Decision Notice
and
Finding of No Significant Impact

(20)

Cliffhanger Timber Sale

Forest Plan Amendment 21

Umatilla County, Oregon
USDA Forest Service
Umatilla National Forest
Walla Walla Ranger District

This Decision Notice documents the Forest Service decision to implement a modified Alternative E from the Cliffhanger Timber Sale and Habitat Restoration Project Environmental Assessment (EA). Only the timber sale and associated mitigation will be carried forward at this this time. Another decision document will be prepared for implementing improvement projects listed in the the EA. This decision is being deferred until some assurance of funding for these projects can be made.

The selected alternative includes: 1. the salvage of dead and dying trees, 2. thinning of stands containing ponderosa pine, 3. jackpot burning within harvest units, 4. reforestation of stands experiencing high mortality, 4. road reconstruction, 5. planting of 337 acres, and 6. subsoiling of up to 160 acres. The amount of acres to subsoil will be determined after the harvest activities.

The information in this document is described in more detail in the EA and the analysis file. These documents are available for public review in the Forest Supervisor's Office in Pendleton, Oregon, and the Walla Walla District Office in Walla Walla, Washington. The EA documents the site-specific analysis conducted by an interdisciplinary team to determine the potential environmental effects connected to the proposed timber sale and other habitat restoration projects.

The analysis Area covers approximately 24,600 acres in the Meacham Creek Watershed and a small portion of the Upper Grande Ronde Watershed. The North Fork Meacham and Pot Creeks form the northern boundary. Other streams within the analysis area include Hoskins Creek, Bear Creek, East Fork Meacham, and Owsley Creek. Place names include Red Saddle, Owsley Hogback, Spring Mountain, and Huckleberry Mountain. The analysis area is located in portions of T. 1 N. R. 37 E., T. 1 S. R. 36 E., and T. 1 S. R. 37 E. Willamette Meridian.

The EA is tiered to the Umatilla National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan FEIS, Record of Decision, and the accompanying Land and Resource Management Plan, dated June 11, 1990. This includes the clarifying direction of Plan Amendment # 10 - The Interim Strategies for Managing Anadromous Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho, and Portions of California (PACFISH) dated February 24, 1995, and Plan Amendment #11 - Continuation of Interim Management Direction Establishing Riparian, Ecosystem, and Wildlife Standards for Timber Sales dated June 12, 1995. It is also tiered to the Managing Competing and Unwanted Vegetation FEIS, its Mediated Agreement and Record of Decision dated December 8, 1988. In addition, it incorporates by reference the Environmental Assessment for the Management of Noxious Weeds and its Decision Notice dated May 24, 1995.

Key Issues

Through discussions involving Forest Service resource specialists, state agencies, tribal government, and members of the public, the following key issues were identified within the project area:

Key Issue 1. Landscape Disturbance Size and Scale

The disturbance event will affect both the size and scale of the change to the landscape. Disturbances such as wildfire, insects, frost, and windthrow can affect local landscapes either contiguously or in patches. In Warm Dry Forests, historic fires commonly swept the grass understory with a low intensity fire that developed an open, fire resistant forest of relatively even-aged trees. Past management has resulted in closed, fire intolerant, forests and a shift in fire regime from low to moderate and high intensity fires. The stands provide canopy closure suitable for big game cover. Units in the Proposed Action were limited to 30 acres in size to reduce the affects on suitable cover. This is inconsistent with historic levels of disturbance and the stand structure maintained by the fire return interval. The area would still remain at risk to the effects of an high intensity wildfire.

Key Issue 2. Created Openings and Loss of Hiding Cover

The proposed harvest in the Cool Moist Forest, where the majority of the dead and dying timber is found, will create openings larger than 40 acres when combined with past harvest. Units 3 and 26 proposes shelterwood harvest and are over 40 acres in size.

Thinning in the Warm Dry Forest will open the stands causing a loss in hiding cover. These harvest proposals may conflict with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for big game cover.

Key Issue 3. Harvest Economics

There appears to be a conflict between providing an economic sale and protection of resources. The proposed helicopter yarding provides resource protection on steep, midslope areas, having no road access. The harvest of green, small diameter trees (8 to 18 inches in diameter) may not be economical using helicopter or skyline yarding systems. The timber sale receipts contribute to the local economies of both Umatilla and Union Counties. Salaries and wages are generated by workers involved in the harvest and processing efforts. Support services and industries benefit from both personal and timber industrial spending.

There is controversy in the role economics should play in proposing timber sales. Many in the area feel that timber receipts have a positive affect on the local economy and that Forest Service collections would help accomplish restoration projects. Others feel that economics should not be a consideration in determining harvest opportunities. They feel that the primary concern is resource protection and that harvesting trees should not be the driving force behind proposing timber sales.

Key Issue 4. Harvest In the Owsley Unroaded Area

Harvest in the Owsley unroaded area may affect the character and stability of a large, undisturbed, area that protects water quality and provides refugia areas important to the recovery of listed species.

Stocking levels in the Warm Dry Forest has increased with shade tolerant species. The higher stocking levels increase the risk from catastrophic insect activity. Budworm has been active within the roadless areas and there are areas of high mortality. Without harvest, prescribed fire would take longer to reach historic stocking and fuel levels and the risk of an high intensity wildfire would remain.

Key Issue 5. Harvest Prescriptions and Amount of Removal

The proposed action would salvage areas of high mortality and thin stands containing ponderosa pine. In stands experiencing high levels of mortality, over 6 mbf per acre, stand treatment should be prescribed so additional entries over the next 5 to 10 years can be avoided. Stands containing

ponderosa pine should be managed to emulate historic fire conditions. Shade tolerant species should be removed from the stands and stocking levels reduced, lowering the risk to attack by mountain pine or western pine beetles. Ponderosa pine management should be done at a landscape scale to fit natural disturbance processes.

Many felt that stand prescriptions should not include trees larger than 21 inches in diameter. When salvage is used as a treatment, care needs to be taken not to sanitize so completely that stand components such as suppressed and damaged trees is lost from the forest ecosystem.

There is concern about how much area to harvest. An increase in harvest area brings with it an increase risk from logging caused sediment reaching streams. The amount of volume removed could also increase the risk of sediment. A salvage entry would have less affect than more intensive harvest prescriptions.

Decision

Based on the results of the analysis documented in the EA, it is my decision to implement the harvest and associated mitigation portion of Alternative E (as modified) at this time. The original analysis proposed harvest in 20 acres of Management Area C8. I have decided to drop this area from harvest because of the low volume being removed and the associated impacts, including a temporary road.

I have decided to defer making a decision on the implementation of the improvement projects not associated with the timber harvest. I do not believe these proposals will be ripe for a decision until some assurance of funding is established.

Harvest would occur on 1,054 acres producing an estimated 5,740 mbf of timber. A cut to length logging system would be used on 990 acres and a skyline on 64 acres. The harvest would remove dead and dying trees plus additional green trees in the areas of high mortality. Shelterwood and seedtree prescriptions will occur in stands having high mortality. Thinning would occur in overstocked stands containing ponderosa pine. There would be 222 acres of salvage harvest, 315 acres of shelterwood and seedtree harvest, and 517 acres of thinning, 113 acres of the thinning will develop old forest single structure. Jackpot prescribed fire would be used to treat fuels with the fire allowed to creep to natural fuel breaks. Surface rock replacement would occur on 3.6 miles of Forest Road 3100 and Forest Road 3109026, 0.2 miles, would be reconstructed to improve drainage and reduce sediment yields. There would also be approximately 0.3 miles of temporary roads used and obliterated after use. No harvest will occur within PACFISH buffers. The Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA) dimensions would be 300 feet for streamclass I and II, 150 feet for streamclass III, and 100 feet for streamclass IV in compliance with PACFISH standards.

Activities that would occur concurrently or in association with the harvest include subsoiling of landings and skid trails where appropriate to restore soil productivity, revegetation for erosion control, and tree planting of 337 acres. Connected projects that could be implemented within the project area would be road maintenance to reduce sedimentation and increase safety, pit development and hauling of rock for surface rock replacement, removal of hazard trees along the haul route, and other activities needed for the servicing and transport of contractor's equipment.

The selected portions of Alternative E will meet the following objectives: 1) to remove the remaining dead and dying trees before value is lost due to deterioration and weather checking; 2) to reduce the potential wildfire intensity to more natural and controllable level; 3) to reduce the stocking level of shade tolerant species; 4) to emphasize ponderosa pine management in Warm Dry Forest settings on sites currently containing ponderosa pine; 5) to restore old forest single stratum successional stage on the sites where this stage would naturally occur; and 6) to increase the percentage of seral species within the forest. In addition this alternative is responsive to these concerns: a) not harvesting within the Owsley Unroaded Area; b) protecting a prairie falcon nest site by not harvesting on Spring Mountain; c) beginning restoration in the Warm Dry Forest with unit size determined by natural disturbance processes; d) reducing non-point sources of sediment by repairing and resurfacing roads; e) providing an economic sale proposal; f) reducing fuels on Spring

Mountain where the logging would not interfere with nesting and the Warm Dry Forest would benefit from restoration; and g) using harvest prescriptions that complete treatment of stands in one treatment.

Rationale for the Decision

The criteria I used in arriving at my decision were:

The action needs to be economically feasible.

The action needs to restore structural stages that have been reduced or stands having a high rate or risk of mortality.

The action needs to maintain water quality, fish habitat, and soil productivity.

The selected alternative meets these criteria well. The mix of dead and green timber along with the mix of logging systems provides for an economically feasible timber sale. Approximately 28 percent of the volume is chip fiber and the alternative has the highest estimated advertised rate, $50.50 per mbf; total bid, $303,506 and return to the counties $75,876. Not only does this alternative provide the most economical proposal, it also accomplishes the highest amount of forest restoration.

There has been a high rate of mortality in the Cool Moist Forest. Many stands are in late seral stages with high stocking levels of grand fir. In the past 10 years, spruce budworm has reached epidemic levels causing widespread mortality. On the 222 acres where the salvage of dead and dying trees would occur, the stocking levels after harvest will be above standards. In 315 acres of high mortality stands, regeneration harvest will occur using shelterwood and seedtree prescription. The shelterwood and seedtrees will be left to provide snags and down woody material. The shelterwood and seedtree harvest is designed to regenerate the high mortality areas and return them to a more natural and sustainable condition. This is also an effective way to re-establish degraded big game cover.

The Warm Dry Forest has experienced a loss of open forest structure. The exclusion of fire and the establishment of grand fir has increased stocking above historic levels. This places ponderosa pine stands at risk to mountain and western pine beetles. These stands are also at risk to high intensity wildfire. This alternative treats ponderosa pine stands by thinning overstocked stands, retaining all large diameter trees, and developing 113 acres of old forest single stratum while commercial thinning another 404 acres. The large units, located on the benches adjacent to the slope, would develop an historical appearance of open pine stands grading into grand fir forests.

The EA determined that Alternative E would be unlikely to have a measurable effect on water quality and fisheries habitat. With no harvest in the RHCAs, shading of streams would be retained. Harvest will occur in the upper reaches of the watershed primarily along ridgetops and benches. Sediment from harvest units would be non-measurable because of a combination of low impact harvest techniques (forwarder and skyline) and the extensive PACFISH buffers. All units are greater than one-half mile from Class II streams except Unit 14 which is within 1,000 feet. The closest anadromous streams are over a mile away from harvest units. The past 3 years of monitoring indicates that less than 2 percent of the soil is exposed during forwarder logging. The road reconstruction and surface rock replacement would have less than one percent increase in background sediment delivered to streams, and this impact would be unmeasurable at the forest boundary. Implementing Alternative E would not degrade existing Beneficial Uses in the Umatilla or Grande Ronde Basins.

Impacts to soil productivity will meet Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines. Past monitoring of forwarder logging systems indicates that compaction occurs on eight percent of the harvest area. Limbs are left in the unit and not taken to landings. Jackpot burning, after harvest, will retain a mosaic of woody debris of varied size classes that would provide biomass to decompose into the soils. Units are located on soils that have an indication of high risk to surface erosion based on the Forests Soils Resource Inventory. These soils will be protected during the yarding process by the limbing of the trees in the forwarder routes. This mat of limbs would provide protection to the soils by reducing exposed soil. These techniques are expected to result in

exposed soil on no more then 2 percent of the area. Those areas with exposed soil would not be connected and the mosaic of woody debris would act as a filter, trapping displaced soil before it moves very far.

How Issues are Resolved In the Decision

1. Landscape Disturbance Size and Scale

Alternative E would restore Warm Dry Forests along the benches adjacent to the slope and ridgetops to an historic appearance and fuel level. There will be 405 acres of warm dry forest restored to open conditions. Shade tolerant species and stocking levels would be reduced in the ponderosa pine stands increasing the resilience to pine beetles. The open stands, returned to the landscape, would once again act as fuel breaks, keeping fires on the ground and modifying the intensity of a wildfire moving on the slope. These units would take on the appearance of a fire maintained landscape and would more closely resemble natural disturbance in size and scale.

2. Created Openings and loss of Hiding Cover

When combined with past regeneration harvest, this alternative would create a total of 446 acres, in five areas, of openings greater than 40 acres. These are located in areas of high mortality in the Cool Moist Forest. The Forest Plan allows exceptions to large openings in the following case: When natural catastrophic situations such as fires, windstorms, or insect or disease attacks occur..." Defoliation by spruce budworm has caused catastrophic mortality in these areas. The existing mortality has opened these stands. The harvest prescription is called a shelterwood or seedtree depending how many trees with healthy crowns are available as leave trees. As interpreted in the Plan, these openings were created to address natural catastrophic conditions, and meets the Forest Plan Standard and Guidelines.

Forage and cover values would change. HEI would become 76.9, which is above the Standard and Guideline of 60 for C4 and 70 for C8. Both satisfactory and total cover would remain above the Standard and Guidelines.

Hiding cover has already been lost in the areas of high mortality. The existing heavy amounts of down trees keeps big game from fully utilizing the area. Regenerating the stands and reducing the fuel levels would help to move these stands back to utilizable habitat.

The Warm Dry Forest will be managed as open forest. This is the historic condition for much of the analysis area. The open condition would be continued through time. Hiding cover would be lost after harvest, however, it would reappear as a mosaic of age classes rather than being uniform throughout the stand. The existing Access and Travel Management Plan would keep big game vulnerability at existing levels. The management of ponderosa pine in the Warm Dry Forest would restore habitat lost by fire exclusion although this would reduce its value to big game because of the reduction of hiding cover.

3. Harvest Economics

Harvest prescriptions would remove small diameter trees. A few trees larger than 21 inches would be salvaged in the Cool Moist Forest, less than 5 percent of the sale volume. This is consistent with the Eastside Screens. The logging systems used would be a mix of cut to length (990 acres, 4,860 mbf) and skyline (64 acres, 880 mbf). Seventy-two percent of the 5,740 mbf will be sawlogs. It is estimated to have an advertised rate of $50.50 with a return to the county of $75,876. The designed logging systems offer good resource protection with little cost above that of conventional tractor skidding.

4. Harvest In the Owsley Unroaded Area

The Owsley area was not identified as a roadless area in Appendix C of the Forest Plan. The area is 5,390 acres in size and meets the current definition of roadless. The decision is made to not enter the area at this time. The area will be reviewed as part of the upcoming Forest Plan revision process.

This decision does not remove the risk to high intensity wildfire in the area. Mortality that has occurred from the last defoliation from spruce budworm will increase the fuel levels and stocking levels will also remain high.

5. Harvest Prescriptions and Amount of Removal

Alternative E provides the best mix of harvest prescriptions to restore forest structure, vigor, and resilience. Big game cover is retained by salvaging 222 acres in the cool forest. In the areas of high mortality 315 acres will be regenerated. For the warm forest, old Forest single stratum is returned to 113 acres by thinning from below and removing shade tolerant trees. Thinning for stocking control would occur on 404 acres and can be developed into old forest single stratum.

The HRV analysis concluded that the Cool Moist Forest was within the historic range for late old structure. Dead and dying trees over 21 inches can be harvested in the Cool Moist Forest. These trees will not make good shelterwood trees and would interfere with stand development.

The late old forest, single stratum is below historic levels for the Warm Dry Forest. No trees over 21 inches will be harvested from the Warm Forest type.

The analysis in the EA determined that the amount of harvest increasing the risk of sediment reaching streams was not a concern. There was little difference between alternatives on the effects to water quality and fisheries habitat. The protective measures and logging systems minimize the affects.

Other Alternatives Considered

Alternative A: (no action) No new management actions would take place. The current management direction and existing activities would continue. The current biological and physical processes creating stand disturbance would be allowed to continue.

Alternative B: (Proposed action, salvage and habitat restoration) Salvage harvest would occur on 626 acres of Cool Moist Forest and an additional 462 acres of understory removal to begin the development of old forest single stratum in the Warm Dry Forest. The cut to length system would be used on 608 acres, helicopter yarding on 359 acres and skyline yarding on 120 acres. The total estimated volume would be 7,890 mbf. This alternative proposed harvest in the Owsley Unroaded Area using helicopters.

Alternative C: (Salvage harvest outside the roadless areas) Salvage harvest would occur on 476 acres. A cut to length system would be used. The total estimated volume would be 3,730 mbf.

Alternative D: (Salvage with complete silvicultural treatments outside of roadless areas) Harvest would occur on 643 acres. A cut to length system would be used on 583 acres and a skyline on 60 acres. The total estimated volume would be 4,420 mbf.

Other alternatives considered. An alternative was developed that harvested landscape units within the Owsley unroaded area. It was eliminated from further study because of a decision to not impact the Owsley Unroaded Area until after the Forest Plan is updated.

Public Involvement

Scoping for this project was conducted by the Walla Walla Ranger District. On March 21, 1997, a scoping letter was sent to 243 interested groups and individuals asking for comments and concerns about the proposed action. Seven letters and one phone call were received in response to the scoping letter.

Meetings were held with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on January 14, April 22, August 20, and again on September 22 in 1997.

The notice and comment period began on March 2, 1998, with an announcement in the East Oregonian and the mailing of 147 letters. Four letters were received in response. Responses to these comments are found in this document and/or in Appendix E in the EA.

Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures that were developed reflect existing direction found in the Umatilla Land and Resource Management Plan and program direction established on the Forest. The specific mitigation measures that would be implemented in the Cliffhanger Timber Sale and Habitat Restoration Project planning area are listed on pages 14 to 16 of the EA.

Monitoring

Activities and their effects, including effectiveness measures, would be monitored. In addition to Forest-level monitoring, the specific monitoring activities that would be performed in the Cliffhanger Timber Sale and Habitat Restoration Project planning area are listed on page 18 of the EA.

Site Specific Forest Plan Amendment

It is my decision to implement the following adjustments under the authority of 36 CFR 219.10. The changes have been determined not to be significant for the purpose of the planning process and represent a site specific amendment to the Umatilla National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. This amendment was analyzed and documented within the EA for this project, completing the necessary NEPA procedures and the associated public notification required under CFR 219.10.

Change In Management Area Designations

From its junction with Forest Road 3100, Road 3109 accesses the Whitman Interpretive Trail. Forest Service signs direct traffic to the trail from State Highway 84. Currently the visual corridor along Forest Road 3100 is designated Management Area A4, however, there is no visual corridor along Forest Road 3109. Since the trail is a place of public interest, both sides of Forest Road 3109 will be changed to Management Area A4 while the trail and trailhead will be protected as a recreation site under A6. There will be 330 acres changed from C4 to A4 and 40 acres changed to A6.

The top of Spring Mountain has unique values and is a nesting site for a prairie falcon. To protect this area approximately 200 acres around the top of the mountain will be changed from C4 to A9.

NFMA Consistency

Any project proposed for implementation must meet the requirements of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). In accordance with the these requirements, I conclude from the results of site-specific analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment and Analysis File that:

> The alternative documented in this Decision Notice is consistent with the Umatilla National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision dated June 11, 1990, including amendment 8 and 11 (PACFISH and the Revised Screens), and is in compliance with the requirements of 36 CFR 219.27.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment, I have determined that the action to be taken under this Decision is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not needed. The beneficial and adverse direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts discussed in the Environmental Assessment have

been disclosed within the appropriate context. These impacts are expected to be of low intensity with no significant irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources.

1. The decision does not have adverse or beneficial effects which are significant. I have considered the following factors in this determination:

a. This decision irretrievably removes trees from the site, however, the mitigation for the effects of this removal adequately reduces the affects and meets Forest Plan Standard and Guidelines.

b. Hiding cover will be reduced in the Warm Dry Forest when the ponderosa pine stands are returned to open conditions. Big game vulnerability would be increased by human and natural predator interactions. The continued road closures would reduce this affect. Forage would dry earlier in the summer but will also the available earlier in the spring, moving big game onto the Forest earlier in the year. They would then move into riparian areas and grand fir forests as temperatures increase. The Warm Dry Forest is not preferred habitat in mid and late summer. The opening of the ponderosa pine forest will restore habitat lost to years of fire suppression efforts.

c. The amount of area harvested is small compared to the size of the analysis area while the prescriptions retain cover values for other resources. There will be 1054 acres harvested from an analysis area of 24,600 acres. Roadless areas make up 13,755 of the total acres. Units are located near ridgetops away from fish bearing streams. Big game total cover is little impacted with the forage to cover ratio becoming 55:45 acres compared to the existing 53:47 acres. Satisfactory cover would be reduced by three percent to 23 percent. Most of this loss in cover is in the Cool Forest where mortality from insects have occurred.

d. The logging systems used reduces the risk of sediment reaching the streams. Recent research at Limber Jim in La Grande, shows that forwarders cause less exposed soil than skyline logging. Ground disturbance is expected to be minimal because of the amount of limbs placed in the forwarder routes. Detrimental soil compaction at Limber Jim occurred on 1.7 percent of the forwarder area. The forwarder and skyline provide good protection for water quality and a low risk to the salmon restoration in the Umatilla/Meacham Drainages.

e. There will be no harvest within PACFISH buffers. Shade will be retained and no effect on stream temperatures is expected.

f. Twenty-one inch trees will be harvested in the Cool Moist Forest, however, they will not be harvested in the Warm Dry Forest. This meets the Forest Plan Amendment for ECO Screens. The Cool Moist Forest is within HRV and trees larger than 21 inches will make up less than 5 percent of the total sale volume. Snags are being left at 100 percent of the potential population of primary cavity nesters and down woody material is being left.

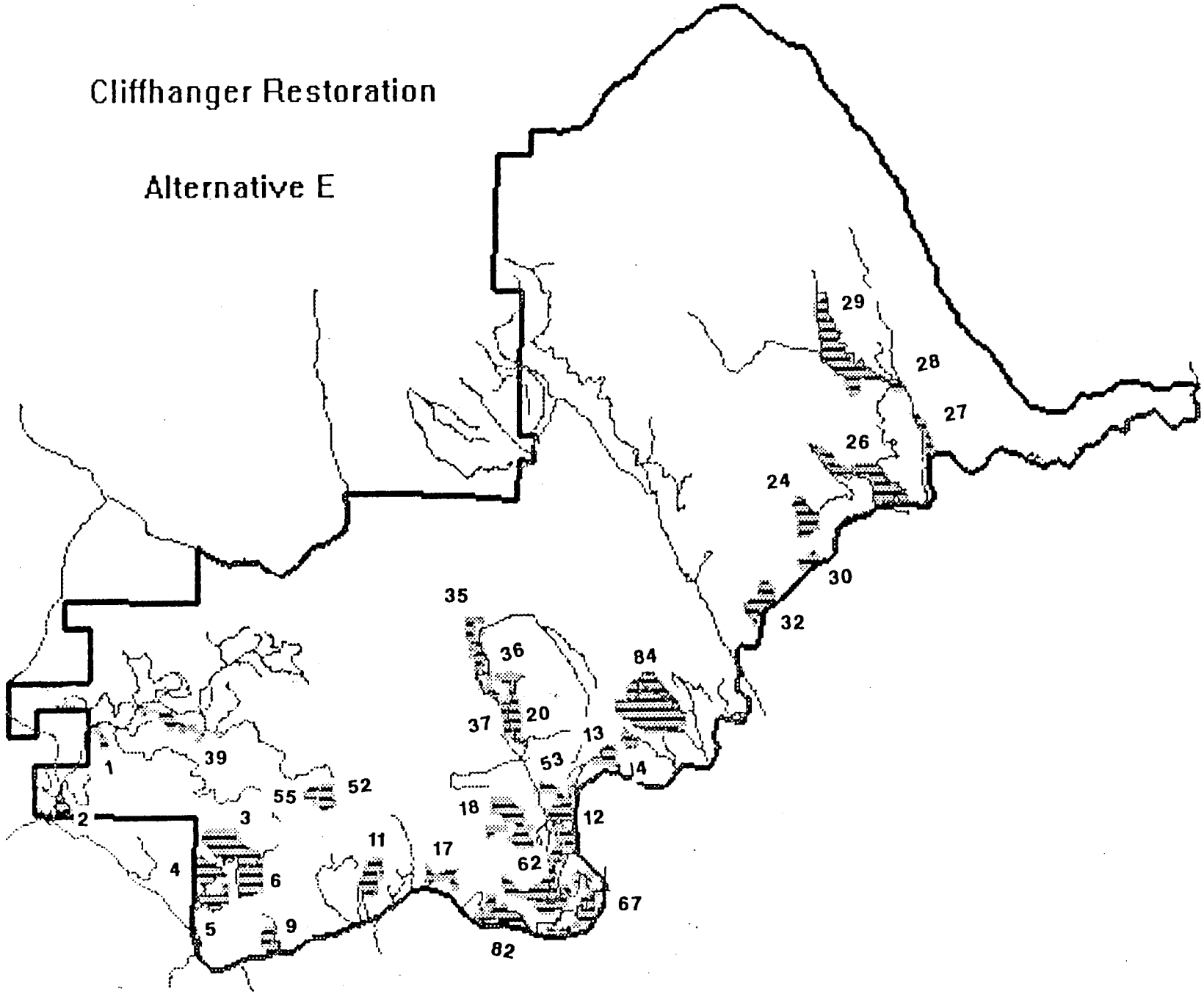
g. The proposed harvest will not degrade any existing Beneficial Uses in the Umatilla or Grande Ronde Basins nor would the action add to existing problems in these streams.

2. The proposed amendment would not significantly affect public health or safety.

3. The decision would not significantly affect any unique characteristics of the geographical area. Harvest will not occur within the Owsley unroaded area. No harvest will occur around the top of Spring Mountain. A non significant, site specific, Forest Plan Amendment will change the Spring Mountain area form Management Area c4 to A9 (Special Interest Area).

4. No activities will affect the quality of the human environment, outside of those made public in the Forest Plan FEIS. No highly controversial effects have been identified.

5. The decision does not set a precedent for future actions with significant effects and does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration, nor is it related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant impacts.


Cliffhanger Restoration
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United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Walla Walla Ranger District | 1415 West Rose Walla Walla, WA 99362

File Code: 2340/1950
Route To: *

Date: May 22, 1998

Subject: Cliffhanger Timber Sale Decision Notice

To: Forest Supervisor

I have read the Environmental Assessment for the Cliffhanger Timber Sale and Habitat Restoration Project and recommend you sign the Decision Notice . A modified Alternative E, Landscape Management Units with Stand Treatments in Salvage Units Outside Roadless Areas is to be implemented. The Decision Notice reflects my rational for proceeding with this action focusing on issues generated during scoping and the Notice and Comment Period. Included in the Decision is a non significant, site specific, Forest Plan Amendment.

After the sale of the timber I plan on making another decision to implement several restoration and improvement projects, specifically road obliteration and vegetative enhancement projects for cultural plants. It is important to implement projects that reflect Tribal interests in this area. In times past we would plan on these projects to be funded with KV, but with recent direction on priority for timber sale receipts, KV funds may not be available. I am asking for your support through trust funds or appropriations to implement these projects. Projects that support the Tribe's salmon restoration or the restoration of cultural use plants can go a long ways toward improvement of relations. These projects are on lands near the reservation and have historical use by the Umatilla Indians.

Thomas K Reilly

THOMAS K. REILLY
District Ranger