

Appendix B

Implementation Plan

Introduction

The environmental impact statement (EIS) describes the purpose and need, alternatives and the effects of managing the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis (POW LLA) project area. This implementation plan is integral to the Selected Alternative and Record of Decision (ROD).

The process described in this appendix describes the linkage from the EIS to the project-specific work without the need for additional NEPA analysis. It must be considered in conjunction with Appendix A that provides the activity design criteria, best management practices, and mitigation measures. A whole suite of site conditions or triggers are described for each type of activity, so data and field visits in the future may inform needs and treatment scenarios that are covered by the NEPA analysis. This plan outlines a process that each project will be implemented under to ensure that all effects were analyzed in the FEIS, it is allowed under the Selected Alternative in the ROD, and all resource-specific guidelines and protection measures are incorporated. The Implementation Plan is a necessary part of this landscape-level project for accountability, tracking, decision-making, and documentation purposes. It should be considered alongside alternatives, effects analyses, and activity cards for the success of the project as a whole.

The Implementation Plan is designed to be consistent with the 2016 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The intent is that this Implementation Plan will be used over a 15-year timeframe.

The purpose of this document is to describe the implementation process for the POW LLA Project. The primary goals are to:

- demonstrate effects of implementation are within the scope of activities and the range of effects described in the FEIS and authorized in the ROD;
- conduct a transparent implementation process that keeps the public informed of and involved in activity location, timing, and design;
- continue the public participation and collaborative learning that occurred during the planning phase, encourage and support the continuation of collaborative efforts throughout implementation;
- ensure implementation of activities is responsive to dynamic on-the-ground conditions, new scientific information, and public input;
- ensure integrated engagement of interdisciplinary team members, field resource specialists, scientists, line officers, and the public; and
- focus on shared priorities and work to resolve concerns and solve problems related to selection and implementation of POW LLA activities.

The public participation and collaboration that occurred during the planning process was aided by the efforts of a collaborative group. Opportunities to be involved in the implementation of activities are outlined in the implementation process and occur during steps 1 and 4 (see below). Opportunities are restrained by the Selected Alternative, as outlined in the ROD. Furthermore, the Forest Supervisor retains the authority to make final decisions related to location, extent, and types of activities planned and

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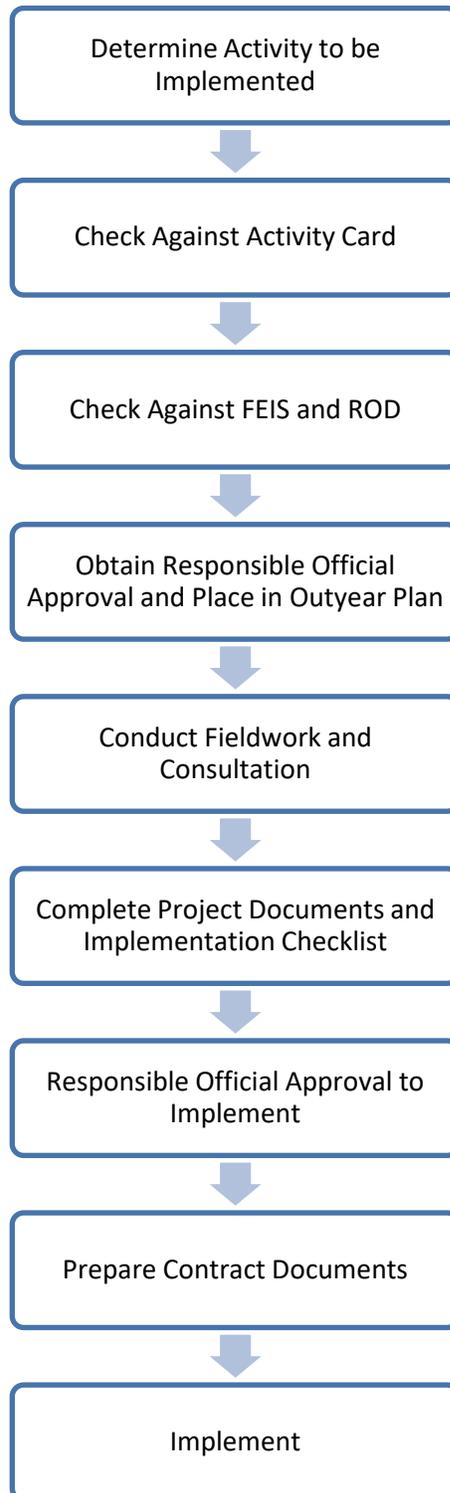
completed, consistent with the ROD. However, as questions or concerns are raised related to implementation under POW LLA, the Responsible Official or designee for the projects will respond to them and let interested parties know how their concerns were addressed.

Indian tribes, defined at 36 CFR 800.16(m), have a special and unique legal and political relationship with the United States government as reflected in the United States Constitution, treaties, statutes, court decisions, executive orders, and memoranda. This relationship imparts a duty on all federal agencies to consult, coordinate, and communicate with federally recognized Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis, as well as native village, regional corporation or village corporation on a government-to-corporation basis. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires federal agencies to determine if historic properties could be affected by proposed activities, and if so, consult the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and consult tribes regarding actions on or affecting tribal lands. The Forest Service plans to follow Section 106 protocol during implementation, meaning that any future projects will require Section 106 review. Government-to-government consultation will continue to occur on a project-by-project basis.

An implementation record (a continuation of the project record, post-planning phase) will be kept to document the products from each step of the Implementation Process. The implementation record would be kept up to date with all files and documentation related to project implementation. Each file will have a record number associated with it for organized filing and long-term record keeping.

Implementation Process

Activities that occur under the authority of the ROD will take several months to a year to go through all steps of the implementation process. Therefore, at any given time there may be several planned projects that have passed through different steps of the process. The public will be invited to participate as discussed below.



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Step 1) Determine activity to be implemented.

The project implementation process is initiated when either the public or Forest Service resource specialist brings an activity proposal to a workshop. During the workshop, project activity proposals are further defined and locations selected. Each year a spring and fall workshop will be held with collaborators, the public, and Forest Service personnel to discuss the implementation program, including:

- Report status of activities already planned or in process of being implemented and current Out-year Plan;
- New proposed out-year activities (use decision trees below);
- Evaluation and feedback on potential need for change in implementation program;
- Review new research, studies, or recent monitoring results (such as from the annual BMP monitoring program) that may relate to the project and result in adaptations;
- Updates and future use of GIS tools.

The public would have the opportunity to:

- Have input on types and locations of activities, review maps for proposed activities;
- Evaluate, discuss, and recommend the priority sequencing of activities, treatment prescriptions and integration of activities for funding;
- Review updated maps of planned/in-process activities to provide feedback to Forest Service regarding prior-year management;
- Submit applicable peer-reviewed research or individual studies to be considered that may influence implementation of activities/treatments.

Annually, the Forest will publish a single notice in the *Ketchikan Daily News* and will post the notice on the project webpage, and on community bulletin boards within the project area, at least 2 weeks prior to when a meeting will happen. The notice will outline the location and time of the meeting. Meeting times and locations will be determined by location of potential activities and to achieve greatest participation by the public. Those that are unable to attend a meeting will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed projects for the year when the Out-year Plan is sent out for public comment after the spring workshop (see Step 4 below). Alternate methods of communication will be explored such as teleconferences or videoconferences to encourage participation by individuals or communities within the project area that cannot attend the workshop in person.

The Forest Service will continue to engage in government-to-government consultation with local federally-recognized tribes, as well as native corporations, on matters having tribal implications. Per Forest Service Handbook 2409.18_87.18, 12/29/2008, the Forest Service will “Comply with FSM 1560, USDA Departmental Regulation 1350-001 (Tribal Consultation), and the November 6, 2000, Executive Order 13175 – Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments. Consultation with federally recognized tribes is required prior to issuing any permits, contracts, or other authorized instrument when there is a possible impact to tribal treaty and other rights and interests in the permitted or contracted area. The Forest Service is required to honor the unique legal relationship, including the trust relationship, between the Federal government and Indian tribal governments.”

All meetings will be documented by a Forest Service representative by recording discussion points and decisions in meeting notes.

Step 2) Check against activity cards.

The activity cards describe potential activities considered within the project area, without regard to specific locations. Information about each activity includes what it usually accomplishes, how it is typically implemented, what constraints and resource-specific guidelines apply, and when it would be implemented. Resource concerns are often mitigated by design criteria, which are presented in the activity cards, as well as adherence to the Forest Plan and best management practices (BMP).

A proposed project must have all components listed in activity cards to determine if was included in the POW LLA Project analysis. If all proposed project components are not in the activity cards, then the project may be modified to adhere to the cards or may be deferred until the next public workshop for design modifications. The Forest Service will document what activity cards will be used for implementing the proposed activities that are decided upon from the workshop. This documentation will include a summary of each activity card and how the proposed activities meet the constraints outlined in the activity cards. This documentation will be placed in the implementation record.

There are some types of projects that are brought to the Forest Service that need immediate attention and may not be able to wait for a workshop. Projects that fall under this are microsals and mineral material disposal. These projects usually have a short timeframe in which to process requests and to determine if project may go forward. These projects would follow the implementation process starting at Step 2 and will need to meet the same requirements as other projects. If this type of project is authorized to be implemented it will be placed in the Out-year Plan and disclosed during the next scheduled workshop.

Step 3) Check against FEIS and the ROD.

The FEIS describes the purpose and need, alternatives and the effects of managing the POW LLA project area. The FEIS displays the effects of alternatives and will need to be checked to verify that the submitted project effects has been analyzed fully. The ROD documents the decision rationale for the alternative that was selected and any additional modifications to the Selected Alternative. The ROD outlines the constraints that all projects will need to adhere to; this may include peak flows constraints, legacy requirements, wildlife analysis area constraints, and silvicultural prescriptions requirements.

The Forest Service will document that the activity to be implemented is covered under the decision and that it adheres to all design criteria for the Selected Alternative. The Forest Service will document how the project is within the FEIS effects analysis. This documentation will be placed in the implementation record.

The proposed project will be added to the implementation tracking form that contains the Selected Alternative maximum limits on what may be implemented per activity (acres, volume, road miles, miles of stream, etc.). This form will be used to track how much has been implemented to date and to verify that we adhere to the Selected Alternative limits.

Step 4) Obtain Responsible Official approval and place in Out-year Plan.

The POW LLA Out-year Plan will identify activities within a 3 to 5-year timeframe that have been proposed for implementation and where they are at in the implementation process. This will include follow-up treatments and will identify timeframes for field surveys listed in the activity specific resource requirements and implementation checklist. The Out-year Plan will disclose who the project leader and Responsible Official would be for each project. The Responsible Official would be based on the delegated authority as outlined in the Forest Service Manual and Handbook.

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The Responsible Official reviews the proposal for an activity; this includes a determination that the activity will meet all requirements under the ROD, Forest Plan, and other applicable laws and regulations. This review will determine if the proposal is included in the Out-year Plan. For proposals listed in years 1 and 2 the Responsible Official would review the project workplan to assure that funds and appropriate personnel are available to prepare and implement the project, and that this is the best use of Forest Service funds. Proposals that do not have the funds or personnel available may be deferred to a later year in the Out-year Plan or re-evaluated at the next workshop.

Annual publication of the updated Out-year Plan on the project website will include the status of already planned/in-process activities and refined new proposed activities and maps. The updated Out-year Plan will provide participants an opportunity to stay informed of and comment on activity implementation, priority listing, and on-the-ground activity design. This is an additional opportunity benefiting those participants who are not available to participate in a workshop. A legal notice will be published in the newspaper of record (currently *Ketchikan Daily News*) and an email notification will be sent out to notify the public that the Out-year Plan is available for review and comment. The review and comment period will be 30 days.

All comments will be considered by the Responsible Official and may be used to adjust activities. A summary of comments and responses will be included in the implementation record.

Local federally and non-federally recognized tribal organizations will be consulted to solicit their input regarding the updated Out-year Plan. All meetings will be documented by a Forest Service representative by recording discussion points and concerns in meeting notes.

Step 5) Conduct fieldwork and consultations.

Forest Service personnel will conduct field surveys and GIS queries of proposed activities and locations to confirm that activities can be designed and implemented consistent with the ROD. The results will develop refined activity products. Decision trees (see pages B-9 through B-29) may be used to refine a potential activity to be implemented based on field data collected. For example, presence of a goshawk nest in the proposed area triggers the use of design features to protect goshawk nests. Activities will be adjusted as needed to conform to requirements or the activity will be deferred.

Formal consultations will be conducted as required by federal and state law with federally and non-federally recognized tribal organizations, other federal agencies and state agencies such as: United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

All field notes, GIS queries, and formal consultation documentation will be placed in the implementation record.

Step 6) Complete Project Documents and Implementation Checklist

Forest Service resource specialists will prepare project documents that summarize requirements and recommendations to the activity/treatment design and layout, best management practices (BMPs), design features, or other aspects of the activity/treatment based on activity cards, field reconnaissance, and formal consultations. Field data that is collected will be included to document baseline conditions of site variables and provide rationale for refinement of proposed activity/treatment. Project documents and the implementation checklist are to document and disclose all the steps leading up to implementation of the project that allows it to move forward, and to show that the Forest Service has followed the process

described within the implementation plan, without missing any steps. Project documents would include project design and location map and may include unit cards, road cards, and other attachments.

Forest Service resource specialist will complete the implementation checklist (see page B-33 through B-49) for each project to ensure resource surveys and consultations are completed as required by the Forest Plan, handbook, manual and/or other requirements. The checklist also ensures compliance with the ROD and activity cards. The project leader will be responsible for ensuring that the checklist is complete and finalized for review by the Responsible Official. All project documents and implementation checklists will be included in the implementation record.

Step 7) Responsible Official approval to implement.

The Responsible Official reviews the project documents and checklist to determine that the activity has met all requirements under the FEIS, ROD and Forest Plan. Once a Responsible Official has determined that the activity has met all requirements they will approve and sign the checklist. The signed checklist will be placed in the implementation record.

Step 8) Prepare contracts and other implementation documents, as needed.

Forest Service resource specialists will review or prepare all contract documents prior to bids being solicited to implement the activity. This may include the contract, agreements, burn plans, unit cards, road cards, activity maps, bid packages or other implementation instruments. See the Activity-specific Resource Requirements section beginning on page B-30 for appropriate measures and provisions that will be incorporated to ensure that effects are as planned.

Step 9) Implement the activity, document implementation, and associated monitoring, etc.

Include in the project record any inspection reports, photos of the implementation, completed project, etc. Especially important is any changes from the planned project. Do not include contract documents that contain proprietary information. Follow the Forest Plan for any needed monitoring and include results in the Implementation record. A monitoring results summary will be presented at the following workshop.

Activity Decision Trees

A decision tree is a map of the possible outcomes of a series of choices. It allows the implementation team to use resource surveys to determine the type of activity to implement to meet on-the-ground conditions. Data will be collected to document baseline conditions of site variables to determine appropriate activity given current site conditions.

Aquatics

In order to meet the purpose and need for the POW LLA, watershed restoration actions will be implemented to improve watershed condition and restore aquatic habitat that was degraded by past management. Certain watersheds with diminished sockeye runs or habitat barriers could benefit from fish habitat improvement projects. This section steps through the decision making process for choosing where to implement watershed restoration and fish habitat improvement projects.

The national Watershed Condition Framework (USDA Forest Service, 2011, Watershed Condition Framework FS-977) guides our approach to implementing watershed restoration. A 2015 assessment identified about thirty watersheds in the project area with known restoration needs (High Potential

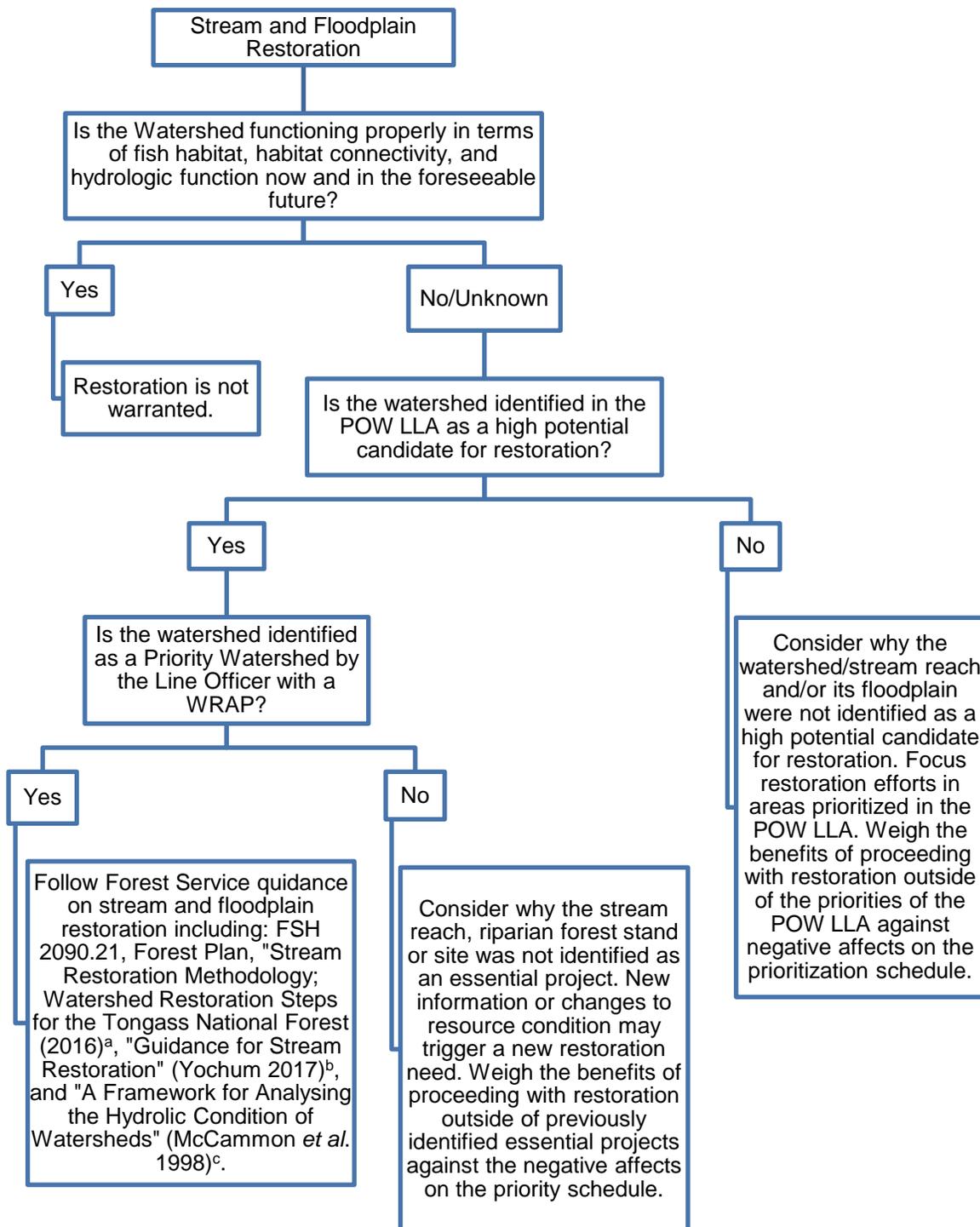
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Restoration Watersheds spreadsheet in the project record). Public input to the POW LLA identified additional watersheds to be considered for restoration. Watershed Restoration Action Plans (WRAPs) will be developed to identify the essential projects necessary to improve watershed condition. The WRAPs are informed by existing data and field assessments of roads and drainage structures, streams, riparian vegetation, landslides, and invasive species.

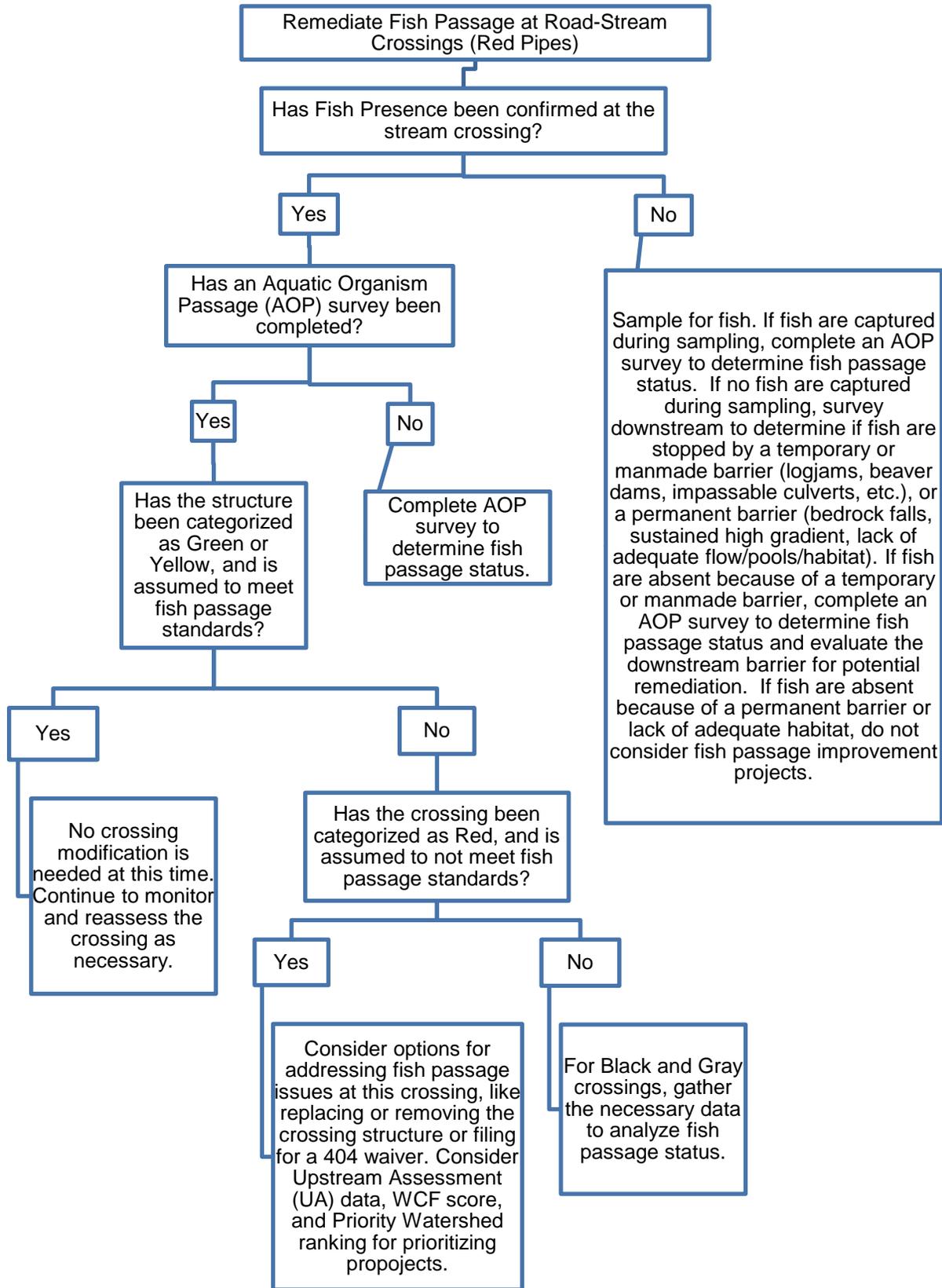
Plans will be put in place to address restoration needs through activities that include (but are not limited to) the following:

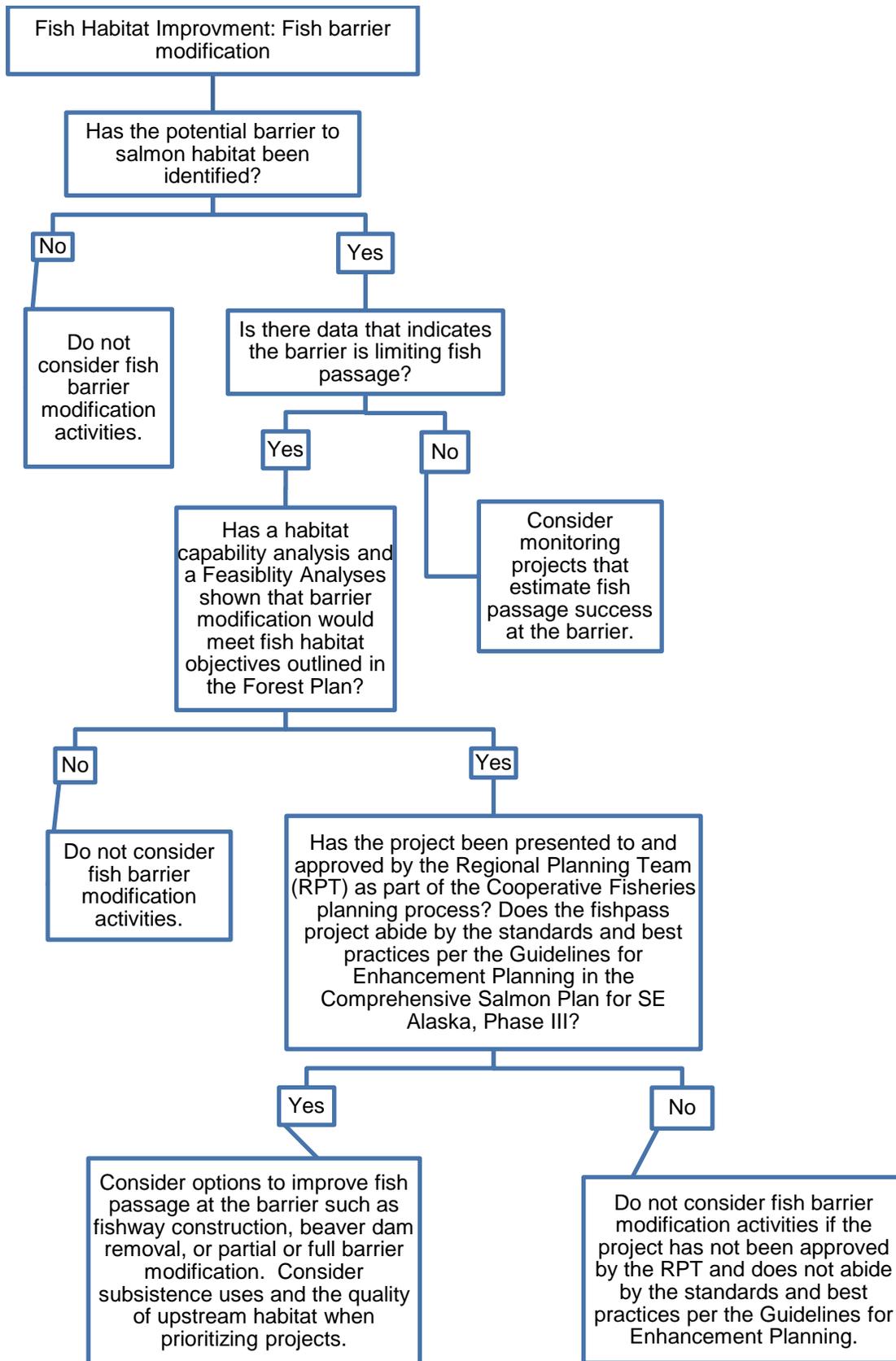
- Stream and Floodplain Restoration (Activity Card 28)
- Improve Fish Passage on Roads and Trail Systems (Red Pipes) (Activity Card 26)
- Riparian Thinning (Activity Card 06)
- Road Storage, Decommissioning, and Maintenance (Activity Cards 21, 22, 24)
- Restored Altered Karst Surface Water Flow Paths (Activity Card 33)
- Invasive Plant Treatments (Activity Cards 34, 35)
- Fish Habitat Improvement (Activity Card 27)

The following section displays the decision process when determining the appropriate aquatic habitat improvement and enhancement activities.

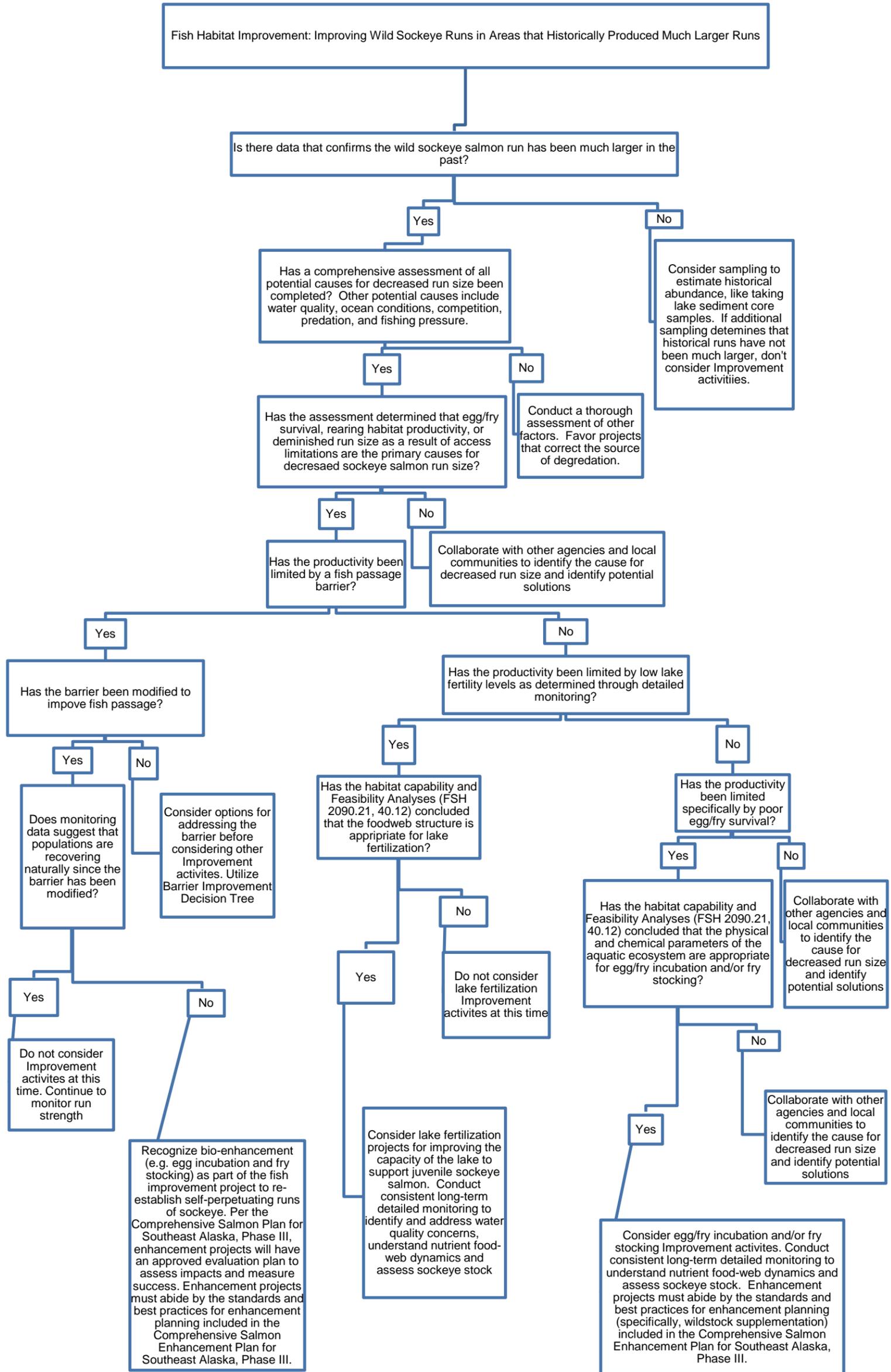


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Invasive Plants

The following is an outline of the process to implement invasive plant treatments. It applies to all target invasive plant species and site types analyzed for treatment in the EIS, as well as new populations found during inventory, where Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) is proposed.

Annually, program managers for each ranger district will identify sites for potential treatment and develop a treatment plan. These plans will be shared at the annual workshop and may be adjusted or further refined based on input from the public. The following strategy will help ensure the chosen sites are within the treatment bounds analyzed within the EIS.

Strategy Objectives and Priorities

To develop a comprehensive invasive plant treatment strategy, three prerequisite pieces of information must be evaluated:

- what to treat: selection of the highest priority infestations;
- where to treat: target locations; and
- management objective for the site.

Using these three criteria, this section delineates the information that will be considered for developing annual treatment plans for invasive plants in the project area.

Criterion 1: What to Treat – Target Species and Invasiveness Ranking

The documented invasive plant species list (see project record Invasive Risk Assessment) identifies the current infestations and will be evaluated to determine species and/or areas proposed for treatment. In some areas it may be desirable to treat all non-native plants while in others only invasive plants with a high invasive ranking may be targeted for treatment.

Criterion 1 of the invasive plant treatment strategy includes the analysis of two species lists:

- Known invasive plant infestations: non-native plant species documented in the project area. This includes invasive species and other non-native species located in sensitive habitats or LUDs.
- Invasive Species Watch List: species currently undocumented in the project area and classified as noxious and/or invasive. If these species are found, they would be treated quickly using the EDRR strategy.

The Alaska Natural Heritage Program has developed an evaluation tool to rank the expected invasiveness of non-native species in Alaska. The process uses a numerical ranking system from 0 to 100. A ranking of 0 indicates the lowest risk for ecological harm and 100 indicates the highest risk. When determining the target species for treatment, the invasiveness ranking plays an important role in the treatment strategy. The higher the invasive ranking for the species, the greater risk for continued spread.

Criterion 2: Where to Treat - Target Locations and Pathways of Spread

Also important in deciding what to treat is the location of the infestation. Target locations are based on the sensitivity of the habitat, the relative risk of changing ecosystem functions within the habitat as a result of the infestation, and/or the underlying desired condition (as defined by the LUD) for the site. The concept of high-value habitat is used as a means of defining areas with a specific environmental, biodiversity or landscape value for which there is special interest or concern relative to the overall area.

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Pathways of spread, or vectors, include transportation methods of dispersing seeds and other plant propagules of the target species. These include road corridors, marine access facilities, rock quarries, vehicles and equipment, water and air. A sound strategy for control includes a focus on areas associated with vectors that are likely to spread the infestation. For evaluating priority treatment locations, site types are used to capture these common vectors.

Criterion 3: Management Objective for the Infestation

The management objective is often based on the likelihood of success considering the resources needed and those available, including adequate funding. In practice, a combination of management priorities and treatment techniques would be implemented in any given year. There are three management objective definitions identified which would be considered in concert with criteria 1 and 2 above.

- **Eradicate:** Total removal or elimination of the last remaining individual invasive plant species in the target infestation on a given site. It is determined to be complete when the target species is absent from the site for a continuous time period (that is, several years after the last individual was observed).
- **Control/Contain:** Reduce the size of the infestation over time and prevent the spread of the invasive plants beyond the perimeter of patches or infestation areas mapped from current inventories.
- **Tolerate:** Accept the continued presence of established infestations; however, try to exclude new infestations through prevention practices. This objective applies to target species infestations that are widespread but occur in habitat types that have a low susceptibility for ecological damage, and for infestations of invasive plant species that are not directly threatening ecosystem functions at a particular location.

Selection of the Most Cost-efficient and Effective Treatment Method

After prioritizing target species, target locations and management objectives, there are five steps in selecting the most cost-efficient and effective treatment method for a particular infestation:

Step 1: Research, review and consider all known treatment alternatives, given site consideration inputs.

Tool(s) and treatment technique(s) selected will depend on many different variables, called site considerations. These considerations include biotic and abiotic resources and factors that, if not considered properly, are likely to adversely affect the success of the treatment and restoration strategy. These factors include the following (note the site considerations below represent only a sample of all possible variables):

- Habitat type (wetlands, riparian area, alpine, disturbed sites, uplands, etc.);
- Population density (percent cover);
- Human environment and safety (front country, back country, use level);
- Sensitive or designated natural and cultural resources (water, Wilderness, prehistoric and historic artifacts and landscapes, threatened, endangered and sensitive species);
- Infestation size (in acres);
- Location (widespread, accessibility, isolated and distinct).

Step 2: Select treatment techniques and identify resource-specific sideboards (see Activity Cards 34 and 35) required to eliminate adverse impacts.

Species biology, size of infestation and site characteristics are evaluated to determine the appropriate treatment technique. In general, rhizomatous species such as Canada thistle and Japanese knotweed require herbicide treatments to be effective, as proposed in Alternative 3, while annual/biennial species such as bull thistle and tansy ragwort can be effectively treated with manual methods, as proposed in all action alternatives. Once appropriate treatment techniques and tools are identified, impacts caused by their use also need to be identified. All tools and techniques will have some type of consequence, whether intentional or unintended, beneficial or adverse, direct or indirect. At this point in the decision-making process, steps need to be identified to reduce or eliminate any potential adverse impact to the site considerations identified above. These steps can be resource-specific sideboards that are practices incorporated into the planning phase of the treatment to prevent potential adverse impacts (e.g., treatments will occur pre-emergence or post-seed set for any rare plants nearby).

Step 3: Review economic viability and feasibility of selected.

If the selected treatment techniques and conservation/mitigation measures are affordable, effective and practical then the treatment plan is approved for implementation.

Step 4: Interdisciplinary team (IDT) and Responsible Official review treatment plan.

IDT resource specialists would review draft treatment plans to ensure consistent and effective treatment is applied for each resource, and appropriate sideboards are included. Next, the line officer with the delegated authority would review the treatment plan, and if in agreement that the proposed treatments are within the scope of the effects analyzed within the FEIS, approve the plan for implementation. For any sites where herbicide is proposed, a Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) must be completed and reviewed by the Regional Pesticide Use Coordinator, and approved by the Regional Forester or other delegated official¹ before implementation. All PUPs will be placed in the implementation record.

Step 5: Implement and monitor where feasible and affordable; no treatment where infeasible and/or too expensive.

At a minimum, implementation of any treatment plan would include informal documentation (monitoring) of its effectiveness for at least 50 percent of the treatment acres. More formal monitoring may occur in cases where specific biological or ecological thresholds are identified prior to treatment implementation. If the treatment or conservation/mitigation measures selected are NOT affordable, effective and/or practical, the treatment plan cannot be approved as it stands and the Responsible Official needs to revert to lesser goals of containment or tolerate.

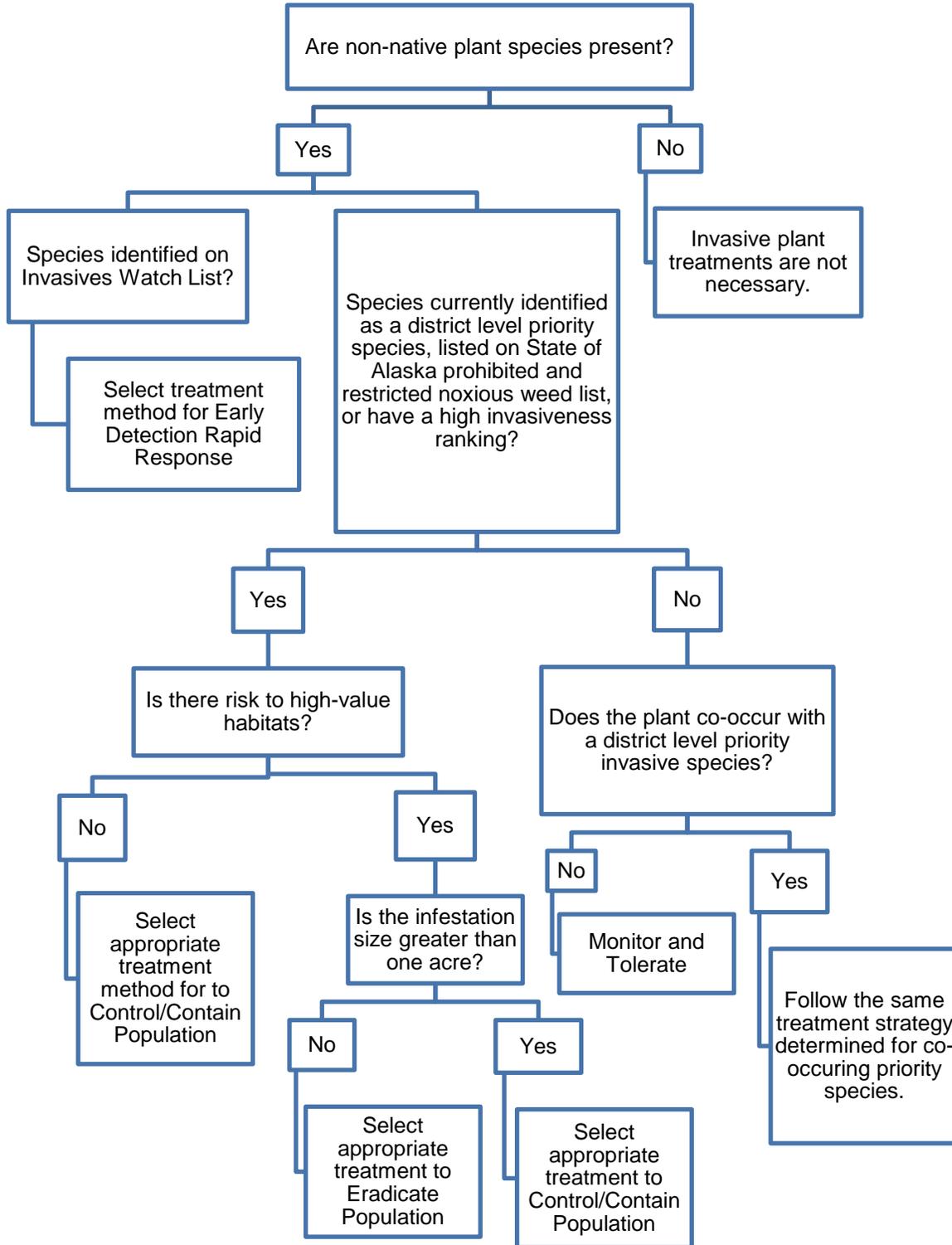
There may be cases when all known treatments and conservation/mitigation practices are not affordable, effective or practical and a determination of “No Treatment” must be made. This is not necessarily a decision to not address the problem at all, rather, it is an acknowledgement that the problem may need to be monitored further and re-evaluated at a later date when more data or new control technologies/strategies become available or if changes in environmental circumstances render the problem more easily addressed using available techniques and strategies.

¹ Only the Regional Forester has the authority to approve pesticide use on NFS lands. This line of authority may be delegated to the Forest Supervisor and then the District Ranger for pesticide use in non-wilderness areas. The RF remains the only official with authorized approval for use of pesticides in Wilderness areas.

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Invasive Plant Management

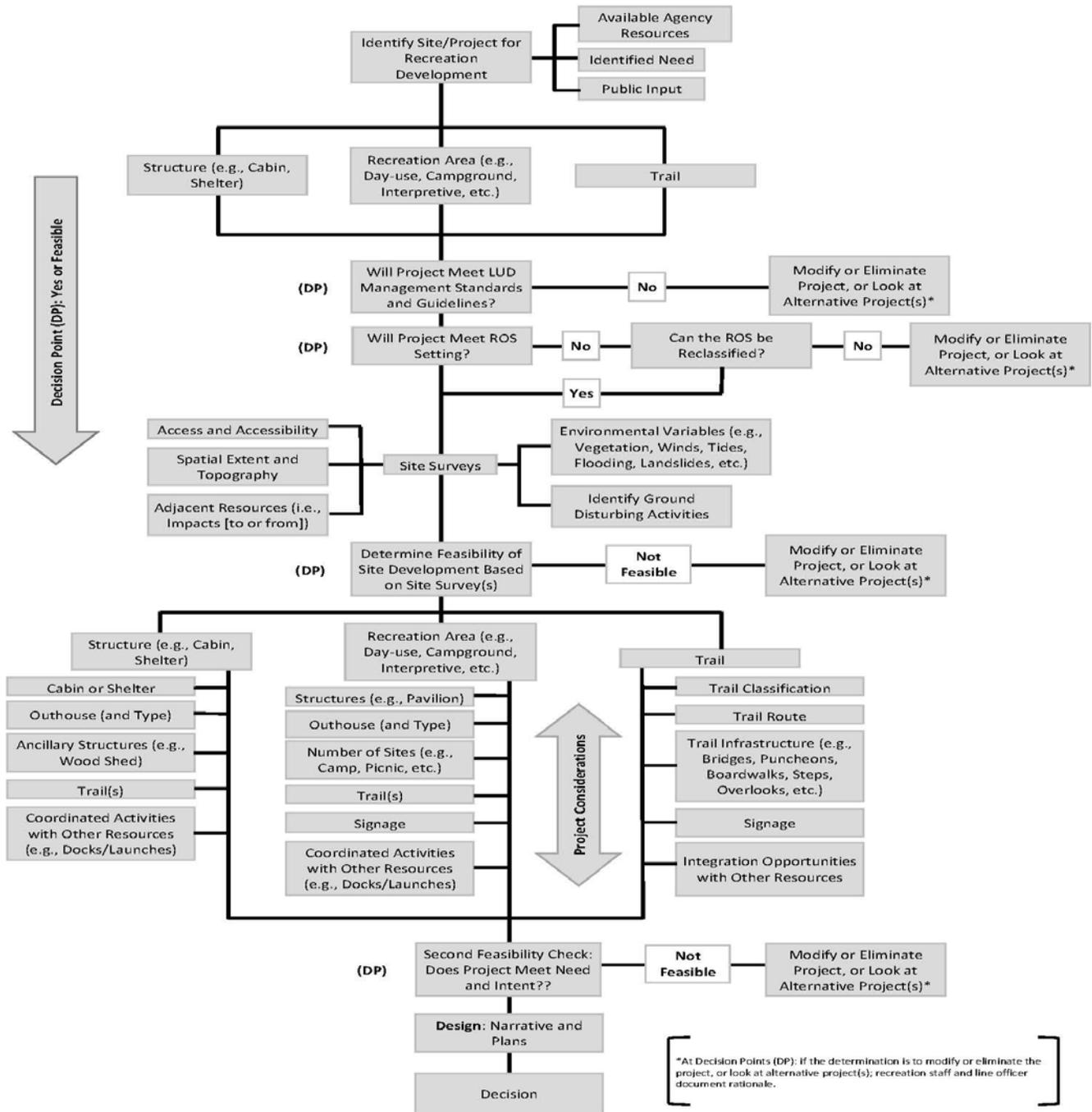
The following section displays the decision process when determining the treatment options for invasive plants.



Recreation

Forest Service recreation infrastructure includes sites and facilities where users can engage in recreation activities. Infrastructure is generally accessible via road, boat, or float plane. Infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, developed recreation sites, such as trails, picnic/day-use sites, campsites, interpretive sites, and cabins and shelters. The following displays the decision process when determining a site and/or facility for proposed infrastructure.

Decision Tree: Recreation Projects



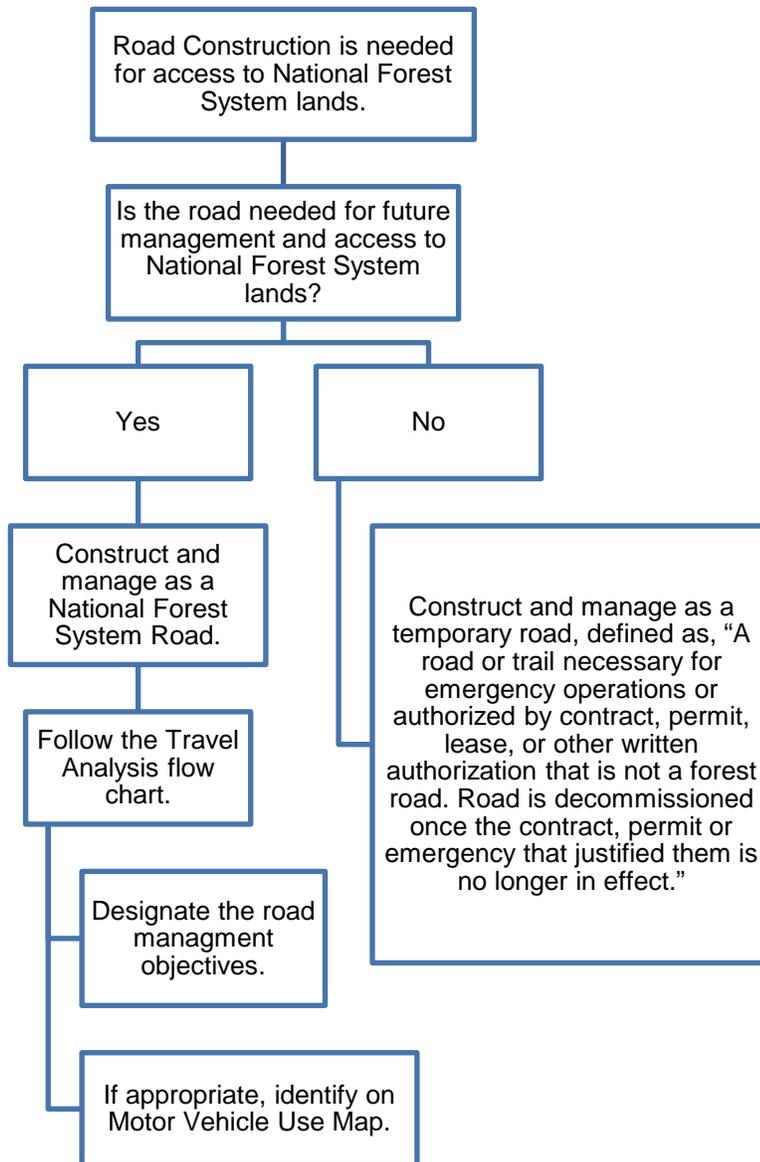
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Transportation

The following section displays the decision process for determining road management when there is a need for road construction.

Forest Service personnel conduct inventory surveys on roads planned for use in this project. These surveys supply site-specific detailed information about each road (and section of road) surveyed, including:

- Whether the road, or a particular section of the road, is drivable
- Number, size, and condition of drainage structures and bridges
- Barriers to vehicle access (vegetation, barrier ditches, pulled bridges, slides, etc.)
- Maintenance requirements
- Verify barriers to fish passage through road drainage structures
- Field locate new road construction routes
- Resource specialists review and if necessary prepare mitigation measures
- Conduct necessary surveys and designs

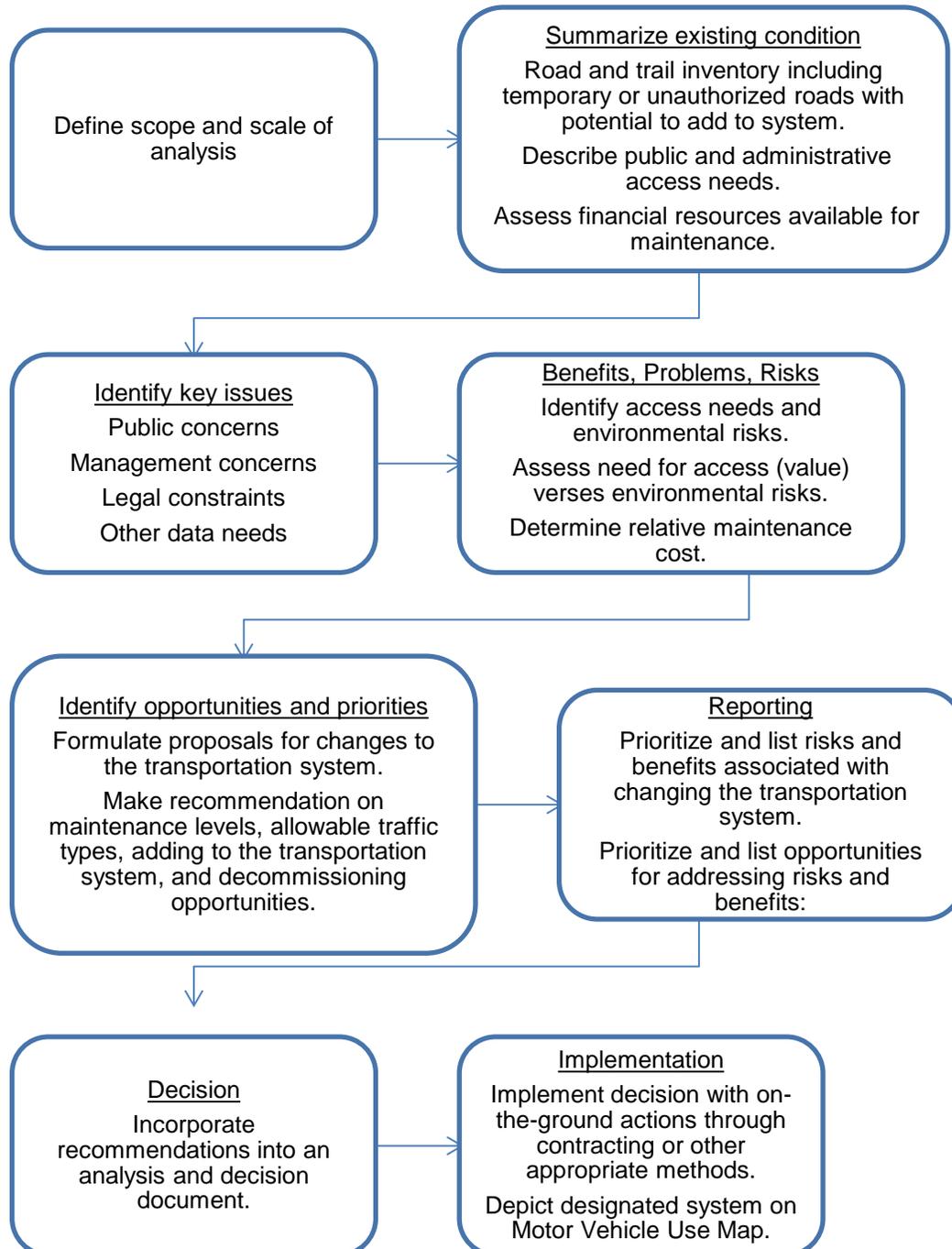


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Travel Analysis Flow Chart

Travel analysis assesses the current Forest transportation system and identifies issues and assesses benefits, problems, and risks to inform decisions related to identification of the minimum road system under 36 CFR Part 212, Subpart A; designation of roads, trails and areas for motor vehicle use under 36 CFR Part 212, Subpart B.

When proposed travel management decisions would result in changes in motor vehicle use of routes or areas (such as changes in vehicle class, traffic patterns, road standards, and road closures) and where there may be adverse environmental effects, those decisions must be informed by travel analysis (FSM 7712.4).



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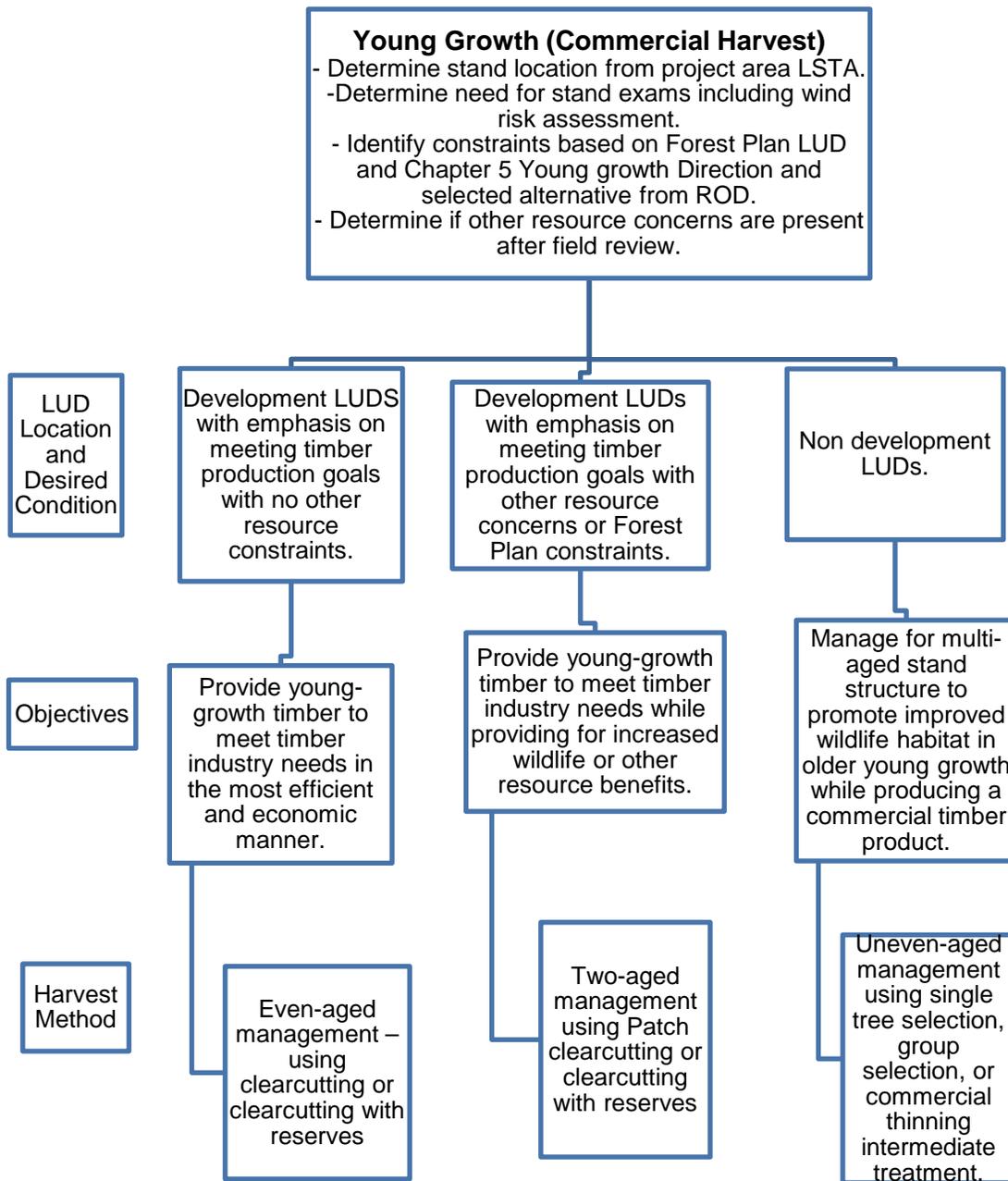
Quarry Development: Rock quarries will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team prior to implementation. The Responsible Official must approve quarry development prior to implementation.

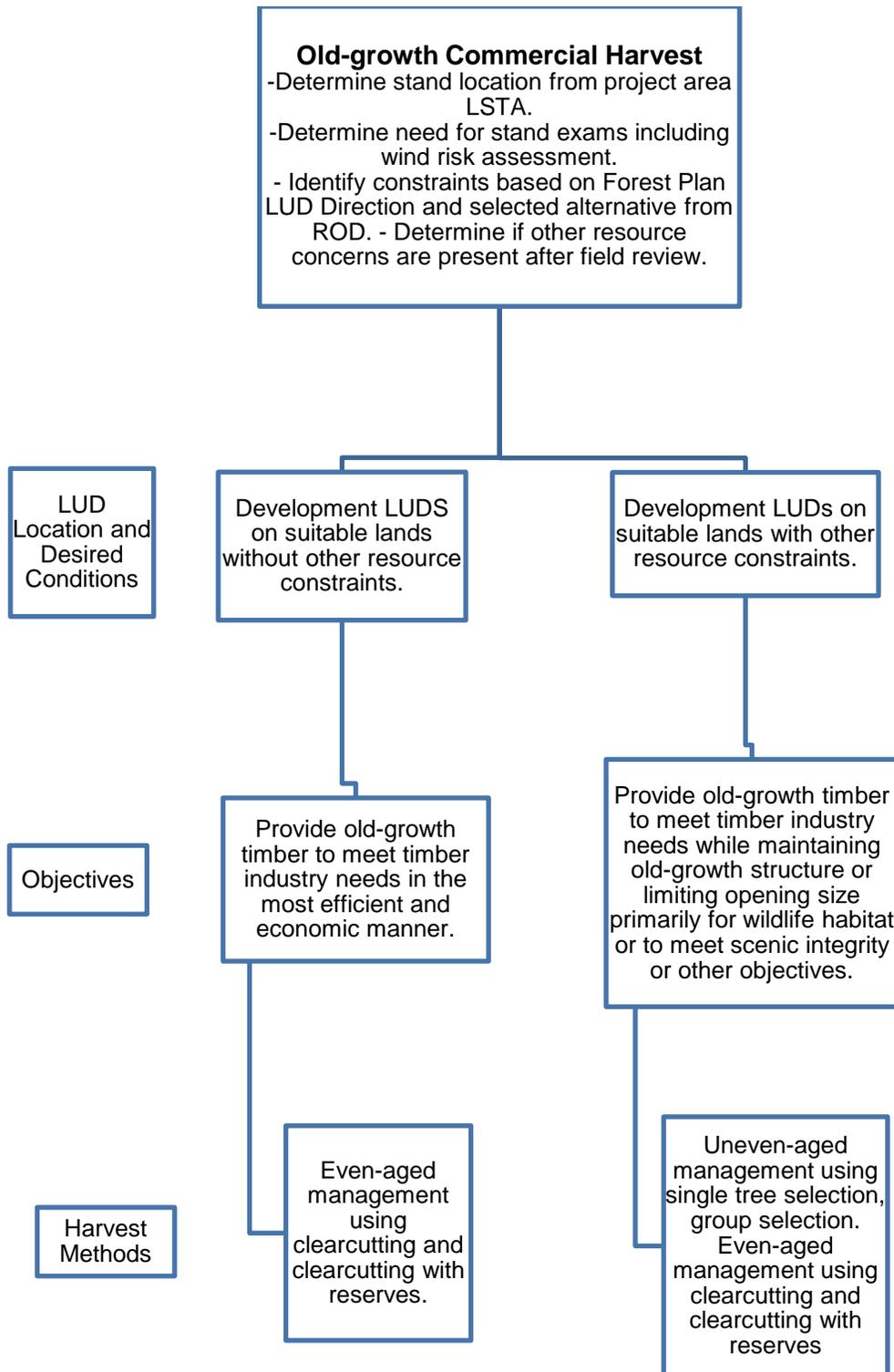
QUARRY DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST			
Site Name:	District:		
Location Description:			
GPS Coordinates:			
Responsible Party/Contactor:			
Estimated use of Materials Developed:			
Bond Required:	YES []	NO []	
Special restrictions:			
APPROVALS			
Recommended: _____		Date:	
Coordinator			
Approved: _____		Date:	
District Ranger			
STAFF REVIEW			
Timber:	Wildlife:		
Recreation:	Heritage:		
Scenery:	Engineering:		
Geology/Karst:	Fisheries:		
Botany:	Soils:		
Hydrology:			
NOTES			
Use additional pages as needed for site specific details.			

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Vegetation Management

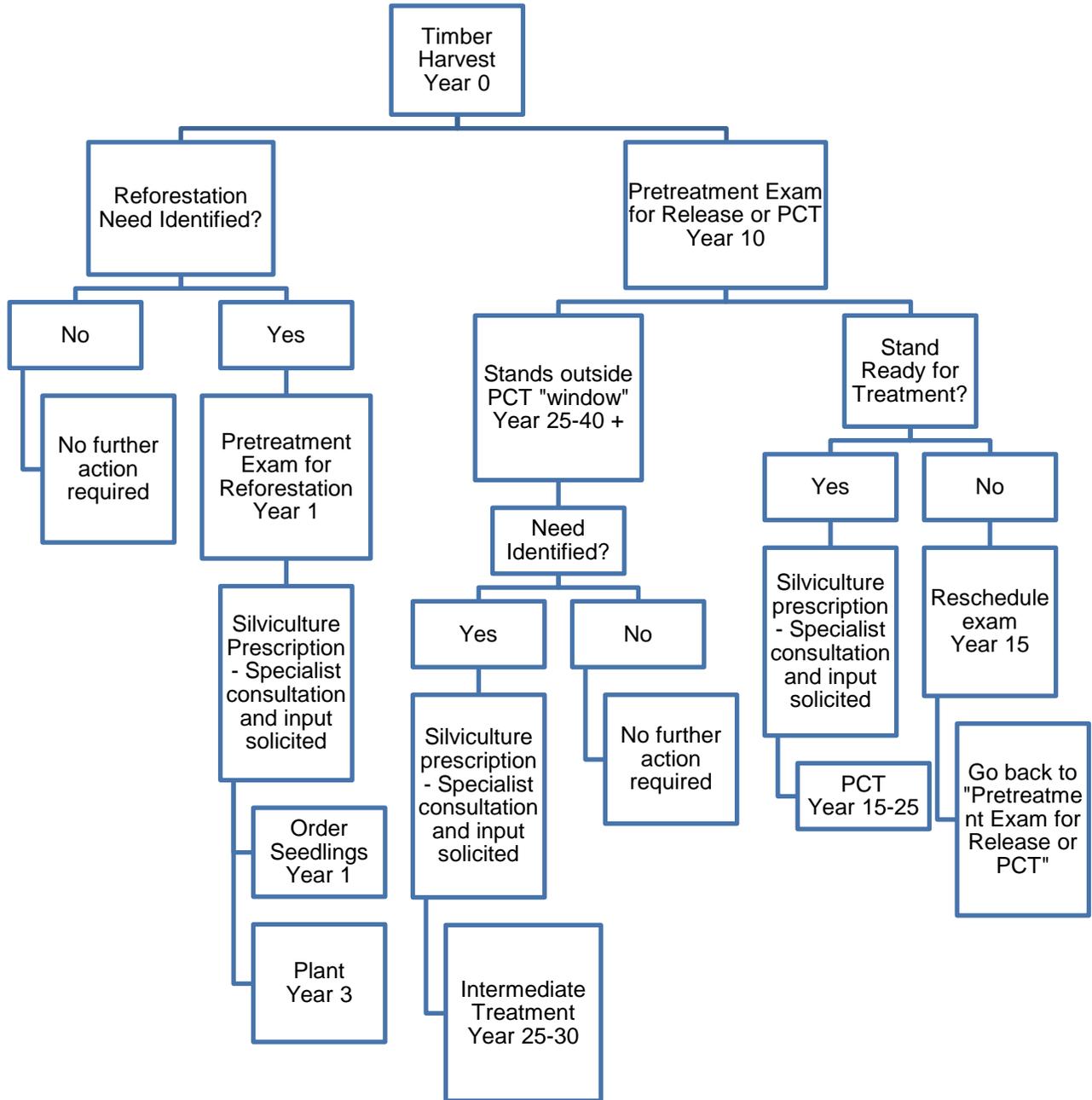
The following section displays the decision process for determining the appropriate silvicultural prescription for proposed young-growth and old-growth commercial harvest, stand establishment and stand enhancement activities. It also includes the decision process for determining the appropriate logging system for a timber stand. Consider resource specialists' concerns during project planning (e.g., Hydrologist for peak flow).





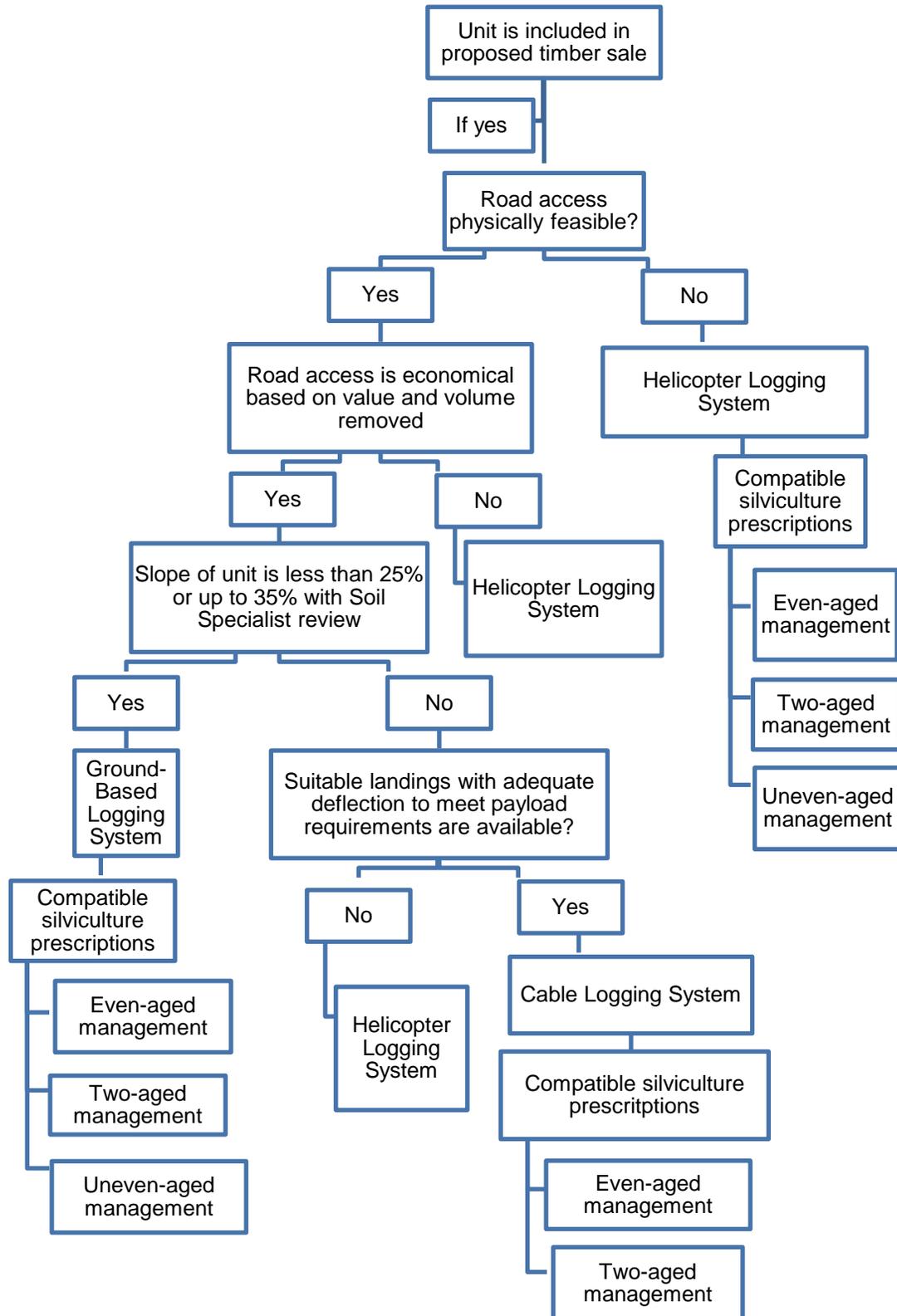
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Stand Establishment and Stand Enhancement



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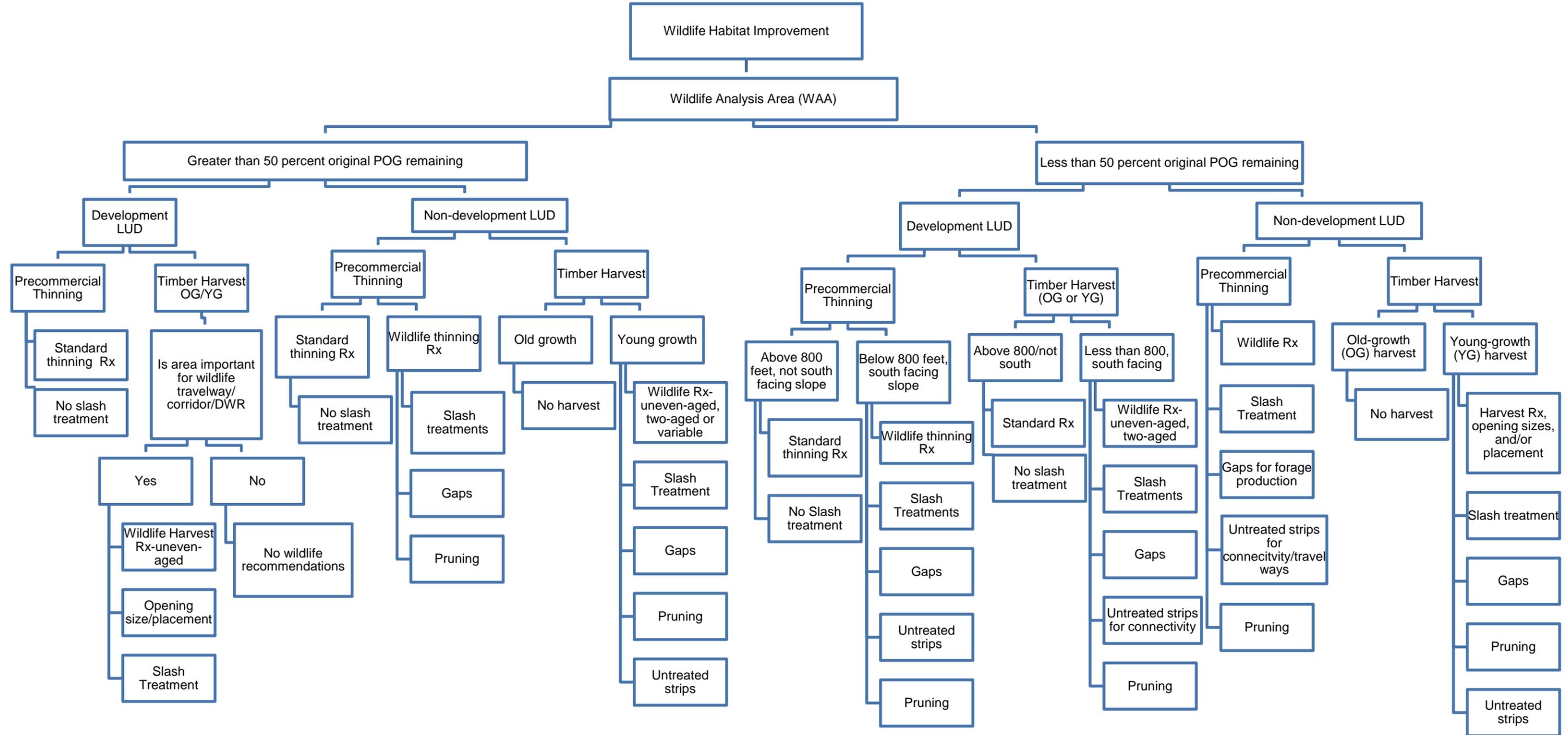
For all proposed timber harvest the most cost effective logging system feasible will be considered first. Management objectives and silviculture prescriptions may dictate logging system.



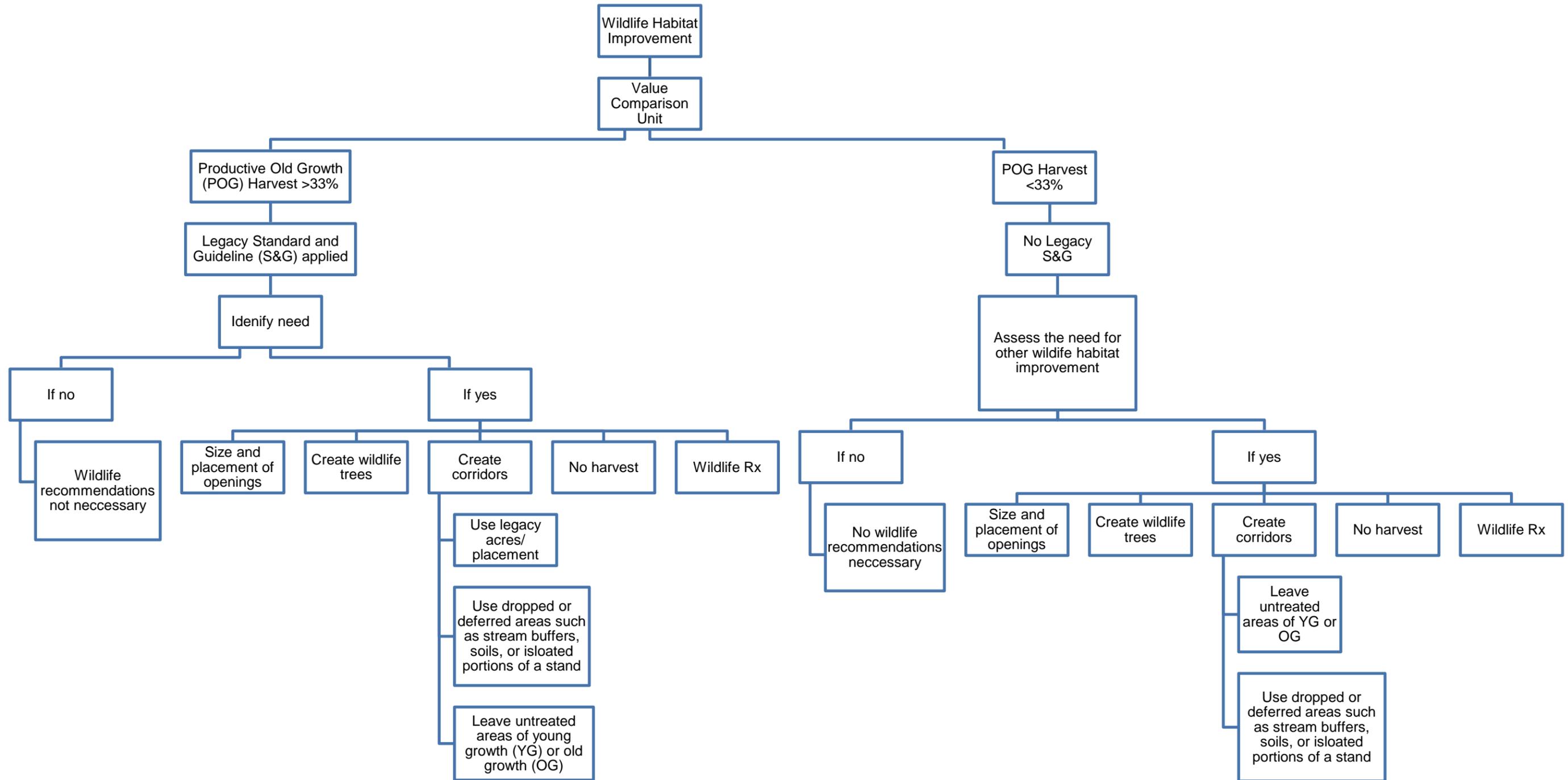
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Wildlife

The following section displays the decision process when determining the appropriate wildlife habitat improvement and wildlife enhancement activities.

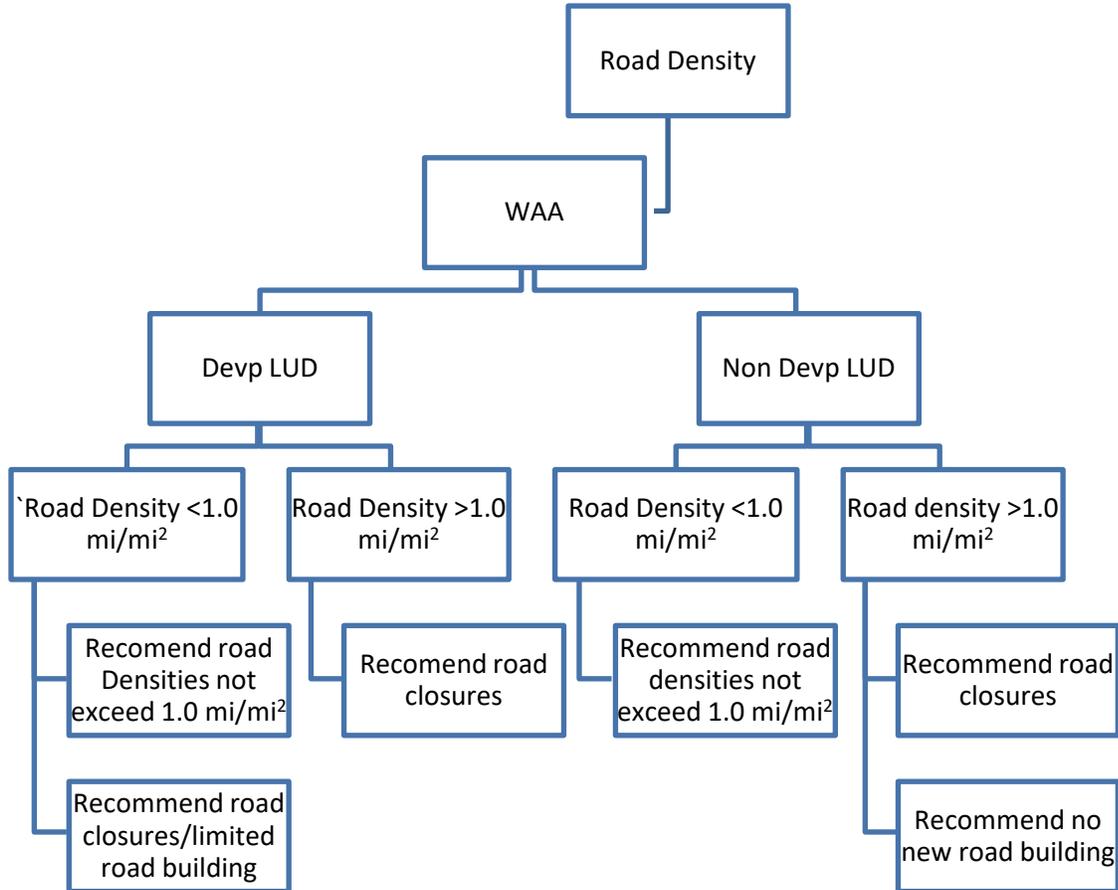


Applying Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Measures

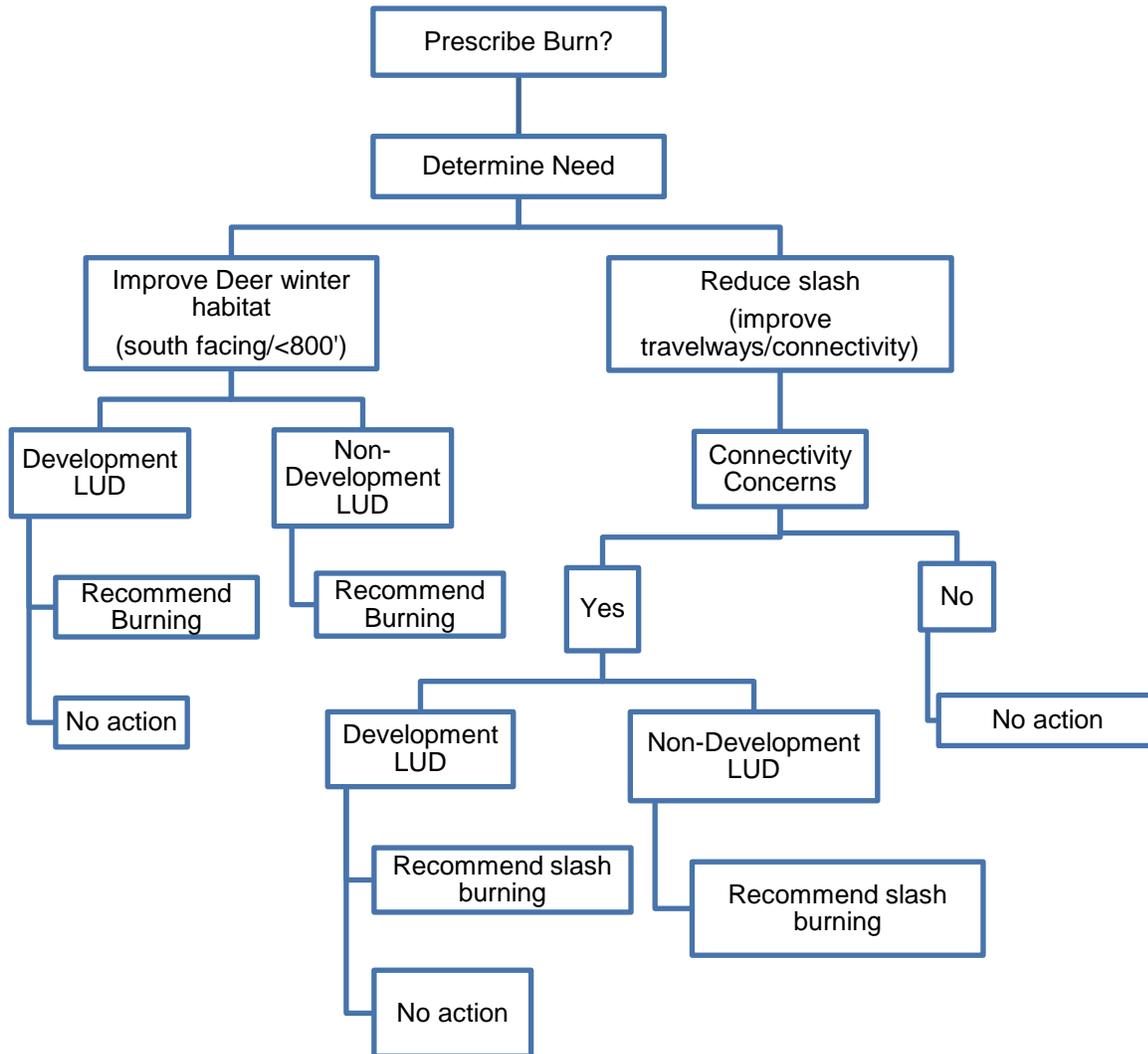


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Minimizing road effects to Wildlife Habitat



Decision Tree for implementing Prescribed Burning for Wildlife Habitat Enhancement



Appendix B

Activity-Specific Resource Requirements

This section contains additional detail regarding how the project activities will be implemented. They include additional sideboards and mitigation measures not identified in the Activity Cards.

Sideboards: a list of requirements designed to guide implementation of on the ground activities to achieve desired conditions while minimizing adverse effects.

Mitigation Measure: an activity or limitation placed upon a project activity to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

Fish and Hydrology

Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, streams in the affected area need to be surveyed so that any mandatory stream protections can be prescribed and implemented. In addition to stream classification and mapping, these surveys can include the hanging of flags and resource tags on streams in/near potential timber harvest units and the hanging of resource tags at stream crossings.

Concurrence with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game is required for any activity occurring below mean high water, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulatory permits may be required for some restoration activities.

Cumulative peak flow estimates need to be calculated during site-specific project planning so that thresholds that could result in peak stream flow increases can be avoided. Watershed-specific analysis should be conducted to ensure that watershed conditions do not degrade as a result of planned activity.

Site-specific BMPs will be identified and followed.

Heritage

As projects are developed the Forest Service may use either the *2017 Programmatic Agreement Among the USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region, the Advisory Council On Historic Preservation, and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Heritage Program Management On National Forests in the State Of Alaska* (PA; USDA Forest Service 2017) or standard Section 106 procedures, whichever is applicable. The PA utilizes an alternative approach to the standard Section 106 procedures. It is authorized for use in undertakings with findings of “no historic properties affected” or “no adverse effects.” Standard Section 106 procedures apply to undertakings with findings of “adverse effects.”

As discrete projects are identified, the Heritage Professional will identify the Area of Potential Effects (APE), and then will determine whether the area has been adequately investigated for historic properties.

Should a determination be made that an undertaking will have an adverse effect on historic properties, Standard 106 procedures at 36 CFR 800.5 shall be followed including consultation with the SHPO, and potentially the ACHP. A Memorandum of Agreement or a Programmatic Agreement may be prepared to mitigate adverse effects. At every step in the Section 106 process there shall be on-going consultation with federally recognized tribes, ANCSA corporations, certified local governments and other interested parties.

Scenery

If an activity card says to consult a scenery resource specialist for that activity, the scenery resource specialist is most effective if brought into the project as early as possible to help create a project that is consistent with all applicable components of the Forest Plan.

Depending on the scale and location of the project, plan 1-6 months for scenic analysis to be conducted.

Silvicultural Prescriptions

The following timber harvest Activity Cards will require information from walk-through assessments and/or plot-level inventory data for silviculture prescription development. Silvicultural prescriptions will be prepared on an individual stand basis and approved by a Certified Silviculturist using the decision trees displayed earlier in this document and based on management objectives from Forest Plan LUDs and project-specific constraints identified in the Activity Cards for the POW LLA Project. The following Activity Cards:

- 01 – Rotational Harvest of Young Growth Using Even-aged Management;
- 02 – Rotational Harvest of Young Growth Using Two-aged Management;
- 03 – Harvest of Young Growth Using Uneven-aged Management;
- 04 – Commercial Thinning of Young Growth;
- 13 – Rotational Harvest of Old Growth using Even-aged Management; and
- 14 – Harvest of Old Growth using Uneven-aged Management.

There are potentially components of timber harvest in the following list of Activity Cards:

- 15 – Salvage of Dead, Dying, and Damaged Timber;
- 18 – NFS Road Construction;
- 19 – Temporary Road Construction;
- 39 – Winter Sport Access Improvements for Over-the-snow Vehicle Use; and
- 42 – Viewshed Improvements.

Implementation of certain non-timber activities may necessitate the cutting and/or removal of trees in order to meet the objectives of the activity, such as removal of all trees from the road prism for new road construction, or cutting some trees that have grown into the view in front of a recreational cabin for scenic improvements. Prescriptions may be necessary depending on the scope and scale of the project and the long-term goals are for the use of that land; consult the Activity Card and a Certified Silviculturist.

Process for Considering New Information or Changed Circumstances

The project implementation process is initiated when either the public or Forest Service resource specialist bring an activity proposal to a workshop. During the workshop project activity proposals are further defined and locations selected (Implementation Process Step 1). Changes to those activity proposals may occur in Implementation Process Steps 2-5. Changes may be required to ensure that the appropriate activity/treatment is implemented.

In the event there is new information or changed circumstances relating to a proposed activity, the following direction will be used to evaluate the proposed changes and FEIS effects analysis to determine if restarting the implementation process is needed.

- If changes are identified, during the implementation process, that are needed to meet the effects analysis, Selected Alternative design, or to meet sideboards or mitigation measures the District Ranger will assign an ID team to consider and review proposed adjustments.

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- Changes that do not require the location to be adjusted and result in similar or lower impacts as what was analyzed and displayed in the FEIS and ROD will be implemented without restarting the implementation process.
- If the location needs to be substantially adjusted, the design has a substantial change, or significant new circumstances are discovered relevant to environmental concerns, then the Responsible Official would defer the activity until the next workshop.
- Documentation of the review will be placed in the implementation record.

Instructions for the Project Implementation Checklist Packet

An implementation checklist packet will be prepared using templates on the following pages. These templates are project and resource checklists that would be used to verify that all implementation process steps have been followed and documented. The instructions below refer to this template.

1. Ensure Steps 1 through 5 of the Implementation Process have been completed prior to the completion of this packet.
2. Keep the implementation record current with all documentation related to implementation. Include a record number in all file names for indexing and long-term record keeping and include the record number on the following pages to show all pertinent files are a part of that record and can be easily obtained.
3. “Project Information” page: This section is general project information. For relatively simple projects, all information may be presented here, including map images. For more complex projects, include summary or general information and reference detailed project information, such as maps, project design, unit cards, road cards, or other relevant documents.
4. “Process Checklist” page: This section should document all the steps leading up to implementation of the project and show that the Forest Service has followed the process within this implementation plan. Example: process-related records are listed in the template, but the list for any given project should include all records disclosing the Forest Service’s process leading up to implementation.
5. The remainder of the template pages are dedicated to resource documentation and rationale for approval of the activities. All documentation referred to should be a part of the implementation record. If separate documentation is not necessary due to the scale or complexity, the space on that template page may be used to disclose any necessary information.

Appendix B

Project Name

Project Information

Contact Person:		
Legal Description or Location:		
Activities are within the following LUD(s):		
General Vicinity Description:		
<i>List All Maps and General Project Documents</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

If it's a small project, the general project information and even a small map could be inserted in this space. If it is a larger project with more information attached, then a project summary could go here. Certain information could be added as lines below "Project Information", such as watersheds, or time and duration of activities, or may be described in this space – whichever is more succinct. Documentation listed above may include map(s), a project summary write up, unit cards, roads cards, or various other project specifications as needed.

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Botany

<i>Project Documentation and Information</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

Standard inclusions above (if documentation is attached) or in this space (if only a few lines need to be written about it) could include: confirmation that the project fits within the range of effects analyzed in the EIS and why; if adjustments were made to the original proposal due to this resource; surveys or other form of data collection (attached, or reasoning why not needed); contacts made with the public pertaining to this resource for this project; compliance with laws and regulations; Biological Assessment, Biological Evaluations, and other records of rare and sensitive species; and any other required documentation.

Name, Title (sign and write)

Date

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Heritage

<i>Project Documentation and Information</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

Standard inclusions above (if documentation is attached) or in this space (if only a few lines need to be written about it) could include if adjustments were made to the original proposal due to this resource; surveys or other form of data collection (attached, or reasoning why not needed); contacts made with the public pertaining to this resource for this project; compliance with laws and regulations; Section 106 compliance documentation; SHPO consultation documentation (letters, emails, etc.); any Memorandum of Agreements or other mitigation documents if adverse effects are found; any additional consultation with tribes; if any sites are eligible; and any other required documentation.

Name, Title (sign and write)

Date

Invasive Plants

<i>Project Documentation and Information</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

Standard inclusions above (if documentation is attached) or in this space (if only a few lines need to be written about it) could include: confirmation that the project fits within the range of effects analyzed in the EIS and why; if adjustments were made to the original proposal due to this resource; surveys or other form of data collection (attached, or reasoning why not needed); contacts made with the public pertaining to this resource for this project; compliance with laws and regulations; if there are invasive plants located in the project area; previous treatment plans or reports; Invasive Weed Risk Assessment; timing restrictions; and any other required documentation.

Name, Title (sign and write)

Date

Appendix B

Karst

<i>Project Documentation and Information</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

Standard inclusions above (if documentation is attached) or in this space (if only a few lines need to be written about it) could include: confirmation that the project fits within the range of effects analyzed in the EIS and why; if adjustments were made to the original proposal due to this resource; surveys or other form of data collection (attached, or reasoning why not needed); contacts made with the public pertaining to this resource for this project; compliance with laws and regulations; karst vulnerability assessment if conducted; maps of low, moderate, and high-vulnerability karst areas and the contributing watersheds if known; compliance with the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act; studies on the karst systems; if there are timing restrictions; and any other required documentation.

Name, Title (sign and write)

Date

Recreation

<i>Project Documentation and Information</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

Standard inclusions above (if documentation is attached) or in this space (if only a few lines need to be written about it) could include: confirmation that the project fits within the range of effects analyzed in the EIS and why; if adjustments were made to the original proposal due to this resource; surveys or other form of data collection (attached, or reasoning why not needed); contacts made with the public pertaining to this resource for this project; compliance with laws and regulations; if any developed or dispersed recreation sites are within or near the project area; if there are any timing restrictions; public notifications made/posted; and any other required documentation.

Name, Title (sign and write)

Date

Appendix B

Scenery

<i>Project Documentation and Information</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

Standard inclusions above (if documentation is attached) or in this space (if only a few lines need to be written about it) could include: confirmation that the project fits within the range of effects analyzed in the EIS and why; if adjustments were made to the original proposal due to this resource; surveys or other form of data collection (attached, or reasoning why not needed); contacts made with the public pertaining to this resource for this project; compliance with laws and regulations; modeling used to evaluate effects; which, if any, Visual Priority Routes and Use Areas affect the project area; what the Scenic Integrity Objective(s) are and if they are met; and any other required documentation.

Name, Title (sign and write)

Date

Soils and Wetlands

<i>Project Documentation and Information</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

Standard inclusions above (if documentation is attached) or in this space (if only a few lines need to be written about it) could include: confirmation that the project fits within the range of effects analyzed in the EIS and why; if adjustments were made to the original proposal due to this resource; surveys or other form of data collection (attached, or reasoning why not needed); contacts made with the public pertaining to this resource for this project; compliance with laws and regulations; if there are steep slopes, highly erosive soils, landslides, wetlands, or alluvial fans located in the project area; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit(s) and documentation; and any other required documentation.

Name, Title (sign and write)

Date

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Timber

<i>Project Documentation and Information</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

Standard inclusions above (if documentation is attached) or in this space (if only a few lines need to be written about it) could include: confirmation that the project fits within the range of effects analyzed in the EIS and why; if adjustments were made to the original proposal due to this resource; surveys or other form of data collection (attached, or reasoning why not needed); contacts made with the public pertaining to this resource for this project; compliance with laws and regulations; documentation associated with completion of Gates 1, 2, and 3 if applicable; economics analyses, marking guidelines, cruising data, and layout information; recording of stands designated for small sale strategy if applicable; and any other required documentation.

Name, Title (sign and write)

Date

Transportation

<i>Project Documentation and Information</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

Standard inclusions above (if documentation is attached) or in this space (if only a few lines need to be written about it) could include: confirmation that the project fits within the range of effects analyzed in the EIS and why; if adjustments were made to the original proposal due to this resource; surveys or other form of data collection (attached, or reasoning why not needed); contacts made with the public pertaining to this resource for this project; compliance with laws and regulations; Travel Analysis or Access & Travel Management documentation; road activity information associated with the project; if roads will be added to or removed from the Forest Transportation System; if revisions will be needed for the Motor Vehicle Use Maps; easement or surfacing agreements; and any other required documentation.

Name, Title (sign and write)

Date

Appendix B

Vegetation Management

<i>Project Documentation and Information</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

Standard inclusions above (if documentation is attached) or in this space (if only a few lines need to be written about it) could include: confirmation that the project fits within the range of effects analyzed in the EIS and why; if adjustments were made to the original proposal due to this resource; surveys or other form of data collection (attached, or reasoning why not needed); contacts made with the public pertaining to this resource for this project; compliance with laws and regulations; approved prescriptions; if there will be regeneration needs or intermediate treatments for the stand(s) associated with the project; and any other required documentation.

Name, Title (sign and write)

Date

Wildlife

<i>Project Documentation and Information</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Record Number</i>

Standard inclusions above (if documentation is attached) or in this space (if only a few lines need to be written about it) could include: confirmation that the project fits within the range of effects analyzed in the EIS and why; if adjustments were made to the original proposal due to this resource; surveys or other form of data collection (attached, or reasoning why not needed); contacts made with the public pertaining to this resource for this project; compliance with laws and regulations; Biological Assessment, Biological Evaluations, and other records of T&E/Rare/Sensitive species; consultation with State and Federal Agencies; if there are any timing restrictions for the project; and any other required documentation.

Name, Title (sign and write) _____
Date

ROD Implementation Tracking Sheet

This sheet will be used to track actions for which there are limits specified in the Record of Decision. The column headers will not be filled out entirely until there is a selected alternative, since both the list of activities and the values associated with them would vary by each alternative. However, examples are listed for this Draft EIS. Limits may be for the amount of an activity that can occur, either in total, within a timeframe (such as annually), or if there is a maximum for within a geographical area. The limit may also be related to an effect caused by implementation, if it requires tracking from one project to the next to ensure that limit is not exceeded in the life of the POW LLA Project. Continuation of this sheet throughout implementation will ensure maximums are not exceeded.

Activity and Maximum Allowable:		Old-growth Timber Harvest	Young-growth Timber Harvest	Precommercial Thinning	Stream Restoration	New NFS Road Construction	Track Legacy Acres, Etc.
Project Name	Date	XXX MMBF	XXX MMBF	4,500 acres annually	XX Miles	XX Miles	
<i>Insert new rows above with new projects and update #s</i>							
Total Remaining:							

Note that all pertinent activities or trackable measures would be added and included depending upon the selected alternative and its components.