

2015 Habitat Restoration for Xeric Meadow Associates
Project Report
Olympic National Forest
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ISSSP Funding: \$5,200

Introduction

In 2015 xeric-meadow habitat restoration was implemented on the Olympic National Forest (ONF), funded by FS R6 ISSSP. The project was located in the Dungeness watershed, Eddy Creek sub-watershed, in an area containing dry forest openings. A variety of bees, butterflies and flowering plants had been observed in this area. The objective was to enhance habitat for xeric-meadow associates, including sensitive butterflies and western bumblebee, which the Olympic NF had identified as a priority sensitive species group.

Methods and Results

In the summer of 2015 ONF biologist conducted field reconnaissance to identify the specific project locations, and obligated funds in a WCC agreement. In October 2015 the WCC crew completed approximately five acres of restoration work, which included the following:

- (1) Cut and piled vegetation (small trees and shrubs) in an existing small forest opening to create more open conditions;
- (2) Piled slash in a near-by precommercially-thinned (PCT) unit, clearing open areas of slash so that herbaceous plants could get established easier;
- (3) Cut some small trees in an open roadside area, near a road recently closed to vehicles.

Discussion / Future Work

Olympic NF biologists plan to conduct post-treatment surveys for butterflies to determine presence in the project sites. Western bumblebee surveys may be done, depending on funding. Native plant seed has been collected in the watershed, and seed-increase has been contracted; open areas may be seeded in the future.

The PCT piling work is on-going, and will continue as funds become available. This work benefits a variety of wildlife species, from big-game to butterflies.



WCC Restoration Crew.



Small trees were cut along a closed road to provide more sunny open conditions for xeric-meadow associates (butterflies and bumblebees).



Proposed piling area in PCT Unit.