April 13, 2017

4FRI Rim Country: How Preliminary Alternatives Address Issues

Issue/Alternative	**Alternative 1** **No Action** • Continue current management • Analyze direct, indirect, and cumulative effects from no action	**Alternative 2** **(Modified) Proposed Action** • Mechanical thinning and/or Rx fire on ~952,330 ac • Decommission ~250 mi roads, improve ~150 mi roads, construct ~350 mi temp roads • Restore ~9,570 ac meadows • Restore ~184 springs • Restore up to 470/360 mi streams/stream habitat • Construct up to 200 mi barriers/fence around springs, aspen, willows, maples • Specific aquatics and wildlife habitat restoration activities • Flexible toolbox approach	**Alternative 3** **Maximize Functional Restoration (mechanical treatments and fire)** • Mechanical thinning and/or Rx fire on ~952,330 ac • More aggressive mechanical thinning and higher intensity to lower BA and move to DCs farther and faster • Specific dwarf mistletoe mitigation treatments in individual stands • Specific aquatics and wildlife habitat restoration activities • Flexible toolbox approach	**Alternative 4** **Optimize Treatments to Maximize Results/Investment** • Optimize ecological restoration and economics (high priority restoration/economic viability) • Focus Rx fire to protect high value assets (people and property) • Less mechanical thinning and Rx fire • Specific aquatics and wildlife habitat restoration activities • Flexible toolbox approach
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 the Smoke/Air Quality issue, with fewer acres of Rx fire.
Economics: The Proposed Action does not include measures to make it economically viable.			Alternative 3 responds to the Economics issue, maximizing mechanical thinning with higher intensity treatments. More acres of high intensity mechanical thinning means more product available to support local communities (economic viability).	Alternative 4 responds to the Economics issue, optimizing treatment areas for both ecological restoration and economics.

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	• Continue current management • Analyze direct, indirect, and cumulative effects from no action	• Mechanical thinning and/or Rx fire on ~952,330 ac • Decommission ~250 mi roads, improve ~150 mi roads, construct ~350 mi temp roads • Restore ~9,570 ac meadows • Restore ~184 springs • Restore up to 470/360 mi streams/stream habitat • Construct up to 200 mi barriers/fence around springs, aspen, willows, maples • Specific aquatics and wildlife habitat restoration activities • Flexible toolbox approach	• Mechanical thinning and/or Rx fire on ~952,330 ac • More aggressive mechanical thinning and higher intensity to lower BA and move to DCs farther and faster • Specific dwarf mistletoe mitigation treatments in individual stands • Specific aquatics and wildlife habitat restoration activities • Flexible toolbox approach	• Optimize ecological restoration and economics (high priority restoration/economic viability) • Focus Rx fire to protect high value assets (people and property) • Less mechanical thinning and Rx fire • Specific aquatics and wildlife habitat restoration activities • Flexible toolbox approach
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 the Roads issue, including the least number of miles of temporary roads.
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.		The restoration treatments proposed in Alternative 2 will address dwarf mistletoe infection. In addition, design features for implementation will be developed to focus treatments on addressing dwarf mistletoe infestations.	Alternative 3 was partially developed to respond to the Dwarf Mistletoe Mitigation issue, with more intensive mechanical treatments in heavily-infected areas, as well as some specific treatments addressing high levels in individual stands.	The restoration treatments proposed in Alternative 4 will address dwarf mistletoe infection. In addition, design features for implementation will be developed to focus treatments on addressing dwarf mistletoe infestations.