

PROGRESS ON HOUSE BILL 42 IMPLEMENTATION

Summer 2008/Spring 2009: FWP works with Univ. Montana to develop a Forest Mgt. plan for the Ovando Unit of the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA.

Winter 2009/2010: Developing a contract for timber harvest for Ovando Unit (in progress). Plan attached.

Summer of 2009: Plan for an initial forest management effort on 900 acres of Mt. Haggin WMA. EA written and is attached. Objectives were: 1. Reduce encroachment of Douglas Fir within bitterbrush communities in order to promote health and regeneration of bitterbrush and associated plants such as rough fescue. 2. Reduce encroachment of Douglas Fir and Lodgepole Pine within and surrounding aspen communities in order to promote stand health and propagation of aspen. 3. Remove stands of beetle-killed lodgepole pine in order to reduce fuel loads and enhance complexity of stand structure on the winter range. A Forester was hired to oversee the timber harvest, a Logger was hired. Sale did not take place due to market price for timber.

Will try to reestablish this project in 2010 depending on timber market.

Fall 2009: logging on road r-o-w on Kootenai Falls WMA (near Libby): FWP received \$32,850. Funds deposited into forest management fund.

Winter 2010: Developing two Request for Proposals(in progress). One will provide FWP will Foresters to develop Forest Management Plans for Wildlife Management Areas. The second will provide FWP with Foresters to implement Forest Management plans, particularly involving timber harvest. Implement RFP's by summer 2010. This will initiate Forest Management inventory and plans on several wma's depending on funding.

Summer 2010: A thinning project on West Kootenai WMA(west of Lake Koocanusa on Canada border). Area of thinning is being identified presently.

Summer 2010: Threemile WMA(in the Bitterroot Valley). A cover type map has been completed. Initial road work has been identified. FWP is working with DNRC. FWP owes DNRC timber value as part of a land exchange. The agencies would like to turn this effort into a WMA forest management. At present markets for timber are poor.