

DECISION MEMO

**Fremont Plan Amendment No. 2
Fremont National Forest
Lake and Klamath Counties, Oregon**

Background

The Fremont National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) specifies Forest-wide standards for leaving organic residues to ensure soils protection, long-term soils productivity and wildlife needs (See Forest Plan pages 81 and 106). The on-going monitoring of Forest Plan implementation indicated a need to correct and more clearly interpret these standards. An amendment is needed to assure that consistent interpretation and implementation is made.

Decision

It is my decision to amend the Fremont National Forest Plan by correcting organic residue size on pages 81 and 106 and by adding the enclosed list of operational considerations to the Soils Management Standards: Organic Residues in Chapter IV.

Reasons for Categorically Excluding this Decision

This action falls under Category 1, Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 26.1b, Administrative actions. This amendment will not significantly change the Forest-wide environmental impacts disclosed in the Fremont National Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further documentation in an EIS or environmental assessment.

Implementation Date

This decision will be implemented no sooner than 7 calendar days after publishing of a legal notice of decision in the "Herald and News" (published in Klamath Falls, Oregon).

Appeal Opportunity

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 217. Two copies of any Notice of Appeal must be filed with the Reviewing Officer (John E. Lowe, Regional Forester, 333 SW First Street, Portland, Or. 97204) within 45 days of the date a legal notice of this decision appears in the "Herald and News". Any Notice of Appeal must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9, "Content of a Notice of Appeal".

Additional Information

Questions and information requests should be directed to Sherm Radtke (Planning Staff) or Dave Wenzel (Soil Scientist) at the Fremont National Forest office, 524 North G Street, Lakeview, Or. 97630.


CHARLES R. GRAHAM
Forest Supervisor

9/11/92
Date

Forest-Wide Standards for
SOILS MANAGEMENT

Mixing of surface soil layers by disc-plow operations or removal of surface soil layers by hand scalping are not considered detrimental displacement.

- (4) **severely burned.** Soils are considered to be severely burned when all the organic layer is consumed and the mineral soil structure and color are visibly altered. Prescribed burning activities must result in less than ten percent of the project area rated as "severe intensity."

- b. *Surface Erosion.* Surface erosion is the detachment and transport of individual soil particles by wind, water, or gravity. Surface erosion can occur as the loss of soil in a fairly uniform layer across the land surface, or as rills or gulleys.

To stay within acceptable levels of soil loss and meet soil management objectives, the minimum percent effective ground cover following cessation of any soil-disturbing activity should be as follows:

**Minimum Percent
Effective Ground Cover**

<i>Erosion Hazard Class</i>	<i>1st Year</i>	<i>2nd Year</i>
Low (Very slight-slight)	20-30	30-40
Medium (Moderate)	30-45	40-60
High (Severe)	45-60	60-75
Very High (Very Severe)	60-75	75-90

- c. *Soil Mass Wasting.* Soil mass wasting is the detachment and movement of soil or surface bedrock material. Some landslides fall in a single mass or single event and move downslope to cause debris slides and avalanches. Other landslides detach and move slowly over a period of years.
- d. *Organic Residues.*
- 1) Leave five to ten tons per acre of woody material, less than nine inches on the small end, on site after an activity
 - 2) Leave ten pieces per acre, of logs eight feet long and greater than 9 inches small-end diameter, on site after an activity (Large Woody Debris).

Refer to Table 19 for determining potential by Capability Area (CA) for erosion, compaction, displacement, and mass movement. Ratings are based on average soil/landform characteristics. Refer to Table 20 for the SRI mapping units within each Capability Area.

Forest-Wide Standards For
FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- b. Lodgepole pine: four snags per acre which are equal to or greater than 12 inches in d.b.h. and at least 15 feet tall.
 - c. Larger snags or replacement trees may be substituted for small snags. If larger snags or replacement trees are absent, smaller snags may be used to obtain desired number.
9. Downed material will be retained at or above the organic residues outlined for soils management. Minimum levels of non-casehardened materials to be left on site after activity are:
- a. five to ten tons per acre of woody material, less than nine inches on the small end, on site after activity;
 - b. ten pieces per acre, logs eight feet long and greater than 9 inches small-end diameter, on site after activity (Large Woody Debris).

Raptors

Golden Eagle - Projects will be designed to have no significant effect on golden eagle nesting and roosting habitat. Significant effect includes abandonment of nest and/or young, destruction of nest or roost site, or harassment during nesting and roosting.

1. Nest sites

- a. A management zone of at least two acres in size will be established around nest sites. Vegetation and structural character of the site will be maintained.
- b. Maintain at least three perching/roosting sites consisting of three to six overmature trees and snags within one-quarter mile of the nest management zone. Best arrangement would be for these trees to be as close to the nest management zone as possible.
- c. Avoid major land management activities within one-quarter mile of nest site during the nesting season, February 1 to August 1. If nesting has not occurred by May 20, major land management activities can be conducted within one-quarter mile of the nest site.
- d. Avoid developing recreational or other facilities within one-quarter mile of nest sites. Discourage recreational activities within one-quarter mile of the nest site during nesting season.
- e. Identify and maintain at least one alternative nesting area of two acres, with the vegetational and structural characteristics of the original nest site, in the most suitable habitat available, and within one-quarter mile of the existing nest site.

2. Roosting sites

- a. Maintain key trees or snags used as roost trees.
- b. Avoid major land management activities when eagles are concentrated in roost areas (January 1 to March 31).
- c. Avoid recreational or other facilities development within a winter roost. Discourage recreational activities within the winter roost concentration area during roosting season.

FOREST-WIDE STANDARDS & GUIDELINES FOR SOILS MANAGEMENT ORGANIC RESIDUES

Operational Considerations

The intent of these Operational Considerations is to prevent excessive slash and cull log clean-up during post-sale activities on all management areas. If the material isn't there, don't create it by dropping green trees. However, because organic residues are so important to the site for wildlife, soil productivity, and conifer growth, you need to provide for slash and large logs in the future. Consequently, the interpretation of these standards is as follows:

- (1) On those harvest units where sufficient down material exists to meet the S&G, ensure that it remain on site and does not wind up as chips or in a cull deck. Only those quantities of organic residues which exceeds the S&G may be utilized. Also, the intent is that the material is well distributed over the unit rather than in a larger slash pile.
- (2) When the large down woody material does not exist on site, either before or after the logging operation, leave higher amounts of the smaller logging slash, i.e. 8 to 10 tons per acre average rather than the minimum of 5 tons.
- (3) Count a large down tree that meets the size requirement in Item 2 of the Forest Plan (Pg. 81) in multiples of its length and do not require the log to be bucked into 8 foot lengths. For example, a down tree that is 30 inches dbh and 40 feet long will count for 5 pieces. Two down trees 40 feet long will meet the S&G. Again, the S&G as written, specifying logs "eight feet long and twelve inches small end diameter", was intended to prevent cull logs from winding up in log decks and burned.
- (4) Count wildlife snags as part of the organic residue standard. If no large down logs or standing dead trees occurs on the unit/acre, then two snags per acre should be created which will eventually meet the S&G as per (3) above. If a unit averages one large log and one standing snag, then the wildlife and soil productivity standards will be met.
- (5) The above interpretations are intended primarily for ponderosa pine types but should also be used for pine associated where necessary. However, where possible, you should try to achieve the S&G as currently specified.
- (6) Lodgepole pine stands seldom have the large trees necessary to provide the large dead and down material. In these stands, ensure that 5 to 10 tons of logging slash per acre remains scattered throughout the harvest unit with an average preferably of about 8 to 10 tons per acre. Also, require that two 10 inch dbh trees be left per acre, if available, as either snags and/or dead and down, or as needed to meet wildlife needs.