

Appendix 2

Historical context for forest management, southcentral Oregon

National Forest Management

The Fremont-Winema National Forest (FWNF) is comprised of two national forests that administratively combined in 2002 – the Fremont National Forest to the east and the Winema National Forest to the west. The Winema side is 445,154 ha in size and located in Klamath County. It lies primarily on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountain Range and stretches east into the Klamath River Basin. It is ninety percent tree covered, and is dominated by ponderosa and lodgepole pine and mixed conifer forests. The Fremont side is drier, dominated by sagebrush in the basins, juniper on the hillslopes, and mixed conifer and ponderosa pine forests in the mountainous areas. The Fremont side is located in Lake County and encompasses 485,623 ha (FWNF website).

The two sides of the FWNF have different management histories. The Fremont National Forest was established in 1908; the Winema National Forest in 1961. The Fremont side contains the 199,365 ha Lakeview Federal Sustained Yield Unit (representing about forty percent of its total acreage), created in 1950 with the goal of producing sustainable timber harvests to economically benefit local communities and sustain local mills (Cheek 1996). This unit was reauthorized in 2001 as the Lakeview Stewardship Unit, whose purpose was to integrate ecological, social, and economic sustainability in the context of active management to achieve ecosystem restoration (Lakeview Stewardship Group 2011). The unit must meet annual volume targets for timber production. Management occurs in close collaboration with the long-standing Lakeview Stewardship Group.

In contrast, over half of the Winema National Forest was once part of the Klamath Indian Reservation (FWNF website). Congress terminated federal recognition for the Klamath Tribes under the Klamath Termination Act of 1954, taking much of their reservation land and putting it into the Winema National Forest (The Klamath Tribes website). The rest of the Winema was created from parts of other national forests in the Cascade Range, together with new land acquisitions (FWNF website). Current management takes place in consultation with the Klamath Tribes, who retain fishing, hunting, trapping, and gathering rights, and have developed a forest management plan for their former reservation lands.

State Forest Management

Management of the Sun Pass and Gilchrist State Forests occurs under the same management plan (ODF 1995), but forest management differs on the two forests owing to their different histories. Most of what is now the 8,419 ha Sun Pass State Forest was purchased by the State of Oregon in the 1940s and was formerly private industrial timberland (ODF 1995). Because much of the high value timber had been cut by the previous owners, only light management occurred until the 1990s so that the forest could develop. The State of Oregon purchased the 17,401 ha Gilchrist State Forest in 2010 in order to protect open space, public access, and working forestlands, and

prevent their subdivision for real estate development (ODF Gilchrist State Forest, interview data). These lands were owned by the local, family-owned Gilchrist Timber Company for most of the 20th century, and then sold to Crown Pacific in 1991. Crown Pacific was a private industrial timber company that liquidated the timber on these forestlands in the 1990s to pay off its debts (ODF Gilchrist State Forest). It then went bankrupt, and the lands were acquired by another private corporate owner in 2005 that engages in real estate investment and development. ODF purchased the land from this owner. An adjacent 10,453 ha block, sharing this same history, was simultaneously purchased by The Conservation Fund (a non-profit organization) in 2010, and held until the State could acquire it and add it to the Gilchrist State Forest, which occurred in 2015. Both tracts have been managed by ODF since 2010, and are collectively referred to here as the Gilchrist State Forest. The dominant forest type is ponderosa pine, but trees average only 20 years old because of this harvest history (ODF Gilchrist State Forest).

Private Corporate Forest Management

The five private corporate owners in the study area own lands having different management histories. Two are relatively small, family-owned private industrial timber companies that have been operating in the region since the 1930s-1940s, gradually acquiring new parcels over time by purchasing them from other private industrial timber companies that once operated in the area. Their forestlands have been certified to Forest Stewardship Council standards for socially and ecologically responsible forest management. One private corporate owner was created in 2006 by a local family upon purchasing about 250,905 ha of timberlands in central and southcentral Oregon from a timber investment management organization. That organization bought them in 1996 from a private industrial timber company that had owned timberlands in the region since the early 1900s. A fourth owner is a real estate investment company that invests in agricultural, timber, and mining property throughout the US to produce income and realize the long-term appreciation potential of the land. This company acquired its forestland in the study area at auction in 2011 from a private owner. These forestlands were only lightly harvested by the preceding owner until the national economic recession began in 2008. The fifth private corporate owner was created in 2004 as a subsidiary of a larger company that engages in real estate investment and development. It then acquired forestlands from a private industrial forestry company after it went bankrupt. These lands were heavily harvested by the former owner. One large tract of this ownership was formerly part of the Klamath Tribal Reservation lands. Although this tract transferred to private ownership in 1960, the Forest Service has since been responsible for overseeing management there under its own management plan, revised every ten years. Since 2005 and during the time of our study, this ownership was for sale for real estate development. Two of the five private corporate ownerships were sold and changed hands following our fieldwork.

Literature Cited

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