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3.12 SHORT-TERM USES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

NEPA requires consideration of “the relationship between short-term uses of man’s environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity” (40 CFR 1502.16). As declared by the Congress, this includes using all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans (NEPA Section 101). Alternatives 5, 3, 1, 4 then 2 respectively from most to least could potentially improve the long-term productivity by reducing the number of existing routes on the landscape. Routes not designated for public motorized use will eventually revert to vegetated conditions, reducing many of the adverse effects related to these routes.

3.13 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE EFFECTS

Implementation of any of the alternatives would result in some unavoidable adverse environmental effects. Although formation of the alternatives included avoidance of some effects, other adverse effects could occur that cannot be completely mitigated. The environmental consequences section for each resource area discusses these effects.

3.14 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS

Irreversible commitments of resources are those that cannot be regained, such as the extinction of a species or the removal of mined ore. Irretrievable commitments are those that are lost for a period of time such as the temporary loss of timber productivity in forested areas that are kept clear for use as a power line rights-of-way or road. The addition of existing unauthorized routes, or not adding existing unauthorized routes to the NFTS or changing use on the NFTS is not anticipated to cause an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.

3.15 OTHER REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969: NEPA at 40 CFR 1502.25(a) directs “to the fullest extent possible, agencies shall prepare draft environmental impact statements concurrently with and integrated with ...other environmental review laws and executive orders.” This EIS was prepared in accordance with the following regulations:

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966: Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the potential effects of a Preferred Alternative on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources that are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and to afford the President’s Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. Section 110 requires federal agencies to identify, evaluate, inventory, and protect National Register of Historic Places resources on properties they control. Potential impacts to archaeological and historic resources were evaluated in compliance with Section 106.

Executive Order 11644 ORV Management: Executive Order (EO) 11644, Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands (issued February 8, 1972), provides for the establishment of policies and procedures that will ensure that the use of OHVs on public lands will be controlled and directed so as to protect the resources of those lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands. Agency heads are directed to provide for

administrative designations of the specific areas and trails on public lands on which the use of OHVs may be permitted, and areas in which the use of OHVs may not be permitted.

Executive Order 11989 ORV Management: EO 11989, Use of Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands (issued May 24, 1977), clarifies agency authority to define zones of use by OHVs on public lands. Agency heads, when they determine that the use of OHVs will cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, or cultural or historic resources to immediately close such areas or trails to the type of OHV causing such effects, until such time that it is determined that such adverse effects are eliminated and that measures are implemented to prevent further recurrences.

Executive Order 12898 Environmental Justice: EO 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (issued February 11, 1994), requires that each federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. None of the alternatives disproportionately affect minority and low-income populations.

Clean Water Act: regulates the dredging and filling of freshwater and coastal wetlands. Section 404 (33 USC 1344) prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters (including wetlands) of the United States without first obtaining a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Wetlands are regulated in accordance with federal Non-Tidal Wetlands Regulations (Sections 401 and 404). No dredging or filling is part of this proposed action and no permits are required.

Clean Air Act of 1970: provides for the protection and enhancement of the nation's air resources. No exceeding of the federal and state ambient air quality standards is expected to result from any of the alternatives.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973: requires that any action authorized by a federal agency not be likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species that is determined to be critical. Section 7 of the ESA (16 USC 1531 et seq.), as amended, requires the responsible federal agency to consult the USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service concerning endangered and threatened species under their jurisdiction.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976: amends the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and sets forth the requirements for Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) for the National Forest System. The proposed action is consistent with the NFMA and the Forest Plan.