS. General Forest Treatments do not include treatments in RHCAs, MA-15 Old Growth, and Inventoried Roadless Areas / Potential Wilderness Areas.

**Stream Work** – The collaborative supports the six proposed culvert replacements and other efforts to improve fish passage in the Lower Joseph Watershed.

**Trees greater than 21 inches** – The Wallowa Whitman Forest Collaborative supports the removal of some trees greater than 21 inches and less than 150 years of age in cases where a mid to late seral tree is within one to two drip-lines, as described in the DEIS, of an early seral tree (in particular Ponderosa pine, western larch and Douglas fir). The Silvicultural Guide and Implementation Plan will be used on site to select trees greater than 21” on a case by case basis. The Lower Joseph Creek Restoration Project is designed, in part, to promote large tree growth and late old forest structure.

**Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) and Potential Wilderness Areas (PWA)** – The collaborative recommends that the Forest Service limit potential treatments in IRAs and PWAs as these areas are defined by the Forest Service to non-commercial fuel reduction treatments and prescribed burning. Preferred techniques include hand crews with chain saws using existing roads and other approaches that reduce impact on the landscape.

**Inventoried Old Growth Management Areas (MA 15)** – The collaborative supports the proposed commercial and non-commercial restoration treatments in MA15 Old Growth classified as dry forest. The collaborative supports the proposed retention of snags and down woody debris and recruitment of the next generation of trees within MA 15 stands. The field demonstration tree marks of the Blue Mountain ID Team played an important role in achieving consensus. There is no consensus within the collaborative on the proposed treatments in MA 15 Old Growth classified as moist forest.

**Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs)** –The collaborative supports the proposed treatments in Cat IV RHCAs, except those that fall inside the IRA’s and PWA’s, and those with streams that feed directly into the main stems of Davis, Swamp and Joseph Creek. Potential treatments of less than 1,000 acres would be accompanied by an effective monitoring program.

**The Lower Joseph Creek Project** should comply with all applicable laws.

### Areas of Disagreement

The Wallowa-Whitman Forest Collaborative was unable to come to consensus regarding the issue of other undeveloped lands as defined by the Forest Service in the Draft EIS and how this issue affects the proposed actions.

The Wallowa-Whitman Forest Collaborative also does not have consensus on a specific roads alternative for the Lower Joseph Project.