

Draft Proposal: Lostine HLOA Common Lot Forest Treatment Plan

Purpose – To actively manage the HLOA Western Common Lot through treatments intended to help meet HLOA objectives of reducing wildfire risk to homeowners and their property.

Background – The 30 acres of the HLOA Western Common Lot is full of dead and dying trees, including excessive stands of Grand fir. Thinning of the lower section of the common lot (Zone 1) began in 2020. Additional treatments of Zone 1 and the remaining portions of the common lot (Zones 2 & 3) are proposed. Funding may be available for this work, and if this proposal is supported by the HLOA community, a funding application will be submitted to an appropriate agency in the fall of 2024.

Objectives

- Minimize risk and maintain safety from severe wildfire events to the community to the extent possible.
- Maintain aesthetics of the forest environment surrounding and throughout the HLOA community.
- Maintain and where possible, improve, ecological functions and forest health of the forest environment surrounding and throughout the HLOA
- Maintain and where possible, improve, the forest resiliency.

Proposed actions –

- Treatment zone 1 (lowest on the slope, east side of common lot, adjacent westside homeowners of the HLOA)
 - Overstory thinning/removal of dead, dying, diseased trees. Opening of canopy to decrease canopy bulk density directly adjacent to HLOA. Ensure fine fuels (less than 1” in diameter) are removed from the area.
- Treatment zone 2 (mid slope, 150-300 ft uphill, uphill/adjacent to zone 1) o Thinning of prioritized overstory trees with the most disease and decay. Decrease canopy bulk density, but not to extent as zone 1. This zone may have areas of denser overstory vs areas that are more open. Material on the ground will be bucked to help maximize decay rates and ensure increased moisture content.

- Treatment zone 3 (upper slope, 300-450ft uphill, uphill adjacent to zone 2)
 - Thinning of understory trees 8” dbh and under. Similar treatment specifications to what occurred along the bottom portion of the common lot. Large diameter material on ground will be bucked to help maximize decay rates and ensure increased moisture content.

Points to consider:

- Adjacent homeowners to the common lot will be consulted regarding proposed activities and adjustments will be made to include any concerns and suggestions. ● Minimizing ground disturbance will likely mean operations will need to be conducted on frozen ground or with snow.
- Machinery will be utilized to help remove overstory material from zone 1. ● Where possible, the existing open areas around adjacent homeowners properties can be utilized as part of zone 1 (with homeowner approval/support). This is intended to reduce cost, improve feasibility, and maintain aesthetics of the project.
- The variability in canopy density in zone 2 will somewhat be based on operational feasibility. But the variability is good for forest health and will not degrade the overall effectiveness of the fuel break.
- These treatments are intended to help move the forest stand condition closer to a natural condition rather than the current unnatural overstocked condition. It will also improve the natural species range that occurred before human interaction on the landscape. (More Ponderosa Pine/Douglas-fir, less Grand fir) ● The three treatment zones together will form part of a fuel break that decreases the ability for a canopy fire to occur adjacent to the community. This increases suppression resource chances of success and decreases ember production which leads to structure loss.
- If funded, implantation of the proposed actions could occur as early as the winter of 2025 depending on contractor availability.