United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

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Environmental Assessment

North Fork Pole Barn Decommissioning

Bass Lake Ranger District
Sierra National Forest
Madera County, California

SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 18 T08S R23E

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Summary

The Sierra National Forest (SNF) proposes to decommission (demolish) a structure known as the North Fork Pole Barn (Pole Barn). The Pole Barn is located on the Bass Lake Ranger District of the SNF, in the south east section of the US Forest Service Compound at North Fork California. This demolition action is needed to eliminate a significant safety hazard and a severely deteriorated structure at the North Fork Compound. The proposed action would also remove from the compound an unwanted dumping nuisance for inappropriate materials and chemicals. Additionally, the demolition would reduce SNF overall facility square footage by 4680 $ft^{2;}$ thus reducing unnecessary deferred maintenance and future facilities expenditures by $669,637. This Pole Barn is identified in the 2009 Sierra Facilities Master Plan as an excess building that needs to be removed. Removal of the Pole Barn will allow the SNF 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 funding for the removal of the building which can only be used this fiscal year (FY12), consequently it is imperative that the work be accomplished by September 30.

In 1989, the SNF, in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) determined that the Pole Barn (building # 2306) is a contributing element to the North Fork Compound Historic District (FS# 0515551149), and that the historic district is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). By 1991, the SNF noticed impacts to the structural integrity of the building and began to take steps to reinforce it; however, by 1995, the building had deteriorated to the point where it no longer appeared safe. In 1996, the SNF contracted with Jack Vance, a historic preservation specialist with the National Park Service to conduct an assessment of the costs to stabilize and renovate the building to the Secretary of the Interiors Standards and Guidelines for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings. At that time, Mr. Vance estimated that it would cost between $65,000 - $98,000 to complete the renovation and stabilization. Based on the estimated costs, the SNF decided not to stabilize and restore the building. Further deterioration occurred and a portion of the central section of the building collapsed. In 2004, after thoroughly considering available alternatives, the SNF determined that it would need to demolish the Pole Barn and consulted with SHPO, and notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) of the adverse effect to the historic property. In 2006 the SNF and SHPO entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that provides the stipulations of what is required to mitigate the adverse effect to the historic property. Consequently, the SNF has determined that it will resolve the adverse effects of the decommissioning on the historic property by executing and implementing the MOA.

There is a slight potential that three elderberry shrubs near this proposed demolition structure could provide habitat for the Longhorn beetle, therefore, these elderberry shrubs will be protected from demolition activities.

Based upon the analysis of the effects of the alternatives, the responsible official, Dave Martin –BLRD Ranger, will decide whether or not to decommission the Pole Barn as described in the proposed action.

Document Structure

The SNF 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 will include 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

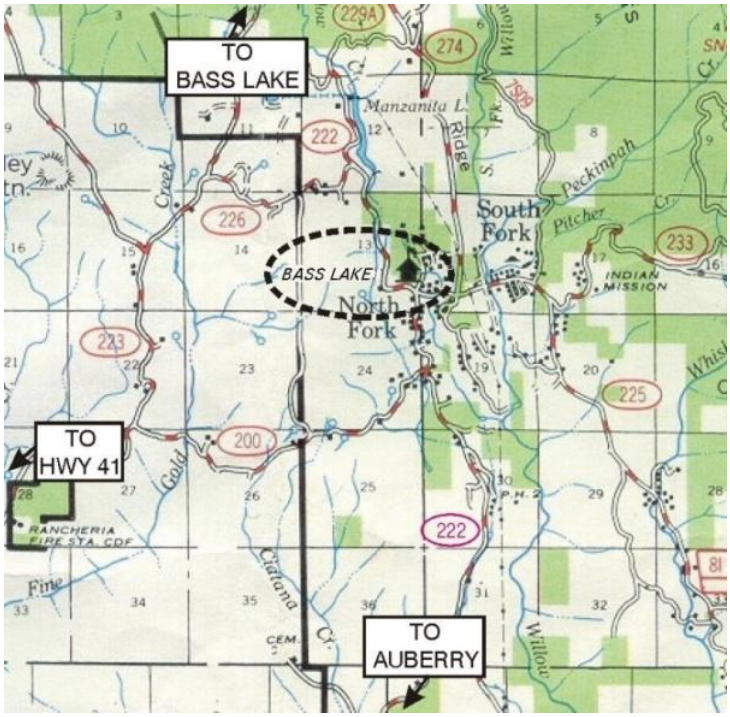

Figure 1: Site location

The Pole Barn is located within the North Fork Compound of the SNF (originally the SNF Headquarters), in the community of North Fork, CA. It is located in Madera County at 2600 feet in elevation in the Bass Lake Ranger District (**Figure 1**). The North Fork Compound was established in 1910 by the first SNF Supervisor, Charles Shinn. The North Fork Compound Historic District was evaluated in 1989 and determined to be **eligible** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). After the main

office building burned down in 1992, the compound was re-evaluated and found to be still eligible for listing on the NRHP.

FIGURE 2: POLE BARN STRUCTURE – SEVERELY DETERIORATED CONDITION AND SAFETY HAZARD.

The Pole Barn (FIGURE 2) was constructed in 1936 by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crews from materials salvaged from railroad trestles; and corrugated iron siding and roofing. The Pole Barn was utilized to store Forest fleet vehicles. In the intervening years, the foundation has been undermined, the structural members have shifted out of position and vertical pole columns have rotted. The structure is on the verge of collapsing and is considered a substantial safety hazard.

In addition, the inside of the barn had been used as a waste storage area for several environmentally hazardous products. This was noted during the Washington Office Environmental Compliance Audit of February 2005. This site is one of the three significant findings from the Audit. Though this site was initially cleaned up after the Audit, it has once again become an attractor for illicit waste accumulation.

The Pole Barn is a contributing element to the North Fork Compound Historic District. SNF in consultation with State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), has determined that the adverse effect of decommissioning this historic property cannot be avoided, has further determine that it will resolve the adverse effects of the decommissioning on the historic property by executing and implementing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), July 2006.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of this initiative is to decommission the Pole Barn and its foundation, which are not needed to support the SNF mission. Decommissioning the Pole Barn will remove a significant safety hazard at the North Fork Compound, and will remove the site as a dumping nuisance for unwanted materials and chemicals.

In addition, demolition of this building will reduce the SNF overall facility square footage by 4680 ft^2, thus reducing unnecessary deferred maintenance and future facilities expenditures of $669,637. It will also meet the 2012 President's List for Decommissioning of Facilities, and the Region 5 2009 Strategic Facility Plan. The Pole Barn has been a safety hazard on the Forest for several decades. The structure cannot be economically rehabilitated, nor is there any reasonable safe use for it. It was identified as a significant environmental and safety hazard in the 2005 WO Environmental Compliance Audit. The Regional Office is providing funds for the removal of the Pole Barn this fiscal year (FY12). SNF proposes to execute this project in the summer of 2012, and completion of the work is expected to take one month, depending upon how much material is salvaged from the decommissioned building, and weather conditions.

Proposed Action

The action proposed by SNF to meet the purpose and need is to decommission the Pole Barn and its foundation shown in Figure 2. The building may be removed by segments to facilitate the salvaging useable material, and/or the building may be demolished in whole, with pieces disposal of at a local landfill, or recycled.

Decision Framework

Given the purpose and need, the deciding official, Dave Martin – BLRD 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 the January 2012 edition and has continued to date. It was made available to the public and other agencies for comment during scoping March 29, 2012 on the internet in the SOPA.

Legal notices were published in the Fresno Bee, 04/23/2012, 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 and No Action

This section describes and compares the alternatives of the Proposed Action and No Action for the Pole Barn Decommissioning project. It includes a Project Location map (Figure 1) and Site Map (Figure 3). This section also presents the alternatives in comparative form, defining the differences between each alternative and providing a basis for choosing among the alternatives by the decision maker and the public.

Alternative 1: Proposed Action

The proposed action is to decommission the Pole Barn building (Figure 2) and remove its foundation to restore the ground to its natural condition. The project will be implemented in the summer of 2012, and implementation is expected to take up to a month, depending upon how much material is salvaged from the decommissioned building and weather conditions. Decommissioning would involve removing the Pole Barn and above ground associated structure, with restorative work on the disturbed surface area so that they would be returned to "natural" conditions. Specifically this would entail:

- Building and entire foundation would be removed, and the footprint restored it back to natural conditions.
- Borrow site for fill dirt would be identified and approved by the District before they are placed on top of the foot print of removed structures and foundations to approximate the natural contour of the land and naturalize the site. 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.
- Heavy equipment will be cleaned upon completion of the project due to the fact that Klamath weed and woolly mullein (noxious weeds) are growing at the pole barn, and seeds of these weeds could be carried on equipment to other areas of the Sierra National Forest during transport.
- Decommissioned buildings and other structure pieces may be disposed of in a variety of methods including removing the buildings 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 and proper disposal of any hazardous materials.
- To minimize the likelihood of impacts to Threatened and Endangered species, the 3 elderberry shrubs near the pole barn will be protected from demolition activities. The shrubs will be marked with flagging and their location identified to the demolition crews to ensure they are protected. These actions will ensure there will be no significant adverse impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle.
- To protect sourberry, a culturally significant shrub to the Mono people (used for basketry and for food), the shrubs next to road leading to the pole barn will be flagged for avoidance to ensure that no vehicles or equipment park or drive on them on their way to the job site.
- The adverse effects of the decommissioning on the historic property will be mitigated by executing and implementing the stipulations of the MOA, namely, preserving the important information relating to the building by completing documentation and archiving in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) collections at the Library of Congress.

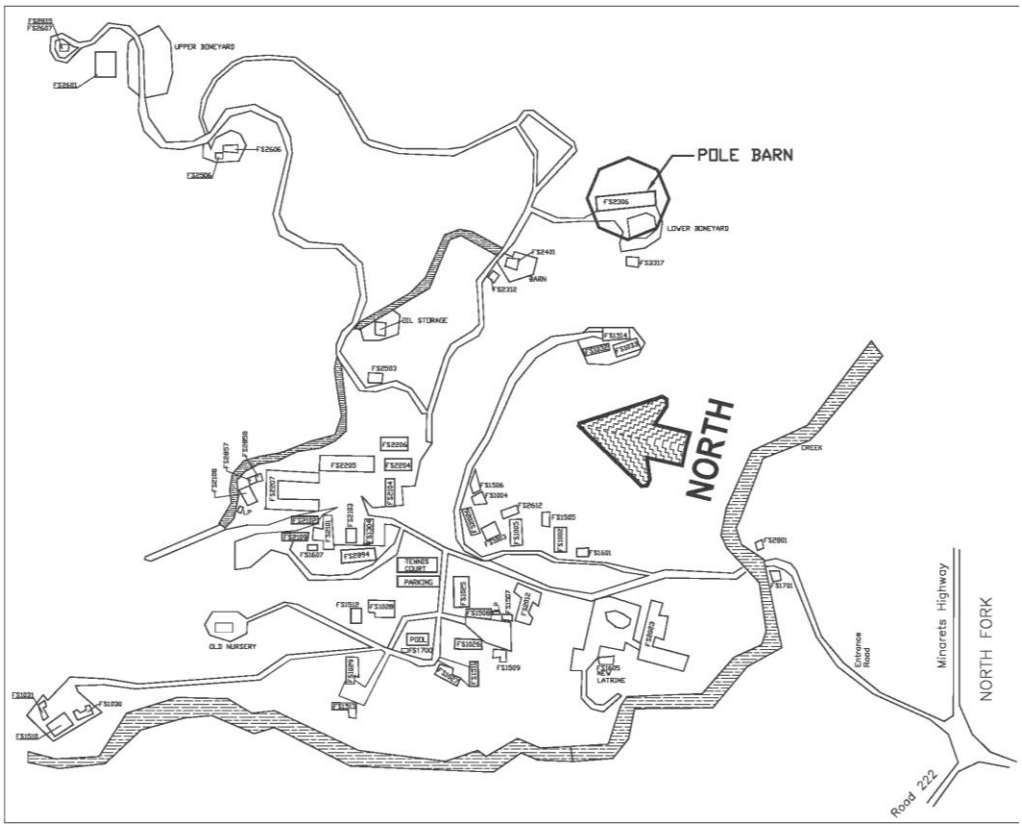

FIGURE 3: SITE MAP

Alternative 2: No Action

Under the No Action alternative, current management plans would continue to guide management of the project area. No removal of building and foundation would be implemented to be brought into alignment with SNF mission needs. The Pole Barn as it currently exists would remain, and the amount of deferred maintenance would increase. Further deterioration of the building would continue allowing an adverse effect to the historic property through benign neglect.

Comparison of Alternatives

Table 1 below compares the alternatives of the Proposed Action and No Action Plans. Alternative 1 would reduce SNF overall square footage by 4680 ft^2 thus reducing unnecessary deferred maintenance and future facilities expenditures by $669,637. It is cost-prohibitive to maintain Pole Barn to standard.

TABLE 1: COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Comparison Item	Alternative 1 Proposed Action	Alternative 2 No Action
Deferred Maintenance Cost	None	$669,637
Change in Habitat Quality	None	None
Change in Water Quality	None	None
Risk of Disturbing Bats	Low to None	None
Effects to Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive Species	Low	None
Risk of introducing or spreading Noxious Weeds	Low	None
Effects to Cultural Resources	Yes	Yes

Environmental Consequences

This section summarizes the physical, biological, social and economic environments of the affected project area and the potential changes to those environments due to implementation of the alternatives. It also presents the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives presented in the chart above.

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.***

This section summarizes no significant finding to environmental impact 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.

Wildlife

a) **Bats:** The pole barn that is proposed for demolition consists of sheet metal sheathing with wooden posts. One side of the building is entirely open, as well as many other openings exist in the roof and walls where sheet metal is missing. This type of structure as well as the condition of the structure do not provide reliable or typical bat roosting habitat. Additionally, no bat roosts have been found during examination of the structure, therefore, this demolition project is not expected to impact bat species.

b) **Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle:** (*Desmocerus californicus*): The Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle is typically found within elderberry shrub complexes below 3,000' elevation typically in or close to riparian zones. There is a slight potential that three blue elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) near this proposed demolition structure could provide habitat for the Longhorn beetle, therefore, these elderberry shrubs will be protected from demolition activities. The shrubs will be marked with flagging and their location identified to the demolition crews to help ensure they are protected. These actions will ensure there will be no significant adverse impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, in the unlikely event that those species inhabit the elderberry shrubs.

c) **Other Wildlife Species:** All other wildlife species populations also are not expected to be adversely affected by the proposed demolition of this Pole Barn.

Botany and Noxious Weeds:

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plants occur in the project area, based on a survey conducted on April 19, 2012 by the Forest Botanist. The vegetation at the site is typical of Sierra Nevada chaparral and ponderosa pine forest; dominated by foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana),* ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii),* withblue elderberry, Mariposa manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscida* ssp. *mariposa*), and buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus)*There is a culturally important plant, sourberry (*Rhus aromatica),* adjacent to the road leading to the pole barn. The herbaceous plants in the direct vicinity of the project are mostly non-native annual grasses such as *Bromus diandrus, B. tectorum, B. madritensis* ssp. *rubens, B. hordeaceous, Vulpia myuros, Avena* sp. Two invasive non-native plants (noxious weeds) were observed: about 6 woolly mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) plants at the front of the pole barn and about 10-20 klamathweed (*Hypericum perforatum*) plants growing along the outside back wall of the shed. The project would have a low risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds because noxious weed prevention measures have been built into the project design.

Hydrology

This project site is not in proximity to a water body. With the restoration of the disturbed areas to natural conditions, and the applications of Best Management Practices (BMP), Appendix, related to hydrology, no impact to hydrologic resources is projected.

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

Proposed Action Alternative will 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.

This project is located within the North Fork Compound which was established in 1910, in the community of North Fork, CA, by the first Sierra National Forest Supervisor, Charles Shinn. North Fork Compound is eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

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

The effects of decommissioning this man-made improvement on the human environment at the proposed location, is not considered to be controversial. Procedures for the 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 industry-standard policies and procedures.

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 decommissioning of this building and man-made improvements, would not affect principles that would affect future decisions. This area is currently unused and in excess of government needs, and is a safety hazard. It is a surplus building which was identified in the Forest Facility Master Plan. Disposing of the Pole Barn would not affect future decisions or considerations, as each site is evaluated on its own unique set of circumstances and conditions.

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

The removal of the historically significant Pole Barn has been determined to be a direct and significant impact on the larger historic property (North Fork Compound Historic District). However, by implementing the MOA, the SNF will mitigate the direct and any cumulative effects that this action may have on the historic property. This action and its resulting potential effects are not projected to have cumulatively significant impacts on other resources.

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.

The Pole Barn is a contributor to the eligible North Fork Compound Historic District. Demolishing and removing this building will have an adverse effect to the North Fork Compound Historic District. The SNF, in consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), has determined that this adverse effect to this historic property cannot be avoided and has further

determined that it will resolve the adverse effect to the historic property by executing and implementing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), dated July 2006. The MOA identifies measures to mitigate the adverse effect. These measures include conducting an Historic American Building Survey (HABS). The final HABS report is currently being packaged to send to the National Park Service (NPS). Upon acceptance of the HABS by the NPS, consultation with the SHPO will continue until all stipulations in the Memorandum of Agreement are accomplished and concurred upon by the 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.

- No bat roosts have been found during examination of the structure, therefore, this demolition project is not expected to impact bat species.
- There is a slight potential Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle that three blue elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) near this proposed demolition structure could provide habitat for the Longhorn beetle, therefore, these elderberry shrubs will be protected from demolition activities.
- All other wildlife species populations are not expected to be adversely affected by the proposed demolition of this Pole Barn.

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 will be in strict compliance will all of the same.

Relevant laws and regulations in Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2900, **Invasive Species Management**, 11/21/2011, will be implemented but not limited to the following:

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. Management activities to protect and preserve historic properties and cultural sites may include actions to prevent and control invasive species threatening or impacting those areas. The Act requires agency heads to evaluate the effects of an undertaking on 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. Definition of undertaking is to

include permitting activities or Federal financial assistance under the jurisdiction of an agency.

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. Clean Water Act regulates forest management activities near federal waters and riparian areas. Best Management Practices (Appendix A) are standard practices that have been shown to be effective at minimizing impacts to water quality. A cumulative water effects analysis and riparian conservation objective analysis were completed for this project and concluded that all alternatives do not contribute to cumulatively placing watersheds over thresholds of concern.

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 revegetation 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 reviewed by the following Specialists:

Dave Martin, BLRD Ranger

Greg Schroer, Forest Wildlife Biologist

Theresa Lowe, BLRD Interdisciplinary Biologist

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Doug McKay, Forest Archeologist

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Erin Potter, BLRD District Archeologist

Judi Tapia, Forest NEPA Coordinator

Dean Gould, Forest Engineer

Appendix: 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, bitumens 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.