



Reply To: 1920

Date: April 14, 1989

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Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is the Decision Notice and associated page changes to the Gila National Forest Land Management Plan concerning the Ten Year Timber Sale Program.

I want to thank everyone who sent in their comments and explain how those comments were used in the analysis process. Most comments related to entry into undeveloped areas and harvest in old growth timber. Many people feel we should limit entry into undeveloped areas and minimize harvest in old growth areas. Others feel we should harvest in undeveloped areas and in old growth. Obviously, many people feel strongly on these issues. As a result, we have mapped the location of the potential old growth on the Forest and will use these maps to help us analyze individual sales and how planned activities affect the old growth resource in and around each sale.

Planned entry into undeveloped areas is still in the Ten Year Harvest Schedule. However, if analysis shows the need to prepare environmental impact statements for these sales, this will be done. We have already filed a Notice of Intent to prepare Environmental Impact Statements on the Ward and Eagle Peak/Buzzard timber sales. This will enable us to fully analyze the impacts of these projects on a sale-by-sale basis.

Thank you again for your help in this project. I encourage you to become involved in the planning of individual sales to ensure that your interests are protected.

**David W. Dahl**

D. W. DAHL  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

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370 letters mailed 4/14/89



DECISION NOTICE  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
AND  
AMENDMENT TO GILA NATIONAL FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN  
TEN-YEAR TIMBER SALE PROGRAM

The Gila Ten-Year Timber Sale Program Environmental Assessment Report documents the analysis of two alternatives to change the ten year harvest schedule on the Gila National Forest.

Issues, concerns, and opportunities received from public input that were beyond the scope of this analysis will be addressed in site specific analyses done on each proposed timber sale.

Based on the analysis and evaluation described in the environmental assessment, it is my decision to adopt Alternative 2. This alternative updates the Forest Plan Ten Year Timber Sale Program to reflect actual sales sold for years 1987 and 1988. This alternative also changes the schedule of some sales to be offered in 1989-1996, adds some sales to the schedule and removes others, and revises the volumes, road miles and acreages for individual sales based on more current data. The total volume to be offered for the ten year period is the same, the total miles of road construction and reconstruction are the same and estimated harvest acreages are increased by 1151 acres (less than 2 percent).

This alternative was selected because it reschedules more complex, controversial sales later in the program to allow more time to complete an in-depth analysis of these sales, and moves less complex sales into 1989 to best meet industry needs.

Specific changes that this alternative makes that are shown on replacement pages 16, 16-01, and 17 of the Forest Plan are as follows:

- A. A statement was added at the top of the Ten Year Timber Sale Program as follows:

"The 10-year timber sale program is a plan based on current conditions and information available at the time of Forest Plan development. If these conditions change or new information becomes available, the timber sale program may be modified during the implementation of the Forest Plan. The degree of the modification will determine whether or not the Forest Plan needs amending, in accordance with the required process. Volume figures are for Sawtimber only. In addition, incidental volumes of other products (such as pulpwood) up to .5 MMBF/year, may be offered."

Inclusion of this statement is per Forest Service Manual and was omitted when the plan was first printed.

B. For Years 1987 and 1988:

1. The Sheep Corral Sale is divided into two sales and the name changed to the Farm Flat I and Farm Flat II Sales. These two sales were offered in 1987 and 1988, whereas Sheep Corral was originally scheduled to be offered in 1989.
2. The Jones Sale was offered in 1988 rather than 1987.
3. The Water Sale was added to the schedule in 1988. This sale was not originally in the schedule because it was offered just prior to plan implementation as the Hail Sale and did not sell.
4. The Bear, Jaybird, H-V and Cap Sales, originally scheduled to be sold in 1988, were moved back to 1989. The Eagle Peak Sale, originally scheduled to be sold in 1988, was moved back to 1990.

C. For Planning Years 1989-1996:

1. Several sales were rescheduled to be sold in different years than originally scheduled.
2. The Leftover, Two Barrel and Wagon Tongue Sales on the Reserve District, have been dropped from the schedule. They have been replaced with the Hoague and Corner Sales.
3. The Aztec Sale on the Silver City District has been replaced with the Redstone Sale.
4. The Swapp Sale and the Booth Sale on the Luna Ranger District have been combined into one sale, the Swapp/Booth Sale.
5. The Turkey Roost Sale has been added to the Quemado Ranger District in 1996.

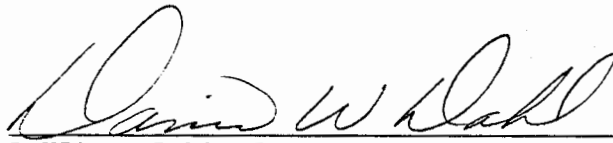
See the enclosed page changes for specific scheduling changes.

One other alternative was considered in the analysis, the No-Action Alternative. This alternative would not change the harvest schedule in the Forest Plan. This alternative was not selected because it does not accurately reflect the variations in proposed sales and actual sales offered, and because better data is now available to enable us to make better estimates for future sales offered.

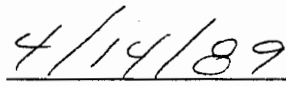
I have determined through the environmental assessment that this is not a significant amendment to the Gila National Forest Land Management Plan, as it does not change outputs, benefits, goals or objectives of this plan, and it is within the scope of the Gila Land Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement.

Implementation of this decision can occur immediately.

This decision is subject to appeal within 45 days of the decision date pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Appeals should be filed with the Reviewing Officer (Regional Forester - R3, 517 Gold Avenue S.W., Albuquerque NM, 87102, with a copy to the Deciding Officer (Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest). Notice of appeal should include all supporting information, as a separate statement of reasons is no longer allowed.



DAVID W. DAHL, Forest Supervisor



Date

Table 9. Land Line Location Program - Period 1 (Continued)

Forest Priority	Project Name	Sections	Twns - Rng	Miles
16	XGX & Lyons		T13S, R13W	5
17	Spur Lake Ranch	Sec. 23, 24, 25	T5S, R20W	6.5
18	Wall Lake		T11S, R12W	6
19	Johnson Basin		T3S, R19W	4.5
20	La Jolla	Sec. 4 & 9	T6S, R15W	2.5
21	Glenwood Townsite		T11S, R20W	4
22	Couth Luna		T6S, R20W	6
23	External Forest Boundary SCAD			6
24	External Forest Boundary MRD			5
25	External Forest Boundary		T10S, R9W	5.5
26	Hermosa Area		T13S, R9W	23.5
27	External Forest Boundary GRD		T2S, R14W	7.5
28	Black Canyon		T13S, R12W	2
29	Range Projects ARD			4
30	External Forest Boundary LRD			4
31	San Francisco Patented Parcels		T8S, R19W	5.5
32	Exterior Forest Boundary ARD		T9S, R14W	7.25
33	Misc. Surveyor Co-ops			
34	Wilderness Boundary			

Table 10. Right-of-Way Acquisition Schedule - Period 1

Priority	Road/Trail#	Name	Miles
1	FR 522	Tierra Blanca	1.0
2	FR 19	Bill Knight Gap	.1
3	FR 19	Spur Lake	.3
4	FR 157S	Hermosa Road	14.5
5	FR 3228	Wildhorse	1.5
6	FR 231	Corduoy Canyon	10.0
7	FR 524, 902 896, 758	Analysis Area 2D Access	10.0
8	FR 157N	North Bercha	3.0
9	FR 40E	Kingston	2.0
10	FR 226	Chloride Creek	2.0
11	FR 142	Snow Lake	.5
12	FR 521	Adobe	2.8
13	FR 866	Royal John	8.5
14	FR 210	Center Fire Creek	4.7
15	TR 724	Turkey Creek Trail	.3
16	FR 28	Y Canyon T.S. (BLM & State)	4.0
17	TR 179	De Loche Trail	.4
18	FL 49	Toriette Lakes	.5
19	TR 708	East Fork Jeep Trail	2.0
20	FR 519	Frisco Hot Springs	.5
21	TR 247	Sapillo Creek	.4
22	FR 506	Bear Creek Road	1.5
23	TR 77	Bloodgood & Cooney	.4
24	FR 216 & 23	East Camp	2.0

Table 11. Road Construction and Reconstruction Schedule - Period 1

Priority	Road No.	Name	Miles
1	141	Reserve-Beaverhead	18.9
2	2070	Long Canyon	1.0
3	15	Bill Knight Gap	22.9
4	153	Deep Creek	3.2
5	205	Hay Vega	10.0
6	513	Pole Canyon	4.5
7	220	Bill Lee Mesa	10.9
8	154	Signal Peak	7.2

The 10-year timber sale program is a plan based on current conditions and information available at the time of Forest Plan development. If these conditions change or new information becomes available, the timber sale program may be modified during the implementation of the Forest Plan. The degree of the modification will determine whether or not the Forest Plan needs amending, in accordance with the required process. Volume figures are for Sawtimber only. In addition, incidental volumes of other products (such as pulpwood) up to .5 MMBF/ year, may be offered.

Table 12. Ten Year Timber Sale Program - Period 1

YEAR	DISTRICT	SALE NAME	LTMA	ACRES LOGGED	VOL. MMBF	ROAD MILES
1987	RESERVE	COLD SPRINGS	6A40	1007	4.0	0
			6A29	1080	4.4	0
			6A32	4050	16.5	0
		SALE TOTAL	6137	24.9	0	
	SILVER CITY	FARM FLAT 1	7E01	402	1.3	3
	QUEMADO	JEWELL	9A16	720	2.3	7
			9D15	1450	4.6	11
		SALE TOTAL	2170	6.9	18	
	TOTAL		8709	33.1	21	
	1988	LUNA	JONES	3D23	3011	10.6
RESERVE		WATER	6B15	3230	18.9	36
SILVER CITY		FARM FLAT #2	7E01	644	1.6	3
TOTAL			6885	31.1	57	
1989	BLACK RANGE	UNIVERSITY	2B02	1962	6.4	13
			6B26	145	.5	1
		SALE TOTAL	2107	6.9	14	
	LUNA	BILL	3C18	590	1.5	3
			3B19	600	1.6	3
		SALE TOTAL	1190	3.1	6	
		CAP MAMIE	3D22	2371	4.9	16
		H-V	3C10	892	1.8	7
	RESERVE	BEAVER	6B17	1500	3.7	5
	SILVER CITY	JAYBIRD	7E02	408	.7	2
	QUEMADO	BEAR	9C01	2162	4.2	14
		OAK	9C03	2521	6.1	13
	TOTAL		13151	31.4	77	

Table 12. Ten Year Timber Sale Program - Period I

YEAR	DISTRICT	SALE NAME	LTMA	ACRES LOGGED	VOL. MMBF	ROAD MILES
1990	LUNA	MANGITAS	3D24	1406	6.0	7
	RESERVE	EAGLE PEAK	6C07	2464	6.5	13
			6C08	2670	7.1	14
		SALE TOTAL		5134	13.6	27
	QUEMADO	BACA	9B09	2298	4.1	20
		EL CASO	9D10	2028	5.8	13
1990	TOTAL			10866	29.5	67
1991	LUNA	WARD	3A03	1659	7.9	5
	RESERVE	BUZZARD	6C05	2067	8.6	10
			6B21	155	.8	4
			6C09	554	1.5	5
		SALE TOTAL		2776	10.9	19
		CANYON CREEK	6B26	873	3.5	9
	QUEMADO	SPRING	9B11	1078	3.7	5
			9B14	1078	3.7	7
		SALE TOTAL		2156	7.4	12
1991	TOTAL			7464	29.7	45
1992	GLENWOOD	BS	4A03	1428	13.2	17
			4A02	109	.1	0
		SALE TOTAL		1537	13.3	17
	RESERVE	LOST LAKE	6B21	1396	6.7	11
			6B23	1696	8.0	12
		SALE TOTAL		3092	14.7	23
	SILVER CITY	REDSTONE	F702	700	2.0	4
1992	TOTAL			5329	30.0	44
1993	BLACK RANGE	PASS	2B03	505	1.0	2
	LUNA	SWAPP BOOTH	3B17	5000	12.0	18
	RESERVE	ROCKER	6B15	2315	8.7	23
	QUEMADO	TWIN	9D10	2500	8.0	12
1993	TOTAL			10320	29.7	55

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Table 12. Ten Year Timber Sale Program - Period 1

YEAR	DISTRICT	SALE NAME	LTMA	ACRES LOGGED	VOL. MMBF	ROAD MILES
1994	LUNA	LILLY	3C09	2180	7.9	8
	GLENWOOD	BEARWALLOW	4A03	1551	9.2	10
	RESERVE	HOAGUE	6B15	894	3.9	9
			6B11	1360	8.1	10
		SALE TOTAL		2254	12.0	19
	SILVER CITY	MEADOW CREEK	7F02	380	1.5	2
1994	TOTAL			6365	30.6	39
1995	LUNA	MAIL	3B04	1100	4.5	6
			3B05	150	.5	1
		SALE TOTAL		1250	5.0	7
	RESERVE	BURNT CABIN	6B16	2000	11.9	21
	QUEMADO	ANTELOPE	9B08	3565	6.7	22
		BULL CAMP	9D10	1000	4.5	3
1995	TOTAL			7815	28.1	53
1996	BLACK RANGE	TEN COW	2B01	150	.6	1
	LUNA	FREEMAN	3C12	372	.7	2
			3D13	2128	5.3	18
		SALE TOTAL		2500	6.0	20
	RESERVE	CORNER	6E11	1968	17.5	20
	QUEMADO	TURKEY ROOST	9D15	800	2.7	5
1996	TOTAL			5418	26.8	46

Table 13. Summary of Vegetation Management Practices - Period 1

Vegetation Type	Practice	Forest Decade Acres	Rationale
Ponderosa Pine, Mixed Conifer	Shelterwood Harvest	35,531	This practice is applied to regenerate timber stands that have reached culmination of mean annual increment.
	Regeneration Cut		Shelterwood is appropriate since it is a regeneration method that can be used on stands that have dwarf mistletoe infection. Dwarf mistletoe is common throughout the Forest. The shelterwood method is appropriate because it is cost effective, maintains a partial canopy, provides a natural seed source, and a favorable microclimate for establishing seedlings. Regeneration success has been more favorable than with other regeneration methods.
	Removal Cuts	37,767	This practice is the final stage in a shelterwood regeneration method. When regeneration is established in the regeneration harvests described above, the remaining trees are removed to provide needed light and moisture for growth of the new stand and to use the remaining timber.
	Clearcut	1,614	This practice is optimal for creating small openings and to obtain habitat diversity for wildlife and to control insects and diseases, particularly dwarf mistletoe. Other regeneration harvest methods do not create the edge effect and habitat conditions obtained from small clearings. Clearcutting is used to convert to aspen from a mixture of aspen with ponderosa pine or mixed conifer. It is also best where all potential seed trees are severely infected with disease or insects (Aspen clearcuts comprise 2,500 acres of the total).
	Intermediate Cut	0	This practice is applied to enhance the growth and vigor of the stand, salvage timber that would die before a regeneration harvest is made, and reduce the potential for loss to insects and disease.
	Precommercial Thinning	15,850	This practice is applied to young stands to maintain the spacing and number of trees per acre at a level that will maximize growth on the remaining trees. Diseased and poorly formed trees are removed to enhance the health and quality of the stand.
	Unevenaged Harvest Selection Cut	5,853	This practice is applied to regenerate an area while maintaining at least a three story condition. It maintains good visual quality and provides good wildlife habitat for many species. Unevenage management has not been effective where dwarf mistletoe is a problem, and has favored conversion of ponderosa pine stands to white fir, Douglas fir, or spruce on mixed conifer sites.
	Prescribed Burning	91,155	This practice is applied to reduce ground fuels. This reduces the fire hazard, helps prepare a favorable seedbed for natural regeneration, and increases forage production for wildlife and livestock. It reduces some competition for light and moisture between tree seedlings and other plants. Burning is used because it is the most effective and cheapest method of fuel treatment.