DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR THOMAS L. TIDWELL, CHIEF

THROUGH: Leslie A. C. Weldon
Deputy Chief, NFS

FROM: Tony Tooker
Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination
William Timko
Acting Director, Forest Management

SUBJECT: Emergency Situation Determination, 2013 Barry Point Fire Salvage Project,
Fremont-Winema National Forest

FILE CODE: 1570

ISSUE:

Pacific Northwest Regional Forester letter dated June 17, 2013, requesting an Emergency
Situation Determination (ESD) pursuant to Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 215.10
for the salvage of dead and dying trees on the Fremont-Winema National.

BACKGROUND:

• The lightning-caused Barry Point Fire started on August 6, 2012 on the Fremont-Winema
National Forest and burned approximately 43,134 acres of National Forest System lands.

• The fire created hazard tree conditions along approximately 100 miles of National Forest
System roads. Many fire-killed and damaged trees are predicted to fall over the next several
years.

• The Proposed Action includes removal of hazard trees (estimated 3,000 acres) within one-
and-a-half tree heights on either side of National Forest System roads, and salvage harvest
(estimated 4,500 acres) of fire-killed trees within 1,200 feet of system roads in moderate and
high-mortality burn areas. See the "Request for Emergency Situation Determination"
information document

• Fourteen comments have been received to date: eleven comments are supportive; one is
supportive of the roadside hazard treatment but generally opposed to broader salvage; and
two are strongly opposed to the project.
Thomas L. Tidwell, Chief

- The Barry Point fire burned over 90,000 acres on the Modoc NF and the Fremont-Winema NF. The Barry Point South Salvage Project ESD request was granted on July 3, 2013.
- The Fremont-Winema National Forest will be prepared to implement salvage sales in July 2013, immediately after the Decision Notice is published.
- An Emergency Situation Determination for the Barry Point Fire Salvage Project would avoid an estimated loss to the government of between $340,000 and $2,173,000.

OPTIONS:

- Approve the request for an ESD on the basis of hazards threatening human health and safety, and potential loss of value.
- Disapprove the request for an ESD.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that the Chief grant the ESD as requested by the Forest for the Barry Point Fire Salvage Project based on the following:

- **The project includes the removal of roadside hazard and salvage harvest of fire killed trees.** The fire created hazard tree conditions along approximately 100 miles of National Forest System roads. Many fire-killed and damaged trees are predicted to fall over the next several years. One of the primary purposes of this project is to ensure public safety along National Forest System roads within the burn perimeter. The most cost-effective and efficient means of achieving roadside hazard tree removal is through commercial salvage of dead and dying trees along the road corridors. A salvage project will address public safety concerns and aid in recovering the economic value of burned timber.

- **If the work of removing hazard trees and reducing fuels cannot be accomplished through the use of commercial salvage, it would have to be done through service contracts.** An Emergency Situation Determination for the Barry Point Fire Salvage Project would avoid an estimated loss to the government of between $340,000 and $2,173,000.

DECISION BY THE CHIEF:

Approved by: [Signature]  Date: JUL 3 1 2013

Caring for the Land and Serving People
Thomas L. Tidwell, Chief

Disapprove ____

Discuss with me ____

Reviewed by: ____________________________

cc: Fremont-Winema Forest Supervisor
R6 Director of Natural Resources
R6 Appeals
WO Forest Management

Enclosures