

Potential Draft Zones of Agreement: Mountain Mahogany¹

Assumptions: Mountain mahogany is a fairly common, but dispersed, species on the Malheur National Forest. As a unique hardwood that is important wildlife habitat/forage and provides species biodiversity, its preservation is important. In particular, grand fir encroachment and uncharacteristic wildfire threatens to reduce the occurrence of this species, which is generally not fire resistant. Current contract specifications require the retention of mahogany wherever it is encountered, and this is not expected to change.

Zone of Agreement # 1: Restoration treatments should focus on removing encroaching grand fir, and may result in residual basal areas of 0-40; all old growth trees of any species would be retained (Van Pelt). Prescribed fire should be used where appropriate, and the Forest Service should take care that prescribed fire does not inadvertently cause mortality of mahogany.

Zone of Agreement # 2: Where appropriate, the Forest Service should consider replanting mountain mahogany sites with appropriate species such as ponderosa pine and larch, provided that such planting does not serve to compete with mahogany.

Zone of Agreement # 3: Where mahogany is found in conifer stands, harvest prescriptions should be consistent with other Zones of Agreement (Franklin/Johnson/Van Pelt), and mahogany retained as leave trees. Consider clearing between 30-50 feet around mahogany, consistent with other Zones of Agreement.

¹ Camp/Lick Field Trip Minutes, 9/17/14.