Little Dean Vegetation Management Project
Recreation and Lands Resources Report

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Whitman Ranger District

Preparers: /s/ Jay Moore  Date: June 11, 2015

Jay Moore
Recreation Specialist
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest – Whitman Ranger District

Michael A. Hall
Forestry Technician, Recreation
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest – Whitman Ranger District

Max Forgensi
Natural Resource Specialist (Recreation)
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest – Whitman Ranger District
Recreation and Lands Resources

Introduction

This document describes the recreation and lands resources within the Little Dean Project analysis area and the effects of the project alternatives; including direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. This document focuses on recreation opportunities, and permitted land uses, that may experience effects from vegetation management treatments including: developed recreation sites, winter and summer trails and trailheads, dispersed recreation opportunities, and motorized and non-motorized recreation uses.

The analysis area is 16,742 acres on the Whitman Ranger District.

The Purpose of this project is to manage and enhance the timber and vegetation resources in a manner consistent with the direction in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended (LRMP).

Specific developed recreation opportunities such as constructed hiking trails, snowmobile trails, and developed campgrounds are also within or adjacent to the project area. Phillips Lake Recreation Area is outside the project area but in close proximity.

According to FSH 1909.12 Chapter 70, the identified project area for Little Dean and surrounding NFS lands do not meet the Inventory Criteria for Potential Wilderness Areas (PWA) found at FSH 1909.12 71.1 (see Appendix D). With no PWAs located in or near the project, effects will not be analyzed further.

A national survey conducted by the Forest Service indicated that the following activities listed in descending order of use are typical within the project area and around the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (NRIS-NVUM Version 1.5, 2008):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in WWNF Recreational Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WWNF Recreational Activity Percentages of People Participating</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing natural features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking and walking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relaxing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving for pleasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHV use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseback Riding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Visitor Activities on the WWNF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary WWNF Visitor Activity Percentages of People Participating</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analysis Framework: Statute, Regulatory Environment, Forest Plan and Other Direction

Wallowa-Whitman Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

The 1990 Wallowa-Whitman Forest LRMP as amended states, the goal for the Recreation resource is to “provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities in an attractive setting, and make those opportunities available to all segments of society”.

The 1990 Wallowa-Whitman Forest LRMP as amended states, the goal for Special Uses is to provide for the use and occupancy of the National Forest by private individuals or Federal, State, and local governments when such use is consistent with forestry management objectives and is in the public interest (LRMP 4-31)

Forest Plan Amendments

The following list of standards and guidelines are a subset of all applicable Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) direction and this project is being analyzed for consistency to all applicable Forest Plan standards and guidelines for Recreation and Lands (Special Uses).

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

To guide activities and ensure that the LRMP goal is being followed, the Plan uses the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) framework for stratifying and defining classes of outdoor recreation environments, activities, and experience opportunities. There are seven ROS classes that range from primitive to urban. Little Dean has three of these classes within the project area as shown in the Table1 below.

Table 1- ROS Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROS Class &amp; Acres</th>
<th>Summary of ROS Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Roaded Natural (11,000 acres) | • Timber harvest may be scheduled  
• Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) of ‘retention’ and ‘partial retention’ as seen from roads and trails are met  
• Access is generally by single or double lane dirt/gravel roads  
• Road management objectives are to accept or encourage use by dispersed |
recreationist in highway vehicles
- Dispersed recreation sites should be development scale 2 or less (i.e. sanitary facilities, interpretive sites)
- Use densities in people at one time (PAOTs) per acre range between 0.04 and 0.25. Density includes averaging in developed sites
- Norm for developed sites should be development scale 3
- Interpretation is through forums such as signs, overlooks, boardwalks using native-like materials with some refinement in design, printed and other portable materials, and limited interpretation by Forest staff

| Roaded Modified | Timber harvest is dominant but carried out within the NFMA regulation of being shaped and blended with the terrain
|                 | Stumps, skid roads, landings, and clearcut forms all may be dominant to the user
| (3,420 acres)   | Road management objectives for local roads would often provide a complete mix of opportunities
|                 | Access to recreation campsites, berry fields, wood gathering areas, etc., is encouraged
|                 | Some roads will be managed to permit use by high-clearance vehicles and trail bikes while discouraging use by highway vehicles
|                 | Use on others by all vehicles may be restricted or prohibited to meet wildlife, safety, or other objectives
|                 | User-established sites will be recognized and prescriptions for timber harvest, slash cleanup, site preparation and other silvicultural practices will consider the environmental setting and recreational attractions
|                 | The attempt will be made to retain a significant measure of this character after treatment
|                 | Such sites will also be considered in grazing plans and the timing of when livestock are on the sites
|                 | Interpretation is through simple on-site facilities such as signs or numbered posts made of native-like rustic materials, printed or other portable material
|                 | Facilities may include shelters for winter use by ski tours or snowmobiles
|                 | Use densities of PAOT per acre should range between .008 and 1.2

| Semi-Primitive Motorized | Unscheduled timber harvest may occur for salvage of dead timber resulting from catastrophic events or to improve and maintain a healthy, attractive, semi-primitive setting
| (2,322 acres)          | No new roads may be built
|                       | Motorized harvesting and mineral exploration should be done in the low public use season and in not more than half of any decade. All activities must meet “foreground retention” visual quality objectives
|                       | Road management objectives are to eliminate or prohibit public motorized use of any existing primitive roads or trails
|                       | No facilities except for trail shelters, limited signing, sanitary and safety needs will be installed
|                       | All facilities will be made from native-like, rustic materials
|                       | Site development scale is level 2 or less
|                       | Use densities of PAOT per acre should range between .004 and .08 depending on the landscape’s ability to absorb the sights and sounds of humans
|                       | Interpretation is through self-discovery, augmented by books, guides and maps, with no on-site facilities
Other Forest Plan Recreation Standards and Guidelines that apply to the proposed activities in Little Dean include:

**Recreation Site Development.** Develop Recreation sites, by ROS class using the description found in the Forest Plan Table 4-6.

**Outfitter and Guide.** Outfitter guide activities may be considered within any management area, although outfitter camps will not be located within research natural areas.

**Special Areas.** Protect special places on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest: e.g. dispersed recreation sites, water features, rock or unique landform features, areas of unique vegetation, historic sites, or other places which are special to Forest users commensurate with other Forest management objectives.

**Forest Plan Desired Future Conditions**

The LRMP also describes a desired future condition (DFC) for recreation, in 10 and 50 years. The following summarizes the 10 year DFC’s that apply to the Little Dean Project.

- Providing an increased emphasis of recreational opportunities for users.
- Retaining the range of current recreation uses yet recognizing there would be changes in the amount and location of some opportunities.
- Opportunities for trail-related recreation within other management areas would be available.
- Dispersed recreation sites would retain their desired character, although surrounding lands would often change significantly due to management activities.
- Fuel wood would continue to be available yet may be more difficult to obtain.

**Forest Plan Management Areas**

Forest Plan Management Areas for Little Dean are found in the Little Dean Environmental Assessment. Recreation Standards and Guidelines for these Management Areas include;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Areas</th>
<th>Applicable Recreation Standards &amp; Guidelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - Timber production emphasis</td>
<td>17. <strong>Recreation.</strong> Recognize undeveloped campsites, hunter camps, or areas where concentrated recreation use occurs as being significant in producing and utilizing dispersed recreation opportunities. Prescriptions for timber harvesting, cleanup, site preparation, and thinning will consider the environmental setting that contributes to the attraction of these sites for recreation purposes. The attempt will be made to retain this attractive character during and after treatments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 3a - Timber production designed for near-optimum big game winter ranges (3) and selected summer ranges (3a)</td>
<td>17. <strong>Recreation.</strong> Apply standards and guidelines from Management Area 1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15 – Old growth habitat  | 14. Recreation. Roaded natural and roaded modified recreation opportunities will be provided
16 – Administrative and Recreation Sites  | 11. Provide roaded natural and rural recreation opportunities
5- Phillips Lake Area  | The area is to be managed recognizing a variety of resource values with emphasis on recreation opportunities. Timber resources are managed to provide an aesthetically pleasing forest for public enjoyment. Timber stands are maintained in and condition with tree spacing providing a park-like appearance

**Existing Condition**

**Developed Recreation and Lands**

There are two developed recreation sites within the Little Dean analysis area; Mason Dam Picnic Area, and Powder River Recreation Area.

**Mason Dam Picnic Area:** The picnic area is located along Powder River at the foot of Mason Dam. It is a popular day use area within short driving distance from Baker City. The picnic area is a non-fee site with an open season that normally runs from May through October. Amenities include an accessible vault toilet and parking area, and picnic tables accessed by crossing the bridge on the Powder River located just below the dam. Recreation activities at the site are primarily fishing, wildlife and bird viewing, and picnicking.

**Powder River Recreation Area:** The recreation area includes; Powder Trailhead, with upper and lower parking areas and Powder River Interpretive Trail #1613. The trail is located along the Powder River and can be accessed by either the upper or lower parking areas of the trailhead. The northern section of the trail is paved and accessible for all users and anglers can fish the river from two fishing platforms or two bridges that cross a portion of the river. The southern portion of the trail is a non-accessible gravel trail with a moderate difficulty level rating. The recreation area is popular for fishing, day hiking, nature viewing or taking advantage of the interpretive information found along the trail. The recreation area is a non-fee site with amenities including accessible vault toilet, picnic tables, paved parking areas, fishing platforms, and interpretive signs.

**Dispersed Recreation**

Dispersed recreation can include; camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, gathering forest products, picnicking, driving for pleasure, or a combination of a variety of activities. While dispersed recreationist do not primarily use or rely on developed sites, they may use a developed site to support their activity, such as parking at a trailhead, getting drinking water, or using toilet facilities.

**Dispersed Camping:** Dispersed camping is a low to moderate dispersed recreation activity in the Little Dean project area, with use beginning in late spring with the majority of sites showing heaviest
use during the fall hunting season. The sites are identified by their rustic user-built features such as rock fire rings, tables and meat poles (to hang big game). The campsites are primarily located in flat areas off main transportation systems adjacent to water sources like streams and meadows. Camp sizes vary but the average ones can accommodate 1-2 vehicles with larger ones hosting 3-4 truck/trailer or RV units. Many of these campsites have been used for decades with some sites showing soil compaction and a loss of vegetation.

**Other dispersed recreation activities:** Other types of dispersed recreation occur year-round. Visitors enjoying these recreational pursuits may use forest roads as transportation networks (i.e. OHV riders, snowmobile riders, cross-country skiers, driving for pleasure, viewing wildlife), or just travel cross country away from roads and trails (i.e. hunters, viewing nature, fishing, hiking or walking). Recreationists who pursue dispersed activities often do so for a combination of desires, to be away from crowds, seek solitude, enjoy nature (scenery, geology, wildlife) and cultural sites, and seek challenges or adventure, or wanting to be more self-reliant.

**Developed Trail System**

The trails systems within the Little Dean project area consist of both motorized and non-motorized.

**Non-Motorized Trails:** There is approximately 15.5 miles of dual purpose mountain bike/cross country ski trails within, or adjacent the project area. These trails primarily utilize a system of decommissioned and closed roads. The following non-motorized trails are included or adjacent to the Little Dean project and are designated as both Cross Country and Mountain Bike Trails in the INFRA Database:

1. Trail #1610, Phillips Lake South Shoreline, Trail Class 3, 6.61 Miles
2. Trail #1610A, South Phillips Lake Spur A, Trail Class 2, 0.11 Miles
3. Trail #1610B, South Phillips Lake Spur B, Trail Class 2, 0.25 Miles
4. Trail #XC-1635, 400 Road XC Ski, Trail Class 3, 0.295 Miles
5. Trail #XC-1636, Deer Like XC Ski, Trail Class 3, 0.8 Miles
6. Trail #XC-1637, Coyote Cove XC Ski, Trail Class 3, 0.6 Miles
7. **Trail #XC-1638, Rimrock XC Ski, Trail Class 3, 3.3 Miles ***
8. **Trail #XC-1639 Jeep Ride XC Ski, Trail Class 3, 3.5 Miles ***

*** Note: These non-motorized single track trails have been identified as proposed haul roads for portions of the Little Dean project, as the trail system shares a closed (Level 1) road system.
Motorized Trails: There is approximately 19 miles of groomed and designated snowmobile trails within the project area. These trails utilize forest roads 1100, 1145, and 1145-250. These roads are closed to motorized use by full sized vehicles in the winter months.

Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, and Inventoried Roadless Areas

There are no Wilderness, Potential Wilderness Areas, or Inventoried Roadless Areas within or adjacent to the project area, nor has any of these areas been identified during the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision process. The Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision identified 4A General Forest, 4D Big Game Winter/Summer Range, and 4F Visuals as potential Management Area designations for the area in and around the project.

According to FSH 1909.12 Chapter 70, the identified project area for Little dean and surrounding NFS lands do not meet the Inventory Criteria for Potential Wilderness areas (PWA) found at FSH 1909.12 71.1. With no PWAs located in or near the project, there will be no effect to these resources.

Permitted Uses

Some recreational activities are managed under permits which allow recreationists or operators to do certain activities under the terms of a permit. These permits include; gathering firewood, gathering forest products like mushrooms, hunting and recreation special use activities. Use of these permits can be considered ‘recreational’ since visitors often participate in them for primary or secondary forms of enjoyment.

Annually the WWNF sells over 2500 personal use firewood permits and over 1900 forest product permits like mushroom and Christmas tree tags. Each permit has terms and conditions which guide uses and locations for the activities. Although no data is available for how many permits are used in the Little Dean analysis area, these activities can generally occur in most areas outside of riparian areas, old growth area, tree plantations, and other special designated locations described on the permits. There are no long-term recreation special use permits such as outfitter and guides inside the analysis area.

Little Dean lies within the Sumpter Big Game Management Unit. The area is popular during big game bow and rifle seasons in late summer and fall, and turkey hunting in the late fall and early spring. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will continue to offer hunting opportunities in this area as part of their management of big game.

There are currently two Special Use Authorizations issued within the Little Dean analysis area. One authorization for a buried telephone line that is located along the road prism of forest road 1145. The
second authorization is for a high voltage overhead power line that crosses the entire analysis area east to west. Idaho Power has been maintaining an above ground 138Kv power transmission line that crosses National Forest System lands authorized by Special Use Permit since the late 1960’s when the line was constructed. The authorization approved a 100 foot Right-Of-Way (ROW). Within the ROW, Idaho Power has managed the vegetation to meet regulatory clearance requirements, reduce fire hazard, and to provide access for maintenance to the line. As part of Idaho Power’s vegetation management plan, they have proposed removal of 283 trees along the transmission line corridor. Approximately 5 miles of the transmission line crosses through the analysis area and 58 trees have been marked for removal. The implementation schedule for removal of these trees would be within the next two years.

Effects Analysis Methodology Recreation and Special Uses

Specific Methodology, Recreation

The method of analysis included:

• A review of the appropriate Forest Service policy and goals, objectives and standards of the
  Forest Plan
• An analysis of the Forest Plan recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS)
• Project site visits
• A review of Forest-level recreation use surveys
• A review of the USDA Forest Service literature related to recreation management (i.e. sense
  of place)
• Queries from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest GIS data base recreation layers (i.e.
  dispersed recreation points, developed recreation points, management areas)

The existing condition was compared with possible changes to recreation use if alternatives were implemented.

Spatial and Temporal Context for Effects Analysis

The environmental effects will be discussed in different timeframes. For direct and indirect effects, a short term for recreational visitors is viewed as occurring within two years (or 2 visitation seasons) from the beginning of the implementation activity (i.e. harvest, post-harvest activities and prescribed fire treatments are on-going). Long term is viewed as a period of time ranging from two to ten years after initiating the implementation activity (i.e. harvest and post-harvest activities are done). Short and long term effects would occur annually over the entire project area within the 10-15 years of implementation as project activities are completed in some areas and initiated in others.

Indicators, Recreation

Evaluating direct and indirect effects on indicators, Recreation

Indicators and Summary of Effects
To display the differences between alternatives, indicators have been identified that affect the recreation activities. The *qualitative* rationale for these analysis indicators are summarized below.

Table 3 – Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Effects Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Acres of Timber Harvest** (commercial harvest of timber, post harvest noncommercial thinning, and noncommercial thinning) | • Restricts/discourages access into harvest units due to closures or work activity  
• Discourages/displaces use due to physical obstacles (i.e. slash), dust and noise  
• Decreases of habitat for forest products (i.e. berries) or increases habitat for forest-products (i.e. mushrooms)  
• Increases localized use by visitors wanting more open stands, and decreases localized use by visitors wanting more closed or untreated stands, and larger trees  
• Increases roadside safety from hazard tree removal  
• Diminishes the attractive character of dispersed camp sites.                                                                                                                                 |
| **Acres of Post-harvest Fuels Treatments** (grapple pile, hand pile/burn) | • Restricts/discourages access into units due to closures or post-harvest activity  
• Discourages/displaces use due to physical obstacles (i.e. slash piles), and noise  
• Decreases habitat for forest products (i.e. berries) and increases habitat for forest-products (i.e. mushrooms)  
• Increases localized use by visitors wanting more open stands, and decreases localized use by visitors wanting more closed or untreated stands, and larger trees  
Loss or change of vistas, scenery, natural features or wildlife viewing opportunities from |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Indicators</strong></th>
<th><strong>dispersed sites</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Acres of Prescribed Fire** (post harvest activity fuels treatment and ‘stand-alone’ prescribed fire only) | • Restricts/discourages access into treatment units due to closures or work activity  
• Discourages/displaces use due to active fire or residual smoke  
• Loss or change of vistas, scenery, natural features or wildlife viewing opportunities from dispersed sites and dispersed areas |
| **Miles of Road Reconstruction** Deferred maintenance on open/closed roads, road realignment | • Restricts/discourages access into dispersed area or developed sites due to work activity  
• Increases roadside safety from hazard tree removal |
| **Miles of Temporary Road Construction**                                      | • Temporarily decreases opportunities for dispersed activities away from motorized uses  
• Temporary loss of 6.8 miles of designated trails during hauling activities and a conversion from a trail to a haul road |
| **Miles of Danger Tree Removal along Roads**                                 | • Increases visitor safety |
| **Miles of Road Decommissioning**                                            | • Decreases motor-vehicles use when roads are decommissioned  
• Increased opportunities for dispersed activities away from motorized uses |
| **Miles summer or winter road haul** (for existing roads open to passenger car and high clearance vehicles) | • Discourages access into harvest units, dispersed areas, developed sites  
• Eliminates snowmobile use on haul routes  
• Increases forest products gathering and winter recreation on typically unplowed routes |

The following table displays the *quantitative differences* in units (acres/miles) for each of the indicators discussed in Table 4.

Table 4- Comparison of Alternatives (ALT)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>ALT 1</th>
<th>ALT 2</th>
<th>ALT 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acres timber harvest</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9,188</td>
<td>8,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres post-harvest fuels treatment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres prescribed fire</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14,363</td>
<td>9,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles road reconstruction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42.45</td>
<td>42.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles temporary road construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10.19</td>
<td>1.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles danger tree removal along roads</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>As needed</td>
<td>As needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles road decommissioning</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles road haul (summer/winter)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>298.28</td>
<td>295.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: all numbers have been rounded up to 0.00)

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

There are no irreversible and irretrievable commitments to the recreation resource associated with any of the alternatives analyzed. The number, available types and use capacity for developed, dispersed and trail recreation activities would not be changed by the project proposal.

Cumulative Effects Analysis, Recreation

Long-term timeframe: 25-30 years because climate change, unforeseeable future projects, demographic changes, etc. make assumptions beyond this timeframe speculative.

Spatial Boundary: Project Area and the adjacent Phillips Lake Recreation Area. The project activities, including hauling activities, has the most potential of effecting recreation resources within the project area, or in areas influenced by project activities.

Methodology: In order to understand the contribution of past actions to the cumulative effects of the proposed action and alternatives, this analysis relies on current environmental conditions as a proxy for the impacts of past actions. This is because existing conditions reflect the aggregate impact of all prior human actions and natural events that have affected the environment and might contribute to cumulative effects.

This cumulative effects analysis does not attempt to quantify the effects of past human actions by adding up all prior actions on an action-by-action basis. There are several reasons for not taking this approach. First, a catalog and analysis of all past actions would be impractical to compile and unduly
costly to obtain. Current conditions have been impacted by innumerable actions over the last century (and beyond), and trying to isolate the individual actions that continue to have residual impacts would be nearly impossible. Second, providing the details of past actions on an individual basis would not be useful to predict the cumulative effects of the proposed action or alternatives. In fact, focusing on individual actions would be less accurate than looking at existing conditions, because there is limited information on the environmental impacts of individual past actions, and one cannot reasonably identify each and every action over the last century that has contributed to current conditions. Additionally, focusing on the impacts of past human actions risks ignoring the important residual effects of past natural events; which may contribute to cumulative effects just as much as human actions. By looking at current conditions, we are sure to capture all the residual effects of past human actions and natural events, regardless of which particular action or event contributed those effects. Third, public scoping for this project did not identify any public interest or need for detailed information on individual past actions. Finally, the Council on Environmental Quality issued an interpretive memorandum on June 24, 2005 regarding analysis of past actions, which states, “agencies can conduct an adequate cumulative effects analysis by focusing on the current aggregate effects of past actions without delving into the historical details of individual past actions.”

**Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Effects Analysis, Special Uses**

The underground phone line along Forest Road 1145 would have no Direct or Indirect effects. The project would not interfere with the line; any above ground improvements (risers) associated with the line would be avoided and protected. Maintenance of the line is minimal and does not involve ground disturbance. Any future need to replace or repair an existing underground section of the line would be considered construction requiring additional authorization and analysis. No construction has been proposed. With no Direct or Indirect effects, there would be no Cumulative effects.

Vegetative management for the power line 100 foot Right-of-Way is on a 3-10 year maintenance cycle that includes trimming and removing trees and other vegetation to provide clearance and access of facilities, remove hazards, and facilitate low growing plant communities that provide soil stability. These activities are a continuation of management practices for power line maintenance that have been conducted annually since the power line was constructed. The area within the ROW would continue to be managed in the same manner. Hazard tree removal may extend outside the limits of the 100 ROW to meet current clearance requirements. The effects of hazard tree removal would be the same as the Danger Tree removal proposed along haul roads in the project area.

**EFFECTS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES**

**Cumulative Effects**

**Past Projects and Actions**
Past projects and actions which have affected recreation uses include timber harvest, road construction, and recreation uses. Residual effects of past timber harvest influences dispersed recreation activities by displacing some uses (i.e. big game hunters may go to areas with more denser canopy covering, berry pickers may go to areas where plants are more abundant) whereas it may have encouraged other uses (i.e. open areas allow better viewing background scenery). Road construction has had both a positive and negative effect. It has been viewed by some users as increasing access to areas, yet has had a negative affect for non-motorized users who may have previously used an unroaded area. The allowance of cross country travel has affected some non-motorized recreation activities due to sight, sound and emissions of vehicles. The establishment of dispersed camps has provided traditional camp sites by making user created routes to the sites and expanding the ‘camp-able’ area.

Summary of Past Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECREATION</th>
<th>TIMING</th>
<th>PAST ACTION</th>
<th>RESIDUAL EFFECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1960’s to present</td>
<td>Off road vehicle travel</td>
<td>Soil compaction occurs and natural recovery is delayed on closed roads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1940’s to present</td>
<td>Dispersed camping</td>
<td>Soil compaction at sites used during hunting season when ground is usually saturated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of Present Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECREATION</th>
<th>TIMING</th>
<th>PRESENT ACTION</th>
<th>EFFECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Dispersed camping</td>
<td>Soil compaction at sites used during hunting season when ground is usually saturated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Big Game/Upland Bird Hunting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1960’s to present</td>
<td>Off road vehicle travel</td>
<td>Soil compaction occurs and natural recovery is delayed on closed roads. Evidence of user built trails within the area resulting in similar effects as use of closed roads.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECREATION</th>
<th>TIMING</th>
<th>REASONABLY FORESEEABLE</th>
<th>ANTICIPATED EFFECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Next 10 to 15 years</td>
<td>Use and maintenance of dispersed campsites.</td>
<td>Continued soil compaction at campsites. Less fuel loading in immediate area of campsites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Next 10 years</td>
<td>Decreased use on off trail or open riding.</td>
<td>Implementation of the national OHV strategy may reduce cross country travel by OHV’s and prohibit the use of closed roads by motor vehicles. The vehicle use restrictions associated with this implementation would reduce the number of dispersed recreation sites available for use and concentrate camping in other areas, diminishing the opportunity for</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The effects of recreation common to the actions described in the alternatives include localized compaction of soil and loss of vegetation in riparian areas caused by the use of dispersed sites for occupancy (camping), and the potential of localized activity-generated sediment into area streams by vehicle use of native surface roads. This could affect the water quality of streams within the analysis area. However, at the current level of recreation use and the relatively small area of potential disturbance caused by recreation activities occurring in this area, there would not be an increase in effects attributed to recreation.

Other recreationists could feel that hunting success may increase after treatment of the area. The hunting experience would be changed. As ground cover grows, it would provide more forage for big game animals. Hunting may be less desirable until new under-story vegetation is established. Hunters should anticipate a change in game use due to a loss of cover and changes in forage.

As the Project Area changes over time, so may the make-up of visitors and the activities they pursue. Recreationists would have to either adapt to the new situations or seek another area in which to recreate.

**ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION**

**Direct/Indirect Effects**

There would be no direct or indirect effects under Alternative 1 -No Action. Vegetation densities or characteristics would not be modified, and the forest would continue to be influenced by natural processes and limited management actions, such as fire suppression. Since no implementation activities would result under this alternative, no change is anticipated in the number of visitors, frequency or season of use in dispersed recreation activities, developed recreation sites, trails, or permitted uses. Recreational visits within the project area would remain near the same levels as previous years and under this alternative traditional use patterns and recreational opportunities would not be impacted. Hunting, hiking and other dispersed recreation and permitted uses, access and opportunities are expected to remain unchanged.

**EFFECTS COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES 2, and 3**

**Direct/Indirect Effects**

The specific project activities with potential to impact recreation are common to all the proposals in Alternatives 2 and 3. Each Alternative propose different levels of activities but the effects to the public involved in different recreation endeavors common to the area are relatively the same. Alternative 2 and 3 would include four main project activities that would affect recreation:

- **Timber harvest** (i.e. commercial harvest of timber, post harvest noncommercial thinning, and noncommercial thinning)
- **Post-harvest activity fuels treatments** (i.e. grapple pile, hand pile/burn)
- **Prescribed fire** (i.e. post harvest activity fuels treatment and ‘stand alone’ prescribed fire prescriptions)
- **Road and Access activities** (i.e. danger tree removal along open system haul roads, haul roads, temporary road construction, permanent road reconstruction)
A review was made of the project proposal for all action alternatives with the summary of Forest Plan ROS Goals in Table 1, and the Standards and Guidelines in Table 2. The Little Dean project activities are within these Goals, Standards and Guidelines because:

For the Roaded Natural ROS class:

- Timber harvest is allowed within this ROS class and is scheduled as part of the project.
- Visual Quality Objectives (VQO) of ‘retention’ and ‘partial retention’ would be retained as seen from roads and trails. See Scenery Specialist Reports.
- Access generally would be retained on single or double lane dirt/gravel roads.
- Road management objectives would continue to accept or encourage use by dispersed recreationist in highway vehicles.
- No development scale changes are proposed for developed sites or dispersed recreation sites.
- It is anticipated that use densities in people at one time per acre range between 0.04 and 0.25 density includes averaging in developed sites would remain the same.
- There are no proposals related to interpretation.

For the Roaded Modified ROS class:

- Timber harvest is allowed, same as Roaded Natural ROS class.
- Stumps, skid roads, and landings are planned and allowed.
- Road management objectives allow for a complete mix of opportunities.
- Access for recreation and permitted uses is encouraged.
- Roads within the project area would remain under their current management objective levels.
- User established sites would be protected, remain available (except when public safety is a concern), and access to the site would be maintained.

For the Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS class:

- Vegetation management would include timber harvest for the purpose of maintaining a healthy attractive semi-primitive setting. (See Forest Vegetation Specialist Report).
- Harvest units would meet ‘foreground retention’ VQOs. See Scenery Specialist Reports.
- Ground based equipment use would occur on primitive roads during low public use seasons.
- No changes to road management objectives are proposed.
- No development scale changes are proposed for developed sites.
- There are no proposals related to interpretation.

For Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines in MA 1, 3, 3a, 15, 16 and 5:

- The presence of the dispersed camps is recognized as contributing to dispersed recreation in the project area.
- Mitigations such as treatment of slash and harvest material, site cleanup, and notifying the general public of on-going activities would be considered and efforts made to retain the natural character of the dispersed area. See Forest Vegetation, Scenery Resources and Fire/Fuels and Air Quality Specialist Reports.
Prescriptions for timber harvesting, cleanup, site preparation, and thinning would consider the environmental setting that contributes to the attraction of these sites for recreation purposes. The attempt would be made to retain this attractive character during and after treatments.

**Dispersed Recreation** – Dispersed recreation activities would be affected by all four types of project activities mentioned above. In the short term, timber harvest, post-harvest, and prescribed fire activities may restrict user access into a treatment unit due to safety purposes, or users may be discouraged from entering a unit due to the presence of equipment and workers. This may occur in peak summer visitations or during the fall hunting seasons. Downed trees, slash piles, loss of forest-products (i.e. mushrooms, berries), active fire and residual smoke would also discourage visitor use in an area. Noise and other disturbances may affect the quality of the recreation experience for an individual regardless of the proximity to the activity.

A change in natural features or landscape characteristics may elicit different responses in visitors. One attraction to an area may be linked to visitors ‘sense of place’ (Farnum, et al., 2005). A visitor’s sense of place includes attachments to external factors like natural features or landscape characteristics. Important landscape features may consist of large old growth trees and groves, variety of tree species, an open or closed tree canopy, rock formations, water bodies, and natural appearing openings (USDA-FS, 1995). The proposed treatments such as harvesting trees, reducing slash or altering canopy cover would change or remove some of these natural features. In some cases the changing landscape would displace or discourage certain types of dispersed recreational activities (i.e. studying nature, viewing wildlife). In other areas it may encourage new dispersed recreational activities (i.e. big game hunting, photography) not available under the previous landscape.

For Alternatives 2 and 3 there are dispersed camps within harvest units. Depending on when the timing and proximity of the treatment activities occur, campers at these sites may be displaced or have a less quality experience due to noise, equipment activity, and dust. Similar to camps within harvest units campers again may be displaced or have a less quality experience within units scheduled for prescribed fire due to smoke, active fire, and equipment activity.

Direct effects to recreationists accessing the dispersed camps in the project area or other areas would occur on roads during haul periods. The presence of large trucks or an increased frequency of traffic may discourage road use to these sites until the road work subsides. When roads are being constructed/reconstructed visitors may expect delays or closures during work periods. If roads are used for winter haul, they may not be available for access by winter recreationist like cross-skiers which is uncharacteristic in most years due to closure by snow.

Long term effects of harvest and post-harvest treatments would elicit various responses from recreationists. Recreationist seeking more open stands of forest may enjoy increased scenery views, improved cross country skiing or snowmobiling, and some types of big-game hunting and wildlife viewing. Other visitors may view a loss of trees and denser forest as a reduction in opportunities to view natural features and scenery, observe wildlife and take self-discovery hikes. Another long term effect would provide safe and adequate roaded and trail access for the recreating public, through the cutting of danger trees and improving roadside visitor travel. This is also a long term effect for developed recreation and permitted uses.

**Developed Recreation** - Although similar to the effects of dispersed recreation, developed recreation is more limited in Little Dean. Access to developed sites would be delayed or restricted.
during haul periods. The presence of large log trucks and other equipment on haul routes may
discourage users from driving the main access route to developed sites or other associated
activities outside of the developed recreation area. The noise, dust, smoke and equipment activity
during harvest, post-harvest and prescribed fires may affect the quality of the recreation
experience for a visitor regardless of the proximity to the activity. The frequency and intensity of
these activities may vary from a few hours to several weeks. Some loss or change of vistas,
scenery, natural features or wildlife viewing opportunities may result with the vegetation
treatments and prescribed fire activities visible from the developed sites.

**Developed Trails** – Trails #XC 1638 and 1639 are both identified as haul routes. Currently these
routes are Maintenance Level 1 roads that have been designated Cross Country Ski trails in the
winter and utilized as bike routes in the summer. A field survey of the 1639 trail completed in
2014 discovered that a portion of the trail no longer utilizes FSR 2220-300. The rerouted portion
appears to be primarily bike traffic and the original route may still be used by cross country skiers
in the winter. During the time these roads are used for either summer or winter hauls they would
not be available for use. They may also remain in use by full size vehicles during fuel treatment
activities, i.e. hand or grapple piling or burning. When project activities are completed in the
units, these roads would be closed, returned to Maintenance Level 1 status, and available for use
as trails. Modifications to the trail made to facilitate project activities may diminish the recreation
experience. This would eventually return to a more natural appearance over time as vegetation
reestablishes. Snowmobile trails have the potential to be impacted if a designated snowmobile
route is plowed for winter haul. Coordination with the local snowmobile clubs may alleviate the
concern if alternate temporary routes are groomed during the short term.

**Permitted Uses** – All permitted uses are authorized under the term and conditions of a permit
which allow activities not available to a non-permitted user. Most of these uses are intrinsically
tied to road access, and the removal of forest products is dependent upon specific areas or
vegetation. Permitted uses would be affected by all four project activities mentioned above. Like
dispersed recreation, timber harvest, post-harvest, and prescribed fire activities have short term
effects and may restrict or discourage entry into a harvest unit. Depending on the level of
treatment activity, permit users may be displaced to other areas inside or outside Little Dean.
Increased obstacles like downed trees and slash piles, or loss of forest-products (i.e. mushrooms,
berries) would also change harvest patterns. Residual smoke, dust, fire, noise and equipment
activity is also not conducive to a quality recreation experience. The same effects for road use
described in ‘Dispersed Recreation’ is also applicable to this recreation use. If roads are used for
winter haul, they may be available for access by winter recreationist like Christmas tree cutters
who normally do not have access in many roads during the winter due to deep snow packs.
Firewood cutters may find some benefits from roadside ‘salvage’ but may lose opportunities if
firewood is removed from a unit as part of the fuel reduction prescription.

The holders of special use authorizations may experience some conflicts with project related
activities; however this should be minimal if communication and coordination with Permitee is
made when scheduled maintenance occurs at the same time as project activities. Typically, the
only Permitee activity in the area is the annual maintenance of the power line. The only other
Permitee is the underground phone line. There is very little maintenance associated with this use;
therefore no conflict with project activity is anticipated.

Long term effects of harvest and post-harvest treatments would solicit various responses from
permit users. Permit holders like mushroom pickers, would find short term benefits from open,
disturbed mixed-conifer forest stands, whereas berry pickers may view the loss of berry patches
as a negative impact.
The treatment of vegetation in the units adjacent to the power line would benefit this use by removing potential hazards and reducing the risk of fire.

**Compliance with Forest Plan and Other Relevant Laws, Regulations, Policies and Plans**

**Forest Plan Recreation Resource Goal** - The project would meet this goal because the current wide variety of recreation opportunities would still be available to all segments of the public during and after project implementations. The elimination of any recreation opportunity is not part of the project alternatives. All action alternatives would meet the visual quality objectives as directed in the Forest Plan (See Scenery Resource section).

**Desired Future Conditions** - The project would meet the DFCs because wide variety of recreation opportunities would still be available to all segments of the public during and after project implementations. However, there may be changes in the amount and location of some opportunities in the short term due to harvest activities and fuel treatments. Quality semi-primitive motorized opportunities would remain on most of the project area. Trail-related activities would not be affected by the project. Harvest activities and fuel treatments would change the surrounding lands adjacent to some dispersed recreation sites. Fuelwood permits would still be issued under the terms of the permit for areas for many locations within the project area.

**ROS** - The ROS goals would be met for the Roaded Natural/Modified setting because the project involves timber harvest activities with compliance of the Visual Quality Objectives (VQO). (See Scenery Resource report). Road management activities would continue to provide for dispersed recreation. The project does not propose any changes to the dispersed site development levels, developed site user densities, or any interpretation developments. The ROS goals would be met for the Semi-Primitive Motorized setting because the project involves timber harvest activities with compliance of the VQOs (See Scenery Resource section). Motorized harvesting from primitive roads would be conducted during low public use periods. Public access on road and trails would remain with the allowed difficulty range, and road management objectives. The project does not propose any interpretation developments.

**Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines**

**FP #6.** - There are no long-term proposals to decrease winter recreation opportunities. Some short-term opportunities may result with winter time hauling or activities in harvest treatments.

**FP #7.** - Snowmobile trails have the potential to be impacted if a designated snowmobile route is plowed for winter haul. Coordination with the local snowmobile clubs may alleviate the concern if alternate temporary routes are groomed during the short term.

**FP #11.** - No changes are proposed that would modify the ROS classes at the developed sites.

**FP #13.** - There are no outfitter and guides in the project area.

**FP #14.** - Special areas would protected be as part of the harvest activities and fuel treatments.

**FP #15.** - See Transportation System section for a discussion on the Forest Travel Management Plan.

**Forest Plan Management Areas**

**MA1, S&G #17** - Harvest and operational prescriptions would be developed to retain the attractive characteristics of the dispersed sites during and after treatments.

**MA3, S&G #17** – Same as above.

**MA15, S&G #14** - The project does not propose any change to the Roaded Natural ROS class in MA 15 or other parts of the project area.

**MA16, S&G #11** – The project does not propose any change to the Roaded Natural ROS class in MA 16 or other parts of the project area.
Indicators and Summary of Effects

To display the differences between alternatives, indicators have been identified that affect the recreation activities. The qualitative rationale for these analysis indicators are summarized below.

Table 5 – Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Effects Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Acres of Timber Harvest** (commercial harvest of timber, post harvest noncommercial thinning, and noncommercial thinning) | • Restricts/discourages access into harvest units due to closures or work activity  
• Discourages/displaces use due to physical obstacles (i.e. slash), dust and noise  
• Decreases of habitat for forest products (i.e. berries) or increases habitat for forest-products (i.e. mushrooms)  
• Increases localized use by visitors wanting more open stands, and decreases localized use by visitors wanting more closed or untreated stands, and larger trees  
• Loss or change of vistas, scenery, natural features or wildlife viewing opportunities from developed sites  
• Increases roadside safety from hazard tree removal |
| **Acres of Post-harvest Fuels Treatments** (grapple pile, hand pile/burn)  | • Restricts/discourages access into units due to closures or post-harvest activity  
• Discourages/displaces use due to physical obstacles (i.e. slash piles), and noise  
• Decreases habitat for forest products (i.e. berries) and increases habitat for forest-products (i.e. mushrooms)  
• Increases localized use by visitors wanting more open stands, and decreases localized use by visitors wanting more closed or untreated stands, and larger trees  
• Loss or change of vistas, scenery, natural features or wildlife viewing opportunities from developed sites |
| **Acres of Prescribed Fire** (post harvest activity fuels treatment and ‘stand alone’ prescribed fire only) | • Restricts/discourages access into treatment units due to closures or work activity  
• Discourages/displaces use due to active fire or residual smoke  
• Loss or change of vistas, scenery, natural features or wildlife viewing opportunities from developed sites and dispersed areas |
| **Miles of Road Reconstruction** (Deferred maintenance on open/closed roads, road) | • Restricts/discourages access into dispersed area or developed sites due to work activity |
realignment) • Loss of access after temporary roads closed
• Increases roadside safety from hazard tree removal

| Miles of Temporary Road Construction | • Temporarily decreases opportunities for dispersed activities away from motorized uses |
| Miles of Danger Tree Removal along Roads | • Increases visitor safety |
| Miles of Road Decommissioning | • Decreases motor-vehicles use when roads are decommissioned
• Increased opportunities for dispersed activities away from motorized uses |
| Miles summer or winter road haul (for existing roads open to passenger car and high clearance vehicles) | • Discourages access into harvest units, dispersed areas, developed sites
• Eliminates snowmobile use on haul routes
• Increases forest products gathering and winter recreation on typically unplowed routes |

The following table displays the *quantitative differences* in units (acres/miles) for each of the indicators discussed in Table 6.

### Table 6- Comparison of Alternatives (ALT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>ALT 1</th>
<th>ALT 2</th>
<th>ALT 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acres timber harvest</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11,163.9</td>
<td>10,782.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres post-harvest fuels treatment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,056.1</td>
<td>4,516.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres prescribed fire</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,635.1</td>
<td>3,406.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles road reconstruction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>34.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles temporary road construction</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles danger tree removal along roads</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>218.0</td>
<td>213.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles road decommissioning</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles road haul (summer/winter)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>218.0</td>
<td>213.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Note- all numbers have been rounded up to 0.0)*

### Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

There are no irreversible and irretrievable commitments to the recreation resource associated with any of the alternatives analyzed. The number, available types and use capacity for developed, dispersed and trail recreation activities would not be changed by the project proposal.

There are no irreversible and irretrievable commitments to the special use authorization because the current authorizations would still be available during and after project implementations. Such use is
consistent with forestry management objectives and is in the public interest. The elimination of any special use authorization is not part of the project alternatives.

References cited:

- Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 70
- National Recreation Inventory System – National Visitor Use Monitoring, 2008 data (NRIS-NVUM)
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Big Game Regulations