

Silvicultural Findings of Compliance with Laws, Regulations, and Policy  
**South Project**

The following findings are made based on the environmental analysis and the silvicultural prescription:

**Consistency [36 CFR 219.8(e)]:**

1. Timber harvest would occur on lands suited for timber production or would occur in areas where timber harvest is permitted and is necessary to help achieve other resource management objectives.

**All areas to be harvested in the 5.1 and 5.4 Management Areas are suitable and permissible for harvest. The 5.1A Management Area is unsuitable land being treated to meet fuel reduction objectives.**

2. Silvicultural treatments are consistent with the Forest Plan.

**See page II-25 of the phase II Amendment of the Black Hills Forest Plan for acceptable Silvicultural Systems.**

**Timber Harvest [16 U.S.C. 1604 (g)(3)(E)]:**

1. Soil, slope, or other watershed conditions will not be irreversibly damaged;

**See South Hydrology specialist report.**

2. There is assurance that the lands can be adequately restocked within five years after final regeneration harvest.

**Regeneration surveys will be accomplished on all shelterwood seed cuts (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years), overstory removals (1<sup>st</sup> year), and on all selection cuts (5<sup>th</sup> year) to assure the stands have regenerated properly. There will be no clearcutting in the South project area.**

**Mechanical site prep may be necessary in areas of heavy grass cover that may impede natural regeneration.**

3. Streams, streambanks, shorelines, lakes, wetlands, and other bodies of water are protected from detrimental changes in water temperatures, blockages of water courses, and deposits of sediment where harvests are likely to seriously and adversely affect water conditions or fish habitat.

**See South Hydrology specialist report.**

4. The harvesting system to be used was not selected primarily because it will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output of timber.

**Even-aged Regeneration Harvests [16 U.S.C. 1604 (g)(3)(F)]:**

1. For clearcutting, it is the optimum method.

**Clearcutting will not be used in the South project area.**

2. Clearcuts, coppice cuts, seed tree, and shelterwood regeneration harvests are appropriate to meeting the objectives and requirements of the Forest Plan.

**See page II-25 of the Black Hills Forest Plan for acceptable Silvicultural Systems.**

3. An interdisciplinary review was completed and the potential environmental, biological, aesthetic, engineering, and economic impacts were assessed and the cutting methods are consistent with the multiple use of the project area.

**South EIS and specialist reports**

4. Cut blocks, patches, or strips are shaped and blended to the extent practicable with the natural terrain.

5. Even-aged regeneration harvests made in one operation meet the 40-acre maximum size limit requirement.

**There are no harvests that need to meet this requirement.**

6. Harvest will be consistent with the protection of soil, watershed, fish, wildlife, recreation, esthetic resources, cultural and historic resources, and the regeneration of timber resources.

**South Botany BE and specialist report  
South Wildlife BE and specialist report  
South Hydrology specialist report  
South Heritage specialist report**

**Culmination of Mean Annual Increment [16 U.S.C. 1604 (m)]:**

Stands of trees harvested have generally reached the culmination of mean annual increment of growth (CMAI).

**Page II-26 of the phase II Amendment of the Black Hills Forest Plan Guideline 2411. Regeneration harvests of even-aged timber stands should not be undertaken until**

the stands have generally reached (or surpassed 95% of the) culmination of the mean annual increment measured in cubic feet.

CMAI occurs when the periodic annual increment equals the mean annual increment (MAI). MAI was calculated by running a bareground seedling establishment run in the Forest Vegetation Simulator with the SDI Max for the Black Hills and the appropriate site index. Alternately, the BHNF considers any stand that has reached 120 years old as having reached CMAI.

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