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LOST CREEK-BOULDER CREEK LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT

PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEADOWS RANGER DISTRICT



AUGUST 27, 2013

Overview

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- Introduce LC-BC Project Alternatives A, B, C, D, E
- Alternative development
- Comparison of action alternatives by resource

Alternative A- No Action

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- No project-related activities, including vegetation and fuels treatments, watershed, fisheries, and recreation improvements, and wildlife habitat restoration would occur.
- The no action alternative provides a baseline for estimating the effects of other alternatives.
- A no action alternative is required in an EIS (40 CFR 1502.14(c)).

Alternative B- Proposed Action

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- Addresses Purpose and Need while incorporating the recommendations of the PFC
 - Vegetation
 - Modify vegetation structure and composition at the project scale to transition the forest towards the desired condition.
 - Roads and Recreation Infrastructure
 - Rehabilitation and improvements to Lost Valley Reservoir dispersed camping and road/trail use, throughout the project area.
 - Watershed
 - Watershed restoration objective from the CFLRA
 - Economics
 - Actions are financially responsible and contribute to economic vitality of local communities

Alternative Development **DRAFT**

- Alternatives respond to Key Issues raised during scoping.
- Over 300 parties scoped
- 22 responses to scoping received

Alternative Development **DRAFT**

- Main themes of comments received
 - Emphasize watershed improvement/wildlife habitat
 - Emphasize vegetation treatments
 - Balance costs/benefits of proposed restoration treatments
 - Amount/level of road decommissioning
 - More ATV trails and UTV accessible

Alternative C

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- Developed to respond to commenters that requested a more effective watershed restoration effort, as well as elk security and other wildlife concerns.
- Boulder Creek
 - Would move to Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) condition class 2-Functioning at Risk, and move it towards condition class 1-Functioning Properly
 - Forest Plan Watershed Condition Indicator (WCI) category Functioning Appropriately (FA) for road density.
- Lower West Fork Weiser River
 - Portion on Forest system land would also move to FA for road density with additional RCA road decommissioning.



Bull
trout

Alternative D **DRAFT**

- Developed to respond to comments relating to the intensity and benefit of vegetation treatments
 - Greatest amount and level of vegetation restoration
 - More acres of regeneration harvest to enhance amount of early seral species (aspen, western larch, ponderosa pine)
 - More acres cut to lower canopy cover to address duration of treatment benefits

Example of pre-treatment condition



Alternative E

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- Developed to respond to concerns regarding the cost of implementing the project
 - Reduces expense of treatments while attempting to retain restoration goals of the purpose and need



Economics

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- Enterprise TEAMs Economists
 - Henry Eichmann
 - Jennifer Dobb

Lost Creek- Boulder Creek Landscape Restoration Project Economic Analysis

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USDA Forest Service
TEAMS Enterprise Unit



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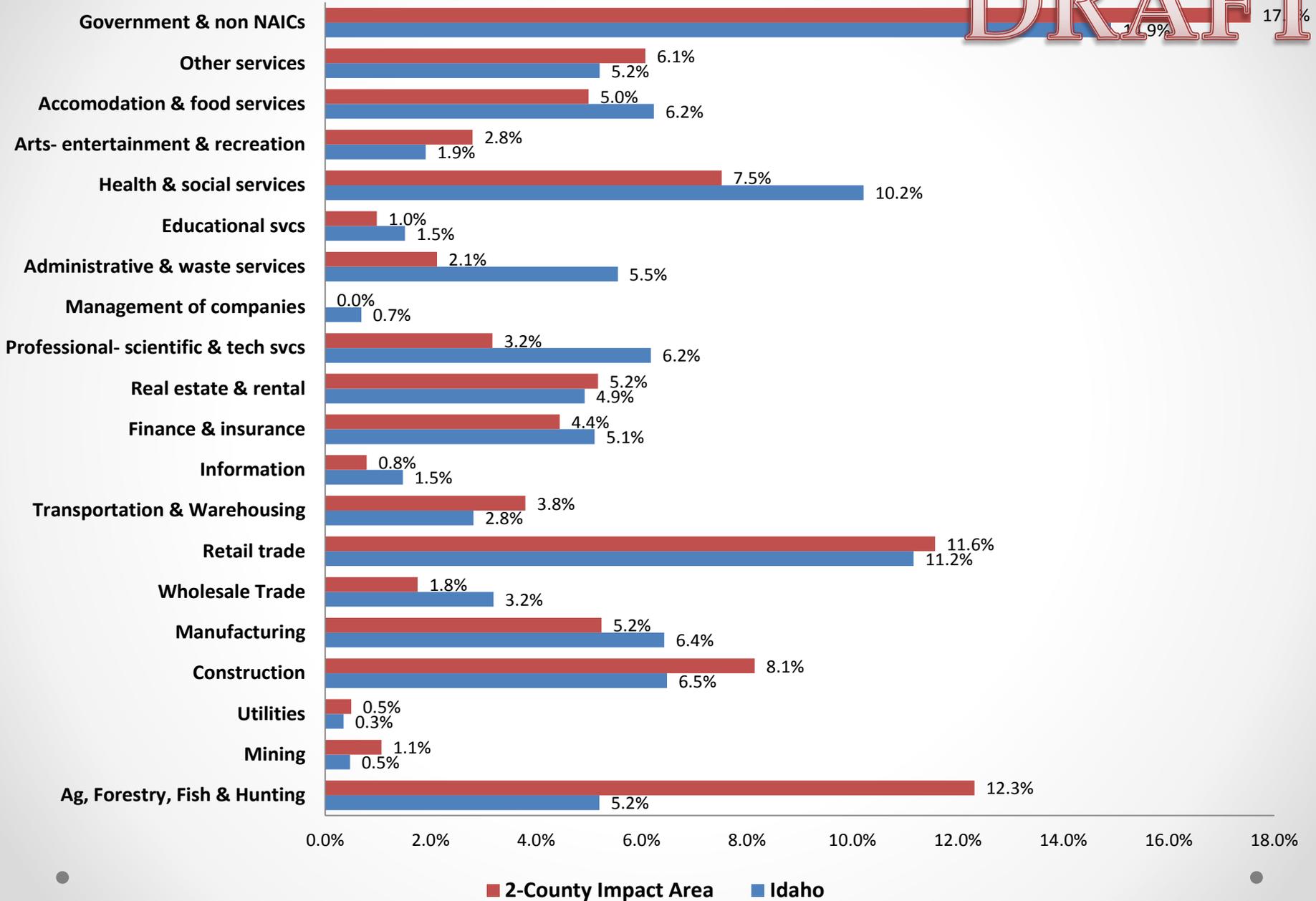
Historic Population Counts and Growth Rates: 1990, 2000, and 2010

	1990	2000	% Growth, 1990-2000	2010	% Growth, 2000-2010
United States	248,709,873	281,421,906	13.20%	308,745,538	9.70%
Idaho	1,006,749	1,293,953	22.20%	1,567,582	17.46%
Adams County	3,254	3,476	6.39%	3,976	12.58%
Idaho County	13,783	15,511	11.14%	16,267	4.65%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, and 2010

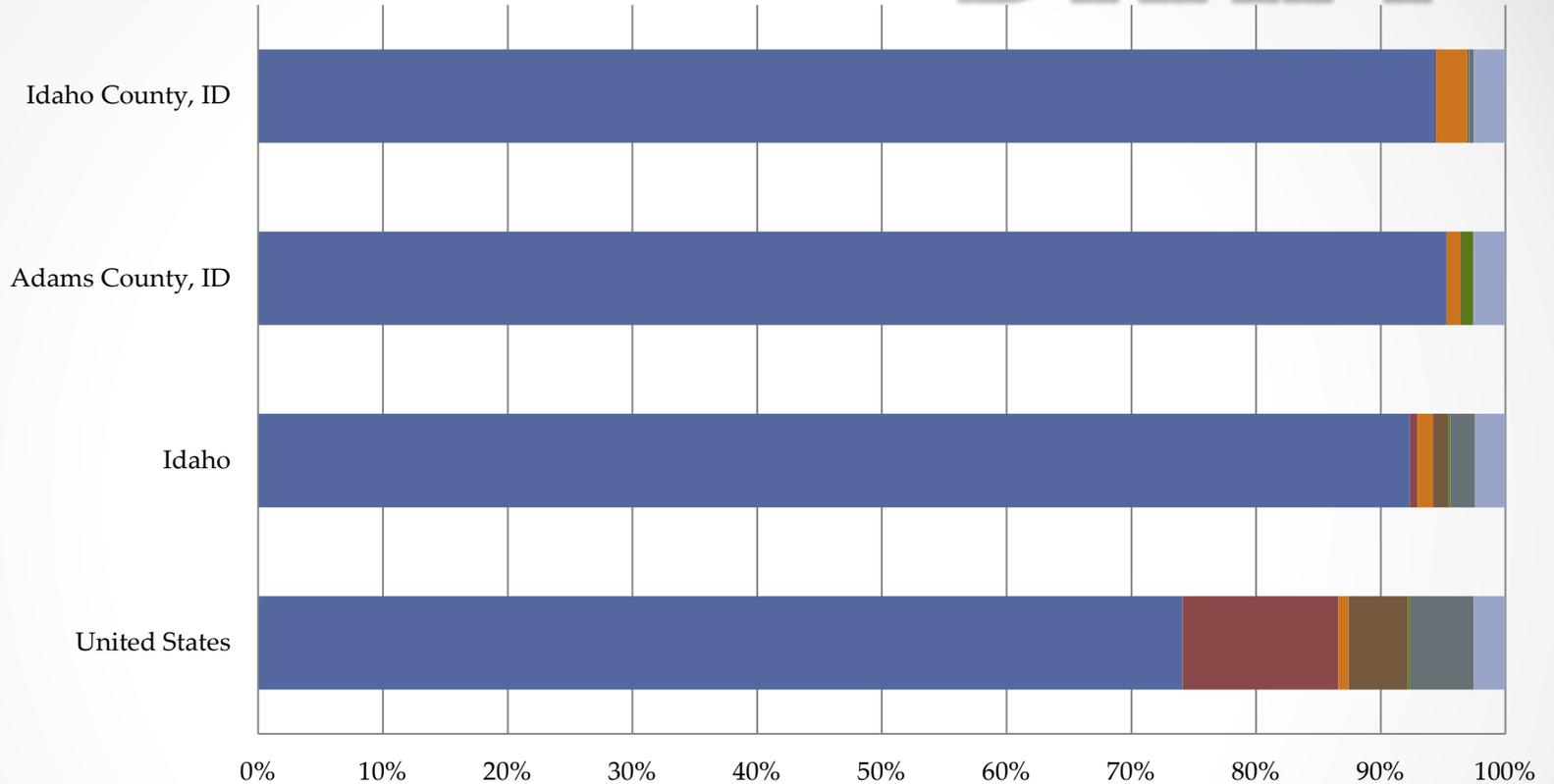
Sector Employment and Specialization

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Racial Composition, 2011

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	United States	Idaho	Adams County, ID	Idaho County, ID
■ White alone	74%	92%	95%	94%
■ Black or African American alone	13%	1%	0%	0%
■ American Indian alone	1%	1%	1%	2%
■ Asian alone	5%	1%	0%	0%
■ Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Is	0%	0%	1%	0%
■ Some other race alone	5%	2%	0%	0%
■ Two or more races	3%	2%	3%	3%

Environmental Justice

(Continued)

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Poverty by Race and Ethnicity, 2011

	U.S.	Idaho	Adams County	Idaho County
White alone	60.0%	87.2%	89.3%	91.2%
Black or African American alone	22.2%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian alone	1.5%	2.3%	2.3%	6.7%
Asian alone	3.9%	1.7%	0.7%	0.3%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Island	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Some other race	8.9%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Two or more races	3.3%	4.0%	7.7%	1.6%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	26.2%	21.2%	4.8%	2.5%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2012

Methods of Analysis DRAFT

Economic Efficiency

- Project Economic Analysis Tool (PEAT)

- Qualitative Analysis of Non-Market Values

Impact Analysis

- Model of the Local Economy - IMPLAN

Economic Efficiency of LCBC Project Area

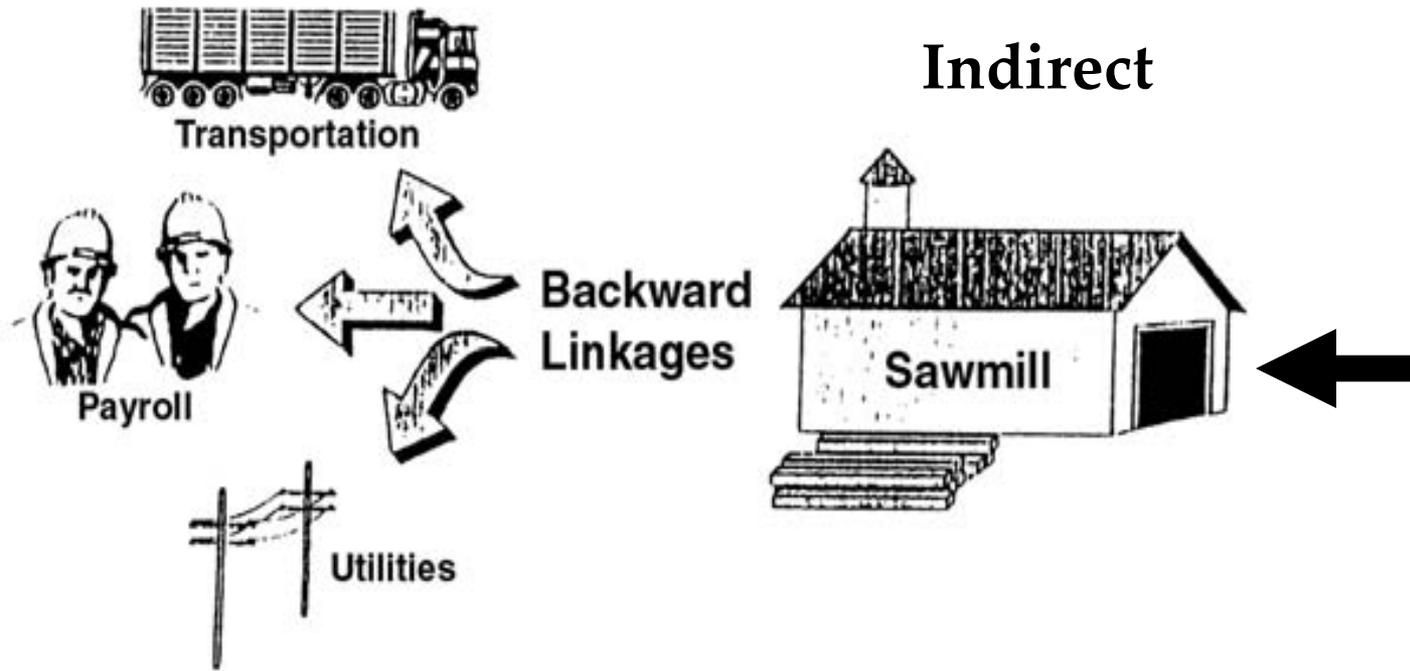
- Financial transactions
Costs and benefits of resource outputs (timber) and proposed activities
- Use value
Benefits derived from direct contact with forest resources.
- Existence value
Value people who benefit from the knowledge that the project area to exists
- Option value
Value associated with people knowing they can use forest resources in the future
- Bequest value
Value associated with people knowing future resources will have access to forest resources

Economic Impacts of LCBC Restoration **DRAFT**

Project

- Direct
 - Employment and income associated with direct use of the resource or activity
- Indirect
 - Employment and income in connected industries
 - Sometimes includes: transportation, lodging, food, and materials needed to harvest or produce an extractive commodity. Also the indirect economic effects on businesses and services associated with the outdoor recreation industry.
- Induced
 - Employment and income associated with wage related spending

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Forest Vegetation **DRAFT**

Alternative B*	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
Approximately 40,000 total acres mechanical treatment	Approximately 37,000 total acres mechanical treatment	Approximately 43,000 total acres mechanical treatment	Approximately 33,000 total acres mechanical treatment
-1,800 acres in Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA's)	-No treatments in RCA's	-2,000 acres in RCA's	-1,600 acres in RCA's
-22,000 commercial -18,000 non-commercial	-14,500 commercial -22,000 non-commercial	-25,000 commercial -18,000 non-commercial	-20,500 commercial -12,000 non-commercial
29 miles of temporary road construction	11 miles of temporary road construction	31 miles of temporary road construction	15 miles of temporary road construction



Example of pretreatment conditions

*Change in proposed action from scoping.

Fuels

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Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
45,000 acres Rx fire	45,000 acres Rx fire -Where mechanical treatments were dropped from Alternative B, Rx fire would be used	Same as Alternative B	31,500 acres Rx fire -No prescribed fire within Boulder Creek Watershed.



Example of an Rx burn only unit (pretreatment)

Watershed and Fishes **DRAFT**

Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>Improve total of 40 fish barriers -16 in Boulder Creek <i>5 by decommissioning</i> <i>11 by replacing structures</i></p> <p>Improve Boulder Creek Watershed Condition Class to 2 (Functioning at Risk)</p> <p>Decommission 70 miles of Forest system road</p> <p>Treat 90 miles of unauthorized routes</p> <p>60 miles of new long-term closures of Forest system road</p> <p>Minimum road system of 403 miles</p>	<p>Improve total of 40 fish barriers -16 in Boulder Creek <i>12 by decommissioning or long term closure</i> <i>4 by replacing structures</i></p> <p>Improve Boulder Creek Watershed Condition Class closer to 1 (Functioning Properly)</p> <p>Decommission 132 miles of Forest system road</p> <p>Treat 117 miles of unauthorized routes</p> <p>Less than 1 mile of new long-term closures of Forest system road</p> <p>Minimum road system of 373 miles</p>	<p>Improve total of 40 fish barriers -16 in Boulder Creek <i>5 by decommissioning</i> <i>11 by replacing structures</i></p> <p>Improve Boulder Creek Watershed Condition Class to 2 (Functioning at Risk)</p> <p>Decommission 70 miles of Forest system road</p> <p>Treat 90 miles of unauthorized routes</p> <p>12 miles of new long-term closures of Forest system roads</p> <p>Minimum road system of 403 miles</p>	<p>Improve 16 fish barriers in Boulder Creek only (same types as Alternative B)</p> <p>Improve Boulder Creek Watershed Condition Class to 2 (Functioning at Risk)</p> <p>Decommission 51 miles of Forest system road</p> <p>Treat 90 miles of unauthorized routes</p> <p>12 miles of new long-term closures of Forest system road</p> <p>Minimum road system of 451 miles</p>

Wildlife

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Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>Improves NIDGS Habitat 5,211 acres P1 8,824 acres P2</p> <p>Improves Source Habitat for white-headed woodpecker (+2,065 acres, creates ~ 4 Home Ranges)</p> <p>Pileated Woodpecker (- 10,112 acres, ~10 Home Ranges reduced)</p> <p>Elk Winter Range Rx Fire - 3,695 Veg Treatment - 1,923</p> <p>Calving Habitat Rx Fire - 4,077 Veg Treatment - 1,064</p> <p>Elk Security - 69 miles decommissioned + LTC Improvements</p> <p>Elk hiding cover reduced</p>	<p>Improves NIDGS Habitat 5,211 acres P1 8,824 acres P2</p> <p>Improves Source Habitat for white-headed woodpecker (+2,065 acres, creates ~ 4 Home Ranges)</p> <p>Pileated Woodpecker (- 4,981 acres, ~5 Home Ranges reduced)</p> <p>Elk Winter Range Rx Fire - 4,449 Veg Treatment - 965</p> <p>Calving Habitat Rx Fire - 4,304 Veg Treatment - 819</p> <p>Elk Security - 132 miles decommissioned+ LTC Improvements</p> <p>Less Elk hiding cover reduced</p>	<p>Improves NIDGS Habitat 5,222 acres P1 8,909 acres P2</p> <p>Improves Source Habitat for white-headed woodpecker (+5,292 acres, creates ~ 10 Home Ranges)</p> <p>Pileated Woodpecker (- 12,135 acres, ~ 12 Home Ranges reduced)</p> <p>Elk Winter Range Rx Fire - 3,587 Veg Treatment - 2,124</p> <p>Calving Habitat Rx Fire - 4,067 Veg Treatment - 1,074</p> <p>Elk Security - 69 miles decommissioned + LTC Improvements</p> <p>Elk hiding cover reduced</p>	<p>Improves NIDGS Habitat 4,826 acres P1 7,557 acres P2</p> <p>Improves Source Habitat for white-headed woodpecker (+4,770 acres, creates ~ 9 Home Ranges)</p> <p>Pileated Woodpecker (- 10,505 acres, ~ 10 Home Ranges reduced)</p> <p>Elk Winter Range Rx Fire - 3,919 Veg Treatment - 1,570</p> <p>Calving Habitat Rx Fire - 3,558 Veg Treatment - 1,670</p> <p>Elk Security - 51 miles decommissioned + LTC Improvements</p> <p>Elk hiding cover reduced</p>

Recreation

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Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
<p>Heavy trail maintenance, trail re-routes, minor trail construction, installation of trail signs, toilets, information kiosks</p> <p>Trailhead parking improvement and construction</p> <p>Designating dispersed campsites in Lost Creek, graveling campsites and campground access roads , consolidating access and rehabilitating unauthorized routes</p> <p>20 miles of new ATV/UTV routes*, including connector trail from Cold Springs campground*</p>	<p>Proposed ATV trails not be accessible UTVs.</p> <p>Dispersed camping in designated areas only in the project area</p> <p>Construct approximately 20 miles of non-motorized trail designed for horse use and open to hiking and mountain biking.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p> 	<p>Same as Alternative B</p> <p>Proposed unauthorized trail closure/rehab</p> 

*Change in proposed action derived from scoping comments.

Existing signs to be replaced

Alternative C

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Vegetation	Fuels	Watershed/Fish	Recreation
<p>Approximately 35,000 total acres mechanical treatment</p> <p>-No treatments in RCA's</p> <p>-14,500 commercial</p> <p>-20,000 non-commercial</p>	<p>45,000 acres Rx fire</p> <p>-Where mechanical treatments were dropped from Alternative B, Rx fire would be used (i.e. in RCA's)</p>	<p>Improve total of 40 fish barriers</p> <p>Boulder Creek:</p> <p>-Improve 16 fish barriers</p> <p>-Improves Watershed Condition Class closer to 1</p> <p>Decommission 132 miles of road</p> <p>Treat 117 miles of unauthorized routes</p> <p>Minimum road system of 373 miles</p>	<p>Heavy trail maintenance in Boulder Creek</p> <p>-Installation of kiosks and signs</p> <p>-Trail re-routes</p> <p>Installation of vault toilets at Lost Valley Reservoir</p> <p>Dispersed camping in designated areas only</p> <p>Designate and sign 20 miles of new ATV route</p> <p>-ATV routes will NOT be accessible to UTV's</p> <p>Some motorized trails would be converted to non-motorized.</p>

Alternative D

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Vegetation	Fuels*	Watershed/Fish*	Recreation*
<p>Approximately 41,000 total acres mechanical treatment</p> <p>-25,000 commercial -18,000 non-commercial</p>	<p>45,000 acres Rx fire</p>	<p>Improve total of 40 fish barriers</p> <p>Boulder Creek: -Improve 16 fish barriers -Improve Watershed Condition Class to 2</p> <p>Decommission 70 miles of road</p> <p>Treat 90 miles of unauthorized routes</p> <p>Minimum road system of 403 miles</p>	<p>Heavy trail maintenance in Boulder Creek</p> <p>-Installation of kiosks and signs -Trail re-routes</p> <p>Installation of vault toilets at Lost Valley Reservoir</p> <p>Designate and sign 20 miles of new ATV route -ATV routes will be accessible to UTV's</p>

* Indicates same as Alternative B

Alternative E

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Vegetation	Fuels	Watershed/Fish	Recreation*
<p>Approximately 32,000 total acres mechanical treatment</p> <p>-20,500 commercial -12,000 non-commercial</p>	<p>31,500 acres Rx fire</p> <p>-No prescribed fire within Boulder Creek Watershed.</p>	<p>Improve 16 fish barriers in Boulder Creek only</p> <p>-Improve Watershed Condition Class to 2</p> <p>Decommission 51 miles of road</p> <p>Treat 90 miles of unauthorized routes</p> <p>Minimum road system of 451 miles</p>	<p>Heavy trail maintenance in Boulder Creek</p> <p>-Installation of kiosks and signs</p> <p>-Trail re-routes</p> <p>Installation of vault toilets at Lost Valley Reservoir</p> <p>Designate and sign 20 miles of new ATV route</p> <p>-ATV routes will be accessible to UTV's</p>

* Indicates same as Alternative B