



Malheur National Forest

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FLAGTAIL FIRE RECOVERY PROJECT RECORD OF DECISION SIGNED

John Day, OR – On April 5, 2004, Malheur National Forest Supervisor, Roger Williams made a decision to implement the Preferred Alternative, Alternative 5 of the Flagtail Fire Recovery Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) announced Mike Montgomery, Blue Mountain District Ranger.

“We’re eager to start implementation of the first phase of this project,” said Montgomery. “Many hours of hard work went into developing the Flagtail FEIS and it will be gratifying to see work getting done on the ground.”

On February 13, Forest Service Regional Forester, Linda Goodman determined the Flagtail Fire Recovery Project to be an emergency situation and exempted it from stay. This means that Forest Supervisor Williams’ decision may be implemented immediately following publication of his decision in the Blue Mountain Eagle, the newspaper of record. The emergency exemption is based on the economic value the government would lose if the project were delayed during the appeal period. This emergency exemption does not apply to all units of the Flagtail Fire Recovery Project area, only those units that are at significant risk of losing economic value.

This decision will treat approximately 3,920 acres of forested stands in the project area with fuel reduction, salvage harvest, and reforestation activities to reduce future fuel loading, capture the economic value of the fire-killed trees, and to accelerate reforestation of the area with appropriate native conifers. Activities also include 0.3 miles of new road construction, 3.3 miles of temporary road construction, 6.6 miles of road closure, and 13.1 miles of road decommissioning.

The Flagtail Fire Recovery Project Record of Decision (ROD) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) are available upon request from the Malheur National Forest, P.O. Box 909, John Day, OR 97845 (541-575-3000), either in hard copy or on compact disc, or on the WEB at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur>.

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