



Issue Paper #1

Crook County

Forestland Classification Committee

Issue: Who should do the initial mapping?

November 14, 2012

Background

As lands are digitized through the Forestland Classification process, a GIS map will be created to visually display the classification. These maps will also be used to generate assessment role data for the County tax assessor to use for the collection of ODF protection funds.

Issue

Should the committee spend the time to draw lines on all the maps or should they establish some mapping standards for ODF to utilize in producing initial maps for the committee to edit and approve.

Alternative 1: Have the committee produce the initial maps.

- The committee would not have to develop mapping standards for ODF to use, but would have to have standards for themselves.
- The committee may have difficulties deciding on where initial lines should be drawn. This would be time consuming.
- ODF would only have to digitize the lines the committee gives them which would be easier and less time consuming for ODF.

Alternative 2: Have ODF produce the initial maps.

- The committee would simply have to edit the maps as ODF produces them saving the committee considerable time.
- ODF would have better access to all the layers affecting the decisions such as ownership, soils, tax lots etc. This would make drawing the lines easier and more productive.
- The committee's time may be better served by setting mapping standards and having ODF make the initial maps.



Issue Paper #2

Crook County

Forestland Classification Committee

Issue: Mapping standards – polygon size

November 14, 2012

Background

As lands are digitized through the Forestland Classification process, a GIS map will be created to visually display the classification. By having a set standard for polygon size and edge detail it will provide the person digitizing good sideboards for proper mapping.

Issue

Mapping size (Acreage of individual polygons) will affect the accuracy of the classification of lands, the assessments landowners pay, and the amount of effort required to produce the classification maps.

Alternative 1: Limit mapping size to 10 acres.

- No polygon would be smaller than 10 acres in size.
- Small openings of Class 2 forestland within grazing lands would be classified as grazing because they wouldn't meet the 10 acre requirement.
- Mapping would be generally easier.

Alternative 2: Limit mapping size to 5 acres.

- Mapping would be a bit more time consuming.
- Accuracy would increase due to the small polygons for delineating stringers of timber or openings.
- All openings 5 acres or less would be incorporated into the surrounding classification.

Alternative 3: Limit mapping size to 1 acre or no lower size limit.

- Mapping would be tedious and time consuming.
- Accuracy would increase due to the very small size of the polygons for delineating the small openings and stringers of timber.



Issue Paper #3

Crook County

Forestland Classification Committee

Issue: Mapping standards – edge detail

November 14, 2012

Background

As lands are digitized through the Forestland Classification process, a GIS map will be created to visually display the classification. By having a set standard for polygon size and edge detail it will provide the person digitizing good sideboards for proper mapping.

Issue

Mapping edge detail can be very detailed (following all areas of type changes) or smooth (using straighter or smooth edges). The detail will determine the assessments landowners pay, and the amount of effort required to produce the classification maps.

Alternative 1: Follow edges in very detailed manner.

- This will be very tedious and time consuming; however it will provide the best detail for mapping and assessing acres to the landowner.
- Mapping accuracy will increase.

Alternative 2: Follow edges in a smooth and general manner.

- Mapping will be much less tedious and time consuming.
- The mapping will still be accurate, however not as detailed.



Issue Paper #4

Crook County

Forestland Classification Committee

Issue: Rights-of-ways

November 14, 2012

Background

Many utilities have Right of Ways through forestland and of these; many are required by statute to maintain adequate clearing along these Right of Ways with the exception of grass and brush.

Issue

A Right of Way that traverses the landscape and passes through forestland may not have any timber growing within the Right of Way but the land has the site productivity potential to do so.

Alternative 1: Classify land within a Right of Way based upon site productivity and the immediately adjacent land.

- Land within a ROW may have potential for timber production, but given current Statutes, it may be manually kept void of timber.
- Would make classification simpler by not having long narrow strips through forestland that is classified as Class 2 timber or Class 3 grazing.

Alternative 2: Classify land within a Right of Way based upon vegetation present at time of classification with consideration to statutory obligations.

- A power line ROW could create a very long and narrow polygon within forestland which could be classified as Class 2 timber or Class 3 grazing.
- This land may have the potential site productivity to be forestland.
- In a large fire, this narrow clearing through forestland may or may not provide for an adequate fuel break.
- This would make digitizing harder due to the need to create long narrow strips.



Issue Paper #5

Crook County

Forestland Classification Committee

Issue: Dual Assessment

November 14, 2012

Background

The incidence of fighting fires in Urban Interface areas is increasing as traditional forestland continues to be transformed into small acreages with homes dotted across the landscape. This type of fire fighting requires a complete and coordinated system including both wildland and structural agencies in order to protect homes and forest resources.

Issue

Forest Land Classification Committees are charged with deciding whether or not to continue to assess forestland within Rural Fire District (RFD's) boundaries. This decision is very important as it dictates the level of wildland fire response ODF provides. In addition to the response from ODF, this decision impacts the revenue that a RFD's will receive. In Crook County, the rural fire district within ODF's protection district have dual assessments.

Alternative 1: Continue to assess within a Rural Fire Protection District

- The committee will classify lands within a fire district and the amount of acres under dual assessment may shift a bit but not expected to dramatically.
- In this scenario, ODF provides protection for the wildland fuels, while the RFD provide protection for the wildland and structural fuels. In addition the RFD may assess for the structure and up to 5 acres. These two services are complimentary and interdependent for providing fire protection to landowners.

Alternative 2: Do not assess within Rural Fire Protection Districts

- If ODF does not assess, a typical wildland response (within the RFPD) would be under a Mutual Aid type agreement unless the fire is deemed a threat to ODF protection outside the RFD.
- The RFD is able to assess on the value of the entire property.
- Wildland protection would be performed by the RFD with some support by ODF through mutual aid only.

Other Considerations: Consider classifying lands outside ODF's boundary and inside RFD's.

- Portions within Crook County Fire & Rescue have lands that could be considered forestlands. Classifying these lands will reduce the revenue the rural's are allowed, and will shift the ODF District Protection Boundaries.



Issue Paper #6

Crook County

Forestland Classification Committee

Issue: Juniper Classification

November 14, 2012

Background

Much of Crook County adjacent to the typical Class 2 forestland is occupied by Juniper. Juniper is native to Crook County; however it has encroached upon typical grazing land over the last 50 years with the suppression of fires. Many of these areas once occupied by a scattered Juniper now have thicker stands with scattered Pine as well. Currently there is a very limited market for Juniper wood products as compared to other conifer species.

Issue

In Crook Co. much of the Juniper dominant stands have a healthy stand of grass in the understory and Juniper stands are very proficient in creating a thick duff layer. Fires in these stands require more effort than a typical grazing land fire which increases the cost.

Alternative 1: Classify Juniper dominant stands as Class 2 forestland.

- Must have potential site productivity of 20 cubic ft per acre per year at culmination of mean annual increment.
- Is there growth yield data available for Juniper?
- This will require a shift in the way Juniper has been classified in the past.
- Juniper may not have a market today, but could in the near future.
- If Juniper is classified as Class 2 forestland and then area undergoes a Juniper eradication project, would the land be reclassified or maintain Class 2 classification because of potential site productivity.

Alternative 2: Classify Juniper dominant stands as grazing land.

- Consistent with past approaches at classifying Juniper.
- Grazing assessment is less than timber assessment but Juniper fires are more expensive to fight than grazing fire so is this land paying its' fair share for fire protection?
- Does land dominated by Juniper have the ability to pay for itself?



Issue Paper #7

Crook County

Forestland Classification Committee

Issue: Agricultural and CRP Lands

November 14, 2012

Background

Crook County has an agriculture industry that ranges from crop land, irrigated pasture, and orchards, to dry land pastures. Through the classification process, agricultural lands may be identified and exempt from the classification process due to the limited fire hazard present on those lands.

Issue

Given the array of agricultural uses on land within Crook County, what constitutes agricultural land which would be exempt from the classification process of forestland?

Alternative 1: All agricultural lands that are annually cropped shall be exempt.

- This would exclude all wheat lands and significantly add acres to the assessment roles. It would also potentially be a contentious issue with ranching community.
- This would also exclude dry pasture lands that may be heavily grazed

Alternative 2: All agricultural lands that are irrigated to prevent fire spread shall be exempt.

- This would be fairly easy to identify through aerial photos, it would be consistent with current classifications and not include significant new lands.

Other considerations: All CRP lands need to be considered.

- Alternative 2 would also include all CRP lands. The committee should consider these lands separately in their classifications. They are currently not being assessed and they were once farm lands that were cropped annually. CRP acreage would contribute to an insignificant increase to the classification acres.
- Could this be a contentious issue with the ranching community?



Issue Paper

Crook County Forestland Classification Committee

Issue: Classification standards between Class 2 and 3

January 27, 2014

Background

Crook County's forestland classification currently has lands classified as Class 2 and 3. As lands are classified through the Forestland Classification process, determinations will need to be made distinguishing between Class 2 and Class 3 forestlands. By having a set standard this will provide the person digitizing good sideboards for selection between the two.

Issue

Historically Class 2 lands were interpreted as being located east of the Cascade Mountains and has the potential site productivity of at least 20 cubic feet per acre per year, at culmination of mean annual increment, for one or more tree species native to the locale and suitable for "joint" use of timber production and grazing of livestock. However, differentiating between Class 2 land and Class 3 lands will be difficult to the person doing the mapping in transitional land situations. The committee needs to distinguish between the two classes in order to give the person mapping sufficient criteria to select which lands should be Class 2 or Class 3.

Alternative 1: Class 2 lands will be based upon potential site productivity capability of the land giving consideration to other vegetative communities suitability for joint use for timber production and grazing of livestock..

- The committee would classify lands based on NRCS Crook County Draft Soil Survey information and other sources of available site productivity information indicative of supporting forest plant communities or plant association types capable of achieving site productivity potential of 20 cubic feet per acre per year at culmination of mean annual increment while giving consideration to other vegetative communities suitability for joint use of timber production and grazing of livestock.
- Use of other vegetative communities indicative as suitable for joint use of timber production and livestock grazing would allow the person doing the mapping to capture marginally productive transitional forestlands in providing a clear deliniation between Class 2 vs Class 3 forestlands. Lands meeting the definition of forestland and not meeting this criteria will be considered for Class 3 status.

Alternative 2: Class 2 Lands will be classed based strictly on site productivity.

- This would require utilizing soil survey and other sources of available site productivity information to determine the best soils within the county capable of achieving timber productivity potential of 20 cubic feet per acre per year at culmination of mean annual increment without giving consideration to other vegetative communities suitability for joint use of timber production and grazing of livestock.
- This will capture all productive soils and forestland capable of producing timber; however it may become difficult for the person doing the mapping to differentiate

a change between forest vegetation types and non forest vegetation types associated with transitional lands.