

Significant Issues Responded to through Mitigation Measures

Issue 1 – Treatments in MSO PACs

The Proposed Action may have negative effects on Mexican spotted owl (MSO) by cutting trees up to 17.9 inches in diameter in MSO protected activity centers (PACs).

Design features and/or mitigation measures will be developed to apply to treatments in MSO PACs in all action alternatives.

Issue 2 – Treatments in Goshawk Habitat

The Proposed Action may have negative effects on northern goshawk and canopy-dependent species by reducing late seral, dense understory, and old growth habitat.

Design features and/or mitigation measures will be developed to apply to treatments in goshawk habitat in all action alternatives.

Issue 3 – Large Tree Retention

The Proposed Action may cause the loss of large trees which may significantly affect old growth recruitment.

Design features and/or mitigation measures will be developed to retain old growth and groups of large trees that apply in all action alternatives.

Significant Issues Responded to in Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Issue 4 – Dwarf Mistletoe Mitigation

The Proposed Action includes dwarf mistletoe treatments that may remove the largest trees in some stands. There is also a concern that more dwarf mistletoe mitigation is needed to improve forest vigor, overall health, and resiliency to climate change.

Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) was modified and Alternative 3 was partially developed to respond to this issue. Design features and/or mitigation measures will be developed to retain some dwarf mistletoe as a natural component for wildlife and place limits on removal of large infected trees.

Issue 5 – Smoke/Air Quality

The proposed prescribed burning may have negative effects on air quality and human health.

Alternative 4 was partially developed to respond to this issue. It includes fewer acres of prescribed burning. An alternative will be considered but not studied in detail that will not

include any prescribed fire. Design features and/or mitigation measures will be developed to reduce effects on air quality from prescribed fires.

Issue 6 – Economics

The Proposed Action does not include measures to make it economically viable.

Alternatives 3 and 4 respond to this issue. Alternative 3 maximizes mechanical thinning with higher intensity treatments. Alternative 4 optimizes treatment areas for both ecological restoration and economics.

Issue 7 – Roads

The miles of temporary roads in the Proposed Action may negatively affect watershed and stream conditions, and wildlife habitat and connectivity.

Alternative 4 was partially developed to respond to this issue. It includes the least number of miles of temporary roads. Design features and/or mitigation measures will be developed to reduce effects on watersheds, streams, and wildlife habitat.