

The Page Creek Community Forestry Management Plan



Developed by the
Forestry Practices Working Group and
Illinois Valley Residents

In Conjunction with
The U.S. Forest Service

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Cover Photo: North Unit View from Takilma Rd and Page Ck. Rd Jct. Photo by Sean Hendrix

The Page Creek Community Forestry Management Plan

Section One: Project Background

The Forestry Practices Working Group was formed in response to issues raised by residents during the Illinois Valley Landscape Assessment, 2011-12. As a committee of the Josephine County Stewardship Group, the goal of the working group is to develop and implement multi-year demonstration projects in two units on USFS public land near Takilma. The intent is to develop a cooperative and interactive partnership with the Forest Service to achieve key community and land management goals within these units. The Forest Service has offered to leave room in its five-year plan for community-based projects. After looking at various choices for project sites, the working group in 2013 began looking at two units at Page Creek totaling 82 acres.

We want community-based forest management projects which integrate ecological, economic and social considerations as “three legs of a stool.” That is, proposed projects must be ecologically-sustainable, economically-feasible, and socially-acceptable. We want Illinois Valley residents to bring forward their ideas for best management of these federal lands which will foster a mutual benefit between the IV lands and the people of the Illinois Valley. In the course of the last several months, through personal contact and a series of public meetings and tours, we have asked residents these questions:

- How do you use these lands?
- What is important about these lands?
- What are your ideas for best management practices?
- How can community benefits be realized?

Our goals are four:

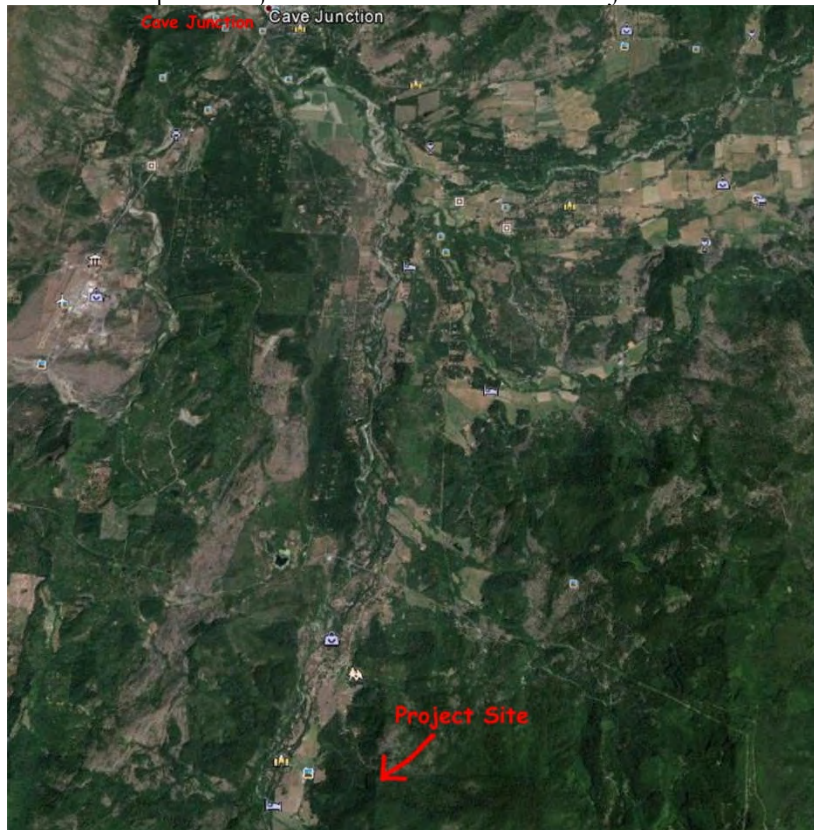
1. Improve the land through fuels reduction, forest treatments and improvements to fish-bearing waterways fostering fire resilient forestlands;
2. Promote routine and positive communication between the Forest Service, the community and the forest;
3. Optimize community benefits dispersed widely; and,
4. Include an educational component throughout in order to grow consensus on forest management approaches.

This effort is funded in part by the National Forest Foundation, whose support we gratefully acknowledge.

Section Two: The Ecological Value and Management History of the Page Creek Units

The project site is shown in Figure One as being approximately 9 miles southeast of Cave Junction, Oregon, Figure Two provides more detail of the two units on Forest Service land east on Page Creek Road from Takilma Road. The project is located entirely within Josephine County, and is within the East Fork of the Illinois River Watershed. Its 10-digit hydrologic code is: 1710031101. Coordinates are: T41SR8W, Sections 2 and 11.

Figure One:
Map of Project Site in Relation to Cave Junction



The Page Creek units are on USFS public land within the watershed of the East Fork of the Illinois River that surrounds the community of Takilma (see map, Figure Two, below). These federal public lands are comprised of diverse forests hosting a variety of important habitats for rare plants and anadromous fish spawning and rearing. Under the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) these lands are classified as Late Successional Reserves (LSR). Historical forest management of these lands has ranged from clearcutting (over 1,600 acres), salvage logging (128 acres) and thinning. Clearcutting began back in the 1940s. This area was treated in 1952, and was part of the 1987 Longwood fire.

Figure Two
Map of the Two Page Creek Units



Five areas (“units”) were identified for treatment in the East IV Managed Stands Environmental Assessment.¹ Two of these areas are near Page Creek, and have been of interest to some community members. The area up Scotch Gulch was treated two years ago as part of the Hope Mountain Stewardship Project.

There are abundant streams within the area hosting important habitat for threatened fish, and providing drinking water to many in the community. The importance of the cold water from the tributaries to the East Fork Illinois River cannot be overstated. The East Fork Illinois River

¹ East IV Managed Stands NEPA documents at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=16970>

Watershed Analysis identified many issues and made recommendations for improving watershed function, and habitat condition in the area.²

The majority of National Forest surrounding the community of Takilma is designated under the NWFP as Late Successional Reserve (LSR).³ LSRs are identified with an objective to protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth forest related species including the northern spotted owl.

Critical habitat for Coho Salmon in our area was designated using a watershed approach. It encompasses accessible reaches of all rivers (including estuarine areas and tributaries) between the Mattole River in California and the Elk River in Oregon, inclusive. These areas include all waterways, substrate, and adjacent riparian zones below longstanding, naturally impassable barriers (i.e., natural waterfalls in existence for at least several hundred years). This designation includes many of the streams in and around the Takilma area.⁴ While the forest is designated as LSR the current proposed Northern Spotted Owl Critical Habitat does not include the area immediately around the Takilma Community.

² West Fork Illinois River Watershed Analysis (2000), http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5316120.pdf.

³ Late Successional Reserve Assessment available at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/rogue-siskiyou/landmanagement/?cid=stelprdb5315187>.

⁴ Critical Habitat for Central California Coast and Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts Coho Salmon, available at: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Publications/FR-Notices/1999/upload/64FR24049.pdf>.

Section Three: The Social Background Associated with the Page Creek Units

The Takilma Community

Located on the East Fork of the Illinois River, Takilma is an unincorporated community south of Cave Junction. The community is comprised of a diverse population with a strong commitment to conservation.

There is an IV fire station. There are many farms, crafts people, artists, forest workers and a variety of other professions and businesses including the Frog Farm, and Out'n'About Treesort. The Dome School opened in 1975 as an alternative to public education. It educates about 35 preschool through fifth-grade children each year, and runs a summer program for at-risk children.

The Takilma Community Association is a volunteer-run non-profit that owns several parcels of land in the community, including the land and buildings that house the Dome School and an office building that has several tenants including medical practitioners. Other parcels are kept undeveloped as open green spaces for conservation purposes.

There are many people in the Takilma Community as well as throughout the Illinois Valley who base their life style and economics on laying low and forming fairly invisible harvest relationships with the forest. It is of particular importance to this project that we establish communication relationships with this group.

Local Activities and Values

Local residents of the Illinois Valley, especially Takilma residents, routinely make use of the Page Creek area through such activities as:

- Hiking and backpacking
- Hunting and fishing
- Horseback riding
- Camping
- Parties
- Off road vehicle use
- Gathering
- Firewood and pole gathering

Neighbors to the site, and nearby residents, expressed these values for the Page Creek units and the immediate area (Figure Two):

- Old growth and virgin forest are prized.
- The Coho salmon bearing and salmon spawning in Page Creek
- Intrinsic value—value of just being
- Ecosystem services
- Botany, unique plants like Trillium
- The trails
- Tranquility; Neighbors like it quiet.
- Spiritual uses, ceremonies performed
- “We walk it every day.”

- “I was raised in these hills.”

Citizen Issues

Residents expressed the following assortment of issues regarding the management of the Page Creek area:

“Cleanup the trash.”

“I call the Forest Service about pot and methamphetamines in the woods.”

“Horse poop on the trails.”

“We have a real problem with that gate. Is it private? For fire, we are first responders and can’t get access. This is a big issue now. We need that gate open.”

“No chain saws.”

“There is constant risk of Port Orford root rot, must be cautious!”

“Need to get Jim ___ involved. He has 240 acres.”

“This is a fire prone area. There is room for some treatment. Lots of dense areas, tanoak.”

“I don’t want new roads.”

“The Hope Mountain work did some good, some bad. Gates were left open that shouldn’t have been, with no consequences to those who made the mistake.”

“Have plant surveys been done?”

“There is local interest in horse logging, but some of the ground is too steep for that.”

Figure Three
One of Several Tours at the Page Creek Site



Section Four: Principles for Operation

For the Forestry Practices Working Group, as well as for neighbors and nearby residents, these principles have been voiced as guides to future management:

1. Seek early action on the ground, as appropriate, to stimulate community involvement and commitment.
2. Aim for multiple entries with light touches, setting a model for resource use that is not all extraction.
3. Give birth to a new process with more positive and frequent interaction between agency, citizens and the land itself.
4. Project ideas should be advanced by residents in the area. We have identified priority management activities, but residents can bring forward their project ideas at any time for evaluation and review.
5. Projects must be ecologically-sustainable, economically-feasible and socially-acceptable for all parties.
6. Group members wish to elevate any success of community-based management approaches with this project to a landscape scale.
7. Continual refinement of direction will be part of this project. The planning and management of these two units is a continuous ongoing reality. As we suggest specific projects, they enter the ongoing process. At each meeting, there should be a report on current status within the process of each project under consideration.
8. A citizen review team (CRT) will be established which will evaluate project ideas brought forward by community residents. The CRT is responsible for monitoring projects as well to ensure all responsibilities are met.
9. We will conduct projects to promote education as much as possible, particularly through the inclusion of local schools, the use of students and residents to support monitoring activities, and making use of forestry projects to educate local residents and others.
10. Our group is open membership, and operates by consensus and mutual respect and courtesy. These ground rules guarantee everyone a true place at the table regarding management of these lands.

Here is Susan Chapp's guidance on conducting forest treatment projects:

“The forest does not need help from humans to manage itself. We evolved together through the eons as part of each other with a relationship of mutual usefulness and mutual survival. We humans, along with other animal and plant life, evolved

communication mechanisms to interact with each other for mutual survival and benefit. The gathering relationship is one of the most effective activities through which to engage in this mutual communication.”

Section Five: Planning Elements

The planning elements envisioned for the Page Creek Community Forestry Project are five:

1. The North Unit Woodlot Program
2. The South Unit Fuel Break
3. Other Forest Management Activities in the North and South Units
4. Recreation Management
5. Administrative Structure

Two projects are slated for immediate, short-term implementation, a woodlot program in the north unit, and a shaded fuel break in the south unit.

The North Unit Woodlot Program

Figure Four below shows a map of the North Unit. In the approximate area of locations #1, 2 and 8, a woodlot program is envisioned in which local residents would be given access to the available products (firewood, poles, hazel) in return for required Forest Service fees and some stewardship contribution to “give back to the land.” The concept is that a Citizen Review Team (CRT) will review citizen proposals for consistency with the existing Environmental Assessment (EA) and with the Page Creek Community Forestry Plan. The CRT will be responsible to reviewing, approving and monitoring activities in the woodlot program.

Site description:

Site #1 (Figure Four, below): This area has many legacy trees, with lots of species diversity and very few poles. The fire hazard appears high in some places as there are large amounts of downed woody debris and ladder fuels. There are patches of hazel that have human uses. This site is good for teaching traditional skills.

Site #2: Eastern boundary of the North Unit. There are many legacy trees and big firs. There is high fuel buildup that needs lopping and underburning. Use of biochar kilns would be possible. Clear to the drip line of the legacy trees.

Site #8: this is the flat area down below by the field. This would be a good spot for poles. Get a prescription going here, use horse or ATV to pull out, drag to the sun. Get a wood mizer in the parking lot if needed. This area does not warrant a yarder operation and attendant high costs. Here, the social value is low technology and local uses.

Firewood and poles are the primary products of the woodlot program. In addition, there are patches of hazel that residents want to manage for human uses. The hazel has local and regional uses, including baskets, a “wattle” type wall of sticks and mud and temporary buildings are made with it. There is a regional market with good prices for hazel products. Native people make active use of hazel in this area and will be contacted for their interests and ideas. Resident Jude Vawter writes about hazel management:

Figure Four
Map of North Unit and Attendant Project Sites



“Coppicing has been practiced throughout Europe to manage wood lots in a manner of producing a variety of products readily available and usable to the local community. For this reason it is of special interest when managing the forest/residential interface.

Coppicing is a traditional forest management system where trees are cut back close to ground level and the new straight sprouting shoots are allowed to grow to desired size (3 – 50 years depending on the species.). They are then harvested and the cycle begins again. Several species are suitable for this type of treatment primarily hazel and ash but also some oaks and potentially some evergreen oaks. A technique of standard and coppice is also practiced where some slower growing larger trees or “standards” are interspersed throughout the woodland.

Materials produced are utilized in basketry and woven fencing, firewood and building poles.”

Site Specifications:

1. About three acres of the site was marked on December 5, 2013. Blue twine marks poles to be taken.
2. The site will be GPS'd soon in order to digitize the woodlot boundaries.
3. Do not take cedar or maple.
4. We imagine phased sweeps of this area.
 - a. Marked fir poles are removed.
 - b. Firewood scavenging is encouraged for a period of time, followed by “carbon conservation burns” with resulting biochar scattered on the soil or sold.
 - c. Develop and implement strategy for Special Forest Products in this area, particularly for hazel.
 - d. In areas of close canopy covering, large trees are too dense. We will consider opening the canopy up somewhat by taking some trees for timber. This will be done in a community process to keep all on board.
5. Leave the west border alone to prevent invasive species from entering the area.
6. Coppicing will be employed in an adaptive (site and species specific) manner along with current fire reduction and woodlot management practices. In the Page Creek area the large conifers are the “standard” trees and the smaller understory hard woods will be coppiced, promoting diversity, habitat enhancement and sustainability.
7. Include an educational component in all activities, particularly at the high school age. The educational framework is Ecological Forestry with a restoration component, to include the ecological rationale, harvesting techniques, and monitoring.

Access:

For quad (with arches), horse, or by hand, allow for access in southwest quadrant off the corner of Stacey’s property.

The South Unit Fuel Break

The south unit is severely overstocked with dense, small-diameter Douglas fir. It has experienced fire in the past and several households are adjacent. These homeowners are very concerned about fire risk and in the fall of 2013, five of them worked with the Illinois Valley Fire Department to create defensible space around their homes. They are also in discussions with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) about longer term programs to reduce fuels on their woodland acreage. The goal of this project is to create a shaded fuel break in upper (south) areas of South Unit, offering a buffer between Forest Service and private lands.

Details of the prescription are provided below. When final agreement on the prescription is reached, then the mechanism for accomplishing the work must be determined. The Forest Service estimates the volume and type of material to be removed and provides economic calculations related to costs and benefits of removing the material. It can then use stewardship “credits” to pay Lomakatsi to do the work, as per standing agreements. Or alternative agreements can be reached with local residents through the Citizen Review Team.

Site Description:

Figure Five shows a map of the South Unit. Site #4 is the area of the proposed fuel break.

Figure Five: Map of South Unit and Attendant Project Sites



Site Specifications:

This prescription is based on two field trips by the Working Group, the last one with Mike Hackett and Mel Culp, USFS representatives, on December 9, 2013.

South Unit: Fuel Break

- Fire Fuel Break on Ridge along western boundary, blending into private property. Ridge runs mostly South—North. Use change in aspect for downsized specifications.

West Facing slope; 150' off center of ridge

- Thin 1-4" diameter conifers leaving groups and clumps in areas. Identify as the work progresses. Do not create mono-culture.
- Where very thick with conifers go to 6" dbh, Slash to 6" under drip lines of legacy oaks, madrones, and large overstory conifers.

- Prune leave conifers up to 1/3 height of tree reducing ladder fuels.

East Facing slope; 150' off center of ridge

- Thin 1"-6" diameter conifers leaving groups and clumps in areas. Identify as the work progresses. Do not create Mono-culture.
- Slash to 6" under drip lines of legacy oaks, madrones, and large overstory conifers.
- Prune leave conifers up to 1/3 height of tree reducing ladder fuels.

Slash Disposal

- Residual slash created by thinning, pruning, and slashing will be swamper burned, Hand pile burned, or biocharred.
- Firewood chunks will be left lying, or organized into piles for pick up at a later date.
- Poles will be stockpiled along ridge road and left for potential salvage.
- Slash not utilized will be hand piled and burned at a later date.

Other Forest Management Activities in the North and South Units

In addition to the immediate projects of a woodlot program in the North Unit and a shaded fuel break in the South Unit, additional thinning, fuels reduction and gathering activities are desirable.

Most people agreed that thinning in the two Page Creek Units would improve the vigor of these stands, but a means to do that has not been determined. In the short term, immediate action on the fire break in the South Unit, and a woodlot program in the North Unit, are ways to get going and provide quick benefit. We consider that multiple entries and low tech approaches are best because the impact is less and the benefits are distributed more widely. Furthermore, because the economics are so marginal, the cost of a yarder system cannot be justified because of the lack of commercial material.

Figure Six shows ideas from Susan Chapp about how thinning should occur.

**Figure Six:
Forest Thinning
By Susan Chapp**

THINNING

The process being used today to thin old clear cut units that are now classified as late successional reserve lands to be managed for spotted owl habitat, is basically the same thinning process being used today on the matrix lands, which are to be managed for wood production. This thinning process is also very similar in its high-impact nature to what was done back in the days when the goal was a rapid turnover of clear-cut cycles. Mostly what is changing is the words being used to describe the activities.

These enduring thinning practices minimize the role of the hardwoods and maximize the role of the conifers. The way the thinning is done, it is generally an act of high impact human domination. Below is a suggested list of thinning guidelines that lessens the domination component and expands the partnership component in both our relationship with the forest and in the relationships between the tree species themselves. It is our nature to manipulate. It is our choice whether our manipulation is light or heavy handed.

Thinning Guidelines

- 1) Avoid human activities that are extreme and dominating.
- 2) Break up harsh high-impact activities into small, kind, gradual impact activities.
- 3) Keep the forest irregular. Run the whole gamut of species, spacing and age, and anything else you can think of.
- 4) Go visit the unit from time to time, have a chat. How is it doing? How does it feel about the thinning goals and procedures or any of our other activities? Are we being kind enough?
- 5) Does the forest have any clever ideas for how we can make some money off the products of thinning?

The management options under consideration in the South Unit are:

1. Site access. Because of the presence of nearby neighbors and of Page Creek, a salmon bearing stream, as well as topographic considerations, this is not an easy site to gain access to. Further discussions with Forest Service and partners are necessary to come to agreement on an approach. These options have been explored:
 - a. Plan for ongoing entry and put in a good road in the South Unit, along the lines of Orville Camp, for permanent access, fire protection, and to pull resources as needed. Residents are concerned about more visitor impacts and there is not full agreement with this approach.
 - b. A temporary road is possible but the costs and benefits of this choice have not been determined.

- c. Along the east line of the unit (site #2, Figure Five), there are some opportunities for using skid roads that are already there.
- d. Put in a bridge or a temporary bridge to cross Page Creek. Residents voiced interest in both a bridge, and horse trail (Site #3, Figure Five). They are careful, however, in not wanting to promote additional unmanaged recreation activity in the area, and they are particularly not wanting additional off road vehicle activity in the area. However, provision of a horse trail can promote additional recreation activity if the impacts are managed (see Recreation planning element). Provision of a bridge would also allow entry into the unit for forest thinning and fuels reduction activities. Two of the neighbors closest to the unit oppose a bridge because it will increase access, so full agreement is not yet achieved. Perhaps a temporary bridge or gated bridge could be devised. Interest was expressed in having the Forest Service begin the process of environmental review necessary to create appropriate access into the south unit, particularly a bridge over Page Creek. This action item will require further discussion to reach full agreement.
- e. The feasibility of a cable system across Page Creek to preclude the need for a bridge has been discussed but not determined. Could we develop cable suspension over Page Creek that is consistent with the legal direction provided in the East Illinois Valley Managed Stands Environmental Assessment?

“A split-pole fence, like that installed at French Flat, could work because it’s stable and it lasts. It allows hikers and horses to pass through and that is all.”

- 2. “Adopt an Acre”: The notion is to start at the periphery and work up. Start at the bottom and work up the hillside, pulling material from below. Start low and work in and up. It is less dangerous. Have residents apply to conduct stewardship activities to restore the land to the standards called for in our community prescriptions, primarily thinning and brush removal. In return, the Forest Service requires compensation for any commercial wood products and some “giving back to the land” for poles and firewood could be expected through invasive weed containment or other measures. There could even be a competition for who does the best job with prizes. It would be a way to “block it up” and make sure all lands that need treatment get it.
- 3. The liability issues with individuals being on public land doing potentially dangerous work have not been fully resolved. One scenario could be that a nonprofit organization, the Illinois Valley Community Development Corporation, could be the contracting entity which handles liability and bonding requirements for individual residents performing the work. Another answer could be to wait for a minimum threshold of local “orders” for poles or firewood and then hire a reputable timber faller or restoration forester to do the work.
- 4. ATV’s with “arches” installed can handle fairly large trees comfortably with minimally dragging one end of the tree.
- 5. Consider horse logging, with which some neighbors have experience. It is preferred for low impact on sensitive bio-diverse areas.

6. Gully restoration. The South Unit was damaged by previous logging which created gullies and sinkholes that require restoration. Our intent is to use the treatment approaches contained in this plan to accomplish gully restoration by filling them in with brush and woody debris, prevent erosion and do stream restoration. The Rogue Basin Steering Committee may have money for work like this and we want to work with Forest Service specialists, as appropriate.
7. The unit is close to the valley floor where there are a lot of invasive species. Therefore, in our stewardship activities, the more native species used the better.
8. Residents are expected to “give something back” in return for access to products from public lands, in particular, stewardship activities such as brush removal, control of invasive species, reclamation of gullies and so in, in negotiation with the citizen review team.
9. Implement a strategy of “carbon conservation burning” and production of biochar for soil enhancement and for sale as possible. Recent experiments in creative burning of slash piles to produce less smoke and more biochar have been encouraging. Although such a process requires more labor in how the slash piles are assembled, obvious benefits occur. We will want to promote further development of this approach, as appropriate, with our community and agency partners as the project proceeds.
10. Educational activities are to accompany forest treatment approaches. Get a grant to show kids how to treat the forest. Stacey Williams would allow use of her barn as part of the program. Draw in participation from area schools.

The Economics of Forest By-Products

Some committee members got out into the community to do an informal polling of local interest in forest by-products and current market prices. Market prices at the moment:

Teepee poles, 18-20’ long, straight, peeled and tapered, will pay \$1/lineal foot currently. Commercial outlets in the county of peeled, turned and uniform Doug Fir charge \$9 for a 3” pole, \$13.50 for a 4” pole, and \$22 for a 5” pole.

Several individuals expressed active interest in purchasing poles. Six individuals, including a couple neighbors, indicated interest in poles. Local residents routinely buy firewood, up to 3-5 cords per household per year. Their sources are erratic and a local, regular supply would be valued. We feel reasonably confident that all poles and firewood harvested from the Page Creek project will find local buyers.

Recreation Management

Residents describe patterns of regular recreation use by mostly local people in the Page Creek area that includes camping, parties, hiking, motorized use, and horseback riding. There are many negative effects noted from this activity such as trash dumping, smoking and campfires that increase the risk of forest fires, drug use, shooting, unsupervised children, and lack of toilet facilities. These impacts

do not seem extreme now, and are expressed more in the nuisance category, but they need attention in the plan.

Many positive aspects are present as well, notably the local employment generated by the Out'n>About Treesort located nearby that makes use of unofficial trails in the area. The resort can have up to 4 or 5 rides a day with up to 5 people, so on a daily basis, 25 visitors in the summertime can be in this portion of the National Forest. The Out 'N About Treesort has created about 60 seasonal positions, many of them filled by young people in the community. It has provided a significant boost to the local economy through treehouse lodging, ziplines and horse rides. Some of the resort workers have talked about wanting to expand onto Page Creek public land with ziplines or horse trails.

From a Forest Service standpoint, community-based recreation management is the most difficult to achieve on this project because there is less legal and analytic “infrastructure” in place to support it. While forest activities are covered by an existing Environmental Assessment (EA) which provides legal authority, no such support work has been done with regards to recreation. For example, the user-created trail used by horseback riders in the North Unit is not legal. To become legal, the Forest Service has to do an EA and a Forest Plan amendment with their attendant environmental analyses.

At the same time, the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUIs) issues such as these are affecting the entire forest and may stimulate a regional assessment and administrative action on the part of the Forest Service that could expedite our local efforts. In addition, the Travel Management Plan (TMP) can be amended yearly and the existing unofficial trails could be officially designated through this channel.

Most of the recreation activity in the area is occurring in the flat lands between the two units. Brush cutting and burning on the flats are desired, but not next to the creek. Residents want the tanoak reduced again but they want a few let go from brush to trees to reduce brush growth. This is a bog in the winter.

Residents are concerned about creating more recreation activity in the area because they suffer the impacts and the impacts are not managed well now. Even so, there is strong support for encouraging “eco-tourism” and recreational uses of public lands. If we can find ways to manage the impacts and encourage modest increases in recreational activity locally, this would be a good fit for the community.

Generally, local people have expressed a preference for supporting eco-tourism which brings income into the area, while wanting to curb some of the more negative impacts. There is a concern that increased recreation activities will lead to greater, unwanted, access into the private and public lands of the area. Motorized uses in the forest are especially disliked. Residents want to use recreation planning to address the negative impacts while supporting additional eco-tourism activities. The goal is to have greater integration of Forest Service and community interests regarding recreation in this area, develop strategies to modify some of the negative behaviors and encourage modest additional recreation if impacts can be managed.

Action steps for the recreation planning element are:

1. Recreation permits are not currently in place and commercial recreation users on Forest Service lands have expressed willingness to come into compliance. Efforts to expedite permitting would be helpful. In addition, some portion of recreation receipts should come back to this project to support Page Creek work more fully. These funds could provide upkeep for restrooms, trash removal, and other management activities.
2. Additional recreation activities that have been suggested for nearby Forest Service lands include more horse trail and hitching posts, campground, zip lines areas, presumably under a concessionaire agreement, tree houses for rent on public lands and others. The right balance of such activities can be worked out in the community and with the Forest Service in the coming months.
3. The Forest Service is least able to advance this planning element currently because of the required environmental analysis, possible survey work (often seasonal), and other factors. Significant staff reductions have slowed their work considerably. The FPWG may lend assistance to the Forest Service in expediting its analytic and administrative work as possible.
4. Better revenue flows from recreation is a goal of this planning element. The recreation permit process needs to be shaped to optimize fees, but also to direct a portion of the revenue to recreation management costs in the immediate area, such as trail maintenance and so on (see below).

The Illinois Valley Business Entrepreneurial Center (IVBEC), through the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) is becoming a partner to build up the revenue side. The IVCDO is well-regarded for its contributions to community development. As manager of the concession for the Historic Chateau Lodge at Oregon Caves National Monument, it has employed over 40 seasonal local residents for the past 12 years. It has also had its own fuels reduction program for several years that has been well-received. Our hope is that it may accept the role as “umbrella contractor” for many stewardship activities, thereby obviating the need for individual bonding and insurance requirements which are an impediment to small contractor and local workforce participation in federal land management.

For both forest products such as poles and firewood, as well as recreation, such as permit fees, expedite the permit process to reduce frustration and inefficiency.

- Create a real (although modest to start) revenue stream for both community and Forest Service.
- Steer a portion of revenue receipts into monitoring and maintenance activities which include local people.
- Raise awareness of what it takes to fund restoration forestry.

Administrative Structure

The Forestry Practices Working Group (FPWG) will institute the Citizen Review Team. The proposed Citizen Review Team will be a crucial piece of social infrastructure, fostering increased interest and confidence in the community’s ability to influence federal forest management, and

involving an increasing number of people who have a stake in, or a positive view of, the activities of this project. The two immediate projects will foster early success and build momentum. The purpose of the CRT is to review project ideas brought forward by individuals or groups in the Illinois Valley for application at Page Creek. This concept borrows from earlier collaborative efforts in which a local team of citizen scientists, called ECORat, was formed to review project proposals.

Members will ensure project proposals meet the ecological, economic and social criteria laid out in the Page Creek Community Management Plan and that the protocols for the work, product removal, and monitoring are followed. It is likely that the Forestry Practices Working Group will serve this function to begin, with functions transferred to the CRT as it is developed.

The Citizen Review Team will engage in:

- Scoping, design, and proposals by individuals and community groups.
- Review, comment, possible modification, and approval of projects based on ecological, economic and social criteria.
- Oversight, quality control, and final report/assessment of each project.
- Creating clear expectations regarding the commercial and stewardship aspects local enterprises.
 - On the stewardship side, establish benchmarking and a system of work exchange values, perhaps through “restoration credits.”
 - On the commercial side, rates for project products and ecological objectives must be understood.
- Streamlining and consolidating permitting process on both community and agency sides.

In addition, agreements are required with the Forest Service to provide legal authority to the FPWG to conduct this work. These agreements include:

1. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Forest Service and the Forestry Practices Working Group that describes the roles and responsibilities of each organization as the work proceeds.
2. A Participating Agreement between the Forest Service and the Forestry Practices Working Group to implement the immediate projects of a woodlot program on the North Unit and a fuel break on the South Unit.
3. A Stewardship Agreement between a non-governmental organization (NGO) and the Forest Service. It is possible that the existing Hope Mountain Master Stewardship Agreement (and a Supplemental Agreement) could be used as a legal means to implement this plan, with the FPWG becoming a subcontractor to Lomakatsi Restoration Project.