

Juncrock Timber Sale Final Environmental Impact Statement

Mt. Hood National Forest
Barlow Ranger District
Wasco County, Oregon

March 2004

Responsible Agency: USDA Forest Service

Responsible Official: Gary Larson
Forest Supervisor
Mt. Hood National Forest
16400 Champion Way
Sandy Oregon, 97055

For More Information Contact: Becky Nelson, Writer/Editor
780 NE Court Street
Dufur, OR 97021
541-467-2291

Abstract: This Final Environmental Statement (FEIS) documents the analysis of four alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, developed for the Juncrock Timber Sale. The alternatives respond differently to the identified purpose and needs. These have been identified as: provide commercial wood products for a regulated timber supply, to improve stand conditions by reducing the amount of timber impacted by high tree density, insect and disease, promote Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and western larch tree species and maintain a connectivity corridor between the White River LSR and other LSR's. Alternative I is the No Action Alternative. Alternative II is the Proposed Action, which includes timber harvest promoting uneven aged management, and road closures. Alternative III includes the same area as Alternative II, except that Alternative III uses an evenaged approach to treat timber stands. Alternative IV proposes to do the same activities as Alternative II, with a silvicultural prescription that has an upper diameter limit of 21 inches. There is road construction or reconstruction in Alternatives II and III. There is no road construction in Alternative IV, though there is road reconstruction and two units are proposed for helicopter logging. There are road closures scheduled in Alternatives II, III, and IV. Alternative III is the Forest Service Preferred Alternative.

Reviewers provided the Forest Service with their comments during the review period of the DEIS. This enabled the Forest Service to analyze and respond to all comments at one time and to use acquired information in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), avoiding delay in the decision making process. Reviewers had an obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process so that it was meaningful, and alerted the agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the FEIS. Comments on the DEIS should have been specific and address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed.

Comments on the DEIS should have been sent to Mike Hernandez, District Ranger, Barlow Ranger District, 780 NE Court Street, Dufur, OR, 97021, by October 27, 2003. Comments received in response to the solicitation, including names and address of those who commented will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously were accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments may not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR. Part 215.