

Breitenbush Collaborative Project Planning & Prioritization

RECREATION PROJECTS:

Dispersed Camp Sites (Map Point #1) Note: Point #1 is representing all the dispersed campsites in the Breitenbush Watershed: Implement the “Respect the River Initiative.” Restore riparian areas and reduce impacts within dispersed camping areas along the Breitenbush River, and Short, Elk and Dunlap Lakes: e.g. reducing size, defining access routes, decompaction, planting vegetation, and education outreach; including installing Respect the River signs, public contacts. Potential for adopt- a- site.

Status: Some restoration can begin now but most are in the planning stages. USFS needs public input on which sites to harden or potentially close. Larger plan needs to be put into place for all the dispersed sites in Breitenbush Watershed.

Elk Lake Campground (Map Point #2): Campground Restoration: Restoration of the meadow, and riparian area within the recreation site. Need to improve the stream crossing/ford with a structure/culvert.

Status: Some restoration improvements can begin now. Need to develop a restoration plan for the area.

Fox Creek Group Campground (Map Point #3): Vegetation treatments to improve visuals, stand health and open areas for tent sites. Large storage area could also be restored and planted to enhance the site. Need to develop a recreation site design plan to improve the group site and amenities.

Status: In the planning stage. OHA is doing some work now. Need to seek funding for a technical assistance grant to assist with the development of a site design plan and for the implementation of the plan.

Lower Hot Springs (Map Point #4): Develop a master plan for the Lower Breitenbush Hot Springs.

Status: Some restoration improvements can be done now. Need to seek funding for a technical assistance grant to assist with the development of a master plan.

McCoy Motorized Recreation Area (Map Point #5) Note: Point #5 is representing the entire McCoy Motorized Area in the Breitenbush Watershed: Maintenance work needed includes: brushing, drainage structure installation, signage and traffic controls/barriers to protect resources.

Status: Maintenance work can be done now.

Short Lake Area (Map Point #6): Develop a plan to maintain recreation opportunities (access and dispersed camping) while restoring riparian habitat and hydrological processes, and improve water quality in the Short Lake area which includes: road relocation and decommissioning, and scarifying poorly located campsites and delineating/hardening acceptable campsites.

Status: Planning stage.

Upper Arm Day Use Area (Map Point #7): Needs vegetation management and plantings. Host work parties at this site in the future.

Status: Vegetative improvements can be done now.

TRAIL PROJECTS:

Beachie Trail (Map Point #8): Reconstruction needed to reestablish proper drainage. General maintenance needed. Trailhead needs to be relocated.

Status: Redesigning the trail system is in the planning stages. Standard maintenance can be done now.

Breitenbush/Devils Creek Area User Trails (Map Point #9): Potential for the USFS to formally designate portions as an official trail system. A trail management plan needs to be developed for these trails. Need to identify trail management objectives. Certain areas would need reconstruction or realignment to meet trail and bridge standards. Potentially decommission parts of current trail system.

Status: Need to initiate planning.

Crag Trail (Map Point #10): Need to assess the trail and to determine future management objectives.

Status: In planning stages.

French Creek Ridge Trail (Map Point #11): Drainage structures need to be installed and sections of the trail need to be reconstructed and/or rerouted.

Status: Redesigning the trail system is in the planning stages. Standard maintenance can be done now and need funding or expand capacity through partners.

Humbug Flats Trail (Map Point # 12): Improve Road 46 trailhead, reconstruct/reroute portions of trail.

Status: USFS has KV funds to conduct planning work in 2014 and maintenance work at this site in the summer of 2015.

Jefferson Park (Map Point #13): Rehabilitate or close user created trails.

Status: Restoration work can be implemented now. Need to expand capacity by partnering with other organizations to get work completed.

Leone Lake Trail (Map Point #14): It is a steep eroding trail. Sections need realignment.

Status: In planning stages.

Pacific Crest Trail (Map Point #15): Realign trail sections to reduce erosion, reconstruct poorly drained sections of the trail, and replace metal culverts with natural structures that are less prone to failure and meet wilderness objectives.

Status: Realignment of the trail needs planning. Maintenance work can be implemented now. Need to expand capacity by partnering with other organizations to get work completed.

Rapidan Trail (Map Point # 16): Need to assess to determine future management objectives.
Status: In planning stages.

Short Mountain/Mansfield Trail (Map Point #17): Need to assess to determine future management objectives.
Status: In planning stages.

South Breitenbush Trail (Map Point #18): Needs approximately 5 miles of realignment and reconstruction of trail structures across creeks and over wet areas to reduce impacts.
Status: Need to seek funding and expand capacity by partnering with other organizations to get work completed.

WILDLIFE HABITAT PROJECTS:

OHA Breitenbush Watershed Power Line Sites (Map Point #19) Point on map represents a larger area along the power lines in the Breitenbush Watershed: Treat invasive weeds, fertilizer and seed with native grasses. Maintain for deer & elk habitat.
Status: OHA currently implementing restoration efforts annually. Collaborative can help support their ongoing efforts. Next OHA Restoration Event Saturday - May 3, 2014 (All day).

Mansfield/Scorpion Mountain Area (Map Point #20): Meadow maintenance.
Status: Restoration work can be implemented now.

Sugar Pine Restoration (East Humbug Area) (Map Point #21): Thin/Fire maintenance. Gap cuts. Sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) adds to the biodiversity of the watershed. Sugar pine is most abundant under regimes of frequent, low severity fires which maintained more open forests prior to active fire suppression. Sugar pine is an early seral species, relatively intolerant of shade and will not naturally regenerate in dense canopy closures. Sugar pines need open ground to reproduce. Overstocking is leading to sugar pine mortality without regeneration. Detroit Ranger District is the northern most extent of the range of sugar pine. Sugar pine could be an important component of the species genetic diversity in the future when climate change shifted forests northward.
Status: In early planning stages.

Wildlife Meadow Monitoring: Monitor wildlife use in meadows using trail cameras.
Status: Planning Stages.

CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECTS:

Devil's Creek Culvert - 870 Rd. (Map Point #22): This culvert is a perched barrier to Steelhead and cutthroat trout.
Status: Need to start the planning process.

Elk Lake Culvert (Map Point #9): Crossing is a ford through cutthroat trout habitat. Need to create structure to protect residential fish.

Status: May implement replacement/repair now.

Hills Creek Culvert (Map Point #23): Fish barrier to residential fish.

Status: Need to start the planning process.

Mansfield Creek Culvert (Map Point #24): This culvert is a fish passage barrier. Not sized appropriately.

Status: Need to start the planning process.

Scorpion Creek Culvert (Map Point #25): Undersized culvert. Not a fish passage barrier.

Status: Need to start the planning process.

Short Creek Culvert on 46 Road (Map Point #26): Fish passage barrier to migrating steelhead and cutthroat trout. A large slide upstream of this culvert could potentially be an issue.

Status: Need to start the planning process.

Short Creek Culvert on 050 near 45 Rd. (Map Point #27): Fish passage barrier to migrating steelhead and cutthroat trout. A large slide upstream of this culvert could potentially be an issue.

Status: Need to start the planning process.

West Fork Mansfield Culvert (Map Point #28)

Status: Planning.

Wind Creek Culvert (Map Point #29)

Status: Planning.

ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

Elk Lake Road (Map Point#30): 4697Rd. General maintenance and drainage issues need to be addressed.

Status: Work can be implemented now or within a year.

Gold Butte Road (Map Point #31): General maintenance and drainage issues need to be addressed.

Status: Work can be implemented now or within a year.

Power Line Roads (Map Point #32) Point represents all power line roads in the Breitenbush Watershed: Work with BPA and PGE to identify power line access roads needed for long term maintenance. The USFS should have a map of existing power line roads by the summer of 2014. Next steps would be to decommission roads that are no longer needed, and fix drainage issues or realign roads that are poorly located.

Status: Planning. Stakeholder input needed.

FUEL REDUCTION PROJECTS:

Breitenbush Hot Springs (Map Point #33): Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Hazardous fuels reduction.

Status: Planning. USFS would like stakeholders to be involved in the process.

Fuels Reduction (Map Point #34): Point #34 is representing multiple locations in the Breitenbush Watershed: Fuel reduction along major routes & campgrounds (46 Rd underbrush treatments). Create Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fire safety zones

Status: Planning. Tie public land in with what is being done on private land.

Summer Homes (Map Point #35): Hazardous Fuels Reduction - continue to maintain. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) hazardous fuels reduction around summer homes/ resort.

Status: Continue fuels reduction efforts.

FOREST HEALTH & RESILIENCE RESTORATION PROJECTS:

Important Note: The Breitenbush Watershed has several areas where precommercial thinning of previously clearcut stands was not completed. These stands have grown larger and denser. Currently, growth in many of these stands has all but stopped due to overcrowding. The health of these trees is deteriorating and fire danger in these stands is high. The district is looking for ways to thin these stands to increase forest health and provide jobs to the local economy. Special forest products such as firewood, post/poles, biomass, boughs, bear grass, floral products, etc. may be products that help pay for this needed work and provide jobs to the local economy.

Devil's Creek (Map Point #36): Overstocked >7" diameter timber thinning

Eagle Rock Boulder Area (Map Point #37): Overstocked >7" diameter timber thinning

Leone Post/Pole (Map Point #38): Overstocked >7" diameter timber thinning

Mansfield Post/Pole (Map Point #39): Overstocked >7" diameter timber thinning