

Lomakatsi Restoration Project
Shoran Forest Restoration Project
Upper Rogue Watershed-2008

Note: Below is an example of a prescription written by Marko Bey of Lomakatsi for the release and enhancement of black oaks.

Unit #4-Main Ridge Area

Location

The main ridge is the second largest unit on the property consisting of 8.13 acres. This unit dissects the middle of the woodland running from the Ridge Top Flat Area, slightly south westerly, down to the residence. The majority of the properties skid roads are adjacent or run through this zone.

Present Condition-Unit #4

The Main Ridge Area is dominated by Douglas fir with a codominant Black Oak association. Representation of this community can be seen throughout southwestern Oregon in both natural and previously managed forest stands. Sparsely scattered occurrences of Ponderosa Pine, Pacific Madrone, and Sugar Pine are also represented in this unit. Understory shrub communities are comprised of Snowberry, Trailing Blackberry, Honey Suckle and Tall Oregon Grape.

The majority of Douglas fir is declining within this unit. Crown ratios average less than 20%. Scattered along this ridge are locations where individual healthy specimens of larger Douglas fir with broad reaching crowns can be seen. Black Oaks within this unit are vigorous even though Douglas fir encroachment and overtopping is abundant.

Pole size Douglas fir ranging from 3-8" dominate this unit, with larger size classes ranging from 9-13". Several larger Douglas fir and Black Oaks are present with size classes averaging around 18" dbh.

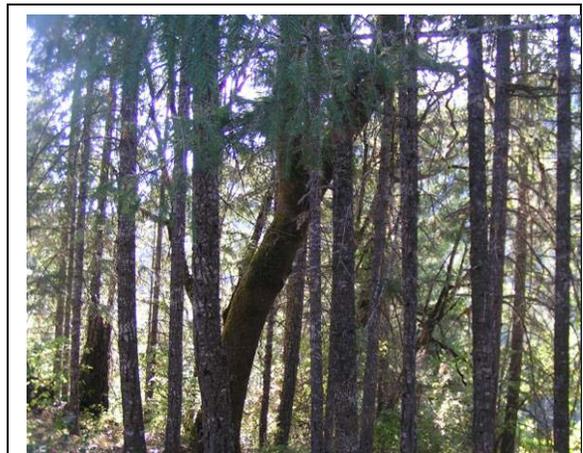
Stem density is high to extreme with an associated abundance of ladder, surface, and ground fuels contributing to crown fire potential.

Recommended objectives for this unit should focus on the enhancement and restoration of the Black Oaks, larger healthier Douglas fir and the few scattered Sugar Pines within this unit. In addition, the restoration of understory plant communities will compliment the oak recovery work by creating some canopy gaps to favor the sparse distribution of understory species diversity.

Fuel reduction and strategic wildfire modification strategies can also be implemented in this location, where the ridge top can serve as a wildfire management area between the southeast and west slope areas.

Skid road infrastructure will serve the needs for restoration and fuel reduction objectives during operations. This unit has the greatest potential on the property for the implementation of a restoration forestry approach, where the harvest and utilization of both merchantable and sub –merchantable trees can perhaps be an asset and help offset a portion of the costs for forestry projects.

Due to the drastic decline of the Douglas fir on site and their inability to recover and release at this stage, the recommended silvicultural objectives for this unit will emphasize the enhancement of these hearty Black Oaks that serve as ‘*ecological anchors*’. Thorough reduction of the declining Douglas fir from around the drip line zones of the Black Oak crowns will assist in the long-term resiliency and stability of this unit location.



Enhancing and restoring the Black Oak component within Unit 4, also presents a good opportunity for utilizing and marketing both merchantable and submerchanable materials from the ecological thinning activities. Restoration wood byproducts may help offset some of the treatment cost for forestry operations.

During the field surveys for this unit, Lomakatsi staff performed a ‘Sample Mark’ for the thinning prescription. All the Black Oaks were marked as leave trees and the majority of Douglas fir were marked as ‘take trees’, bringing the stand from an average of 200 trees per acre to 110 trees per acre.

Located near the edge of the West Slope Unit is a small sub zone consisting of immature madrone, indicating the harvest and removal of larger madrones from this location.

Unit #4 - Main Ridge (Sample Mark Area)

Survey Plot Data

Species	Seedling	1-3”	4.6”	7-9”	10-12”	13-15”	16-18”	19-24”	24”+
DF	19	19	34	17	3				
PP							1		
IC									
SP		1							
Mad		3	3	2					
B-Oak	4	6	4	8	3	2			
W-Oak									
P-Dog									

Basal Area:

Hardwood = 70

Conifer = 130

Total = 200

* Basal Area after sample mark = 70 hardwood (no change) and 20 conifer (Large Reduction)

Treatment Recommendations for Unit #4

Thinning

- This primarily involves cutting most (80%) of the Doug Fir stems less than 8”dbh. Selectively remove some larger stems when they are in poor health and/or directly competing with a more desirable favored leave tree.
- Release Black Oaks by thinning all Douglas fir from around the drip lines in a circumference.
- Protect all Black Oak and Sugar pine seedlings and saplings (indicate their presence by using colored flagging).

- Retain and release vigorous Douglas fir specimens with healthy crown ratios by cutting competing smaller stems from under the drip lines.
- Enhance all Sugar Pine Ponderosa Pine, Incense Cedar and healthy larger Madrones by cutting the encroaching smaller Douglas fir from around the drip zones.
- In Unit 4(a), the immature Madrone stand, favor the dominant main sprouts by thinning the smaller side sprouts to encourage future tree form and growth.
- Retain a diversity of snag decay classes and sizes for wildlife habitat.
- Retain the less abundant woody shrub component within this unit for species diversity.
- Following thinning operations, utilize some of the felled Douglas fir as down wood and future nurse logs. Keep these Douglas fir long and contour fall them across the slope.

Unit # 4-Burn Operational Prescription

Since this unit has the best potential for commercial timber harvest operations, underburn operations are not being recommended for this location. All coarse woody debris and surface fuels will assist in protecting the soil resources during any potentially planned extraction and yarding activities.

Standard pile and burn operations are recommended for this unit.

- Pile and burn or 'swamper burn' 70% of generated thinning slash less than 8" diameter throughout this unit. The other 30% of thinning slash will be left on the forest floor as 'padding' to protect the soil resource during potential harvest and skidding operations.
- Following harvest operations, areas with concentrations of slash accumulations can or may be reduced through 'jack pot burning'.
- Retain some coarse woody debris across the slope for erosion control and future soil formation.
- Leave some piles unburned for wildlife habitat (wildlife piles).

- Following burning, reseed these openings with native grasses and forbs into the mineral rich ashes. The best time for seeding is from late October to mid December, during the dormant time of year.
- Following burning operations, 'Spot plant' Ponderosa Pine, Sugar Pine and Black Oaks throughout this unit in the created gaps. Average planting ratio is recommended at 30 trees per acre.