

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COEUR D'ALENE FIELD OFFICE**

Decision Record

Proposed Action: Wallace South Hill Project

EA Number: ID-410-2006-EA-1050

Location of Action: T 47 N, R 4 E, B.M. Sections 1, 2 and 3; T 48 N, R 4 E, B.M. Section 34

I. Decision

I have reviewed the public comments on the Proposed Action for the Wallace South Hill Project described in Environmental Assessment ID # ID410-2006-EA-1050. As a result of these comments, my decision is to implement the Proposed Action (as summarized below):

Proposed Action:

- 1) Utilize thinning and clear cuts with retention harvest systems to treat up to 590 acres within the project area.
- 2) Emphasize retention of large diameter trees greater than 16 inches.
- 3) Following site treatments, plant seral type tree species including western larch, and western white pine seedlings in the western hemlock, Douglas-fir and grand fir habitat types. Within the subalpine fir and mountain hemlock habitat types, subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce would be planted in a "stepping-stone" scheme to augment the natural lodgepole pine regeneration. Plant black cottonwood poles and western redcedar seedlings adjacent to Placer Creek.
- 4) Conduct up to 590 acres of fuel treatments including mechanical, slash pile and prescription burning within the project area.
- 5) Construct a 2 mile long, 60 acre shaded fuelbreak.
- 6) Implement effectiveness monitoring of the shaded fuelbreak.
- 7) Perform maintenance of hazardous fuels within the shaded fuelbreak and treatment units 1, 2 and 4 during the next several years.
- 8) Construct 1½ miles of new road, realign ½ mile of existing road, decommission 1½ miles of existing road, and maintain approximately ¾ mile of existing road.
- 9) Upon completion of the project, a locked gate would control access to Units 9 -11.
- 10) Place large woody debris into Placer Creek.
- 11) Stabilize an active scarp adjacent to Placer Creek.
- 12) All noxious weeds will be controlled and monitored.

II. Rationale

The decision is in conformance with the Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan and was analyzed in detail. The proposed action would create an environment that will improve the health of the forest by regenerating dying lodgepole pine, thinning understory trees and conserving old trees. Brush fields will be revitalized by prescription burning. The proposed action would create a landscape that is more resilient to wildland fire and protect the urban

interface. The Placer Creek riparian zone will be enhanced by stabilizing an active scarp, partially removing a log dam, placing large logs in the creek to resemble log jams and planting cottonwood poles and western redcedar seedlings.

/s/ Eric R. Thomson

Eric R. Thomson
Field Manager

March 5, 2009

Date

III. Administrative Review Procedures

The decision described in this document is a forest management decision and is subject to protest by the public. In accordance with the Forest Management Regulations under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 5003 – Administrative Remedies, protests may be filed with the authorized officer, Eric R. Thomson, within 15-days of publication of the Notice of Decision in a local newspaper. The publication date of the Notice of Decision in the newspaper of record is the *exclusive* means for calculating the time to file a protest. Protestants should not rely on date or timeframe information provided by any other source.

43 CFR 5003.3 (b) states that: “Protests shall be filed with the Authorized Officer and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision.” This precludes the acceptance of electronic mail or facsimile protests. Only written and signed hard copies of protests that are delivered to the following address will be accepted:

Eric Thomson, Field Manager
Coeur d’Alene Field Office
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho 83815

The protest must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being protested and the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error. Protests received more than 15 days after the publication of the notice of decision are not timely filed and shall not be considered.

Upon timely filing of a protest, the authorized officer shall reconsider the project decision to be implemented in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available. The authorized officer shall, at the conclusion of the review, serve the protest decision in writing to the protesting party(ies). Upon denial of a protest, the authorized officer may proceed with the implementation of the decision.

If no protest is received by close of business within 15 days after publication of the notice of decision, this decision will become final.

Contact Person

For further information regarding this project, contact Larry Kaiser (208-769-5023) or in writing at the above address.

Attachment: NEPA compliance document (EA)