

APPENDIX B – DESIGN FEATURES AND MONITORING

Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact Emmett RD “E” Area Travel Management Project

The following design features and monitoring will be implemented with the Emmett RD “E” Area Travel Management Project decision.

Design Features

Road Decommissioning

RM-1 Road decommissioning activities would include some or all of the following activities:

- Evaluate and if necessary spray for noxious weeds prior to ground disturbing activities,
- Block access at all points from existing roads using berms, boulders, and/or re-contouring,
- Remove culverts and stabilize crossings,
- Scarify and seed/mulch all disturbed areas with approved seed mix,
- Provide for long-term drainage needs (i.e. waterbars or like structures),
- Maintain erosion control devices during all road decommissioning activities adjacent to streams.

Decommissioned roads will be removed from the Forest transportation system. Culverts may be left if interdisciplinary team analysis determines that risks and consequences outweigh the benefits of removing the culvert(s).

Wildlife

WL-1 If an active goshawk nest is detected before or during implementation of road decommissioning activities, no project-related activities shall occur within 650 feet (Reynolds, et al., 1992) of the nest tree from March 1 to August 8. However, the wildlife biologist may alter the actual size and shape of the buffer around the nest if conditions (e.g., topography) warrant modifications. Additionally, the wildlife biologist may shorten the activity restriction period if it can be determined through nest monitoring that the nest has failed or the young have fledged and left the area where activities might disturb them.

WL-2 All personnel conducting activities associated with this project (e.g., road decommissioning contracts) shall not be permitted to hunt, transport hunters, discharge firearms, or transport game animals with vehicles in areas otherwise closed to motorized vehicles.

WL-3 Project-related contracts shall include protective measures for Threatened, Endangered, and Region 4 Sensitive species against unforeseen events. Protective measures will account for new species or areas that may be identified during project implementation.

Rare Plants (Botany)

RP-1 Weeds should be monitored and treated in the project area as part of a regular weed abatement program, as the spread of additional noxious or weedy species may be a concern relative to the ground disturbance and equipment use involved in road decommissioning.

RP-2 For any seeding/planting of disturbed areas, the species used should be selected or reviewed by the Forest or District Botanist to ensure that additional undesirable species are not introduced into the project area. The use of native seeds/plant material is highly preferable if available. Short-lived native cultivars can be used to supplement native seed supplies.

Cultural Resources

CR-1 Historic properties would be avoided and protected during project implementation.

CR-2 Contracts implementing either action alternative would be governed by provisions designed to prevent adverse impacts to any unknown cultural sites discovered during project implementation.

CR-3 A qualified archeologist will survey established but unauthorized routes to be designated that have not been previously surveyed and where the Boise NF's site predictive model identifies a medium to high probability for cultural resources. These surveys will include the 100-foot exemption areas allowing off-trail motorized vehicle access to dispersed campsites. The results of the survey will be reported to SHPO. The Boise NF, in consultation with SHPO, will take the appropriate management action if potential adverse or adverse effects to historic properties are identified.

CR-4 A qualified archeologist will survey NFS roads to be decommissioned if the roads have not been previously surveyed and decommissioning involves ground disturbance. In these instances, implementation will not proceed until the Boise NF completes consultation with SHPO.

CR-5 If any cultural materials are encountered during the course of the project, including but not limited to route decommissioning, all ground disturbing activities will cease until a qualified archeologist is consulted.

Soil, Water and Fisheries Resources

SW-1 If water drafting is necessary, the locations, methods, and timing shall be approved in advance by a hydrologist or fisheries biologist. Screen opening size must be the standard 3/32" or smaller, and screen surface area must be proportional to the pump intake rate to ensure that water velocity through the screen does not exceed 0.4 fps.

SW-2 An emergency spill containment kit shall be available on site as mentioned in the Spill Prevention and Containment Plan. No fuels shall be stored in RCAs. Refueling or servicing of vehicles or equipment shall not take place in RCAs, unless there is no other alternative. All equipment shall be in good repair and free of leakage of lubricants, fuels, coolants, and hydraulic fluid.

SW-3 Sedimats may be placed downstream from management activities associated with route stream crossings (such as culvert removals, construction of hardened fords, bridge

construction or bridge removal) to minimize sediment delivery to the receiving waterbody. These would be removed from the channel at the conclusion of activities and may be placed on the streambanks for stabilization, if necessary for rehabilitation. Other sediment control measures may include silt fences, erosion control matting, straw wattles or bales, mulch or slash.

If a sick, injured or dead specimen of a threatened or endangered species is found in the project area, the finder must notify the Boise Field Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement, and follow any instructions. If the project may worsen the fish's condition before the Fish and Wildlife Service can be contacted, the finder should attempt to move the fish to a suitable location near the capture site while keeping the fish in the water and reducing its stress as much as possible. Do not disturb the fish after it has been moved. If the fish is dead, or dies while being moved, report the following information: (1) US Fish and Wildlife Service consultation number; (2) the date, time, and location of discovery; (3) a brief description of circumstances and any information that may show the cause of death; and (4) photographs of the fish and where it was found. The Fish and Wildlife Service also suggests that the finder coordinate with local biologists to recover any tags or other relevant research information. If the specimen is not needed by local biologists for tag recovery or by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for analysis, the specimen should be returned to the water in which it was found, or otherwise discarded. (BO, Terms and Conditions, 4.c.)

Monitoring

In occupied bull trout habitat, monitor the turbidity level, downstream extent, and duration of any turbidity plumes created by project actions. The turbidity measurement will be taken with a turbidimeter that measures turbidity in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs). (BO, Term and Condition, 4.a.)

The downstream extent and duration of sediment effects associated with implementation of the project actions will be reported annually (by December 30) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Boise, Idaho. (BO, Term and Condition, 4.b.)