

FEIS ORGANIZATION

The White Pass MDP Proposal FEIS is presented in three volumes, namely: Volume 1 presents Chapters 1-8, Volume 2 presents the Appendices and Figures, and Volume 3 presents the Response to Comments provided by the public. Each of these elements provides an essential element of the environmental impact analysis as required by CEQ and NEPA guidelines. A summary of this document has also been prepared as required by CEQ/NEPA guidelines and is provided below.

Volume 1: Chapters 1-8

Executive Summary

Describes and summarizes the EIS. Stresses the major conclusions, areas of controversy (including issues raised by agencies and the public), and issues to be resolved (including the choice among alternatives).

Chapter 1 - Purpose and Need for Action

Chapter 1 describes the Proposed Action, project background, purpose and need for the Proposed Action, the decision to be made, management direction, the scope of the Proposed Action, scoping process and issues, government and agency coordination, and required permits.

Chapter 2 - Alternatives

Chapter 2 identifies and compares a range of alternatives, including a No Action alternative, as well as the alternatives considered but eliminated before specific detailed analysis in the DEIS or FEIS. The chapter also describes in detail, and compares the six alternatives considered in this FEIS document. This also includes the No Action alternative, as well as the methodology of evaluation and the selection of alternatives. The proposed design features and monitoring measures are also listed in this chapter.

Chapter 3 - The Affected Environment / Environmental Consequences

Chapter 3 describes the existing physical, biological, economic, and social environment that may be affected by the alternatives. These existing conditions are described according to broad categories. The Physical Environment includes natural resource factors such as watershed resources, wildlife, and scenic quality. The Human Environment includes factors such as recreation, socioeconomics, and transportation.

Chapter 3 also describes in detail the physical, biological, economic, and social effects of the alternatives by resource area. Direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental consequences of implementing the alternatives are described. This chapter also identifies adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided, the relationship between short-term uses of the environment and long-term productivity, and any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.

Chapter 4 - References

Provides a list of references that were used this FEIS.

Chapter 5 - Distribution List

Chapter 5 provides the list of individuals, organizations, and agencies that have requested, or were identified as being interested in receiving this FEIS for review.

Chapter 6 - List of Preparers

Chapter 6 provides a list of the preparers of this FEIS.

Chapter 7 - Glossary

Chapter 7 provides definitions for key terms used in this FEIS.

Chapter 8 – Index

Chapter 8 provides an index of key terms and page numbers found in the FEIS.

Volume 2: Appendices and Figures

Appendices

Figures

Volume 3: Response to Comments

Volume three provides a summary of the comment procedure, comment tracking method, and displays the substantive comments and their respective responses submitted by the community (individuals, organizations, and agencies) and received by the U. S. Forest Service (USFS). Additionally, Section 2.2 contains full copies of the comment letters received from Indian tribes and all governmental agencies per FSH 24.1.3.