Decision Memo

TRINITY RIDGE FIRE ROADSIDE SALVAGE PROJECT

USDA Forest Service
Idaho City and Mountain Home Ranger Districts
Boise National Forest
Boise and Elmore Counties, Idaho

May 2013
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MY DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Trinity Ridge Fire Roadside Salvage Project. Under my decision 250 acres will be commercially salvaged along roadsides within the nearly 148,000 acre Trinity Ridge Wildfire area on the Mountain Home & Idaho City Ranger Districts (RD) of the Boise National Forest (NF). No other commercial salvage sales are proposed on National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Trinity Ridge Wildfire Area at this time.

Specifically, my decision will:

- Commercially salvage no more than 250 acres of dead and dying trees in patches ranging from 2-20 acres adjacent to Forest Roads 129, 156, 172, 255 and 290 as identified in Figures 5-8. Based on field reconnaissance and GIS assessments completed following the 2012 wildfire, these patches contain the greatest concentrations of dead and dying trees that represent hazards to public use along these roads.

  All dead and dying trees 8 inches dbh or greater will be removed within 150 feet along the portions of Forest Roads identified above, except as required under Design Features #3 and 10 (refer to Attachment A). A dying tree is defined as any tree 8 inch dbh or greater that has 70% or more crown scorch and/or 50% or more of the bole of the tree shows sign of bark beetle attack (USDA FHP 2006; 2012/2013 Silvicultural Diagnosis).

- Harvest activities will be completed with ground based logging systems including off road jammer and tractor skidding.

- Due to the urgent need to reduce hazard trees along road corridors identified as open to public motorized use on the District MVUM map, the salvage sale termination date will be November 30, 2013.

- No new permanent or temporary road construction or reconstruction will be necessary to facilitate harvest.

- Forest Roads 129, 156, 172, 255, and 290 will be used and maintained to facilitate salvage sale operations (contractor access to sites, skidding along roads, log landings, loading logs on trucks, log haul, etc.).

- Forest Highway 82 (Middle Fork Boise River Road) and/or Forest Highway 61 (Pine-Featherville Highway) will be utilized for timber haul activities.

- Public motorized use along segments of Forest Roads 129, 156, 172, 255, and 290 to be salvaged logged will be closed when active logging operations are occurring. These closures are required to avoid or minimize public safety concerns that could result where public use of these roads will conflict with timber sale operations which will occur both adjacent to and on these roads. Once timber sale operations of concern (skidding on roads, loading logs on trucks in some locations, etc.) are complete, the roads will be reopened to public motorized use.

- A combination of whole tree yarding to landings and lop and scatter of activity slash within units would be utilized during harvest activities to meet fuels management objectives. Activity slash lopped, scattered and left on site will contribute to organic input into the burned soils and reduce erosion potential across the area.

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1 All trees 8 inches dbh and greater will be removed in order to provide sufficient wood product material to meet minimum base rate sell values needed to attract potential commercial bidders to accomplish Purpose #1, removal of hazard trees (refer to the Financial analysis in the project record).

2 Removal of dead and dying trees within 150 feet of the road corridor was based on the hazard tree heights identified during 2012/2013 field reconnaissance; the larger hazard trees ranged from 145 to 156 feet tall (refer to project record).
MY DECISION (continued)

- Slash piles remaining at landings will be burned as conditions allow, completing all pile burning within two years following closure of the salvage sale contract.
- This project would provide an estimated 3.0 MMbf$^3$ of wood products to local/regional processing facilities.

Attachment A discloses design features that are included in my decision. These design features will be incorporated during implementation to mitigate effects to resources of concern.

Background

The Trinity Ridge wildfire, a human caused fire, started on August 3, 2012. This fire continued to burn into the early fall of 2012, burning nearly 148,000 acres approximately 40 miles east of Boise, Idaho on the Mountain Home and Idaho City Ranger Districts of the Boise National Forest (Figure 1). The fire burned through a variety of different vegetation types, stand densities and tree size classes. The range of different environmental conditions, along with changing weather through the duration of the fire, created a patchwork of burn intensities. Some places burned extremely hot and suffered high mortality, other areas were impacted less; specifically, burn severity on NFS land was low on 61,119 acres, moderate on 49,315 acres, high on 10,616 acres and approximately 24,678 acres were unburned within the defined fire perimeter (Initial BAER Report, September 2012). The patchwork of burn intensities left standing burned trees throughout the fire area, many of which are adjacent to main, heavily trafficked forest roads. These trees are expected to deteriorate over time and could create hazardous conditions along the roadway for the next several years.

Actions taken in 2012 to address the immediate emergency caused by the wildfire event (e.g. aerial mulch and seed application for watershed protection, removing immediate hazards that may result in infrastructure damage; closing areas due to hazards; etc.)

On October 12, 2012, the WO approved funding to support Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) recommendations$^4$ submitted by the Forest and Region; October 5, 2012 letter from WO to R4 RO “Trinity Ridge Fire, Initial Burned Area Emergency Response Request Approval.” In this letter the approving official states “We agree that risks to human safety, predicted watershed response, and proximity to infrastructure and critical natural resources justify emergency response measures to manage unacceptable risks.” Implementation of this BAER response work was initiated in the fall of 2012 and will be ongoing through the summer of 2013.

High Priority Hazard Tree Removal in 2012

Forest Supervisors have a responsibility for the safe operation and management of roads and must “…to the extent permitted by funding levels, systematically provide for elimination of identified hazards.” (FSM 7733.04c); also refer to guidance at FSM 2330.6a for recreation sites risk assessment information.

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$^3$ This project will be completed with two or more commercial salvage sales. Consistent with delegations of authority identified at FSM 2404.28 (R4 Supplement) Exhibit 01, footnote 2, any individual sale awarded will not exceed 5,000 CCF (i.e. approximately 2.5 MMbf).

$^4$ A value at risk matrix was used during BAER assessments to determine level of risk/likelihood of loss to associated or identified values and to subsequently prescribe treatments consistent with the BAER hierarchy: 1) Natural Recovery (no treatment); 2) Administrative Closures, or 3) Other Measures (treatments). (WO ID2520-2012-1)
Forest Service Handbook (FSH) direction, (7709.59 Chapter 40) contains more specialized guidance pertaining to hazard trees along NFS roads open to public use. FSH 7709.59_41.6 states “Road maintenance includes removing danger trees that threaten safe use of the transportation system.” FSH 7709.59_41.7 provides guidance for hazard identification and correction. This section includes guidance that danger tree hazards along NFS roads should be evaluated section by section and hazard trees prioritized as high, medium, or low based on the risk to road users from potential tree failure.

High-priority hazard trees around recreation and FS administrative sites and along roads open to public use that were likely to directly cause “considerable adverse effects on public safety” (36 CFR 212.52(b)(2)) were addressed as soon as practicable (FSH 7709.15, section 41.7(2)(b)) through wildfire suppression efforts and Agency activities during the fall of 2012. Actions to address these high-priority hazards through the fall of 2012 were not delayed to accommodate commercial removal of trees. Where these hazards could not be addressed due to winter weather in 2012, the road segments were closed until the hazard could be mitigated.

High-priority hazards trees along travel routes and around recreational and administrative sites identified in the fall of 2012 will continue as soon as weather permits in 2013. This work will not be delayed to accommodate commercial removal of hazard trees. This work is being completed under categorical exclusions 36 CFR 220.6(d)(3)(4)(5) (FSH 1909.15, sec. 32.12, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5).

As identified in guidance in FSH 7709.59, section 41.7(2)(c), mitigation of medium to low priority danger tree hazards along NFS roads that are not considered as time critical, should consider utilizing the sale of forest products, including commercial timber sales and land stewardship contracts, to mitigate danger tree hazards along NFS roads. Utilizing commercial salvage sales where practicable
and consistent with Forest Plan resource direction, is important to reducing costs to the government to mitigate hazard trees risks along NFS roads open to public motorized use.

**PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THIS ACTION TO ADDRESS MODERATE TO LOW PRIORITY HAZARD TREES**

The primary purpose of the proposed action is to remove concentrations of hazards trees within 150 feet of the road corridors in order to provide safe travel corridors to forest visitors and Forest Service personnel (Figure 3). These hazard trees were considered low to moderate priority immediately following the wildfire in 2012. Many are expected to become high priority during the summer of 2013 as tree conditions deteriorate.

In addition to the hazard trees, other salvageable dead trees within the proposed hazard tree treatment areas would be removed. Additional harvest in these areas makes the project commercially viable (refer to project record Financial Analysis) and supplies local and regional wood processors.

Specific needs include:

- **There is a need to provide safe travel corridors to forest visitors and Forest Service personnel.** Areas adjacent to many of the roads open to public motorized use within the Trinity Ridge Wildfire area were heavily forested and now have high densities of fire killed trees (refer to Figure 3 and 4). If left standing, these trees pose a risk of striking parked or moving vehicles. There are also risks that fire killed trees may fall when vehicles are not present, potentially blocking individuals behind or between trees across the roadway. Commercial harvest of the fire killed trees from the highest trafficked roads and in areas with the highest densities of hazard trees would proactively mitigate much of these risks, substantially reducing the time and energy that would otherwise be needed for Forest Service personnel or service contractors to remove hazard trees that have fallen.

- **There is a need to contribute raw materials to local and regional wood processing facilities.** Approximately 70% of the total lands within Elmore County are federally owned. Local businesses rely on a predictable supply of goods and services, including timber and recreation access, from these lands. Raw materials harvested from federal lands contribute to the overall economies and sense of wellbeing of rural Idaho communities.

The proposed action responds to the above needs as well as to the following objectives identified in the Boise National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended in 2010.

- **FROB03** – Identify safety hazards on Forest classified roads, establish improvement priorities, correct or mitigate the hazard.
- **TROB02** – On a decadal basis, make available an estimated 282 million board feet of timber which will contribute to Allowable Sale Quantity.
- **SEOB01** – Provide a predictable supply of Forest goods and services within sustainable limits of the ecosystem that help meet public demand.

**Project Location**

The project area is located about forty miles east of Boise, Idaho in Elmore County (Figures 1 and 2) and, as identified above, includes patches of low to moderate hazard trees along Forest Service Roads 129, 156, 172, 255 and a portion of 290 (refer to Figures 2 and 5-8 at the end of this document).

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5 Treatments within a 150 feet of the road corridor were based on the hazard tree heights identified during 2012/2013 field reconnaissance; the larger hazard trees ranged from 145 to 156 feet tall (project record, Field Reconnaissance summaries).
Figure 2 – Trinity Ridge Fire Roadside Salvage Project Area
Figures 3 and 4: Examples of concentrated hazard trees along NFS roads open to public use within the 2012 Trinity Ridge Wildfire Area.
REASONS FOR CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDING THIS ACTION

The Chief of the Forest Service has identified specific actions that may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA) if there are no extraordinary circumstances.

**Category Applicability:** I have determined that my decision fits the category described under 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(13).

“Salvage of dead and/or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than ½ mile of temporary road construction. The proposed action may include incidental removal of live or dead trees for landings, skid trails, and road clearing”.

**Extraordinary Circumstances:** 36 CFR 220.6(b)(2) discloses that the mere presence of an extraordinary circumstance does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. It is (1) the existence of a cause-effect relationship between a proposed action and the potential effect on these resource conditions and (2) if such a relationship exists, the degree of the potential effect of a proposed action on these resource conditions that determines whether extraordinary circumstances exist. 36 CFR 220.6(b)(1) discusses the seven resource conditions that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action warrant further analysis and documentation in an EIS or EA. A summary of the effects of my decision on these resource conditions is provided below, with detailed information contained in the project planning record. Based upon these findings, and public involvement efforts discussed below, I have determined that no extraordinary circumstances are associated with my decision.

RESOURCE CONDITIONS CONSIDERED

1. Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.

**WILDLIFE Species:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provides the Forest with a list of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species to consider in project planning (USFWS 2013). One threatened wildlife species, Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) was considered in this assessment (USFWS 2010a). In addition, potential for effects to one wildlife proposed species---wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), and one wildlife candidate species—yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)—were assessed. The wildlife biological assessment (BA) prepared for this project indicates that implementation of the proposed action will have “No Effect” on Canada lynx, is not likely to jeopardize wolverine, and will “Not Impact” yellow-billed cuckoo (refer to project record Biological Assessment (BA) and Biological Evaluation (BE)).

In addition, 17 Intermountain Region sensitive wildlife species were assessed. Of these species, a determination of No Impact was made for 13 species and a may impact individuals but is not likely to cause a trend to federal listing or loss of viability for the species or its associated habitat was made for 4 species; white-headed woodpecker, three-toed woodpecker, flammulated owl and Great Gray owl.

**FISH Species:** Occupied and unoccupied bull trout critical habitat exists within the Trinity Ridge Wildfire area. However, no Effect will occur to bull trout or bull trout critical habitat as a result of implementing my decision. No harvest activities will occur within RCAs or within 600 feet of critical habitat. Harvest activities along existing roads outside RCAs and over 600 feet from critical habitat do not have the potential to impact bull trout individuals or critical habitat

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Constituent Elements (LWD, sediment, etc). Road maintenance and dust abatement activities will occur as needed to maintain current road maintenance level standards, and will not result in additional effects that would extend beyond the existing road prism (see discussion under resource condition #2 below). Drafting sites will be designated by the District Fish Biologist or hydrologist and will not occur within occupied or unoccupied bull trout critical habitat. Where practicable\(^6\), drafting sites will be designated above known fish culvert barriers on streams that do not fall within occupied or unoccupied bull trout critical habitat. Please see the project Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation in the project record.

**PLANT Species:** With the exception of whitebark pine, there are no known rare plant occurrences within the Trinity Ridge Salvage project area. Potential rare plant habitat is present. While there may be impacts to whitebark pine and potential habitat as a result of implementing my decision, design features will minimize the effects. No extraordinary circumstances have been identified in regards to the whitebark pine or rare plant species tracked by the Boise NF and salvage units within the Trinity Fire boundaries.

Refer to the Biological Evaluations and Biological Assessments in the project record for detailed assessments and rationale for these ESA and Sensitive wildlife, fish and plant species determinations.

2. **Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds**

   No activities will occur within regulated municipal watersheds, so there will be no effect to municipal watersheds. IDEQ identifies the nearest municipal watershed is upstream of the project area and approximately 16 air miles away (Atlanta Water Association).

   RCAs for this project, which include wetlands and floodplains, were delineated using Option 1 as described in the Boise National Forest Land and Resource, Appendix B. Perennial Streams = 300 feet and Intermittent Streams = 150 feet (Design Feature #1). No activities would occur within RCAs except road maintenance and activities associated with road maintenance as identified in Design Features #17 and 18. No fuel or other toxicants will be stored within RCAs, nor with refueling of any equipment be allowed in RCAs (Design Feature #2). Many streams within the treatment areas are also considered ephemeral draws which have no defined stream bed and bank (refer to Water Resources map in the project file). As a result of these activity restrictions and application of design features, no effect is anticipated to floodplains and wetlands.

3. **Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas**

   The project is not situated near, nor does it contain any Congressionally designated areas. Therefore, there would be no effect to Congressionally designated areas with implementation of this project. Forest wilderness, recommended wilderness, wild and scenic rivers GIS files and project boundary GIS file used to support this conclusion, refer to project record.

4. **Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas**

   Inventoried Roadless Areas are adjacent to portions of the project area, however, none of these IRAs are within the proposed 250 acres of salvage units. No harvest activities will occur within IRAs, therefore, there would be no effect to IRAs with the implementation of this project. Forest IRA GIS file and project/proposed unit boundary GIS files were used to support this conclusion, refer to project record.

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\(^6\) The term practicable means available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purpose. USDI EPA 2003.
5. **Research Natural Areas**

The project does not contain any Research Natural Areas. Therefore, there would be no effect to RNAs with implementation of this project. Forest RNA GIS file and project boundary GIS file used to support this conclusion, refer to project record.

6. **American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites**

Regular notification and, as requested, consultation with potentially affected tribes has occurred throughout the planning process for this project. The tribal notification and subsequent consultation processes completed have not identified any adverse effects to tribal interests or rights associated with this project, including to American Indian religious or cultural sites.

7. **Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas**

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their activities and programs on historic properties. Federal activities and programs are defined as “undertakings” by the 36 CFR 800 regulations implementing NHPA Section 106. Historic properties are significant cultural resources that are included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Forest Archeologist determined that activities implemented under my decision, including design features #7 and #8, will have no effect to historic properties. The Forest prepared cultural resource reports (BS-276 and 10-EL-0336) and submitted them to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The Idaho SHPO concurred with this determination on April 27, 2013 (refer to Cultural Resources Technical Report).

**Public and other Federal, State, Local and Tribal Government Involvement:** During the wildfire event in August through October 2012, multiple public meetings were held in communities potentially affected. Discussions with other Federal, state and local officials were also ongoing during the event.

Following containment of the wildfire in October 2012, field reviews were conducted with industry representatives to determine interest in opportunities for commercial salvage to treat hazard trees. On December 24, 2012 the legal notice for a concurrent scoping and 30-day notice and comment period was published and documents sent out to interested stakeholders including individuals, conservation organizations, industry representatives, and other federal and State and Local government officials. The comment period ended on January 23, 2013.

In response to this notification, 6 formal responses were received from Mr. Dick Artley, the Idaho Conservation League (ICL), Boise County Commissioners, industry representatives with Evergreen Forest Products and Boise Cascade LLC, and the American Forests Resource Council (AFRC). Agency responses to these comments have been posted on the project website:

http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=40991

Additional informal discussions have occurred throughout the analysis process with individuals and groups who commented during the 30-day notice and comment period, as well as other federal, state and local government officials, including County Commissioners of associated counties and the Mountain Home Highway District.

Formal and informal consultation with local Native American Indian tribes has also occurred. The proposed roadside salvage project was presented to the Shoshone-Bannock tribes in November 2012 at a semi-annual informal consultation meeting in Boise and also presented to the Shoshone-Paiute tribes in both October and December 2012 at formal Wings and Roots consultation meetings.
Notification of Interested Parties of the Request for an Emergency Situation Determination (ESD):
Parties responding to involvement outreaches discussed above were informed in March and April of
the Forest’s and Region’s request to the Chief of the Forest Service for an ESD which was approved
on April 5, 2013 (refer to project record). As discussed with parties, approval of an ESD allows me
to award salvage sales resulting from this decision during the 105 day appeal period stay (36 CFR
215.10); currently it is anticipated that sales will be awarded in June 2013. Without an ESD, sales
could not be awarded until the end of the appeal period, potentially as late as late-July to early
August 2013. Based on assessments completed, by mid- to late-July log degradation would begin to
occur due to blue staining and weather checking, with substantially deterioration expect by August.
This product deterioration would put the project at risk of not being accomplished because
prospective bidders may no longer be interested.

The consequence, should hazard trees not be removed through a commercial salvage sale, would be
that road corridors with moderate and/or high priority hazard trees would need to be closed until
hazards were removed through subsequent service contracts. The additional cost of a service contract
to remove hazard trees within the project area would represent a loss of economic value to the
Government estimated to be as high as $347,765.00. This estimate was calculated using the felling,
bucking, and skidding costs to remove the same material proposed for removal through the use of the
commercial salvage sale. Securing the funds to support service contracts would also likely take
longer than accomplishing the project through commercial salvage sales, thereby prolonging road
closures and disrupting access interests and needs into the area.

The ESD approval letter is posted on the project website:
http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=40991

Other Information Considered in Determination of Extraordinary Circumstances: In addition
to the above, I have considered other elements of the analysis in my determination that there are no
extraordinary circumstances, as defined by NEPA, or other adverse effects associated with this
project that would necessitate documentation in an EIS or EA. I have also considered the potential
for cumulative effects and arrived at the conclusion that without notable direct or indirect effects,
there will be no cumulative effects. My conclusion is based on (1) the short duration of the project,
(2) comments received during scoping, and (3) the minimal environmental effects expected as a
result of my decision discussed above, as well as in the following section, “Findings Required by
Law.”

Findings Required by Law

National Forest Management Act (NFMA)

Forest Plan Consistency
NFMA requires that projects and activities be consistent with the governing Forest Plan (16 USC
1604 (i)). The IDT initially evaluated existing resource conditions within the Trinity Ridge Fire
Roadside Salvage area for vegetation, watershed, fisheries, wildlife, recreation, range, transportation,
and fuel resources, in relation to the desired conditions for these resources established in the Forest
Plan, with specific focus on public health and safety concerns caused by the extensive number of
hazard trees adjacent to roads identified as open to public motorized use on the District MVUM map
(2013). The Purpose and Need and resulting Proposed Action were developed in response to this
evaluation.
Based on all the evidence in the project record including the ESD request and approval discussed above, I have determined that the actions to be implemented under my decision are consistent with the goals, objectives, standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan, as amended in 2010 (Forest Plan Consistency Table available in the Project Record). This includes waiving application of Forest Plan standards 0262 and 0647 (Forest Plan, Pages III-119 and 176, footnote #4), as allowed under the Forest Plan, to reasonably address human health and safety concerns resulting from roadside hazard trees.

**Diversity**
The National Forest Management Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to specify “guidelines for land management plans developed to achieve the goals of the Program which provide for diversity of plant and animal communities based on the suitability and capability of the specific land area in order to meet overall multiple-use objectives.” 16 U.S.C. § 1604(g)(3)(B).

Because of the complexity and dynamic nature of the ecosystems managed by the Forest, there are no precise standards or techniques that guarantee planning will provide for sustainability and diversity of plant and animal species. The Committee of Scientists that advised the Forest Service on the 1982 NFMA regulations stated, "it is impossible to write specific regulations to 'provide for' diversity" and "there remains a great deal of room for honest debate on the translation of policy into management planning requirements and into management programs" (44 Fed. Reg. 26,600-01 and 26,608).

Moreover, the dynamic relationship between habitat conditions and species persistence is not yet well understood for many species. Data on climatic conditions, geologic events, and other non-habitat factors is limited, and our understanding of complex relationships is also limited, such that a reliable model of the impacts of these factors is not available. Therefore, for most species my decision relies primarily on the judgments of experts regarding the projected effects to habitat and to individuals resulting from the alternatives over time. I believe this assessment method is reasonable and scientifically based and is consistent with those completed in support of the 2010 Forest Plan amendments. The 2010 Forest Plan amendments, which incorporated a wildlife conservation strategy, included a set of assumptions and analysis methodology. These were evaluated through a science consistency review (2010 FEIS, section 3.2.1.1) and provide the foundation from which the effects of this project can be related to those at the planning unit scale.

In making a determination of compliance with the NFMA, I considered existing or reasonably foreseeable conservation measures, including consistency with the Idaho State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (IDFG 2005). In accordance with the theme of ecosystem management, I placed reasonable reliance upon assessments of (1) species with habitat needs that are roughly the same; (2) a group of species generally thought to perform the same or similar ecosystem functions; and/or (3) the continued integrity and function of ecosystem(s) in which a species is found (project BA/BE; Nutt et al. 2010a).

I find that this decision satisfies the diversity requirements of the NFMA and its implementing regulations because it will implement the 2010 Forest Plan strategy which was designed to provide an amount and distribution of habitat adequate to support the continued persistence of vertebrate wildlife species in the planning area (2010 Forest Plan ROD and FEIS). I have based my determination on all the evidence contained in the project record.

**Timber Management**

1. **Suitability for Timber Production:** No timber harvest, other than salvage sales or sales to protect other multiple-use values, shall occur on lands not suited for timber production (16 USC 1604(k))— Areas proposed for commercial harvest under the proposed action fall within Forest
Plan Management Prescription Category (MPC) 5.1. All lands identified for commercial salvage under my decision have been determined to be suited for timber production (see Silvicultural Diagnosis located in the Project Record).

2. Timber Harvest on NFS Lands (16 USC 1604(g)(3)(E)): A Responsible Official may authorize site-specific projects and activities to harvest timber on NFS lands only where:

   a. Soil, slope, or other watershed conditions will not be irreversibly damaged (16 USC 1604(g)(3)(E)(i))—All areas to be treated under this decision, with application of Design Features, are consistent with this requirement (project record soils/hydrology tech report).

   b. There is assurance that the lands can be adequately restocked within five years after final regeneration harvest (16 USC 1604(g)(3)(E)(ii))—No regeneration harvest is proposed; see the description of the proposed action above. The need for regeneration is a result of the wildfire, not the proposed salvage sale activity.

   c. Protection is provided for streams, streambanks, shorelines, lakes, wetlands, and other bodies of water from detrimental changes in water temperatures, blockages of water courses, and deposits of sediment, where harvests are likely to seriously and adversely affect water conditions or fish habitat (16 USC 1604(g)(3)(E)(iii))—Proposed activities, with application of design features, minimize or avoid impacts to water conditions and fish habitat (see Hydrology/Fisheries specialists’ BE/BA in the Project Record).

   d. The harvesting system to be used is not selected primarily because it will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output of timber (16 USC 1604(g)(3)(E)(iv))—The harvest system chosen was based on that which best accomplished the hazard tree removal objectives for which output of timber will be an outcome of these efforts (Purpose and Need #1 and #2).

3. Clearcutting and Even-aged Management (16 USC 1604(g)(3)(F)): Ensure that clearcutting, seed tree cutting, shelterwood cutting, and other cuts designed to regenerate an even-aged stand of timber will be used as a cutting method on NFS lands only where:

   a. For clearcutting, it is determined to be the optimum method, and for other such cuts it is determined to be appropriate, to meet the objectives and requirements of the relevant land management plan (16 USC 1604(g)(3)(F)(i))—No even-aged management clearcuts are proposed for this project (see the description of the proposed action above). The Responsible Official has determined that the proposed salvage sale treatments are appropriate to meet the objectives and requirements in the Forest Plan and Agency policy cited above (FSM & FSH).

   b. The interdisciplinary review as determined by the Secretary has been completed and the potential environmental, biological, esthetic, engineering, and economic impacts on each advertised sale area have been assessed, as well as the consistency of the sale with the multiple use of the general area (16 USC 1604(g)(3)(F)(ii))—The potential environmental and biological, esthetic, engineering and economic impacts of areas to be treated have been assessed and are included in specialist reports located in the project record. The Responsible Official has determined that the project is consistent with the multiple use objectives for this area identified in the 2010 Forest Plan (refer to the Forest Plan Consistency Table available in the Project Record).

   c. Cut blocks, patches, or strips are shaped and blended to the extent practicable with the natural terrain (16 USC 1604(g)(3)(F)(iii))—Treatments have been designed to minimize impacts to visual qualities to the extent practicable while still meeting hazard tree removal needs. The fact that the cut blocks are not continuous along the entire length of a road corridor, but broken into multiple units ranging from 2-11 acres in size (refer to Figures 5-8), provides irregularity in shape that will blend with openings and forests remaining following the 2012 Trinity Ridge wildfire.
d. Cuts are carried out according to the maximum size limit requirements for areas to be cut during one harvest operation, provided, that such limits shall not apply to the size of areas harvested as a result of natural catastrophic conditions such as fire, insect and disease attack, or windstorm (FSM R1 supplement 2400-2001-2 2471.1, 16 USC 1604(g)(3)(F)(iv))—All treatments meet 2010 Forest Plan standard requirements (i.e., TRST02 and TRST03) for maximum size openings (see Forest Plan Consistency Table available in the Project Record).

e. Such cuts are carried out in a manner consistent with the protection of soil, watershed, fish, wildlife, recreation, and esthetic resources, and the regeneration of the timber resource (16 USC 1604(g)(3)(F)(v))—As discussed above, activities to implemented are consistent with 2010 Forest Plan requirements for protection of soil, watershed, fish, wildlife, recreation, and esthetic resources, and the regeneration of the timber resource. Also refer to findings documented in the Forest Plan Consistency Table (available in the Project Record).

4. Stands of trees are harvested according to requirements for culmination of mean annual increment of growth (16 USC 1604(m)). This requirement applies only to final regeneration harvest of even-aged stands on lands identified as suitable for timber production and where timber production is the primary purpose for the harvest. The proposed action does not propose final regeneration harvest of even-aged managed stands on any lands, including those identified as suitable for timber production and where timber production is the primary purpose for the harvest. Refer to description of the proposed action.

5. Construction of temporary roadways in connection with timber contracts, and other permits or leases: Unless the necessity for a permanent road is set forth in the forest development road system plan, any road constructed on land of the NFS in connection with a timber contract or other permit or lease shall be designed with the goal of reestablishing vegetative cover on the roadway and areas where the vegetative cover has been disturbed by the construction of the road, within ten years after the termination of the contract, permit, or lease either through artificial or natural means. Such action shall be taken unless it is later determined that the road is needed for use as a part of the National Forest Transportation System (16 USC 1608(b))—The proposed action does not propose construction of temporary roadways in connection with timber contracts (refer to description of the proposed action).

6. Standards of roadway construction: Roads constructed on NFS lands shall be designed to standards appropriate for the intended uses, considering safety, cost of transportation, and impacts on land and resources (16 USC 1608(c))—The proposed action does not propose construction of any new roadways in connection with timber contracts (refer to description of the proposed action).

Consistency with other Laws, Regulation and Executive Orders

Clean Air Act

Using prescribed fire to burn landing slash, dust, and vehicle emissions will temporarily degrade air quality in the immediate vicinity of the Project area. However, within the constraints of associated design features (refer to design features above), implementation of the action will not noticeably affect air quality in the vicinity of any sensitive areas, population centers, or in any Class I Areas.

Clean Water Act (Federal Water Pollution Control Act)

The objective of the Clean Water Act is to “...restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.” One of the Act’s goals is to “...provide for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife” and provide for “...recreation in and on the water” (33 U.S.C. 466 et seq., Title I, Section 101).
The proposed action is consistent with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its amendments. Refer to the clean water act checklist in the project record.

**Endangered Species Act (ESA)**

The ESA creates an affirmative obligation “…that all Federal departments and agencies shall seek to conserve endangered and threatened (and proposed) species” of fish, wildlife, and plants. This obligation is further clarified in a National Interagency Memorandum of Agreement (dated August 30, 2000) which states our shared mission to “…enhance conservation of imperiled species while delivering appropriate goods and services provided by the lands and resources.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provides the Forest with a list of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species to consider in project planning (USFWS 2013). One threatened wildlife species, Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) and one threatened fish species, bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), were considered in this assessment (USFWS 2010a). In addition, potential for effects to one wildlife proposed species—wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), and one wildlife candidate species—yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)—were assessed. The wildlife biological assessment (BA) prepared for this project indicates that implementation of the proposed action will have “No Effect” on Canada lynx, is not likely to jeopardize wolverine, and will “Not Impact” yellow-billed cuckoo (refer to project record BA and Biological Evaluation (BE)).

The fisheries BA prepared for this project determined that the proposed action will have a “No Effect” on bull trout and the associated designated critical habitat (refer to BA in the Project Record). No threatened, endangered or proposed plant species have habitat within the Trinity Ridge Fire Roadside Salvage project area. However, there is one candidate plant species, whitebark pine, listed for Boise and Elmore counties, Idaho (USFWS 2013). The plant BE prepared for this project indicated that implementation of the proposed action, with design features, may impact individuals but will not likely contribute to a trend toward Federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species (refer BE and Botany Specialist Report in the Project Record).

**Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management**

Implementation of the proposed action is consistent with EO 11988. It was determined that it will not impact floodplains in the Project area and thereby will not increase flood hazard (refer Clean Water Act check list and associated maps in the project record). Soil, water, riparian and aquatic (SWRA) resource standards and guidelines in the 2010 Forest Plan were specifically designed to ensure that management actions implementing the Forest Plan, such as this one, will avoid or minimize short- and long-term impacts to floodplain as required under this executive order. Determinations of consistency with Forest Plan standards and guidelines are specifically addressed in the Forest Plan Consistency Table in the project record. Design features #1, #2, #11, #12, #13, #17, #18 and #20 were specifically developed, in part, to avoid or minimize effects to floodplains as required under this EO.

**Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands**

Implementation of the proposed action is consistent with EO 11990. It was determined that it will not impact wetlands in the Project area (refer Clean Water Act check list and associated maps in the project record). Soil, water, riparian and aquatic (SWRA) resource standards and guidelines in the 2010 Forest Plan were specifically designed to ensure that management actions implementing the Forest Plan, such as this one, will avoid or minimize short- and long-term impacts to wetlands as required under this executive order. Determinations of consistency with Forest Plan standards and
guidelines are specifically addressed in the Forest Plan Consistency Table in the project record. Design features #1, #2, #11, #12, #13, #17, #18 and #20 were specifically developed, in part, to avoid or minimize effects to wetlands as required under this EO.

**Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)**

Executive Order 12898 (59 Fed. Register 7629, 1994) directs Federal agencies to identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.

Implementation of the proposed action will comply with Executive Order 12898. The proposed action was assessed to determine whether they will have disproportionately high and adverse human health, including social and economic effects, on minority or low-income human populations. No such effects were identified.

**Executive Order 13112 - Invasive Species**

Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species directs that Federal agencies should not authorize any activities that will increase the spread of invasive species. The Forest Plan requires that integrated pest management methods be used to contain and control the spread of invasive species, following the R-4 Forest Service Handbook (FSH 2080). These procedures will be implemented under the proposed; refer to Design Feature #5 and #14.

**Executive Order 13175 - Consultation with Tribal Governments**

Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249-67252, 2000) requires regular and meaningful consultation between federal and tribal government officials on federal policies that have tribal implications.

As described under resource condition concerning American Indian Religious or Cultural site, regular notification and, as requested, consultation with potentially affected tribes has occurred throughout the planning process for this project. The tribal notification and subsequent consultation processes completed have not identified any adverse effects to tribal interests or rights associated with this project (refer to project record).

**Idaho Forest Practices Act**

Rules pertaining to the Idaho Forest Practices Act will be implemented as part of the proposed action. In addition, logging operations and road maintenance activities will be administered on the ground by Forest Service personnel to ensure compliance with any contract requirements associated with requirements under the Idaho Forest Practices Act. (refer to the proposed action description and Design Features)

**Inventoried Roadless Areas and Idaho Roadless Rule**

Implementation of the proposed action would be consistent with the Idaho Roadless Rule. In October 2008, the USDA adopted a state-specific, final rule establishing management direction for designating roadless areas in Idaho (36 CFR §294; 73 Federal Register 61456-61496). The final rule designates 250 Idaho Roadless Areas and establishes 5 management themes that provide prohibitions with exceptions or conditioned permissions governing road construction, timber cutting, and discretionary mineral development. The proposed action does not propose any activities within an Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) or Idaho Roadless Area (refer to project record maps).
Migratory Bird Treaty Act/Executive Order 13186

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects all migratory birds and their parts (including eggs, nests, and feathers) from “take”. Take is defined in the MBTA to include by any means or in any manner, any attempt at hunting, pursuing, wounding, killing, possessing, or transporting any migratory bird, nest, egg, or part thereof. A migratory bird is any species or family of birds that live, reproduce, or migrate within or across international borders at some point during their annual life cycle. Under the MBTA, taking, killing, or possessing migratory birds is unlawful. The original intent was to put an end to the commercial trade in birds and their feathers that had wreaked havoc on the populations of many native bird species. On January 10, 2001, President William Clinton signed Executive Order (EO) 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, directing executive departments and agencies to take certain actions to further implement the MBTA. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act affords additional protection to all bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*)

The Forest Service and USFWS have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to promote the conservation of migratory birds as a direct response to EO 13186 (Forest Service and USFWS 2008). One of the steps outlined for the Forest Service is applicable to this analysis, “Within the NEPA process, evaluate the effects of agency actions on migratory birds, focusing first on species of management concern along with their priority habitats and key risk factors.” The Forest Service additionally agreed, to the extent practicable, to evaluate and balance benefits against adverse effects, pursue opportunities to restore or enhance migratory bird habitat, and consider approaches for minimizing take that is incidental to otherwise lawful activities.

Implementation of the proposed action will comply with the MBTA but may result in an “unintentional take” of individuals during proposed activities. However the project complies with the USFWS Director’s Order No. 131 related to the applicability of the MBTA to federal agencies and requirements for permits for “take”. In addition, this project complies with EO 13186 because the analysis meets Agency obligations as defined under the 2008, MOU between the Forest Service and USFWS designed to complement EO 13186. If new requirements or direction result from subsequent interagency MOUs pursuant to EO 13186, this project will be reevaluated to ensure that it is consistent. Refer to Wildlife Technical Report in the Project Record.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The Chief of the Forest Service has identified specific actions that may be categorical excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). As disclosed earlier, the proposed action fits one of the categorical exclusion categories (36 CFR 220.6 (e)(13)) and resource conditions related to the proposed action would not result in extraordinary circumstances that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or in an EIS (36 CFR 220.6 (b)).

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their activities and programs on historic properties. Federal activities and programs are defined as “undertakings” by the 36 CFR 800 regulations implementing NHPA Section 106. Historic properties are significant cultural resources that are included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Forest Archeologist determined that activities implemented under the proposed action will have no effect to historic properties based on implementation of design features #7 and #8. The Forest prepared cultural resource reports (BS-276 and 10-EL-0336) and submitted
them to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The Idaho SHPO concurred with this determination on April 27, 2013 (refer to Cultural Resources Technical Report).

**Prime Farmland, Rangeland and Forest Land**

No prime farmlands, rangelands, or forest lands are located on the Forest (Forest Service 2003b, p. 3-979). Therefore, no effects to prime farmland, rangeland, or forest lands will occur with the implementation of any of the action alternatives.

**Other Disclosures and Policies**

No Research Natural Areas (RNAs), Wild and Scenic Rivers, protected caves, or parklands are located within the Project area and, consequently, no effects to any of these resources will occur (refer to project record maps).

The existing body of national guidance and direction for managing National Forests remains in effect. The Forest Plan as amended in 2010 contributes to the Forest Service Strategic Plan for FY 2007-2012 (GPRA, 2007). This project implements the Forest Plan and therefore also contributes to the Forest Service Strategic Plan goals.

**Consultation with Other Federal or State Agency or Local Government**

Contact, review, and involvement with other federal and state agencies indicate no major conflicts between the activities to be implemented under this decision and the goals and objectives of other federal, State, or local governmental entities. Project record documents summarize the involvement that has occurred with other Federal, State Agency and Local Governments.

**Best Available Science**

The conclusions summarized in this CE review document are based on all the records and evidence found in the Project Record, which considers relevant scientific information and responsible opposing views, where raised by internal or external sources, and the acknowledgement of incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, and/or risk, where pertinent to the action proposed. It also considers information in the FEIS and Technical Reports supporting the 2010 Forest Plan amendments.

**Administrative Review and Appeal Opportunities**

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215. Only individuals or organizations who submitted comments or otherwise expressed interest in the project during the official 30-day notice and comment period may appeal. Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14.

Appeals, including attachments, must be in writing, fully consistent with 36 CFR 215.14, and must be postmarked or received by the Appeal Deciding Officer within 45 days of the publication of the legal notice of this decision in Idaho Statesman, the newspaper of record, Boise, Idaho. This legal notice publication date in the Idaho Statesman is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to file an appeal of this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

The Appeal Deciding Officer is the Forest Supervisor of the Boise National Forest. Appeals must be sent to: Appeal Deciding Officer, Intermountain Region USFS, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401; or by fax to 801-625-5277; or by email to: appeals-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Electronic emailed appeals must be submitted in pdf, rich text (rtf) or Word (.doc or .docx) and must include the...
Trinity Ridge Fire Roadside Salvage Project

project name in the subject line. Appeals may also be hand delivered to the above address, during regular business hours of 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The appeal must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic appeals. Names and addresses of appellants will become part of the public record.

Implementation

On February 22, 2013 the Intermountain Regional Forester requested an Emergency Situation Determination (ESD) pursuant to Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 215.10 for the salvage of dead and dying trees associated with the Trinity Ridge Fire Roadside Salvage Project. On April 5, 2013 the Chief of the Forest Service approved the ESD determination. Consistent with 36 CFR 215.10, implementation of project activities may begin immediately after publication of this legal notice in the paper of record, the Idaho Statesman, Boise, Idaho. This includes awarding the salvage sale contracts and proceeding with the schedule of work to remove the dead and dying trees within the areas authorized under this Decision Memo.

For further information contact Josh Newman at the Mountain Home Ranger District, 2180 American Legion Boulevard, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647, or telephone (208) 587-7961, extension 7165. Electronic copies of this decision may be obtained from the project website:  http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=40991

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Stephaney M. Church

DATE

STEPHANEY M. CHURCH
District Ranger
Mountain Home Ranger District
Intermountain Region

May 3, 2013
Figure 5 – Trinity Ridge Fire Roadside Salvage Units (FSR 129; 90 acres)
Figure 6 – Trinity Ridge Fire Roadside Salvage Units (FSR 156; 43 acres)
Figure 7 – Trinity Ridge Fire Roadside Salvage Units (FSR 172; 26 acres)
Figure 8 – Trinity Ridge Fire Roadside Salvage Units (FSR 255 & 290; 91 acres)
ATTACHMENT A

Project Design Features/Mitigations

1. No activities shall occur within Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) except as specified under Design Features #17 and 18. RCAs for this project have been delineated using Option 1 as defined in the 2010 Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 2010a, Appendix B, p. B-32 and 33) for forested streams:
   a. Perennial Streams = 300-foot slope distance from the ordinary high water mark.
   b. Intermittent Streams = 150-foot slope distance from the ordinary high water mark.

2. No fuel or other toxicants shall be stored in RCAs. Refueling or servicing of vehicles or equipment shall not occur within RCAs. All equipment used in support of timber sale operations shall be in good repair and free of leakage of lubricants, fuels, coolants, and hydraulic fluid. The Timber Sale Contract Administrator (TSA) shall regularly inspect all logging operations to ensure these requirements are met.

3. Ponderosa pine trees meeting the legacy tree definition (dead or alive), all whitebark pine (dead or alive) and all aspen (dead or alive) identified within proposed salvage areas, shall be marked and avoided during implementation of project activities. However, if the TSA determines any of these trees to be a safety hazard to the public (Purpose #1) or timber sale operator (OSHA), they shall be felled and left on site unless trees felled represent a hazard of rolling into the road (i.e. trees felled on uphill slopes will be individually evaluated as to this hazard).

4. Landing slash piles may be available for firewood opportunities to the public until they are burned. Landing slash material left at landing sites would be burned as conditions allow. A burn plan would be prepared and pile burning activities would be coordinated with the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group, as needed, to meet air quality requirements.

5. To avoid or reduce the introduction of weed seeds and propagates, the Timber Sale contract shall include provisions to ensure appropriate off-road equipment is cleaned. All contractors and/or purchaser of any timber sale shall be required to ensure that, prior to moving onto the sale area, all off-road equipment is free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, or other debris that could contain seeds.

6. Warning and/or closure signs on authorized haul routes and adjacent to active logging operations shall be posted as needed to inform the public of logging operations and truck traffic hazards. News releases and notices will be provided to local communities (e.g. Featherville and Pine) to keep them informed of ongoing operations and closure areas.

7. All known historic properties shall be avoided and protected during Project implementation.

8. Contracts implementing this Project shall include provisions to prevent adverse impacts to any unknown cultural sites discovered during Project implementation. In the event that new cultural sites are discovered, ground-disturbing activities in the area shall stop until a qualified archaeologist is consulted.

9. Timber Sale Administrator shall approve landings and skid trails prior to development and use to limit impacts to other resources.

10. Where practicable¹, skidding through areas with aspen sprouts shall be avoided to reduce potential to damage to sprouts that decreases aspen clone vigor.
11. SINMAP analysis results and guidelines developed by Chatwin et al. (1994) shall be used during project implementation to field-verify moderate- and high-hazard landslide prone areas where commercial timber harvest activities are proposed. Where moderate- and high-hazard areas overlap commercial harvest activities, site-specific management measures or mitigations shall be required to avoid or minimize the likelihood for salvage operations to initiate landslides.

12. Timber sale contracts shall include provisions requiring that all landing and skid trails be left in a condition following harvest activities that provides for adequate drainage needed to reduce erosion potential. Activities may include but are not limited to installation of waterbars, application of erosion control devices such as slash application, and seeding of disturbed areas with approved mix.

13. Skid trails used in support of timber sale operations shall be designated by the TSA in a manner that avoids or minimizes disruption of ongoing recreation opportunities and impacts to public access, use and safety. This includes designation of skid trails in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to National Forest recreation improvements, including designated recreation trail surfaces, trail heads, and trail access which support ongoing recreation opportunities.

Where impacts to recreation facilities cannot be practicably avoided (e.g. a skid trail must cross a recreation trail), the TSA shall consult with recreation staff on appropriate repair or reconstruction needs to return the recreation facility to its preexisting condition. Logging debris shall be cleared from recreation trails prior to weekends and holidays (refer to Design Feature #19) or as specified under the timber sale contract. Where recreation trails, trail heads or trail access points remain open in active logging areas, signs or flaggers shall be used to address safety concerns.

14. Seed mixes and/or plant materials used during restoration and soil erosion prevention activities shall be comprised of certified weed-free native or desirable non-native seed mixes and/or native cultivars, as recommended by the Forest or District botanist.

15. Hauling and equipment operations shall be restricted when conditions are wet enough to cause rutting.

16. When Forest Highway 82 (Middle Fork Boise River Road) and Forest Highway 61 (Pine-Featherville Highway) are utilized for timber haul activities, road maintenance and public safety road use requirements will be coordinated with respective counties who have road management jurisdiction. As applicable, requirements will be included in the timber sale contract.

17. All water drafting sources for dust abatement and/or road maintenance activities shall be designated by a fish biologist or hydrologist in coordination with the TSA and/or Engineering Representative. Water drafting sources shall be located outside occupied or designated bull trout critical habitat. Where practicable, drafting sites should be located above known fish barriers and vehicles used for drafting should avoid driving or parking outside the road corridor to minimize impacts to vegetation and soils. Regardless of drafting location, screen opening size for intake hoses shall be 3/32 inch or smaller and of a size commensurate with pump capacity to provide enough surface area sufficient to prevent small fish and amphibians (e.g. spotted frogs) from being impinged on the screen (See table).

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7 The term practicable means available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purpose. USDI EPA 2003.
Table 1: Screen size requirements commensurate with pump capacity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intake (gallons per minute, gpm)</th>
<th>Total Effective Screen Area Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perforated Sheet (ft²)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>8.1</td>
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<td>400</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<td>350</td>
<td>5.7</td>
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<td>300</td>
<td>4.9</td>
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<td>150</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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18. If pumps or other drafting equipment is needed, all pumps utilized at water drafting locations shall have spill containment commensurate with the amount of fuel held by the pump. In addition, if pumps or other drafting equipment is needed at one location longer than two weeks, where practicable, equipment locations should be moved to minimize impacts to underlying vegetation. Where impacts to underlying vegetation cannot be practicably avoided and reestablishment of vegetation is needed at a drafting site, follow Design Feature #14.

19. Prohibit log hauling on NFS roads 129, 156, 172, 255, and 290 on weekends (4 PM Friday to midnight Sunday), 3-day holiday weekends (4 PM the day before the 3-day weekend to midnight the last day of the 3-day weekend), mid-week holidays (4 PM the day before to midnight of the holiday) and the opening day of any weapon big-game hunting seasons (4 PM the day before to midnight of opening day). However, consistent with activities described under the Proposed Action, public motorized use along segments of Forest Roads 129, 156, 172, 255, and 290 to be salvaged logged will be closed when active logging operations are occurring.

20. No winter logging activities or snow plowing would occur with implementation of this project.