



File Code: 1950

Date: April 11, 2008

Subject: Project Initiation Letter for Snow Creek Salvage

To: Interdisciplinary Team Leader and Team Members

Purpose and Need. Storms of 2006 and 2007 have blown down stands and patches of second growth forest in the Snow, Trapper and Salmon Creek drainages. These storms have created conditions such that there may be opportunities to capture some timber value while taking management actions that help meet Forest Plan desired conditions. Approximately 320 acres of forest have blowdown and most areas are adjacent, or in close proximity, to Forest Service 2845 roads. Of the 320 acres, about 270 acres are designated Adaptive Management Area (AMA) with the remainder in Late Successional Reserve (LSR).

The IDT should only consider salvage opportunities within the AMA land allocation. A quick response is needed to capture the economic value of the wind thrown material and this limits the action to what can be documented in a CE.

As mentioned in Olympic National Forest AMA Guide, I would like the Forest to develop strategies for salvage which focus on a mix of ecological and economic benefits. With this in mind the purpose and need for this project is to: 1) capture timber value for economic benefit, and 2) initiate a learning process for conducting salvage operations while meeting Forest Plan objectives.

Proposed Action: The IDT will need to prepare an appropriate proposed action for my review. Sideboards for the proposed action are:

- Be consistent with the Forest Plan (as amended by the NWFP).
- Must be within existing authorities.
- Be implemented with existing Forest staff.
- Recognize Tribal use.

I anticipate this proposed action can be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation.

Decision Framework: I will be the responsible official, and will answer the following two questions based on the environmental analysis:

1. How much, if any, blowdown timber to remove, and from what location?
2. What mitigation measures will the Forest apply to the action?



Land and Resource Plan: The IDT will analyze the proposed action using an interdisciplinary process to meet the proposed action’s underlying purpose and need, and to be consistent with the Olympic National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Timeline: This analysis is a Forest priority. I expect the environmental analysis to be completed in time for a decision to be in effect for the Fall 2008 operating season.

Task	Completion Date
Develop Proposed Action	April 14, 2008
Tribal consultation	April 28, 2008
Public scoping/30 day comment	May 28, 2008
Effects analysis	June 4, 2008
Decision Memo signed	June 9, 2008

Roles and Responsibilities: Based on expected issues and project work, I am assigning the following resource specialists to represent the Forest as core interdisciplinary members:

Project Leader/Silviculture	Jason Jeffcoat
Logging/Transportation	Steve McNealy
Aquatics/Fisheries	Mark McHenry
Wildlife	Kurt Aluzas

Additional support will be provided by:

Soil/Hydrology	Scott Hagerty
Botany	Joan Ziegltrum
Cultural	Larry Ogg
Fire	David Bauman

Each interdisciplinary team member is expected to prepare their input to permit an on-time completion of the analysis.

Public Involvement: At a minimum, public involvement will include listing in the Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions. Additional scoping will need to be conducted with any specific people or organizations that might be affected by this project or have shown an interest in this subject.

Tribal Consultation: Appropriate and timely consultation with potentially affected Tribes will be important. To allow the Forest Supervisor and District Rangers to fulfill their responsibilities for Tribal consultation, the IDT will need to keep them informed and updated as the analysis proceeds.

Project Oversight: Dean Yoshina will be responsible for mentoring this project and providing line/staff oversight. It is important that you interact early and often with each other and involve him in your deliberations. He is prepared to listen and provide you with direction as necessary to keep the environmental analysis on track and on schedule.

DALE HOM
Forest Supervisor