

### 3.21 Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential

The Forest Plan EIS discusses energy requirements on page 3.10-4. The following information tiers to the Forest Plan EIS.

Energy would be consumed in harvest and regeneration, road maintenance, and traffic associated with vegetation management activities. Energy would be consumed by the Forest Service in implementation and administration of activities and by contractors in timber harvest, road management, and reforestation.

The Forest Service would use energy primarily through vehicle use in preparing and administering timber sales, road work, and reforestation. Contractors would use energy through large equipment and vehicle use in harvesting stands, building or maintaining roads, and planting or thinning trees.

There would be no energy requirement for Alternative 1. Energy conservation measures would be the same for all action alternatives. The Forest Service and contractors would strive to keep vehicles and equipment in good working condition. They would also try to make efficient use of vehicles and equipment and minimize energy consumption where possible. For example, crews would use one vehicle to access sites for work.

Because fewer acres are proposed for harvest in Alternative 3 than Alternative 2, Alternative 3 would require less energy to implement than Alternative 2. Alternative 3 also has stands closer to existing roads as compared to Alternative 2, and so may have slightly less energy consumption.

Energy consumed that relates to recreation would be based on number of visitors to the area. Recreation use in the area is not expected to change based on implementation of any of the alternatives.

### 3.22 Natural or Depletable Resource Requirements and Conservation Potential

Gravel pit use and classified system road corridors are the primary examples of depletable resource requirements for the Border Project.

Most of the National Forest System existing (11) and the proposed new (1) gravel pits would be used to implement the action alternatives. The primary system roads would be the same for all action alternatives and, although there would be an increase of 1.6 miles of OML 1 roads, there would be a net decrease of about 7.6 miles. All action alternatives also propose rehabilitating one gravel pit. The primary conservation measure would be the use of winter roads.

Most of the temporary roads in the action alternatives would be winter roads that require much less gravel than all-season roads and sometimes they require no gravel. Alternative 2 would have more temporary roads than Alternatives 3. However, of the new all-season temporary roads, Alternatives 2 includes only about one mile more than Alternative 3. Therefore, the gravel use among the action alternatives would be quite similar.

Road corridors remove the natural environment of the area occupied by the corridor. As stated above, the primary classified road system is the same for all action alternatives and they all reduce the total by about 7.6 miles. Vegetation would be re-established in temporary road corridors and so those roads would not deplete a natural resource. Again, the emphasis in the action alternatives on winter temporary roads would be the primary conservation measure.

### 3.23 Urban Quality/Historic and Heritage Resources

The Project area is not near any urban area. No harvest or road construction activities are planned within approximately 2 miles of the Town of Crane Lake, Minnesota, the closest community. Some fuels treatment activities may occur within about 1.5 miles of the community. The population of year-round residents in Crane Lake is about 100.

The goal of the Forest Service Heritage Resource Management Program is to preserve significant heritage resources in their field settings and to ensure that they remain available in the future for research, social/cultural purposes, recreation, and education. Heritage resource management direction is provided in the 2004 Forest Plan desired conditions, (D-HR-1), objectives (O-HR-1 through O-HR-3), and standards and guidelines (S-HR-1 through S-HR-11, and G-HR-1 through G-HR-2).

Forest Service personnel inventoried the Project area in the field. All heritage resource sites would be protected from any potential damage resulting from harvest and road related activities. If any heritage resource sites are located prior to or during implementation, the sites would be reviewed and protected. See Section 3.15 Heritage Resources for more information.

### 3.24 Effects on Consumers, Civil Rights, Minority Groups, Women, and Environmental Justice

The phrase "Civil Rights" implies fair and equal treatment under the law, both within the agency and in its relations with the public (FSH 1909.17, 33.26). It is Forest Service policy (Forest Service Manual 1703) that Forest Service employees conduct official business so that:

1. The Forest Service eradicates all forms of discrimination from its programs and activities
2. All levels of the organization are supportive of affirmative action
3. There are no economic or social barriers which limit program participation
4. All programs and services are equally available to all persons, without exceptions

Executive Order (EO) 12898 of February 11, 1994, requires each federal agency to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations" (EO 12898, Section 1-101).

The minority population closest to the Project area is the Bois Forte Band of the Chippewa Tribe located near Orr, Minnesota. Members of the band are known to hunt large and small game within the Project area and to harvest wild rice, fish, and small game from the Vermilion River. It is not expected that any of the alternatives would have a negative effect on their use of the area because proposed vegetation activities would be beneficial for game habitat. See the Tribal Section 3.6 for potential effects to access for hunting and gathering activities.

Under all alternatives, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects of the Project on environmental justice.

### **3.25 Effects on Prime Farmland, Rangeland, and Forest Land**

All alternatives are consistent with the intent of the Secretary of Agriculture Memorandum 1827 for prime land. The Project area does not contain any prime farmlands or rangelands. Prime forest land does not apply to land within the National Forest System.

### **3.26 Optimality and Appropriateness of Harvest Techniques**

Choosing the optimum harvest method for regenerating a particular stand is influenced by the silvicultural requirements of the species on the site, existing stand conditions, issues raised during the analysis, prior experiences in the area, and Forest Plan direction. A silvicultural prescription is prepared based primarily on the biological requirements of the stand and the Landscape Ecosystem and Management Area direction. The harvest method for any given stand may differ from another stand. The method may be modified to mitigate other resource concerns such as visual quality or desired future conditions. However, the proposed harvest method is required to be sufficient to ensure regeneration of the stand. Appendix C specifies the proposed harvest method for stands included in the action alternatives.

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 Section 6 (g)(3), (E)(iv) and (F)(i) states that vegetation management practices be chosen that meet the objectives and requirements of the Land and Resource Management Plan. Border Project follows the direction in the 2004 Forest Plan for silvicultural prescriptions (Page 2-21, S-TM-5 and G-TM-7).

### **3.27 Effects on Flood Plains**

None of the proposed action alternatives would result in human occupancy of flood plains. There would be no anticipated loss of property values, nor would human health, safety, or welfare be adversely affected. Environmental effects on riparian zones and wetlands are discussed in Soils (Section 3.11), Water Quality and Watershed Health (Section 3.12) of this chapter.