Vegetation / Fuels Treatment Prescription - White Oak Plant Series

Vegetation Condition Class (1,2,3) includes pine-oak, oak-savanna, and woodland habitat **White Oak Plant Series**		Adjustments To Px Specific To		
		Plant Association	Neighborhood or O.I. Un it	Land Allocation/ Soil Type
Stand Description Objectives	Interspersed throughout the length of the Hellgate Recreation Area are areas characterized by an open canopy of deciduous oaks and grasses. These areas have shallower soils, and therefore, they are drier sites than the surrounding mixed evergreen forests. White oak dominates with black oak along transition zones between the woodlands and forest. Plant associations are either white oak/Douglas-fir-poison oak on wetter sites, where more tree species diversity exists, or white oak/hedgehog dogtail grass on drier sites where only white oak is in the overstory. Grasses found in these oak woodlands tend to be non-native due to heavy human influences in the vicinity. Woodlands contain a variety of plant species from grass to trees species. Because of fire suppression, conifer and shrub species have encroached upon the woodlands and have reduced the abundance of native grass species in the understory. Reproduction and vigor of the hardwoods (especially oak species) has also declined. Native grass species have also decreased in abundance. **Goals** Utilize the VRM 1 project guidelines for understory and overstory percent disturbance outlined in description of alternatives. The main objectives are to create hardwood/native grass plant communities, enhance the vigor and quality of the hardwood stands so that acorn crops can be produced, stimulate reproduction (via the coppice method), and introduce younger age classes into the stands. Douglas-fir and shrub species should be reduced in abundance. Natural grass species should increase in number and abundance. Noxious weeds should be managed to acceptable levels Maintain flexible parameters with adjacent land owners with a combination of approaches that can be applied to each situation. They may choose a moderate or more extensive approach. **Reduce surface fuel hazard within the Defense Zone, Threat Zone and General Forest using on and offsite disposal of slashed material. Minimize return intervals and cost to reduce fuel hazard build up within 5-10 year treatment spectrum.**			
Side Boards/ Unique Features	Adjustments to meet VRM 1 ??? *Screening, phased treatment intervals, irregular spacing pattern….* Botany Plants *plants that live in Pine crowns, in Oak Habitat, in the Upper Crust….* Osprey, Bald Eagle Nests, Migratory birds…….	Apply PDF found in E.A.	Apply PDF to known areas	

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Insects/ Diseases	GIS Disease Flight Coverage			
Silv Aproach	Selective understory thinning.			
Fuels Reduction Treatments	**Description of vegetation to thin or treat.** **3/22/03 Size of material thinned will depend on alternative chosen.** Thin (7.5 inches DBH & >) Douglas-fir in the interior of the woodlands (except when there are no pine or cedar of this size class). Douglas-fir seedlings through pole timber, and shrub species (especially whiteleaf manzanita) should be cut or removed from the stand. Excess pole through sawtimber size pine trees should be thinned or girdled so stocking levels are 1 to 4 trees/acre. Thin hardwood trees that have been suppressed for long periods of time with crowns < or = 20%. Cut all vegetation from around only oak stumps for a radius of 25-feet to enable the stump sprouts to grow. Cut all vegetation from around designated leave trees for a radius of 15 to 40 feet. Control noxious weeds only by creating the burn piles on top of the weeds. All large diameter conifer trees (wolf trees > 20" DBH) and hardwoods 12" DBH & > should be left. 1 to 2 trees/acre of pole through sawtimber size pine, incense cedar, or DF trees may remain. **Description of vegetation to leave/retain.** Leave a total of 16 to 35 trees/acre with the best live crown ratios (30% or >; 1 to 2 of these trees being conifers if available). Leave all pine, cedar, and oak species seedlings and saplings. Leave the old remnant DF. Introduce oak stump sprouts by coppice methods (Mark suppressed and intermediate crown class trees to stimulate the sprouting of dormant or adventitious buds from the cut tree stumps). This method will be used to introduce another age class into the present stands. Retain oak trees greater than or equal to eight inches DBH. Leave tall, old manzanita shrubs (prune lower, ladder fuel branches if necessary) that produce large berry crops (No more than 6/acre). Wedgeleaf ceanothus and whiteleaf manzanita clumps 10 feet in diameter may also remain but the edges of the clumps should be spaced at 15 to 25 feet between clumps. Leave native grasses and forbs, and all shrubs < 1 foot in height. Leave a 1/2-acre untreated area in every unit.			

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	Fuels Reduction Methods Where available, slash treatment would be mechanical chipping, slash buster or offsite disposal. UB - Underburn, mosaic underburn under reserved overstory. HP - Hand pile slash 1"-8" x 2', cover, and burn piles.			
Snags	Leave Stage 1 snags in the interior of homogeneous conifer stands where snags are not prevalent. Buffer snags 17 inches DBH & greater from damage by leaving all green trees for a radius equal to the height of the snag. In areas where pockets of Stage 1 snags are found (adjacent to shrublands & woodlands), leave all snags that do not pose a safety hazard. Consider leaving trees with Fomes pini that have healthy crowns.			
CWD	**Add PDF from E.A.**			
Future Treatments	Maintenance brushing, thinning, burning would occur with a return interval of 3-5 years based on review using BLM Visual Contrast Rating and Vegetation/fuel decision matrix. Seen areas may require more entries than seldom seen areas due to the amount of visual disturbance allowed in any one entry to the understory and the overstory.			
Expected Outcomes	The woodland and pine-oak savanna areas are currently overly dense, competing for resources, resulting in a changed structure of the pine-oak, oak-savanna, and woodland habitat. The potential for catastrophic fires is increased due to fuel ladders. The proposed action should reduce competition from invading species and reverse the decline of pine and oak species, return them to proper structure, and protect them from catastrophic fire. Thinning of the oaks would promote growth and development of large, full-crowned oak trees producing greater amounts of acorns. Retaining all oaks greater than eight DBH will perpetuate the existing mosaic shading pattern that should benefit native grasses and discourage shrub release.			