

- Closes roads not needed for Forest access, whereby providing for maintenance of higher snag levels, simply because removal for firewood harvest will be more difficult.
- Maintains higher levels of cover across the Forest for big-game habitat emphasis, thus providing the potential for greater vegetative diversity

I urge the reader to refer to the FEIS, CHAPTERS III and V for a more in-depth discussion on diversity. I strongly feel that the selected alternative, for the reasons listed above and also in the FEIS, provides for a rich and diversified ecosystem.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Ten alternatives were analyzed in detail in the Draft EIS. Through a review of the analysis process, updating the modeling techniques, and in response to public comments, Alternative I has been developed and is included in alternative evaluations for the FEIS. In addition, five alternatives included in the DEIS have been deleted as viable options due to lack of broad support and their similarities to other developed alternatives (see: Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study in CHAPTER II of the FEIS).

During the public review and comment period, the Forest was requested to analyze three additional alternatives. The first two requests were made by the Grant County Conservationists, for the "Grant County Conservationist Alternative" (GCC) and also an alternative called the "Citizen's Multiple Use Alternative" (CMUA). The latter alternative was developed by a coalition including the Grant County Conservationists, the Oregon Natural Resources Council, the Oregon Hunters Association, the Oregon Wildlife Federation, and other organizations.

Also during the comment period, a coalition of timber industry representatives developed their own alternative, "Alternative Preferred-Plus - The Community Oriented Plan." This alternative was also supported by such industry organizations as Associated Oregon Loggers, Northwest Forest Resource Council, the Northwest Forestry Association, and the Western Forest Industries Association.

Meetings throughout the spring and early summer of 1988 with advocates of the GCC, CMUA, and Preferred-Plus alternatives provided the information necessary to model these alternatives, using FORPLAN analysis to describe resource outputs. However, these alternatives were eliminated from detailed study (Final EIS, Chapter II, Section B) either because they closely resembled other alternatives which were developed in detail, or because they were determined not to be fully implementable alternatives. Two of the fully developed alternatives (B-Modified and C-Modified) were modified, incorporating aspects of the GCC, CMUA, and Preferred-Plus Alternatives. For additional information on this subject reference the FEIS, CHAPTER IX, INDEX, "ALTERNATIVES".

- **ALTERNATIVE NC (No Change)**

The No Change Alternative (Alternative NC) was developed in response to appeals brought by the Northwest Forest Resource Council who stated that a "... true no-action alternative representing current management plans" was not included in Forest Plan EIS.

This alternative continues management under the 1979 Timber Resource Management Plan without the full requirements of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA). It could not be implemented or used in future management of the Malheur NF under the Forest Plan without Congressional and/or Secretary of Agriculture action to change law or regulations.

- **ALTERNATIVE A (No Action)**

This is the "No Action" alternative required by NEPA. This alternative continues management under the 1979 Timber Resource Management Plan while meeting the full requirements of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA). This, as well as all viable alternatives, complies with standards and includes updated information and management requirements.

- **ALTERNATIVE B-MODIFIED**

This alternative emphasizes the production of marketable resources such as timber, forage, developed recreation, and minerals; providing for the highest level of timber outputs of any alternative detailed in the FEIS.

This was Alternative B in the Draft EIS; updated to incorporate timber industry comments into the FEIS, and modified to bring the theme of Alternative "Preferred Plus" into a fully-developed alternative format.

- **ALTERNATIVE C-MODIFIED**

This alternative provides the greatest resource emphasis on the non-market values, protecting soil, water, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics and other amenities. All current roadless areas outside of existing wilderness are assigned to management prescriptions which maintain their roadless status.

This was Alternative C in the Draft EIS; updated to incorporate environmental concerns into the FEIS, and modified to bring the themes of "Grant County Conservationists" and "Citizens Multiple Use" Alternatives into a fully-developed alternative format.

- **ALTERNATIVE F (DEIS Preferred)**

This alternative features a relatively high level of timber production, while maintaining a mix of other resource features over time. To balance the economic effects of amenity features outside of unroaded areas, commodity production is featured on a majority of the currently roadless areas.

This was the Draft EIS preferred alternative for the Forest; updated to 1990 conditions and made to comply with current law and regulations.

- **ALTERNATIVE I (Final Preferred)**

Alternative I is the result of the incorporation of public comments, the State of Oregon's involvement, new information and legislation, and the analyses conducted following the DEIS. A range of land uses between amenity values and commodity production emphasis are featured in this alternative. Harvest in riparian zones is reduced, regeneration harvest in stands with severe insect and disease damage is intensified, and uneven-aged management is featured on roughly 30% of the suitable timber land.