

Appendix F

Whyte Project List of Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

The Laurentian Ranger District of the Superior National Forest is completing an environmental analysis for the Whyte Forest Management Project. The project proposes to manage vegetation and associated roads, on approximately 9,000 acres. As part of the effects analysis, resource specialists determined cumulative effects that would occur under each alternative.

The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) defined "cumulative impact" in regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA as follows:

"Cumulative impact" is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. (40 CFR 1508.7)

Past, On-going, and Future Projects

Members of the Interdisciplinary Team met several times during the development of the project to develop the list of past, present and future actions that should be considered during the cumulative effects analysis completed by each resource. The following list identifies the known past, on-going, and proposed future projects occurring in or near the Whyte Project Area.

Correll Land Exchange – The USFS is proceeding with a land exchange with Randy Correll. The United States will receive 760 acres of private land. The proponent will receive 720 acres of National Forest System land. The existing condition of the vegetation on the land the USFS is acquiring has been taken into account in the project.

The Corrells stated that the land they would acquire would not be logged and they may construct a house and associated roads. The land the United States would acquire is currently young forest and no additional management actions are planned in the near future.

Rifle Land Exchange with Lake County – specific lands are under consideration but the agency has not yet developed a proposed action.

Forest Service vegetation management within past 10 years

Regeneration harvest	1,355 acres
Thinning	743 acres
Planting	310 acres

Estimate of State, Counties, TNC, and Private forest aged 0-9 (shows regeneration harvest occurring during past 10 years)

State	2035 acres
Lake and St. Louis Counties	2325 acres
The Nature Conservancy	388 acres
Private	638 acres

Estimate of State, Counties, TNC, and private proposed harvest in next 5 to 10 years

State of MN	12,856 acres
Lake and St. Louis Counties	861 acres*
The Nature Conservancy	462 acres
Private	Unknown but estimated to be similar to past 10 years

* Lake County cover for current sales only.

State of MN shows potential acres only, not actual planned acres. Planned acres would be less.

Upgrade of County State Aid Highway 2 – the portion of road south from FH 11 is proposed to be reconstructed in 2007. May impact some Federal land along the road where existing road is widened but would not result in a measurable change in species composition, age class, MIH, or wildlife habitat.

Mining – We are not aware of any mining proposals in or near the project area that would affect resources in the project area.

Land development – Potlatch has leased some lands but no other changes or plans are known.

Land sales or leasing – Land continues to be bought and sold throughout the area. No major projects are known.

Rural Schools Initiative – 240 acres of land in the Project Area were included in the Secure Rural Schools Initiative. At this time, there is no active move toward implementing this initiative. Management actions are proposed on 2 of the tracts. It is unlikely the Whyte project would affect this initiative.

Moose browse projects – cooperative project between the USFS and MN DNR to mow brushy sites to create moose forage areas. No new projects are planned at this time.

Sand Lake Seven Beavers Memorandum of Understanding – a collaborative effort between The Nature Conservancy, St. Louis County, Lake County, Forest Service, and MN DNR. The Whyte Project Team collaborated with the SL7B group in developing proposed vegetation projects. Collaboration continues to occur between all groups for road access and vegetation management on State, County, and TNC lands.

Lake County ATV Plan – a collaborative effort between the county, State of MN, and USFS to plan for ATV trails. Group is just forming and no specific proposals have been identified.

Lake County Wild Fire Protection Plan – Plan is complete. No specific proposals in the project area.

Special Use Permit requests there are 10 known access needs in the area. The roads currently exist so the permitting process would not lead to additional miles of road on the ground.

Superior National Forest Landscape Ecosystems. The existing condition for the vegetation age class, species composition, and management indicator habitats was used as a baseline for existing condition and to determine cumulative actions across the forest. All of the projects with decisions but not yet implemented, along with specific proposed actions, have been added together, to show the cumulative actions of all the vegetation projects occurring on National Forest land. This analysis was run during November 2006 and the effects are summarized in Chapter 3. The full report is in the Project Record.

Non-native Invasive Plants - On April 27, 2006 Jim Sanders, Superior National Forest, Forest Supervisor signed a decision to implement the Non-native Invasive Plant (NNIP) Management Project which provides for treatments across the Forest. The Environmental Assessment for that Project describes an integrated approach to managing noxious weeds on the Forest and the effects of such management.

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