

Juncrock Timber Sale Summary

The Mt. Hood National Forest proposes an action to treat forest vegetation on approximately 550 acres including 219 acres of thinning and 231 acres of individual tree selection, (ITS) with 163 acres requiring regeneration. Included in these treatment acres are 14 acres of riparian reserves. About 0.80 miles of road would be constructed and 1.2 miles of road would be reconstructed. Approximately 10.2 miles of roads, including those roads constructed or reconstructed, would be closed. The project area is located on the south end of the Barlow Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Indian Reservation boundary is located to the south of the planning area.

This action is needed because stand health is declining due to stand density and disease. There is a need for reducing stand densities while maintaining canopy closures and desirable trees species and structure. There is a need for removing mistletoe infected trees in the overstory to prevent it's spread into desirable species in the understory. There is also a need for reducing animal harassment and reducing possible sediment in creeks by closing roads. There is a need to maintain a connectivity corridor for the Northern Spotted Owl between the White River LSR and other LSR's.

Alternative I would not harvest trees, however the existing disease and other health problems would degrade nesting, roosting and forage (NFR) habitat and dispersal habitat over the next 10 years. The losses in habitat are not likely to result in breaches of the dispersal corridor.

The proposed action, Alternative II, would have no effect on Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive plant, or fish species. Nor would this proposal disturb any heritage resource sites. There may be a loss of 85 acres of NRF habitat, and no change in dispersal habitat for Northern spotted owls. This proposed action would maintain the owl corridor that allows connectivity north and south across the Mt Hood National Forest. This Alternative would construct 0.8 miles of road and reconstruct 1.2 miles of road. The proposed action would produce 9 MMBf of timber from lands designated as timber production.

In addition to the proposed action, the Forest Service evaluated two additional action alternatives. Alternative III follows the recommendations in the Forest plan, and Alternative IV, was developed in response to issues raised by the public during scoping.

Alternative III follows the recommended silvicultural prescriptions of the Mt. Hood Forest Plan. In this Alternative, 155 acres would be thinned and 289 acres would have a regeneration harvest of shelterwood. Road construction and reconstruction and road closing would be the same as in Alternative II. Alternative III would have no effect on Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive plant or fish species. This proposal would not

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disturb any heritage resource site. There may be a loss of 181 acres of NRF habitat, and 33 acres of dispersal habitat. The dispersal corridor would not be breached, but would be reduced in effectiveness. Alternative III would produce 16 MMBF of timber from lands designated as timber production.

Alternative IV address issues raised by the public during scoping: These issues centered on not cutting any old growth and no additional road building. In this alternative, the prescription would be the same as in the proposed action, thinnings and individual tree selection. However, no tree over 21 inches DBH would be cut, unless it was located in a skid trail, on a landing or identified as leaning over a road. Only 0.3 miles of road would be reconstructed. Two units would require helicopter logging, as roads into these units would not be built. Alternative IV would have no effect on Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive plant or fish species. This proposal would not disturb any heritage resource site. There may be a loss of 66 acres of NRF habitat, and a gain of 24 acres of dispersal habitat. The owl dispersal corridor would remain intact. Approximately 6 MMBF of timber would be produced from lands designated as timber production.