



File Code: 1950

Date: December 28, 2012

Route To:

Subject: Decision to Implement Programmatic Restoration Project

To: Fremont-Winema District Rangers

I have recently signed the decision to implement the Programmatic Restoration Project. This is going to be a very useful tool for the Forest in getting many restoration actions completed. It will save the Forest the cost of preparing NEPA analysis for individual decisions and also provide you with an opportunity to be more collaboratively involved with our local communities in accomplishing holistic watershed restoration projects as an active partner.

Prior to proposing a restoration action, I ask that you read and be familiar with the project record to understand the commitment we are making with our public. Understand their concerns and the trust they are extending in allowing us to take a programmatic approach to our restoration actions. It is very important that our actions stay within the bounds of the programmatic document and that complex projects that have controversy associated with them are not pushed under this programmatic decision. Be collaborative in the approach to development of the restoration action, have good support for the activity, have it be grounded in long-term objectives (best with multiple partners), and provide time to involve the public in designing the final proposal.

The key points for implementation are:

1. Be collaborative, the proposal is best coming from a group of agencies, organizations, and Klamath Tribal Government that have a holistic approach to a watershed restoration effort so our actions support the big picture needs for specific watersheds.
2. Consult with the Klamath Tribes for cultural and resource concerns over the action.
3. Involve the public; not everyone will be involved with the development of the proposal and they need to be given a chance to review the action. I propose to at least once a year provide a description of actions for the public to respond to. It would be best for all actions proposed by the Forest to be reviewed at one time by the public. Individual projects that come up later in the year and need to be implemented quickly can have their own review process.
4. Use the public responses to determine if the action should be covered by the programmatic restoration decision. Consider their concerns and determine if:
 - There is a need to modify the restoration action based on the information they provided.
 - The project requires its own NEPA process because the concern raised questions about the ability of the action to be covered by the programmatic restoration decision (based on meeting project design criteria) and it is well supported.
 - The project requires its own NEPA process because the action is a controversial treatment.



5. Work with permittees to keep them informed about restoration actions that may impact their permitted use. Involve them early and resolve their conflicts. When it is decided that the action fits under the programmatic restoration decision, they need to be offered 36 CFR 251 appeal rights.
6. Perform cultural surveys and get SHPO concurrence. It is not known where cultural site protection will be needed for future projects and this consultation is not covered by the decision.
7. Certify the action fits under the programmatic restoration decision, respond to public concerns, and follow the processes highlighted in Attachment 2 of the decision.
8. When new information such as restoration analysis, consultation, or project design features are available, review the decision according to direction in 1909.15 section 18. Document the review and post the findings on the Forest web page.

Administrative Review: Until we see how the implementation process is working and the public concerns over the proposal are being handled, I am offering to provide an administrative review of actions being implemented. The review process will occur over the first three years of using this decision. The amount of use of the review process by the public will determine if the process will extend longer. The public has indicated they would like to have a way to question actions. The review will be confined to questions of whether the action should be covered by the programmatic restoration decision and will use the Design Criteria in Attachment 2 of the decision to make the determination. This review includes following the implementation process.

The review process needs to be quick. Once the decision is made to implement the action under the programmatic restoration decision, a notice of the decision will be sent to those who provided comments. They will be given 15 days to respond and ask for a review explaining how they feel the action is not appropriate to be covered by programmatic decision by showing how the action does not meet the design criteria. I will complete the review, using SO specialists, within 15 days and notify the district and requester of my finding.

Make sure that your proposed restoration actions are well thought out, described, and supported by local collaboration. This is an opportunity to build relationships with our local community and demonstrate we can be an active, productive partner that not only supports a desired set of resource restoration and watershed improvement actions, but also supports the local communities' economic development and use of the Forest. Take the time up front to be involved with local collaborative groups and know the desires of the community so what we propose is supportive of their desired use of the Forest and protective of their Forest values.


FRED L. WAY
Forest Supervisor