

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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South Santiam All Lands Collaborative

#### FIELD TRIP SEPTEMBER 9th FOR INPUT ON U.S. FOREST SERVICE TROUT CREEK PLANNING AREA

The South Santiam All Lands Collaborative invites community members on a field trip to the US Forest Service Sweet Home Ranger District's Trout Creek planning area on Friday, September 9th from 9 am to 4 pm. Meet at the District Office Main Conference Room, 4431 Highway 20, Sweet Home.

The field trip will focus on units proposed to create a hardwood fuel break and others to replicate a mixed severity fire to shape forest structure and diversity. The four sites selected are of interest because of their older ages (125 years), proximity to the Menagerie Wilderness and private forest lands, as well as critical habitat for northern spotted owl.

The Forest Service is looking for feedback on their plans to: encourage stand health, vigor, species diversity and structural complexity in matrix areas; contribute sustainable forest products to local markets; increase structurally rich early seral habitat at a landscape scale by mimicking mixed severity fire; and improve fire resiliency and strategically manage hazardous fuels in high risk areas.

The field trip will have two major stops focusing on these harvest prescriptions:

- The hardwood fuel break stand would be thinned to 30-40% canopy cover and underplanted with hardwood species to moderate fire behavior due to the higher moisture content of the fuels they produce.
- The mixed severity fire units seek to replicate historic fire disturbance at the scale and impacts typically experienced. To do that, several units located close together are treated using similar techniques. In this case, some areas will receive low-level thinning, others will be thinned to a 50% canopy cover and some would see 30% canopy retention in aggregated clumps. Snags would be created and openings would be underplanted with cedar and pine species for diversity.

Come prepared for a day in the woods. Please wear long pants and close-toed shoes. Bring rain gear if needed and be aware that bees have been quite active in the area. While all areas are accessible by vehicle, there will be walking on uneven surfaces. Transportation and boxed lunches will be provided. The Sweet Home Ranger District Interdisciplinary Team experts will be on hand to provide background and answer questions.

Please RSVP by September 7th at 5 pm to Sharon Kanareff, 541-401.4811, or [Sharon.ssalc@gmail.com](mailto:Sharon.ssalc@gmail.com) to ensure your space on the field trip.