

**Umatilla National Forest Collaborative Group
Kahler Field Trip
Heppner Ranger District
April 2012**

Agenda

Leave Heppner at 9:00 am.

Stop 1 – 10:15 am. *Douglas-fir stand.* The southeast portion of the Kahler planning area is characterized by steep topography and ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir forest. This area shows the effect of fire suppression on what was historically a ponderosa pine dominated forest. Large, old ponderosa pines can be seen in the upper tree canopy, while abundant Douglas-fir fills in the understory, creating a dense forest with a stem exclusion structure. This stand has a Douglas-fir/pinegrass plant association and an average basal area of 130 ft²/acre. The Douglas-fir has heavy mistletoe infections, and all species of trees are experiencing decreased vigor and growing very slowly, making them susceptible to insects and disease. This stop will also have an opportunity to discuss riparian buffer and road related concerns.



Stop 2 – 11:30 am. *Kahler thinning project from 2006.* This was a dense ponderosa pine stand (ponderosa pine/snowberry plant association) that was thinned in 2006. The prescription called for variable density thinning from below to a residual basal area of 40-60 ft²/acre.

Lunch – 12:00 pm. At Fairview Campground.

Stop 3 – 1:00 pm. *Ponderosa pine stand.* The western part of the Kahler planning area is characterized by more gentle topography. This ponderosa pine stand may appear to be very open, but is in the stem exclusion structural phase, and the trees here are experiencing very slow growth with decreased vigor. The stand is in the ponderosa pine/snowberry plant association and current basal area averages 65 ft²/acre with 97 trees/acre.



Stop 4 – 2:00 pm. *Wheeler Point Fire.* This 22,000 acre fire (7,700 acres on Forest Service land) occurred in 1996 and was a stand replacing event. Forest types and conditions were similar to the other areas we've seen today.

Depart for Heppner at 2:45 pm.

Arrive in Heppner by 4:00 pm.