

Chapter 4. Consultation and Coordination

Preparers:

| Name | Title | Role |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Anderson, Carl | Forestry Technician | Missoula RD Weed Coordinator |
| Beckes, Barbara | Program Officer for Planning | Project Staff Officer |
| Blackburn, Lisa | GPS/GIS Specialist | Maps |
| Casselli, Elizabeth | Lolo NF Landscape Architect | Visual Analysis |
| Clark, Steve | Timber Management Assistant | Timber Sale Feasibility Analysis |
| Hendrickson, Shane | Fisheries Biologist | Fisheries Analysis |
| Kostick, Ivy | Forester | Economic Analysis |
| Kulla, Andy | Weed and Resource Leader | Recreation and Range Analysis |
| Lavelle, Darlene | Lolo NF Botanist | TES Plants Analysis |
| Mcleod, C. Milo | Lolo NF Archaeologist | Heritage Resources Analysis |
| Nachtigal, Joe | Fuels Technician | Fire and Fuels Analysis |
| Nolan, Robert | Engineer | Roads Analysis |
| Paulsen, Tami | NEPA Specialist | NEPA Coordination |
| Pike, Lynda | Writer / Editor | Editor |
| Pittman, Maggie | District Ranger Missoula RD | Project Oversight |
| Rosquist, Skip | Lolo NF Hydrologist/Soil Scientist | Soil Analysis |
| Scott Tomson | Wildlife Biologist | Wildlife Analysis |
| Stadler, Don | NEPA Specialist | NEPA Coordination |
| Steve Slaughter | Lolo NF Ecologist/Silviculturist | Forest Vegetation/Ecology Analysis |
| Sylte, Traci | Lolo NF Hydrologist | Water Analysis |
| Waverek, John | Fire Management Officer | Fire and Fuels Analysis |

Distribution of the Environmental Impact Statement

This environmental impact statement and/or a summary have been distributed to individuals who specifically requested a copy of the document. In addition, copies have been sent to the following Federal agencies, federally recognized tribes, State and local governments, and organizations representing a wide range of views regarding National Forest management.

Federal Government

US Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC
US Environmental Protection Agency, Helena, MT
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Department of Interior, Washington, DC
USDA – National Agricultural Library
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Helena, MT
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Missoula, MT
USDI Environment Affairs, (Robert Stewart), Denver, CO

State Government

Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Helena, MT
Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, (Mack Long) Missoula, MT
Montana Department of Fish wildlife and Parks, (Bob Harrington) Missoula, MT

Local Government

Missoula County Commissioners

Tribal Government

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Pablo, MT

Special Interest Groups

WildWest Institute, Missoula, MT
Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Missoula, MT
Lolo Watershed Group, Missoula, MT
Wildlands CPR, Missoula, MT
The Lands Council, Spokane, WA

Industry

Smurfit Stone Container Corporation, Frenchtown, MT
Tricon Timber Company, St. Regis, MT
Pyramid Lumber Company, Seeley Lake, MT
Sun Mountain Lumber, Deerlodge, MT

Individuals

Mark Vandermeer, Missoula, MT
Kim Grenager, Lolo, MT
Jake Kreilick, Missoula, MT
Michaele Landquist, Lolo, MT
B. Sachau, Florham Park, NJ
Cameron Naficy, Evanston, IL

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Chapter 5. Changes Between the Draft EIS and Final EIS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Butte Lookout Project was published in March 2008 and the DEIS and/or its summary was mailed to 72 individuals, groups, and government agencies. The DEIS was also posted on the Lolo National Forest website at fs.usda.gov/goto/lolo/projects. Six letters were received in response to the DEIS. See FEIS Chapter 6 Response to Comments for the comments and FS responses.

The FEIS reflects these comments and responses in changes to the analysis and additional information where available. No changes were made to either action alternative, so the alternative maps were not revised.

The following changes were made in the final EIS:

Various minor typos were corrected throughout the document when they were discovered.

The discussion in Chapter 2 “Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study” regarding a “Restoration without Commercial Harvest” alternative was expounded on and clarified in response to comment WW, 8.

The “Public Involvement” section of FEIS Chapter 2 was updated to include the activity that occurred between release of the DEIS and FEIS.

Three management requirements addressing recreation, which were accidentally omitted from the DEIS were added to the FEIS (FEIS page 31).

Additional information about the water yield assessment methods used in the analysis was added to Appendix F in response to comment WW, 52. We also provided additional discussion in this appendix about average monthly peakflows in response to comment WW, 53.

A typo was corrected on DEIS page 185 (FEIS page 187) of the Soils section to change “skyline unit 37” to read “skyline unit 36” in response to comment EPA, 8.

The yarding systems for three units (5, 22, and 28) were changed (FEIS pages 188-189, Tables 69, 70, and 71). These changes were analyzed, approved, and documented in the Soils section of the Project File by the Project’s Soil Scientist.

Changes were made in the FEIS to reflect the fact that wolves were delisted in Idaho and Montana on May 4, 2009; however at the time of the writing of this document several lawsuits have been filed protesting the delisting rule. Although delisted in May, 2009, the effects of the proposed project on gray wolves were reviewed and analyzed as if they were listed as threatened (even though the project area is located in an area with experimental, non-essential status). The BE concluded there would be No Effect on the gray wolf under the no action and action alternatives.

Map B-19, which displays the Butte Lookout Analysis Area and Inventoried Roadless Areas in the general vicinity, was included in FEIS Appendix B in response to comment WW, 20.

Map B-20 was added to Appendix B which displays the “locations of past logging and burning” and the approximate year the activities occurred in response to comment WW, 19.

An addition was made to Table 84 in the Recreation section which displays the effects of the action alternatives on “General public big game and upland bird” and handicapped hunting” to disclose that “the proposed harvests would improve hunting opportunities by reducing tree density (i.e., improving sight distance) and improving the area for game animals.” in response to comment USDI, 4.

Changes were made to the Noxious Weeds section to incorporate by reference the 12/11/07 Lolo NF Integrated Weed Management Record of Decision and FEIS into this analysis. The Weed FEIS is posted on the Lolo National Forest website at fs.usda.gov/goto/lolo/projects.

The Range section of the DEIS was not included in the FEIS because the South Fork East Fork Grazing Allotment, about 10,000 acres of which lies within the analysis area, was terminated in 2008; therefore none of the alternatives analyzed for this project would affect range or cattle grazing. Changes related to discussions about range and cattle grazing were also made to Appendix C - Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions.

Because timber market conditions have declined between when the DEIS was published in March 2008 and the issuance of this FEIS, the economic analysis was updated in the FEIS.

A correction was made in Appendix E to remove reference to the Frenchtown Face project.