The Eastside Restoration Strategy
Pacific Northwest Region, US Forest Service

April 2016
W.C. (Bill) Aney
Eastside Restoration Coordinator
The Eastside Restoration Strategy

Accelerate pace and scale of restoration on eastside by:

• Coordinating regional efforts – CFLR, CWS, State Investments, etc.
• Facilitating learning among Forests
• Focus on planning and implementation
• Blue Mountains Strategy - experimenting with large-scale, accelerated planning
National Forests of the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington
Total Restoration Need

- Infrastructure Capacity
- Social License
- Agency Capacity - $$, workforce
- Projects through NEPA

Justus von Liebig
“Law of the Minimum”
Blue Mountains
Restoration Planning Team

• Dedicated ID Team for 3 years
• Planning at large scale, fast pace
• Narrow focus – vegetation management
• Solid science partnerships
• Projects with broad support
Landscape Scale Problems…

…require landscape scale solutions
More Fire is a Given…

[Bar chart showing acres burned by wildfire in OR & WA from 1992 to 2015, with categories for Total Acres Burned (All Lands), NF Acres Burned, BLM Acres Burned, and a trendline for Total Acres Burned (All Lands).]
Location of mid-seral closed canopy forests above the RV outside “restricted” and current project planning areas.
Dry Forest Resiliency and Strategic Fuel Treatments Example
Our Challenge: changing the way we operate

- Best Practices for Large Scale Planning – Discover/Develop/Demonstrate
- SOPs for site specificity
- Decision models
- Embrace Experimentation
- Communications/Relationships
Our Challenge: changing the way others expect us to operate

- Effective communications about innovations, opportunities, and what is possible.
- Collaborative models
- Suspend Disbelief
- Administrative Review? Court Challenge?