

Decision Memo

Healthy Forest Initiative Projects

Bangs Wildland Urban Interface and

Barnaby Thinning Projects

USDA Forest Service

Colville National Forest

Three Rivers Ranger District

Ferry County, Washington

T 35 N, R 36 E, Sec 1, 2, 11-15, 22, 23, 26-28, 32-34 and

T 35 N, R 37 E, Sec 6, 7

Introduction

This Decision Memo addresses vegetation treatments and the treatment of forest fuels in two adjacent project areas located on the Three Rivers Ranger District, Colville National Forest. The projects are Barnaby Thinning and Bangs Wildland Urban Interface.

The projects comply with the criteria established for Categorical Exclusion (CE). CE's are categories of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and, therefore, do not require further analysis in either an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. This Decision Memo (DM) documents the responsible official's decision for the Barnaby Thinning and Bangs Wildland Urban Interface projects.

Due to the close proximity of the projects to each other and to better identify and assess the potential resource impacts associated with the proposed actions, the two projects were analyzed together.



Location and Setting (Reference Appendix A for a General Vicinity Map)

Barnaby Thinning Project Area

The project area lies within the Barnaby Creek Watershed on the Three Rivers Ranger District of the Colville National Forest approximately 14 miles southwest of Kettle Falls, WA. The legal description is Township 35 North, Range 36 East, Sections 32-34.

The area is located roughly 1½ miles southwest of Lake Ellen along Road #2014. This road is part of the Barnaby-South Sherman Loop Drive. The Forest Administrative Boundary and the Colville Confederated Tribal Reservation (CCTR) form the southern boundary of the proposed project. The project area is in the warm dry biophysical environment. It is located primarily in Management Area (MA) 3A, with a small portion in MA 8. Management Area Prescriptions are described in the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Colville National Forest (pages 4-69 through 4-122) along with the associated management objectives.

Bangs WUI Project Area

The project area lies within the Barnaby Creek Watershed on the Three Rivers Ranger District of the Colville National Forest approximately 9 miles southwest of Kettle Falls, WA. The legal description is Township 35 North, Range 36 East, Sections 1, 2, 11-15, 22, 23, 26-28, 33, 34 and Township 35 North, Range 37 East, and Sections 6, 7. The area is located roughly west of the Inchehlium highway and covers National Forest System lands between Lake Ellen and Bangs Mountain. The Forest Administrative Boundary forms the eastern extent of the project and CCTR forms the southern boundary of the proposed project. The project area is in the warm dry biophysical environment. The project area is located in MA 1, 3A, 5, 6, 7 and 8. MA 1 will have prescribed burning only with no mechanical treatments. Management Areas are described in the Forest Plan along with the associated management objectives.

Purpose and Need

The **Barnaby Thinning Project (Barnaby)** falls in the CE category 12 which allows for the limited harvest of live trees in overly dense stands to improve the health of the remaining stand. Silvicultural objectives are accomplished by low-impact, commercial thinning of live trees on up to 70 acres. No new permanent roads can be constructed; however, up to ½ mile of temporary road is acceptable.

The purpose of the **Barnaby** project is to improve stand health by managing tree density and species composition. Need for action in this area results from overstocked stands of natural vegetation prompted by increased bark beetle activity successfully attacking and killing forest trees in the area.

The **Bangs Wildland Urban Interface (Bangs WUI)** project falls in the CE category 10 which allows up to 1,000 acres of mechanical thinning and 4,500 acres of prescribed fire. No new permanent roads can be constructed; however, temporary roads are acceptable.

The purpose of **Bangs WUI** is to reduce the risk of wildland fire to public and private lands adjacent to the project area, and to provide safety for firefighters undertaking wildland fire suppression operations. The need for action in this area results from a high level of vegetation growth in the area. The area is also a popular recreational area for both dispersed recreation and developed recreation at Lake Ellen campground and the Bangs Mountain scenic drive. Because of fire suppression and past logging techniques the fuel loadings and vegetative growth have increased and the risk for fire to burn uncontrollably through the forest is high. Because of the

forest fuel characteristics, high recreational use and proximity to private land and homes the Bangs area is placing more citizens and property at risk of wildland fires.

All fuels reduction treatments focus primarily on three key objectives:

- Decrease the amount of dead and down material on the ground;
- Increase crown base height by decreasing ladder fuels;
- Reduce crown bulk density within the canopy.

Proposed Action (Reference map in Appendix B)

Actions common to both **Barnaby and Bangs WUI**: Mechanized equipment will be utilized for commercial harvest and non-commercial thinning. There will be both hand piling and grapple piling of slash. Mechanical equipment may also be utilized for constructing firelines. Equipment use will be restricted to slopes averaging ≤ 35 percent gradient. There will also be temporary roads and road re-construction. Table 1 summarizes these activities.

The combined acres to be treated in the two project areas does not exceed the acreage limitations authorized in the CE categories. Table 1 displays the acres to be treated and the miles of temporary road to be constructed and road reconstruction in the project areas.

Table 1 Acres to be treated and roads

Project Area	Mechanical Treatment Acres	Prescribed Burn Acres	Miles of temp. road	Miles of Road Reconstruction
Barnaby	70	70	0.3	0.5
Bangs	929	4388	1.7	5.9
Total	999	4458	2.0	6.4

Road reconstruction treatments will include a combination of removing brush that has encroached on the roadway or that limits sight distance; constructing drainage dips and installing relief culverts and reshaping the road surface template by blading. Shaping the road surface further facilitates the management of storm water on the road surface. Spot graveling will also occur where the road is prone to puddling and/or rutting. Not all the treatments identified will occur on the all the miles of road indicated in Table 1 but only where necessary to mitigate resource impacts and provide for safe travel.

The entire analysis area has been evaluated for resource and management constraints and considerations. Those areas that need to be protected for wildlife and fisheries habitat have been eliminated from consideration unless mutual benefits can be ascertained. The project is fully compliant with Management Area standards and guidelines.

Table 2 and 3 list the Forest Plan Management Areas in which the units occur.

Actions Specific to Barnaby: The main treatments used in the Barnaby area to meet project objectives will be commercial timber harvest and non-commercial thinning on 70 acres. The

activity fuels on the 70 acres will be treated with prescribed fire. There will be up to 0.3 miles of temporary road and 0.5 miles of road reconstruction to facilitate treatment of the area.

Table 2 displays the proposed treatment by unit for Barnaby. Also reference the map in Appendix B. Also shown in the table are the acres of commercial and non-commercial thinning and the treatment of project-related and natural fuels (mechanical piling, hand piling, whole tree yarding, prescribed burning). These treatments may be used by themselves or in combination with other treatments to achieve project objectives. For instance, in areas of low natural fuels build up and minimal ladder fuels, only prescribed fire may be used. In other areas of high natural fuels concentrations and dense ladder fuels, thinning, hand/machine piling of fuels and prescribed fire may be used to accomplish objectives.

Table 2 - Proposed Treatment Table for Barnaby

UNIT#	ACRES *	Mgmt Area	RX	Harvest Method	Additional Treatments
A	54	3A,8	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Whip felling - 20 acres/Grapple piling – 5 acres/ Jackpot burning
BB	4	3A	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Whip felling/ Jackpot burning
U	12	3A	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Jackpot burning

* Acres are approximate

Actions Specific to Bangs WUI: The main treatments used for reducing fuel distribution and loadings in the Bangs area will include both commercial and non-commercial thinning of stands (929 acres), piling slash (237 acres) and prescribed fire (4,388 acres). There will be approx 5.9 miles of road reconstruction and 1.7 miles of temporary roads required to facilitate treatment in the Bangs area.

A temporary culvert will be installed at a crossing of an intermittent stream in the Bangs project area on road 2000.170. The culvert will be removed and the site will be rehabilitated following use.

Table 3 displays the proposed treatments for units in Bangs WUI. Also shown are the acres of commercial and non-commercial thinning and the treatment of project-related and natural fuels (mechanical pilings, hand piling, leave tops attached yarding, prescribed burning). These treatments may be used by themselves or in combination with other treatments to achieve project objectives. For instance, in areas of low natural fuels build up and minimal ladder fuels, only prescribed fire may be used. In other areas of high natural fuels concentrations and dense ladder fuels, thinning, handpiling or mechanical piling and prescribed fire may be used to accomplish objectives. The silvicultural prescription for the future management of each treated stand is designed to maintain or enhance wildland urban interface protection.

Table 3 – Proposed Treatment Table for Bangs

UNIT#	ACRES*	Mgmt Area	RX	Harvest Method	Additional Treatments
AA	14	3A	Commercial thinning	Cable	Whip felling/ hand or mechanical piling
B	6	3A	Commercial thinning	Tractor/Cable	Whip felling / Jackpot burning
C	19	6	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning
CC	20	6	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning
D	85	5,6	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning
DD	16	6	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning
E	56	5,6	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning
G	58	5,6	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Whip felling / Grapple piling
H	81	5,6	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Jackpot burning
I	18	6	Commercial thinning	Tractor/Cable	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning
J	33	7	Commercial thinning	Tractor/Cable	Cable – Whip Felling / Leave Tops Attached - 4 acres; Tractor – Whip Felling / Grapping piling -29 acres
K	65	7	Commercial thinning	Tractor/Cable	Cable – Leave Tops Attached - 6 acres/ Whip Felling; Tractor - Whip felling/ Grapple piling – 59 acres; Plant openings - 8 acres
L	3	3A	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Whip Felling / Jackpot burning – 2 acres
M	41	6	Commercial thinning	Tractor/Cable	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning
N	157	5,6	Commercial thinning	Tractor/Cable	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning
O	54	6,7,8	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning
P1	7	3A	Precommercial thinning	Tractor	Hand or mechanical piling
P2	29	6	Precommercial thinning	Tractor	Hand or mechanical piling
Q	51	8	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning
R	19	3A,8	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Jackpot burning
S	25	5,7,8	Commercial thinning	Tractor/Cable	Cable - Leave Tops Attached/ Jackpot burning - 18 acres; Tractor - Whip felling / Grapple piling - 7 acres;

UNIT#	ACRES*	Mgmt Area	RX	Harvest Method	Additional Treatments
T	7	3A	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning
V	7	3A	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Jackpot burning
W	30	3A,8	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Whip felling / Grapple piling
Y	18	8	Commercial thinning	Cable	Lop and Scatter / Jackpot burning
Z	8	3A	Commercial thinning	Tractor	Leave Tops Attached / Whip felling / Jackpot burning – 4 acres; Hand or mechanical piling – 4 acres
F1	9	8	Prescribed burning	No equipment	Jackpot burning
F2	2421	1,3A,5,7,8	Prescribed burning	No equipment	Jackpot burning
F3	32	6	Prescribed burning	No equipment	Jackpot burning
F4	53	6	Prescribed burning	No equipment	Jackpot burning
F5	19	5,6	Prescribed burning	No equipment	Jackpot burning
F6	1065	1,5,6	Prescribed burning	No equipment	Jackpot burning
F7	93	5,7,8	Prescribed burning	No equipment	Jackpot burning
F8	18	5,6	Prescribed burning	No equipment	Jackpot burning

* Acres are approximate

Decision

I have decided to implement the proposed action as stated in the Proposed Action section of this DM, including mitigation measures, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and monitoring which will ensure that the project meets all applicable Federal, Tribal, and State laws for protection of the environment, including the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. I am approving a total of approximately 999 acres of commercial harvest and non-commercial thinning, 4,458 acres of prescribed fire, 6.4 miles of road reconstruction and approximately 2.0 mile of temporary road construction associated with the Barnaby and Bangs WUI projects. There will be no new permanent road construction in either project area.

Mitigation measures and monitoring identified in resource specialists reports will be implemented as described in the reports. The reports are available in the project analysis file located at the Three Rivers Ranger District office. Following is a summary of the mitigation and monitoring by resource area.

Cultural Resources (Six known heritage sites were found within the described boundaries of treatment units. One site was located within the commercial portion of the project, and five within the fuels reduction portion).

For the heritage site located within commercial harvest unit:

- The site will have a 20 foot no-disturbance (including fuels burning) buffer zone around their perimeter. Cultural resource specialists will flag the area prior to ground disturbing activities.

- Trees adjacent to heritage site marked for removal will be directionally felled away from the site.

For heritage sites located within fuels reduction units:

- Fire will be excluded from all sites using appropriate control methods including but not limited to hand lines and hose lines
- Crews will be informed of the location of historic structures on private land in the event the prescribed fire burns off National Forest

Fire/fuels:

- Jackpot and Underburning – Prescribed fire will be used to dispose of existing and created slash in areas where leave trees are fire tolerant and have sufficient diameter to reduce mortality.
- Leave Tops Attached (LTA) - On tractor units the tops to all harvested trees will be taken to the landing site and piled. (Units with fire resistant species will also be underburned after LTA as appropriate).
- Mechanical Piling – Existing and created slash will be piled in units, at a landing site or masticated. This treatment will only occur on tractor units where the timber stand is dominated by non-fire tolerant species

Fisheries

- **Prescribed burns:** A minimum of 90% organic material (duff) will remain on the ground in the Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) after prescribed burns nor will there be more than 10% bare ground exposed
- **Fireline** construction will not occur within Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA) (default of 300 feet of fish bearing streams, within 150 feet of perennial streams and wet areas \geq one acre, and 50 feet of intermittent streams and wet areas $<$ one acre. Deviation from this will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the project hydrologist or fisheries biologist.
- **Handpiling:** Handpile in RHCA where there are high fuel loading. Piles will be burned during late fall through early spring while snow is on the ground to limit spreading. A minimum of 90% organic material (duff) will remain on the ground after pile burning. Wood may not be removed from the stream channel.
- **Large Trees:** At least 35 feet of all existing downed trees of 12 inches or greater in diameter within or overhanging the stream channel (bankfull width) shall be left in place. Trees felled within the RHCA(s) will be directionally felled away from the stream. Where trees, to be felled, are leaning toward the stream, leave at least 35 foot section of each tree that falls across the stream's bankfull width.
- **Pumps and hoses:** The use of pumps and hoses will not cause impacts to streambed or banks nor will they create a barrier to fish movement. Intake screens with a mesh diameter approved by the fisheries biologist will be used on all pumps.
- The prescribed burned areas along Ledgerwood Creek will be monitored for cattle impacts for one year following treatment. If stream impacts occur a barrier to exclude livestock will be constructed.

Hydrology (from *R6 Best Management Practices for timber harvest, road construction, and prescribed fire*):

- Require directional felling and /or winching on ground-based treatments within RHCA's.
- Project activities will not remove streamside vegetation that have root structures that are integral to the stream channel.
- Prescribed fire treatments will not be initiated within riparian areas, but will be allowed to "back down" from upland firing locations.
- Prohibit the use of mechanical yarding/felling equipment within fifty feet of the stream channel but rather directional fall and/or winch logs out of this zone.
- Fire lines and skid trails will be located so that they do not contribute sediment to streams and wetlands.
- Hazard materials spill kits will be available on-site for spill containment.
- All refueling sites (machinery, equipment, pumps, etc.) will be located outside RHCA's.

Soils (from *R6 Best Management Practices for timber harvest, road construction, and prescribed fire*):

- Heavy machinery will not be allowed on wet soils or easily compacted soils within RHCA buffers. The project soil scientist will identify these areas prior to ground disturbing activities.
- Favor the use of existing established skid trails, landings, and haul roads where practical rather than establishing new routes.
- All temporary roads will be decommissioned and rehabilitated following use.

The following mitigations apply to mechanical equipment:

- Mechanical equipment shall be limited to slopes averaging 35% or less, unless otherwise approved by a soil scientist or hydrologist.
- Mechanical equipment used for precommercial thin treatments (PCT) will be confined to Forest Service approved skid trails located on a minimum 40' trail spacing.
- Pre-commercial thin treatments using mechanized equipment will occur under dry soil conditions using a one-pass scenario as much as possible since the equipment will not be working on a created slash blanket.
- No constructed skid trails and fire line requiring a cut and fillslope type construction will be allowed.
- Minimize exposure of mineral soil by the masticating head during PCT treatments.
- No stream crossing on temporary roads will be permitted unless approved by a hydrologist or fisheries biologist prior to ground disturbance activities.

Range/Noxious Weeds (from *Colville National Forest Weed Prevention Guide*):

- All gravel and borrow sources will be inspected for noxious weeds before use. If weeds are present they will be removed prior to utilizing the pit.
- Incorporate timber sale provision requiring cleaning of off-road equipment and use of state certified seed for erosion control into contracts.

- Minimize top soil disturbance and conserve existing top soil during timber sale activities, minimize soil disturbance to meet prescription levels.
- Reduce or eliminate the time lag between the ground disturbing activity and revegetation efforts. Monitor all revegetation efforts and followup with maintenance seeding and weed treatment as needed.
- Use recommended seed mixtures to comply with the Colville National Forest Seeding Guide.
- Fences, cattle guards or other range improvements damaged by contractors during contract operations will be repaired by the contractor.

Recreation

- Treatments within the campgrounds at Lake Ellen shall be completed prior to or following the fishing season to minimize impacts to users.
- Campground improvements damaged by the contractors during contract operations will be repaired by the contractor.
- Stumps will be flush-cut and slash and debris created shall be cleared from all campsites, facilities and roads within the campgrounds.

Scenery

Areas with a Visual Quality Objective of Retention

- Temporary roads will be located on benches where possible within visually sensitive areas
- Cable yarding corridors will be kept as narrow as possible to reduce contrasting line effects and, oriented away from viewing location when possible.
- Skid trails will be kept to the minimum required by the harvesting operation and will follow the contour of the land whenever they occur within visually sensitive areas.
- Openings will be irregularly shaped to mimic that of naturally occurring openings
- Modifications to canopy will mimic natural canopy density changes

Units viewed from County Route 412, FS Road 136, FS Road 2014, and the Lake Ellen Campground have the following specific objectives:

- Slash will not be visible in the foreground.
- Tags and other markings will not be visible from travel routes.
- Cut faces of stumps will face away from roads; stump heights will not exceed eight inches within units visible from the road.

Sensitive Plants

- If sensitive plant populations are located during project implementation (none were located within treatment areas during the field inventory of the area) they will be protected and the Forest botanist will be contacted.

Silviculture: (marking guides for Units are filed in the project record. The marking guides provide guidelines specific to the individual units.)

- Slash piles will be burned the fall or winter following cutting to reduce the potential for bark beetle infestation and population increases.

- Prescribed burning should not cause mortality greater than 10% per acre in trees greater than 12” DBH, except in Units F1-F8 where the mortality in trees greater than 12” DBH should not exceed 20%.
- The sale contract should specify that DF, PP, GF or LP beetle infested logs will be removed from the area prior to April of the following spring, or at the earliest opportunity after the first of April if the area is inaccessible prior to April.

Wildlife

- Any sighting of TES species will be immediately reported to the project wildlife biologist

Interdisciplinary Team Composition:

An interdisciplinary team (IDT) comprised of the following specialists was convened to review the project. Their resource reports are included in the analysis file located at Three Rivers Ranger District.

- IDT Leader
- Botanist,
- Fire/Fuels Specialist,
- Fishery Biologist,
- Heritage Specialist,
- Hydrologist,
- Logging Systems Specialist,
- Recreation Specialist
- Range/Weed Mgmt. Specialist,
- Silviculturist,
- Soils Specialist,
- Transportation Specialist
- Visual Resource Specialist,
- Wildlife Biologist



Extraordinary Circumstances

This IDT analyzed the project for extraordinary circumstances, including cumulative effects. Regarding extraordinary circumstances:

- ***Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species:***

The project will have no measurable negative effect on any Federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered plants or animals, or any Forest Service sensitive species. A Biological Evaluation is included in the project file.

A Biological Evaluation (BE) was completed for the project with respect to US Forest Service sensitive species (most recent Regional Forester's Lists of Sensitive Species for Region 6 dated July 2004 for both animals and plants).

Effects to endangered, threatened, or proposed species listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as having the potential to occur within or adjacent the project planning area are documented by using the National Fire Plan Project Design and Consultation Process.

The results of both processes are listed in the following table:

Table 4. Risk assessment for wildlife and fish

SPECIES	Step #1 PRE-FIELD REVIEW	Step #2 FIELD RECONNAISSANCE	Step #3 RISK ASSESSMENT
Bald eagle (T ^a)	Habitat present	Species present	No Effect
Great Gray Owl (S ^a)	Habitat present	Species may be present	NLTTFL ^c
Townsend's (Pacific western) Big-eared bat (S ^a)	Habitat present	Species may be present	NLTTFL ^c
Grizzly bear (T ^a)	Habitat present	Species not present	NLTAE ^b
Gray wolf (E ^a)	Habitat present	Species not present	No Effect
Wolverine (S ^a)	Habitat present	Species may be present	No Effect
Bull trout (T ^a)	Habitat present	Species not present	No Effect
Redband trout (S ^a)	Habitat present	Species present	NLTTFL ^c
Westslope Cutthroat trout (S ^a)	No Effect present	Habitat present	Species not

^a

T = Threatened, E =

Endangered, P = Proposed, S = Sensitive

^b NLTA = Not Likely to Adversely Affect

^c NLTTFL = Not Likely to Lead in a Trend Toward Federal Listing or Loss of Viability

- ***Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds***
The project does not affect floodplains, wetlands or municipal watersheds.
- ***Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas:***
The project does not occur in any congressionally designated areas
- ***Inventoried Roadless Areas:***
Prescribed fire only is proposed within the inventoried roadless areas, (South Huckleberry 6009, and Bangs Mountain 6010). This activity will not impair the suitability of these areas in the future if they are selected as wilderness study areas. Range management is a routine activity in wilderness areas that does not significantly affect roadless values.
- ***Research Natural Areas:***
The project does not occur in any Research Natural Areas.
- ***American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites:***
The project does not affect American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites.
- ***Archaeology sites, or historic properties or areas:***
The project does not affect archaeology sites or historic properties or areas

In reviewing the analysis file, I have found that no extraordinary circumstances exist regarding this project.

I have reviewed specialist reports to determine if any extraordinary circumstances exist concerning implementation of this project. I have also reviewed public scoping comments, the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, and applicable US Forest Service manual direction in reaching this decision. I have not found or been notified of any extraordinary circumstances regarding this project.

Public Involvement

The proposed project was first listed in the quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions in the fall 2004. The proposal was provided to the public and other agencies for comment during a 30-day scoping period that began on January 19, 2005 and ended on February 18, 2005. In addition, scoping letters were sent to the public, agencies, and organizations that are on the Three Rivers Ranger District mailing list and to others who requested information. . Three comment letters were received. That list is contained in the project analysis file. A public collaboration meeting was held on January 20, 2005 at the Garden Valley Church. A collaborative field trip took place on May 5, 2005. Comments were solicited during these events. There were additional followup collaborative reviews of the project with representatives of the NE Washington Forestry Coalition.

Findings Required by Other Laws

This activity is consistent with the management objectives as indicated in Chapter 4 of the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1989) [as amended by the Regional Forester's Forest Plan Amendment 1 and 2 (1993 and 1995) and INFISH (1995)], and is tiered to the FEIS for the Colville National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The proposed action will be in conformance with the prescription of the Forest Plan Management Areas 1,3A,5,6,7 and 8.

This action does not pose a violation of Federal, State or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. It does not, individually or cumulatively, have a significant effect (40 CFR 1508.4) on the quality of the human environment.

This is not a major Federal action. It will have limited context and intensity (40 CFR 1508.27), individually or cumulatively, to the biological, physical, social, or economic components of the human environment. It will have no adverse effect upon public health or safety; consumers, civil rights, minority groups and women. There is no foreclosure of options upon old growth forest, or to designated or proposed Wilderness.

Executive Order 12898, issued in 1994, ordered federal agencies to identify and address the issue of environmental justice.¹ The proposed action does not affect the civil liberties of any American Citizen. In accordance with Executive Order 12898, no minority or low-income populations will be disproportionately impacted by implementation of the proposed action.

A Biological Evaluation (BE) was prepared by the project wildlife biologist and the fisheries biologist on August 16, 2005. The analysis was completed under the authorities of the counterpart regulations, National Fire Plan Consultation Process. The evaluation documents “no effect” for bull trout, bald eagle, gray wolf and Canada lynx and “may effect-not likely to adversely affect” for grizzly bear. A copy of the BE is included in the project file.

The Forest Archaeologist reviewed the project for heritage resources. This project is a “No Effect” undertaking and may proceed as planned, as per Section 106 compliance, dated July 6, 2005. A copy of the determination is included in the project file.

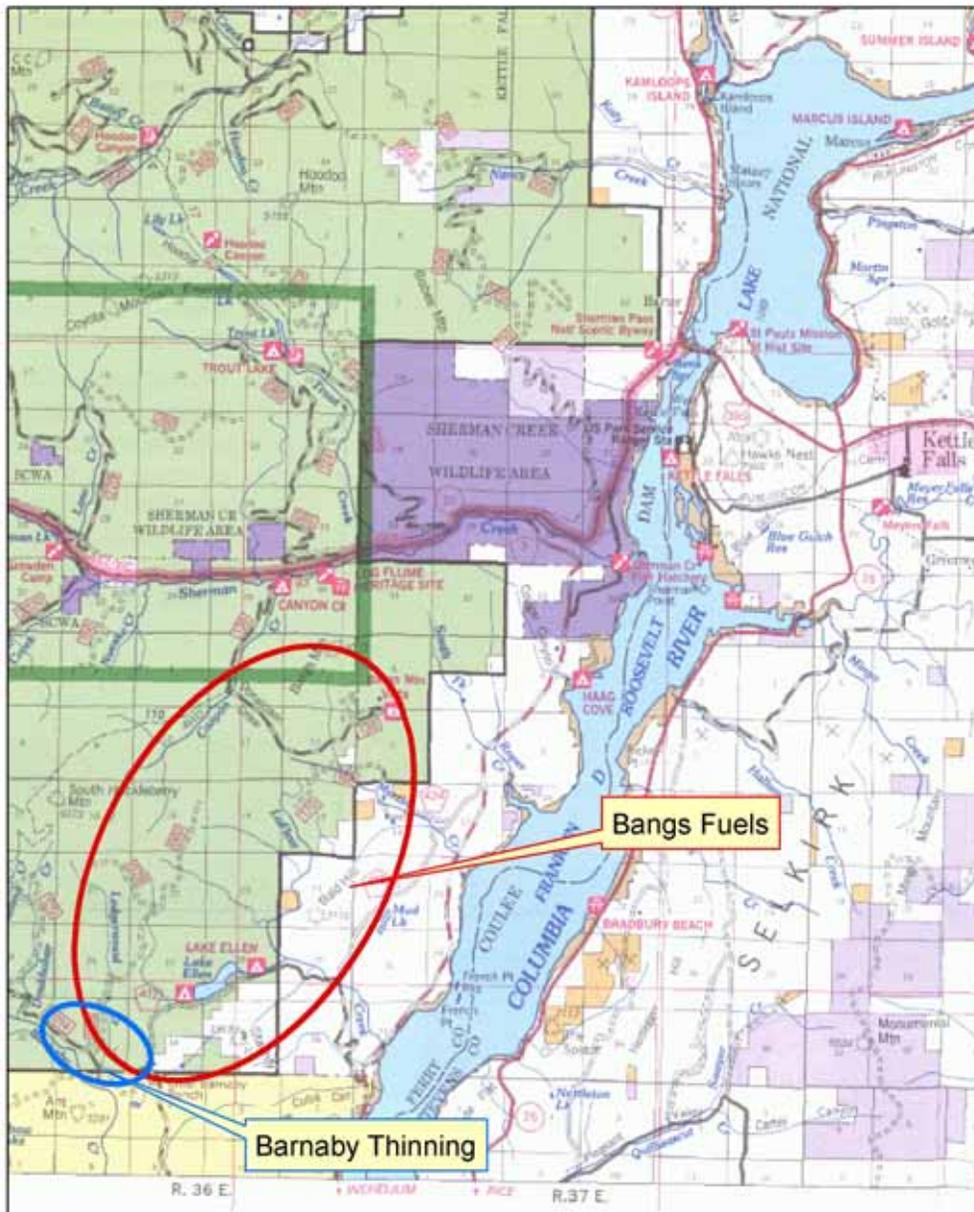
As per my decision on August 25, 2005 a Roads Analysis is not required for this project. My decision is in accordance with FSM 7712.13. A copy of my decision is included in the project file.

Categorically Excluded Action

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment as per regulations in WO Amendment 1909.15-2004-3 USDA Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, 30, section 31.2.10). Barnaby Thinning is a CE Category #12 project. Bangs WUI is a CE Category #10 project. This decision is not subject to administrative appeal, as per 36 CFR 215.12(f).

Appendix A

Bangs Fuels and Barnaby Thinning Vicinity Map



tlc 8/24/2005

Appendix B

Bangs Fuels and Barnaby Thinning Proposed Action 2005

