

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service  
Intermountain Region

Dixie National Forest



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**DECISION NOTICE AND FINDING OF NO  
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**SOUTH CREEK/UNDER BARNEY SALVAGE TIMBER SALE**

**DECISION NOTICE**  
**for the**  
**SOUTH CREEK/UNDER BARNEY SALVAGE TIMBER SALE**

**DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST**  
**GARFIELD COUNTY, UTAH**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The South Creek/Under Barney Salvage timber sale Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality, Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508 and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), Title 36, CFR Part 219. Further direction is provided by the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (DNF-LRMP).

The EA describes management activities and environmental effects of the Proposed Action, No Action and two action alternatives. The document is available for public review at the Escalante Ranger District Office in Escalante, Utah.

The analysis area covered by the EA is 6,903 acres of National Forest System Lands located approximately 18 miles northwest of Escalante, in Garfield County, Utah. Sections 27-34, Township 34 South, Range 1 West; Sections 25, 35, and 36, Township 34 South, Range 2 West; Sections 3-6, 8, and 9 Township 35 South Range 1 West; and Section 1 Township 35 South Range 2 West; Salt Lake Base Meridian. Timber types in the area include mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, aspen and spruce/fir. This project would be implemented starting in 1996.

National Forest System Land within the Dixie National Forest has been divided into Management Areas which differ from each other in resource emphasis. The South Creek/Under Barney project area is located in Management Areas 1 (General Forest Direction), 2B (Rural and Roaded Recreation Opportunities), 5A (Big Game Winter Range), and 7A (Timber Management). Detailed management prescriptions are displayed in the DNF-LRMP.

**A. PROPOSED ACTION**

The Forest Service proposes management activities for timbered areas in the South Creek and Sweetwater Creek drainages of the Escalante Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, Garfield County, Utah. The Proposed Action would require construction of 0.62 miles of road construction, 3.2 miles of road reconstruction and 16.1 miles of road reconditioning. The total sawtimber volume removed would be 4.955 MMBF (million board feet). Removal would be accomplished using helicopters and tractors.

Proposed management activities include: transportation system development and management; the salvage harvest of merchantable insect and disease infected trees; precommercial thinning; reforestation with hand planting; machine piling and slash burning in landings; the use of prescribed fire for aspen regeneration; girdling trees for disease (dwarf mistletoe) control; and motorized travel management through implementation of an area closure with specific "open road" designation.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to: reduce the levels of mountain pine beetle insect activity, reduce the levels of dwarf mistletoe infection, improve vegetation diversity by reducing insect and disease induced tree mortality, maintain and improve forest health, restock unforest-

ed areas, improve wildlife habitat by decreasing open road densities and creating a greater variety of tree size classes, enhance biodiversity by maintaining a variety of overstory vegetation cover types; and to provide timber and recover wood product value.

## II. DECISION

### A. SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

As the Forest Supervisor, I am the Responsible Official (Deciding Officer) with the delegated authority for this decision. I have decided to implement Alternative One as described in the south Creek/Under Barney Salvage Timber Sale EA. This decision also incorporates those features of Alternative One documented in the paper titled "Corrections, Changes and Additions to the South Creek/Under Barney Salvage Timber Sale Environmental Assessment".

This decision will also amend the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Chapter IV, page 51. The plan will be amended to change local and collector road widths from "typically 14 feet", to allow for choices in road widths. The plan will now read "road widths will be adjusted to meet LRMP objectives".

The highlights of Alternative One are:

\* There will be no helicopter harvest units with this choice. Feedback from public involvement as well as my desire to implement an alternative which will provide for a larger economic return, results in my decision to have 330 acres cable logged and 1992 acres tractor logged.

\* Logging will be permitted within the 5A Management Area during the first winter season. In the past, few animals have been using this area as winter range. Even though the area should retain its 5A designation, the urgency to remove beetle infested trees prior to having another beetle flight and consequently killing more trees takes precedent with this decision.

\* Special management actions will be followed along sensitivity One roads and trails to maintain or enhance the visual quality along these important routes. Examples of these actions are: stumps will be cut level with the ground, whole tree harvesting will be used, slash that results from activities will be disposed of at a minimum level of 90%, and paint marks on trees which have remained over from past sales will be "marked out".

\* The entire area will be closed to motorized vehicles except on designated routes. This will enhance wildlife habitat and bring the open road density within levels described in the LRMP. The Sweetwater Road and the road around Barney Top will remain open as snowmobile access routes.

### B. MITIGATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

All mitigation measures and monitoring practices that have been described in the EA are incorporated into this decision. Mitigation Measures and alternative descriptions can be referenced in the EA, Chapter II, pages 7-17. Monitoring actions are described in Chapter IV, page 210, of the EA.

## I DECISION RATIONALE

Alternative One is the Selected Alternative. It responsibly responds to the need to reduce insect and disease problems and properly follows the Standards and Guidelines described in the DNF-LRMP. The alternatives that were considered require a balanced approach at responding to the issues, and properly moves the area toward meeting the desired future condition for the proposal area. Additionally, this Alternative will serve many social needs associated with National Forest System Lands and meets the management objectives and the propose and need specific to this project area (EA Chapter 1).

In my decision making process, I relied upon the analysis completed by the Interdisciplinary Team for the No Action, Proposed Action and alternatives to the Proposed Action. These are documented in the EA. My Choice of Alternative One as the Selected Alternative is based on these considerations.

- A. Responsiveness to the Issues
- B. Responsiveness to Environmental Quality and the Purpose and Need
- C. Economic Efficiency
- D. Consistency with the Agency Mission

### A. Responsiveness to the Issues

The public involvement and scoping process for this proposal is described above and in Chapters I, VI and appendix C of the EA. Consideration was given to all comments received, during the analysis process to date, including scoping and the EA review. Alternative 1 responds reasonably and thoroughly to the issues raised by the public, the Forest Service and other agency personnel. Included below is my evaluation of the responsiveness of the selected alternative to the issues identified during scoping and the review process (See appendix E).

Issue 1 - Higher logging costs associated with helicopter logging will decrease the number of potential bidders. The Selected Alternative has no helicopter logging and has therefore eliminated this issue.

Issue 2 - New road construction will increase the cost of the sale. The Selected Alternative will construct 2.06 miles of new road. Although the Selected Alternative does not have the highest PNV, it does provide for a positive return of \$285,266.

Issue 3 - Post sale road closures will decrease roaded recreational opportunities. The post sale open road density for this alternative is higher than the proposed action and lower than Alternative 2. I believe the post sale road closure plan for Alternative 1 is the best mix of resource protection and recreational opportunities.

Issue 4 - Delay in treating deferred snags will post pose achievement of the Desired Future Condition for Northern Goshawk habitat. Alternative 1 will move more than 2,500 acres toward achieving better habitat for goshawk. Although the Proposed Action and Alternative 2 each would contribute more acres, I feel Alternative 1 is better balanced when roadwork, economics and visual effects are compared.

### B. Responsiveness to Environmental Quality and the Purpose and Need

The purpose and need of this proposal, as stated in the EA, Chapter I is: to create healthier forest conditions by reducing the level of mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus Ponderosea*) insect activity to endemic levels; reduce dwarf mistletoe infections within the mixed conifer to endemic levels; improve

future vegetation diversity by reducing tree mortality that comes from insect and disease infestations; and to maintain healthy conditions within previously harvested and reforested stands by providing necessary cultural treatments within and surrounding these areas.

In addition to these forest health needs, this action will also address these needs: restock understocked areas which have resulted from insect induced mortality; bring the open road density within the levels described in the LRMP and develop a long term travel management plan; presently, the open road density exceeds the levels established in the DNF-LRMP. This Alternative will reduce these densities to 1.3 mile/square mile, well within Plan levels. Provide for even distribution of old growth throughout all vegetation cover types; presently, old growth is absent from the Pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine and aspen cover types. This alternative identifies the areas that will be managed as old growth. Finally, to maintain a variety of overstory vegetation cover types to enhance species diversity and overall biodiversity; by moving the area toward the desired future condition as described in the Recommendations for the Northern Goshawk in the Southwestern United States (Reynolds, et.al. 1992).

Alternative 1 responds to the purpose and need by implementing treatment activities that improve forest health by regulating density, removing bark beetle and mistletoe infested trees, improving individual tree health and vigor and increasing stand resiliency to insects and disease. It will also stimulate sprouting within aspen stands.

The selected alternative meets the desired future conditions, the management objectives, the purpose and need and adequately addresses the issues defined.

#### **C. Economic Efficiency**

Alternative 1 provides the second greatest economic benefit of the action alternatives in terms of total net profit, and yields the second highest dollar amount in receipts to the county. Because this alternative harvests the least volume, it sustains the fewest jobs and generates the lowest income. The level of economic benefits resulting from this alternative are related to the tradeoffs which recognize other important resources. Resources such as visual quality, and recreational use were given major consideration in determining the selected alternative. Alternative 1 provides a reasonable balance between the various interests and concerns from no action to maximization of economic benefit.

#### **D. Consistency with the Agency Mission**

National Forest System Lands are managed to achieve a blend of amenities and commodities under sustainable multiple-use management. This includes: promoting resiliency, productivity, diversity on National Forest Lands, responding to diverse needs of people and public interests; and implementing sound management practices through an ecological approach and avoiding abuse or exploitation by special interests. As described above, Alternative 1 provides the best mix or balance of commodity and amenity values while meeting desired future conditions and management objectives of the DNF-LRMP. Forest health, productivity, diversity and beauty are promoted while providing for other multiple-uses. In addition diverse needs and public interest are considered which include visual quality, potential recreation use, wildlife needs, old growth, biological diversity, and sawtimber.

### **IV. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The public involvement process was conducted to understand precisely what the concerns of local citizens, organized special interest groups, State and other Federal agencies, and other members of the public might be in regard to the proposed action in the South Creek/Under Barney project area.

The following is a summary of the public involvement process:

Comments on the South Creek/Under Barney project were scoped on December 15, 1994, by sending a scoping notice to all publics who previously expressed interest in the district's timber program.

An EA was completed and was mailed to individuals who expressed interest in the project on October 5, 1995. This EA underwent a 30 day Notice and Comment Period. A legal notice announcing the availability of the EA was printed in the Daily Spectrum on October 6, 1995. A field review was scheduled on October 18, 1995. There were no persons present for the field review.

#### **Issues Identified**

All scoping responses are included in the project record. The ID team analyzed and categorized the scoping responses into the following major issues.

1. Higher costs associated with helicopter logging will decrease the number of potential bidders.
2. New road construction will increase the cost of the sale.
3. Post Sale road closures will decrease roaded recreational opportunities.
4. Delay in treating deferred stands will postpone achievement of the Desired Future Condition for Northern Goshawk habitat.

#### **Public Comment on the Predecisional EA**

The EA was sent to interested members of the public on October 5, 1995 for a 30 day Notice and Comment Period. A list of all agencies, organizations and persons that received copies is included in Appendix B of the EA. Two responses were received. Comments from these responses are displayed in Appendix E of the EA. Forest Service Discussion regarding the comments can also be referenced in Appendix E.

#### **V. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Alternatives considered in detail were formulated from the issues identified during the scoping process, from the project objectives, and from the goals objectives and desired future conditions of the DNF-LRMP.

A No Action alternative was considered. This alternative would not implement any projects, except on-going management activities: No timber harvesting or travel management actions would occur. The management needs identified in the EA would not be realized under this alternative.

The Proposed Action addressed forest health issues and emphasized uneven-aged management through timber harvest on 2,380 acres and even aged management on 5 acres of aspen patch cuts using tractor and helicopter harvesting techniques. Travel management actions which would place the entire area under an area closure with designated routes open were also described. I did not select this alternative because helicopter logging for these low value species would lend question to the forest's ability to sell the sale and implement the action.

Alternative 1 addressed forest health, as well as economic and recreation issues. Uneven-aged management was emphasized on 2,247 acres and even aged management on 5 acres of aspen patch

cuts using tractor and cable logging systems. This alternative also included road closures and travel management actions.

Alternative 2 was designed to achieve the desired future condition for the Northern Goshawk as quickly as possible. This alternative emphasized un-evenaged management on 3,130 acres and even aged management on 23 acres of aspen patch cuts using cable and tractor logging systems. Road closures and travel management actions were also included in this alternative. This alternative was not selected because it would place roads on sensitive areas with steep side slopes and the steep grades found on Road #143 are undesirable for use at this time.

All action alternatives would amend the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Chapter IV page 51. The plan would be amended to change local and collector road widths from "typically 14 ft." to allow for a choice between road widths. The plan will now read "road widths will be adjusted to meet LRMP objectives".

Alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed study are listed in the EA, chapter II, page 12.

## **VI FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

### **A. Forest Plan Consistency**

The Land and Resource Management Plan for the Dixie National Forest was approved in September of 1986. The EA for the South Creek/Under Barney Salvage project area tiers to the EIS for Land and Resource Management Plan for the Dixie National Forest. The Forest Plan provides the overall guidance for management activities by specifying goals and objectives, desired future condition, management area direction and standards and guidelines.

Specific direction for salvage is described on page IV-7 of the DNF-LRMP. Goal No. 24 is to "Emphasize harvesting productive sawtimber stands that are highly or moderately susceptible to attack by the mountain pine beetle and other forest pests".

As stated in the first paragraph of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Land and Resource Management Plan "The Plan provides for coordinated multiple-use management of outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife and fish, minerals, and wilderness resulting in sustained yield of goods and services for the benefit of Utah and the American people".

The ROD Implementing the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Dixie National Forest provides additional information on page 8 concerning timber management on the Dixie National Forest: "The proposed Plan provides for the best management of the timber resource, contributing to the stabilities of the local communities, providing for a continuing supply of Forest products demanded by the general public, and providing for the needs of other resources supplied through multiple-use forestry." It further states on page 9 that "Under the Forest Plan, suitable timber base is composed of lands" (such as the South Creek/Under Barney Salvage project area) "that are economically efficient in meeting timber production and other resource goals. A balance is struck between conflicting interests that best meets the needs of the Forest resources and those dependent on National Forest timber."

I have evaluated features of the Selected Alternative against Forest Plan goals and objectives, as well as the resource standards for consistency with the Forest Plan. It is my conclusion that all management activities included in the Selected Alternative are in full compliance with and in some cases exceed Forest Plan goals, objectives and standards.

## **B. Compliance with the NFMA, Other Laws and Regulations**

The Selected Alternative is consistent with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 in meeting the management requirements detailed in implementing regulations 36 CFR 217.27 (a) through (g). Specifically, the management prescriptions for the Selected Alternative provide for the protection of soil, water, air, wildlife, fishery, and other multiple use resources under 36 CFR 217.27 (a)(1) through (12).

### **Suitability for Timber Production**

All forested land identified for timber harvest have been determined to be on suitable land as defined in 36 CFR 219.9.

### **Five Year Regeneration Requirement**

36 CFR 219.27(c)3 requires "When trees are cut to achieve timber production objectives, cuttings will be done in such a way as to assure that technology and knowledge exists to adequately restock the lands within five years after final harvest. Five years after the final harvest means five years after clearcutting, five years after final overstory removal in shelterwood cutting, five years after final removal in seed tree cutting or five years after selection cutting. Adequate restocking means that the cut area will contain the minimum number, size, distribution, and species composition of regeneration as specified in the regional silvicultural guides for each forest type."

Under the selected alternative, a salvage harvest method will be implemented. The salvage harvest method is an intermediate treatment with the objective being the utilization of material that might otherwise be lost and not a harvest which triggers the five year regeneration requirement.

### **Vegetation Manipulation**

The Selected Alternative complies with the seven requirements of 36 CFR 219.27(b) for management prescriptions that involve vegetative manipulation of tree cover for any purpose shall:

1. Be best suited to the goals stated in the Land and Resource Management Plan. These goals are stated in Chapter IV of the DNF-LRMP.
2. Assure that technology and knowledge exist to adequately restock the lands within five years of final harvest. Knowledge and technology are described in the EA, Chapter IV, section F.
3. Was not chosen to produce the greatest dollar return or the greatest output of timber (although these factors were considered). Silvicultural prescriptions are governed by the existing forest conditions and resource protection practices, not economic or timber outputs.
4. Was chosen after considering potential effects on residual trees and adjacent stands. These considerations are discussed in the EA, Chapters III and IV.
5. Was selected to ensure conservation of site productivity, soil and water resources. These topics are discussed in the Vegetation, Soils, and Hydrology sections of the EA, Chapters III and IV.
6. Was selected to provide the desired effects on water quality and quantity, wildlife and fish habitat, regeneration of desired tree species, forage production, recreation uses, aesthetic values and other resource yields. The LRMP's desired future condition for each management

area are considered. Alternatives were developed to accommodate the desired effects for these resources.

7. Be practical in terms of transportation and harvesting requirements and total cost of preparation, logging and administration. Harvesting would not occur in previously undeveloped areas. The economic analysis in the EA, Chapter IV, section B and Appendix A evaluates these considerations and has revealed that the Selected Alternative is practical in terms of these items.

### C. Consistency with Other Laws and Regulations:

1. **Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) Species** - The viability of all existing native or non-native vertebrate species must be maintained in the planning area (U.S.C. 1604). TES species have been addressed in the EA, Chapter III, Section G and Chapter IV, Section E. To meet the needs of the northern goshawk, a large-scale geographic approach is utilized which develops and maintains desired forest conditions for this "Sensitive Species" and its prey (EA, Chapter IV section E).
2. **Optimality of Clearcutting** - Where clearcutting is to be used, it must be the optimum method [ 16 U.S.C. 1604 (g)(3)(F)(9)]. Implementation of Alternative 1 will include natural regeneration within the aspen type. Clearcuts have proven to be optimum for regenerating the aspen type. This method will stimulate sprouting and new stand establishment within five years. Chapter III of the EA, describes the present condition of the aspen stands of the proposal area. The patch cuts and aspen burn prescribed will help to rejuvenate these decadent deteriorating stands.
3. **The Clean Water Act (CWA)** requires each state to implement its own water quality standards. Under Utah law, all surface waters geographically located within the outer boundaries of National Forest Lands (on public or private lands) are designated "antidegradation segments" (R317-2-12.13, State of Utah, 1991). These waters will be maintained at high quality and no water quality degradation is allowable which would interfere with or become injurious to existing stream uses (R317-2-3.1, State of Utah, 1991). In addition, other diffuse sources (nonpoint) of wastes shall be contributed to the extent feasible through the implementation of best management practices or regulatory programs (R317-2-3.2, State of Utah, 1991).

Water quality in watersheds will be maintained at their present high level due to the application of Soil and Water Conservation Practices (SWCP's) or Best Management Practices (BMP's). These practices would be used to minimize sediment yields within the range of natural variation and returned to predisturbance levels (after timber harvest, road stabilization and closure and ground cover reestablishment).

4. **The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (Section 10, Part C)**, states that any road constructed on National Forest System Lands in connection with timber contracts or permits shall be designed with the goal of reestablishing vegetative cover on the roadway and areas disturbed (by construction) within ten years after contract termination.

Roads built for this proposal would be closed and restored under the selected alternative. By following mitigation measures specified, this provision would be satisfied.

5. **The Executive Order 11990 of May 24, 1977**, requires the Forest Service to take action to minimize destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and to enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands. In addition, Forest Service direction requires that an analysis be completed to determine whether adverse impacts would result.

The location of wetlands in the proposal area were identified in the delineation inventory of critical watershed areas. Impacts to these areas were determined to be inconsequential because (1) wetlands have been excluded from activities, and (2) indirect and cumulative effects are prevented by using SWCP's.

6. The Executive Order 11988 of May 24, 1977, requires the Forest Service to provide leadership and to take action to (1) minimize adverse impacts associated with flood plains, (2) to minimize impacts of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and (3) to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by flood plains.

The location of open water, flowing water, and intermittent streams in the proposal area were identified in the delineation inventory of critical watershed areas. Impacts to these areas were determined to be inconsequential because (1) no open water was identified within the project area and flowing water and intermittent streams have been excluded from activities, and (2) indirect and cumulative effects are prevented by using SWCP's.

7. State and Federal air quality regulations would be met. Fuel management practices and treatments minimize impacts (EA, Chapter IV, Section J).
8. Cultural resources have been surveyed for. Protection measures are included and a no effects determination has been made (EA, Chapter IV, Section K).
9. No conflicts have been identified with other Federal, State, or local agencies or with Native Americans, other minorities, women, or the civil rights of any United States citizen.
10. The Selected Alternative is in conformance with the intent of the Secretary of Agriculture Memorandum 1827 for prime farmland, rangeland and forest land (EA, Chapter IV, Section S).
11. The Selected Alternative would have no effects on the availability of lands for mining, under federal mining laws and regulations.
12. The Selected Alternative would have no unusual energy requirements for implementation (EA, Chapter IV, Section L).
13. Monitoring requirements that would be implemented are described in the EA, Chapter IV, Section P.

#### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

This FONSI pertains to my decision to amend the Forest Plan. A FONSI is not needed for my decision to implement the salvage harvest as described in Public Law 104-19. I have determined that this action is not a major federal action, individually or cumulatively, and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This determination is based upon the following factors:

##### **Context of the Project:**

Decisions made relative to this Forest Plan Amendment will affect road widths on local and collector roads within the Dixie National Forest. It is expected that these changes will result in lessening impacts from road construction activities where the changes will not result in an increased safety risk. No significant effects are expected to occur (EA, Chapter IV).

### **Intensity of the Project:**

Intensity refers to the severity of impact. The following ten factors were evaluated in determining the intensity of the effects of the proposed project.

1. Beneficial and adverse effects from the Selected Alternative are not significant. The effects described in the EA, Chapter IV, support this determination.
2. Public health and safety are not adversely affected by the Selected Alternative. This is documented in Chapter IV of the EA.
3. There are no areas within the project area or cumulative effects areas, with unique geographic characteristics such as historic or cultural resources, parklands, prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecological critical areas that are significantly affected by the Selected Alternative. This is documented in Chapter III of the EA.
4. The effects of the Selected Alternative on the quality of the human environment are not highly controversial. These effects are disclosed in detail in the EA, Chapter IV.
5. There are no known effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks, all known effects are adequately discussed in the EA, Chapter IV and were professionally determined and disclosed.
6. These actions do not set a precedent for other projects that may be implemented to meet the goals and objectives of the LRMP. The Selected Alternative specifically addresses changing the LRMP language regarding road widths. Any decision regarding road widths will be made on a project by project basis following site specific analysis and public involvement.
7. There are no known significant cumulative effects between this project and other projects implemented or planned in the area. This is substantiated in the cumulative effects discussion in Chapter IV of the EA.
8. There are no known historic or cultural resources that will be effected. This is documented in Chapter III and IV of the EA.
9. There are no known endangered, threatened or sensitive plant or animal species that will be adversely affected by the Selected Alternative. Relevant documentation is referenced in Chapters III and IV of the EA, and within the Biological Assessments and Biological Evaluations located in the Project File.
10. The actions do not threaten a violation of Federal, State or local laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. This conclusion is based on my review of the EA and review of the public input that has been received for this project.

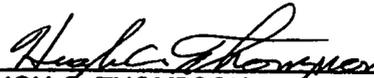
### **VI. IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE/JUDICIAL REVIEW**

Under authority of the Emergency Salvage Timber Sale Program, Public Law (P.L. 104-19), the decision to implement Alternative 1 is NOT subject to appeal and is subject to judicial review only in the United States District Court for the district in which affected Federal lands are located. As required under Section 200L(f)(1) of P.L. 104-19, and challenge to this salvage sale project must be filed in the district court within 15 calendar days after advertisement of the sale.

The decision to amend the Forest Plan by changing the wording regarding road widths from "typically 14 feet", to "road widths will be adjusted to meet LRMP objectives", is subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service Regulations at 36 CFR 215.7. A written notice of appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeal Deciding Officer, Regional Forester, Dale N. Bosworth, USDA Forest Service, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401, by February 26, 1996 which is 45 days following the date that the legal notice of this decision was published in The Daily Spectrum newspaper, St. George, Utah. Appeals must meet content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14. This decision may be implemented no sooner than March 4, 1996.

The decision to harvest timber will be implemented immediately.

For further information on this project, contact Kevin R. Schulkoski, Escalante District Ranger, Escalante Interagency Office, 755 West Main, P.O. Box 246, Escalante, Utah 84726 or phone (801)826-5400.

  
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HUGH C. THOMPSON  
Forest Supervisor  
Dixie National Forest

Date 1/10/96