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Environmental Assessment

Dinkey Ranger Station Buildings Decommissioning

High Sierra Ranger District
Sierra National Forest
Fresno County, California

SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 8, T.10S., R.25E.

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Summary

The Sierra National Forest(SNF) proposes to decommission (demolish) six buildings that are economically unfeasible to maintain, underutilized at the Dinkey Ranger Station, and are now surplus to the Sierra National Forest (SNF) mission. The Dinkey Ranger Station is located adjacent to the popular, public Dinkey Creek Campground, 12 miles SE of Shaver Lake, California, along County Dinkey Creek Road, in Fresno County, within the High Sierra Ranger District, SNF. This demolition action would remove unnecessary buildings from the Forest's Facility Maintenance expenditures, as well as clean up the SNF footprint adjacent to the Dinkey Creek Campground public recreation area. These buildings are identified in the 2009 Sierra Facilities Master Plan for removal, and replacement structures have been constructed at the nearby Dinkey Mill Work Center. Maintaining the buildings proposed for demolition to standard is also cost-prohibitive. This proposal is necessary to meet the 2012 President's List for the Decommissioning of Facilities, and the 2009 Pacific Southwest Regional Office (Region 5) Strategic Facility Plan. Region 5 has provided funds for the removal of these buildings which can only be used this fiscal year (FY12).

The SNF has determined that Dinkey Ranger Station is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and that four of the existing structures contribute to that eligibility. The California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has concurred with that determination (SHPO Ref. USFS120326A, May 8, 2012). The demolition of the Warehouse will have an adverse effect on a historic property (36 CFR 800.5). Under the regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (36 CFR 800), the SNF will prepare a Memorandum of Agreement with SHPO describing measures to resolve the adverse effect, which will take place prior to implementation of the decommissioning actions. . Demolition of five other structures at Dinkey Ranger Station would not have any adverse effect on a historic property, as the other buildings do not contribute to the National Register eligibility.

With regard to potential negative effects to wildlife species, the only possible concern would be low potential for disturbance to individual bats; none of which are classified as a Threatened or Endangered species.

Based upon the analysis of the effects of the alternatives, the responsible official, Ray Porter – High Sierra Ranger District (HSRD), will decide whether or not to decommission these six buildings as described in the proposed action.

Document Structure

The Forest Service prepared this environmental assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. This EA discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that would result from the proposed action and No Action alternative. The document is organized into the following sections:

> *Introduction:* This section includes information on the history of the project proposal, the purpose of and need for the project, and the agency's proposal for achieving that purpose and need. This section also details how the Forest Service informed the public of the proposal.

Comparison of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives: This section provides a more detailed description of the agency's proposed action. It includes a summary table of the environmental consequences associated with each action.

Environmental Consequences: This section describes the environmental effects of the implementing the Proposed Action. The analysis organized by significant issues and factors which will provide a baseline for the evaluation of the Proposed Action.

Background

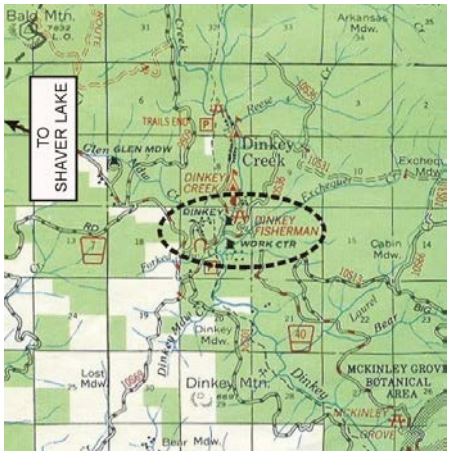

Figure 1: Proposed Site

The Dinkey Ranger Station is located adjacent to the popular Dinkey Creek Campground (**Figure 1**), 12 miles SE of Shaver Lake, California, along County Dinkey Creek Road, in Fresno County, within the High Sierra Ranger District, SNF, at an elevation of 5800 feet. This station was established in 1931; Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers built Dinkey Ranger Station to serve recreationists/visitors to the Dinkey Creek area. The Station currently is used as a Visitor Information Service Center. It has 10 structures, as listed in **Table 1**, and shown in **Figures 2**:

Table 1: Dinkey Ranger Station Buildings

	BUILD ID	BUILDING NAME	CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY	GROSS SQFT	DEVELOPMENT STATUS	YEAR BUILT	CONDITION	COMMENTS
1	FS1022	DINKEY RS RESIDENCE/OFFICE	FAMILY HOUSING	RESIDENCE	832	EXISTING - INACTIVE	1931	POOR	Convert into Recreation Rental
2	FS1023	DINKEY RS CULTURE OFFICE/RESIDENCE	OFFICE	OFFICE	1023	EXISTING - INACTIVE	1933	FAIR	Convert into Recreation Rental
3	FS1625	DINKEY RS RADIO VAULT 0860	COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS	COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS	120	EXISTING - EXCESS	2002	POOR	Relocate or Plan for Demolition
4	FS2001	DINKEY RS VISITOR OFFICE	OTHER INSTITUTIONAL USES	VIS	476	EXISTING - ACTIVE	1934	GOOD	Retain to service the public
5	FS2163A	DINKEY RS SST VAULT TOILET	SERVICE	TOILET-VAULT	85	EXISTING - ACTIVE	1997	GOOD	Retain to service the public
6	FS2202	DINKEY RS WAREHOUSE	WAREHOUSES	WAREHOUSE	709	EXISTING - EXCESS	1933	POOR	Plan for Demolition
7	FS2319	DINKEY RS RAT ROOM SHED	STORAGE	SHED	120	EXISTING - EXCESS	1940	POOR	Plan for Demolition
8	FS2320	DINKEY RS PAINT SHED	STORAGE	SHED	85	EXISTING - EXCESS	1934	POOR	Plan for Demolition
9	FS2321	DINKEY RS STORAGE SHED	STORAGE	SHED	99	EXISTING - EXCESS	1933	POOR	Plan for Demolition
10	FS2511	DINKEY RS GAS/OIL SERVICE SHED	STORAGE	GAS/OIL	74	EXISTING - EXCESS	1954	POOR	Plan for Demolition

FS1022 – Residence/Office

FS1023 – Residence/Office

Figure 2: Plans to rehabilitate and to potentially convert these two buildings into Recreation rentals (Table 1, green highlighted).

FS2001 – Visitors' Office

FS2163A – SST Vault Toilet

Figure 3: Retain existing Visitor Information Service Center, and the adjacent restroom, to provide continued service the public (Table 1, #4 & 5)

FS2202 – Warehouse

FS2319 –Rat Room Shed

FS2320 – Paint Shed

FS2321 – Storage Shed

FS2511 – Gas/Oil Service Shed

FS1625 – Radio Vault – Relocate or Demolish

Figure 4: Proposed Action – Decommissioning six buildings (Table 1, yellow highlighted).

Purpose and Need for Action

The 2009 Sierra Facility Master Plan identifies consolidation of the operations of four Work Centers: Dinkey Ranger Station, Dinkey Creek Work Center, Pollard Camp Work Center, and Glen Meadow Work Center, when Dinkey Mill Work Center is fully built out (likely to be a multi-phase, multi-year program) completed. This would result in the classification of the 36 associated buildings at the four mentioned work centers as excess. One barracks building and an engine bay (with administrative office space) were completed at the new Dinkey Mill Work Center in December 2011. The fire crew stationed at the Dinkey Ranger Station moved into the new buildings at the Dinkey Mill Work Center in the spring of 2012, leaving the Dinkey Ranger Station unoccupied except for seasonal use of the Visitor Center. The six excess buildings and their associated utilities will then no longer be needed at the Dinkey Ranger Station to support the SNF mission. These buildings can then be decommissioned as listed in Table 1 (yellow highlighted) and Figure 3. The two buildings in Figure 2 would be renovated and potentially converted to Recreational rentals. The two buildings in Figure 3 would be retained to continue to provide administrative services to the public at the Dinkey Creek Campground.

The purpose of this initiative is to decommission the six buildings shown in Figure 4, including removal of foundations and associated utilities. These buildings are in very poor condition and are no longer feasible to maintain in their current conditions. These six buildings and their associated utilities are no longer needed to support the SNF mission at the Dinkey Ranger Station, now that the Dinkey Mill Work Center is being developed. Decommissioning these buildings is necessary to meet the 2012 President's List for the Decommissioning of Facilities, and the Region 5 2009 Strategic Facility Plan. The demolition of these buildings will reduce the Forest buildings' overall footprint by 1,207 square feet. It will also eliminate the deferred maintenance cost of over $300,000 to maintain to standard. Region 5 has provided funds for the removal of these buildings which can only be used this fiscal year (FY2012). The SNF proposes to execute this project in the summer of 2012, and completion of the work is expected to take up to two months, depending upon how much material is salvaged from the decommissioned building, and weather conditions.

Proposed Action

The action proposed by the SNF to meet the purpose and need is to decommission the six buildings shown in Figure 4, along with associated foundations, and utilities. The buildings may be removed in segments to facilitate the salvaging of useable material, and/or the buildings may be demolished in whole, with disposal at a local landfill, or recycled.

Decision Framework

Given the purpose and need, the deciding official, Ray Porter High Sierra District Ranger, will review the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives, and decide whether or not to implement the decommissioning of the buildings as described in the Proposed Action, or take No Action at this time.

Public Involvement

The proposal was first listed in the Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) in April, 2012. It was made available to the public and other agencies for comment during scoping on March 29, 2012 on the internet in the SOPA.

Legal notices were published in the Fresno Bee, newspaper of record, requesting the public to comment on the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (Preliminary EA). The public comment period for the Preliminary EA was from April 23, 2012 to May 23, 2012.

Alternatives: Proposed Action, or No Action

This section describes and compares the alternatives of the Proposed Action and No Action for the Dinkey Ranger Station Buildings Decommissioning project, with a site map included (Figure 5). This section also presents the alternatives in comparative form, shown with low to no significant environmental impact in both alternatives, and a cost of $371,376 for Alternative 2 in deferred maintenance for these buildings in their current conditions. The Comparison of Alternatives Table (Table 2) provides a clear comparative basis for the two alternatives by the decision maker and the public.

Alternative 1: Proposed Action

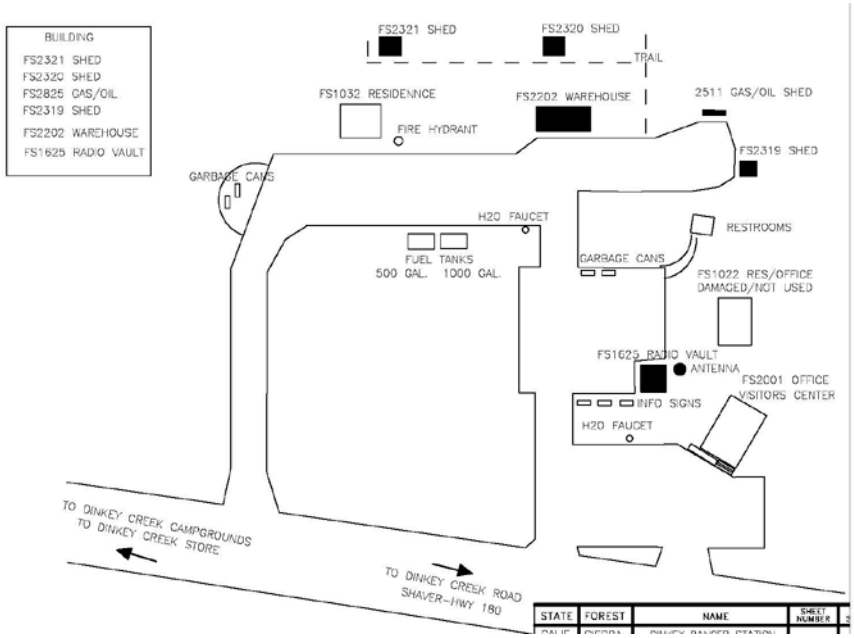

Figure 5: Site Map: Buildings proposed for removal are shown in black

The proposed action is to decommission the six buildings shown in Figures 4 and 5, remove associated foundations and utilities, and restore the disturbed ground to its natural condition. The project would be executed in the summer of 2012, and completion of the work is expected to take up to two months, depending upon how much material is salvaged from the decommissioned building, and weather conditions. Decommissioning would involve removing the buildings and above ground associated structures, with restorative work on the disturbed surface area so that they would be returned to "natural" conditions. Applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs, see Appendix A) would be applied. Specifically this would entail:

- Buildings and entire foundations would be removed and the areas would be restored back to their natural conditions.
- Underground water lines and utilities associated with the decommissioned buildings would be disconnected and removed.

- The Radio Vault Building would either be relocated to another location or demolished.
- The antenna associated with the Radio Vault Building would be removed and disposed.
- Fill dirt would be placed on top of the footprint of removed structures and foundations to approximate the natural contour of the land and naturalize the site. The borrow site would be identified and approved by the District. The fill would be free of noxious weeds and the source would be pre-approved by the Forest Botanist. Certified weed free straw or rice straw may be placed over the fill to prevent erosion if deemed necessary.
- To reduce the risk of spreading noxious weeds, all equipment used would be cleaned to remove all soil, seed, and plant materials prior to entering the Forest. Equipment used to transport personnel and materials, personnel clothing and footwear, or any equipment that enters and leaves the project area that has been exposed to any plant species considered noxious would be cleaned to remove soil, seed, and plant materials before returning to the project area or entering the Forest.
- Decommissioned buildings and other structure pieces may be disposed of in a variety of methods including removing the buildings in whole, salvaging portions and disposing of the rest at a disposal facility, and/or disposing of every piece at a disposal facility. All decommissioning would follow established guidelines for dust and noise abatement.
- The current water system would be retained in order to continue serving water to the two residences and Visitors' Office. The distribution water lines and related water service to the decommissioned buildings would be disconnected from the remaining water system.
- If bats are found roosting in the proposed decommissioning buildings then measures would be taken to eliminate or significantly reduce the potential impact to these bats. The measures would consist of modifying the access points in the structures to prohibit or substantially reduce the number of bats using the buildings prior to and during demolition.

Alternative 2: No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current management plans would continue to guide management of the project area. No removal of buildings, foundations, or utilities would be implemented to be brought into alignment with SNF mission needs. All Dinkey Ranger Station buildings currently in place would remain.

Comparison of Alternatives Table

Table 2 below compares the alternatives of the Proposed Action and No Action Plans. Alternative 1 would reduce SNF overall square footage by 1,207 ft^2 thus reducing unnecessary deferred maintenance and future facilities expenditures by $371,376. It is cost-prohibitive to maintain these buildings to standard.

Table 2: Comparison of Alternatives

Comparison Item	Alternative 1 Proposed Action	Alternative 2 No Action
Reduction in Deferred Maintenance Cost	*None*	*$371,376*
Change in Habitat Quality	*Limited improvement*	*None*
Change in Water Quality	*None*	*None*
Risk of Disturbing Bats	*Low to None*	*None*

Comparison Item	Alternative 1 Proposed Action	Alternative 2 No Action
Effects to Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive Species	*None*	*None*
Effects to Cultural Resources	*Removal of the warehouse would be an adverse effect to an historic property, per 36 CFR 800.5. This effect would be resolved through actions described in an MOA with SHPO.*	*None*

Environmental Consequences

This section summarizes that no significant findings to environmental impacts of the proposed action meet the definition of significance as defined by regulations to implement NEPA found at 40 CFR 1508.27 as described below.

Significance Factors

1. *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if, on balance, effects are believed to be beneficial.*

The project has been planned to include measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts to affected resources, consistent with meeting objectives for watershed and wildlife/habitat management. No significant adverse impacts on water resources, plant or wildlife species or their habitat have been identified, as shown in Table 2.

Wildlife

The Station is adjacent to highly used and popular Dinkey Creek Campground. Surveys in the area have not identified nesting or denning of threatened, endangered or sensitive species within the project footprint or within a distance that may be adversely affected by the proposed building demolition.

Some of the buildings proposed for demolition may be used by bats for roosting. Therefore, bat surveys would be conducted in June, prior to demolition actions, to determine if roosting is occurring. If bats are found entering or leaving the proposed structures then measures would be taken to eliminate or significantly reduce the potential impact of demolition to those bats. These measures would consist of modifying the access points in the structures to prohibit or substantially reduce the number of bats using the buildings prior to and during demolition.

Botany and Noxious Weeds

The project would have no effect or potential to affect Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plants, as no plants in these categories are known to occur in the project area. The project would have "low" risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds because Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2900, *Invasive Species Management*, would be implemented to mitigate the introduction/spreading of these.

Hydrology

This project site is not in proximity to a water body, but is located in the Riparian Conservation Area of Glen Meadow Creek and Dinkey Creek. Based on the location of this project, the limited extent and patchy nature of the ground disturbance that would result, restoration of disturbed areas to natural conditions, and implementation of the applicable BMPs (Appendix A), the District Hydrologist concluded that there would be no effects to riparian areas or water quality in any adjacent waterbody.

Cultural Resources

Removal of the Warehouse (Building FS2202) will have an adverse effect (36 CFR 800.5) on a historic property. The SNF has determined that Dinkey Ranger Station is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and that four of the existing structures contribute to that eligibility. The California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has concurred with that determination (SHPO Ref. USFS120326A, May 8, 2012). The SNF will prepare a Memorandum of Agreement with SHPO describing measures to resolve the adverse effect, which will take place prior to implementation of the decommissioning actions. Demolition of five other structures at Dinkey Ranger Station would not have any adverse effect on a historic property, as the other buildings do not contribute to the National Register eligibility.

2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.

The Proposed Action would not affect the public health and safety. The No Action Alternative would allow the threats to public and employees' safety and health if the buildings continue in their current conditions as they would continue to deteriorate and would potentially collapse.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area.

The Dinkey Ranger Station is inextricably linked with the history of Dinkey Creek, a central area for recreation, lumbering, and livestock management in the forested mountains of the central Sierra. An in-depth discussion of the history of the Dinkey Creek area, including the Forest Service administration, is in *A Review of the Historic Resources of the Dinkey Creek Hydroelectric Project* (Johnson and McCarthy 1982).

4. The degree to which the effects on the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

The effects of decommissioning man-made (and soon to be vacated) improvements on the human environment at the proposed location are not considered to be controversial. Procedures for the proposed activities will follow commonly established methods that have been used in private industry and other government projects.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

The effects to the human environment do not involve uncertain or unique or unknown risks because the decommissioning of buildings and man-made improvements would follow commonly established methods that have been used in private industry and other government projects.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

The practices and methods included in the proposed action are science and industry based, rather than precedent setting. As described previously, other locations may be decommissioned as a result of the construction of the Dinkey Mill Work Center, but each of those would be analyzed

independent of this proposed action, taking into account their own set of unique site-specific criteria. The decommissioning of buildings and man-made improvements at the Dinkey Ranger Station would not impact principles that would affect future decisions.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

There would be low to no direct or indirect effects on cultural resources, wildlife, or hydrologic resources, and therefore, no cumulatively significant effects.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural or historical resources.

As described above, the proposed action will adversely affect a historic property. In compliance with the regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (36 CFR 800), the SNF will resolve the adverse effect with actions described in a Memorandum of Agreement with the California SHPO.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Surveys in the area have not identified nesting or denning sites of threatened, endangered or sensitive species within the project footprint or within a distance that may be adversely affected by the proposed building demolition. Some of the proposed decommissioning buildings may be used by bats for roosting. Therefore, bat surveys would be conducted in June 2012, prior to demolition actions, to determine if roosting is occurring. If bats are found entering or leaving the proposed structures then measures would be taken to eliminate or significantly reduce the potential impact of demolition to those bats.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of a Federal, State, or local law or other requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

The proposed action would not threaten a violation of federal, state, or local law, or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. Rather, it would be in strict compliance with such laws and requirements.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §§1531 et seq.): Provides for the conservation of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. Section 7 of the Act requires Federal agencies to ensure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the species' critical habitat. This section also requires Federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (for non-marine species) or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service whenever an agency action is likely to affect a threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of its critical habitat.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. §§470 et seq.): Requires agency heads to assume responsibility for the preservation of historic properties owned or controlled by the agency and to develop a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register. The Act requires agency heads to evaluate the effects of an undertaking on any property that is included or

eligible for inclusion in the National Register and to afford the Advisory Council a reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. 4321): Requires agencies to analyze the physical, social, and economic effects associated with proposed plans and decisions, to consider alternatives to the action proposed, and to document the results of the analysis. The provisions of NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations apply to invasive species management (FSM 1950; FSH 1909.15).

Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251, 1254, 1323, 1324, 1329, 1342, 1344; 91 Stat. 1566): This act amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. Section 313 is strengthened to stress Federal agency compliance with Federal, State and local substantive and procedural requirements related to the control and abatement of pollution to the same extent as required of nongovernmental entities. Invasive species management to improve watershed condition supports the Act's charge to maintain the ecological integrity of our nation's waters, including the physical, chemical and biological components. The Clean Water Act regulates forest management activities near federal waters and riparian areas. Best Management Practices (BMPs, see Appendix A) are standard practices that have been shown to be effective at minimizing impacts to water quality. Through an MAA with the State Water Quality Control Board, implementation and monitoring of BMPs constitutes compliance with the CWA.

The Plant Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq) as amended by the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-412): Among other provisions, the Plant Protection Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, exportation, or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, noxious weed, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction into the United States or the dissemination of a plant pest or noxious weed within the United States. The Act defines the term "Noxious Weed".

Policy on Noxious Weed Management: Departmental Regulation 9500-10 (DR 9500-10) (January 18, 1990)). Establishes U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy to manage and coordinate noxious weed activities among USDA agencies in order to improve the quality and ecological conditions of crop and rangeland in the United States *Departmental Regulation 9500-10:* It is USDA policy to undertake integrated noxious weed management activities and implement programs to:

a) Protect, enhance, and wisely use terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
b) Provide, promote, and facilitate continuing research and technology developments to manage noxious weeds utilizing integrated pest management approaches.
c) Promote and facilitate the implementation of effective methods to prevent entry or establishment of noxious weeds by cooperation and coordination of the various agencies.
d) Promote and facilitate cooperation and coordination among other federal and state agencies and county weed control districts/supervisors, private organizations, and individuals in planning and implementing integrated pest management approaches to manage and control noxious weeds.
e) Provide technical, managerial, educational, and other assistance programs to landowners, land managers, operators, and other users that will encourage the adoption and use of conservation and integrated pest management practices for noxious weeds.

f) Promote and facilitate the development and demonstration of, and education about, use- oriented management strategies that reduce the long-term dependence on noxious weed control programs.
g) Provide periodic land and aquatic resource inventories compatible among agencies to identify and classify noxious weeds and noxious weed infestations.
h) Promote and facilitate cooperation and coordination among federal and state agencies, county weed control districts/supervisors, private organizations, and individuals to determine extent and intensity of noxious weeds and short- and long-term potential economic and environmental impacts.
i) Explore, promote, and encourage beneficial uses for noxious weeds.

Policy on the Management of Wildlife, Fish, and Plant Habitat. Departmental Regulation 9500-4 (DR 9500-4): Guides the management of Wildlife, Fish, and Plant Habitat on public lands. *Departmental Regulation 9500-4:* USDA policy on wildlife, fish, and plant habitat management on National Forest System lands and waters. This regulation provides that the Department will promote the concept and use of integrated pest management practices in carrying out its responsibilities for pest control, and will seek to alleviate damage by plant and animal pests to farm crops, livestock, poultry, forage, forest and urban trees, wildlife, and their habitats. Departmental agencies, through management and research programs, will develop or assist in developing new techniques and methodologies for the prevention of damage to agricultural or forestry production. The agencies also will strive to reduce potential depredation through improved management of USDA programs. Pest control techniques and considerations will be incorporated into appropriate management and education programs.

Restoration: Pro-actively manage aquatic and terrestrial areas of the National Forest System to increase the ability of those areas to be self-sustaining and resistant (resilience) to the establishment of invasive species. Where necessary, implement restoration, rehabilitation, and/or re-vegetation activities following invasive species treatments to prevent or reduce the likelihood of the reoccurrence or spread of aquatic or terrestrial invasive species.

Consultation and Reviews

This document was review by the following Specialists:

Ray Porter, HSRD Ranger

Doug McKay, Forest Archeologist

Steve Marsh, HSRD District Archeologist

Julie Gott, HSRD Hydrologist

Jamie Tuitele-Lewis, HSRD Botanist

Greg Shroer, Forest Wildlife Biologist

Judi Tapia, Forest NEPA Coordinator

Dean Gould, Forest Engineer

Appendix A: Best Management Practices

The following Best Management Practices (BMPs, from FSH 2509.22-2011-1, the 2011 R5 Water Quality Management Handbook) apply to the project and would be implemented as part of the project design.

2.11 Equipment Refueling and Servicing:

The purpose of this BMP is to prevent pollutants such as fuels, lubricants, bitumen and other harmful materials from being discharged into or near rivers, streams and impoundments, or into natural or man-made channels. For this project, servicing and refueling would occur in the existing paved area adjacent to the fuel tanks. This location is in the RCA but has been approved by the hydrologist, who determined that this would pose no risk to water quality or riparian values. Project personnel would be briefed on the Forest Spill Plan and would know what actions to take in case of a spill. A spill kit containing petroleum-absorbent pads would be kept on-site during project work.

2.13 Erosion Control Plan:

Land disturbing activities can result in short term erosion. By effectively planning for erosion control, sedimentation can be controlled or prevented. The purpose of this BMP is to limit and mitigate erosion and sedimentation through effective planning prior to project implementation. Following laws, regulations, policies, and land management practices, the goal of reducing erosion created by disturbances can be achieved.