

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT

DECISION RECORD
for the proposed

NORTH and SOUTH TRAIL TIMBER SALES
Trail Creek Environmental Assessment

DECISION

It is my decision to authorize the following proposed actions analyzed in the **Trail Creek Environmental Assessment (EA)** and the **Addendum** to the **Trail Creek EA**. The proposed action is described as **Alternative 2** of the EA, which includes the following:

1. Timber Harvest on Matrix and Riparian Reserve Lands

T32S R1W sections 19, 21, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34
T33S R1W sections 3, 5, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 29, 30, 31
T33S R2W sections 1, 23, 35
T34S R1W section 5
T34S R2W sections 1, 3, 4

Approximately 1,561 acres which include Southern General Forest Management Areas (SGFMA) and Northern General Forest Management Areas (NGFMA). This action alternative includes five silvicultural methods:

1. Commercial Thin/Density management of 986 acres.
2. Selection harvest treatment of 16 acres.
3. SGFMA treatment of 273 acres.
4. NGFMA treatment of 129 acres.
5. Riparian thin of 157 acres.

Logging Systems:

1. Tractor - 573 acres
2. Cable - 215 acres
3. Helicopter - 716 acres
4. Lining - 57 acres

In addition to Alternative 2 of the EA the following recommendations from the Addendum will be implemented:

Skid trails will be ripped on an additional 180 acres of tractor units in order to mitigate some of the effects of the constructed firelines from the Wall Creek Fire.

Approximately 1,800 feet of a jeep trail will be decommissioned. This would be expected to reduce the overall amount of sediment being transported to stream channels in both the long term and short term.

Construction of a temporary road for a tractor unit in the original EA has been dropped and the logging system has changed to helicopter which also reduces the overall amount of compaction and soil disturbance analyzed under the Trail Creek EA.

Unit 31-5 (Change from Density Management to Select Harvest)

In the original Trail Creek Proposal, unit 31-5 was proposed as a density management harvest. While the Wall Fire burned through the unit, not all of the conifers within the unit were destroyed. By changing the prescription for this unit from density management to select harvest, the fire killed and damaged conifers can be removed to reduce the possibility of future insect damage and mortality. The select harvest would result in a fully stocked stand with a canopy closure of greater than 40%. The density management harvest was removing smaller diameter conifers with less crown canopy development than the leave trees within the unit. A few larger trees (10-15) killed by the fire would be harvested with the select harvest. The majority of the trees left in the unit are: (1) larger diameter, (2) full crowned trees, and (3) healthy, without disease or insect problems.

RATIONALE for DECISION

My decision to authorize the proposed action is in compliance with the Northwest Forest Plan Record of Decision (ROD) on the FSEIS (FSEIS ROD), dated April 13, 1994, the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP), dated April 14, 1995, and the Survey and Manage (S&M) SEIS and associated ROD, dated January 11, 2001. The timber sale area is located within Matrix and Riparian Reserve lands. The proposed action complies with all applicable standards and guidelines. This action takes into consideration cumulative impacts of past harvesting and silviculture practices both on nearby private and Federal lands. All required Threatened and Endangered (T&E), Survey and Manage (S&M), and cultural surveys have been completed. Implementation of these sales would assist in meeting the Medford District Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) and economic support to local communities.

Implementation of the proposed action will move forest stands toward a healthy, sustainable condition by a combination of silviculture methods. It will also: 1) Provide a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products to the community; 2) manage forest stands to promote desired tree species, tree survival, and tree growth.

A previous decision dated September 19, 2002 for Fuel Hazard Reduction, Culvert Replacement and Road Projects is also tiered to the Trail Creek EA.

In accordance with the BLM Forest Management Regulations (43 CFR 5003.2(1)), the decision for these timber sales will not become effective, or be open to formal protest, until the first Notice of Sale appears in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands affected by the decision are located. Any contest of this decision should state specifically which portion or element of the decision is being protested and cite the applicable CFR.



Lance E. Nimmo
Butte Falls Area Field Manager
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

8/5/03
Date