United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Baker Field Office
3165 10th Street
Baker City, Oregon 97814

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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RECEIVED BY
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SNAKE RIVER BASIN OFFICE
U.S. FWS

Mr. Robert Ruesink
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Snake River Basin Office
1387 Vinnell Way, #368
Boise, ID 83709

Dear Mr. Ruesink:

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the Vale District Bureau of Land Management would like to initiate informal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for actions associated with the Frazier Fuels Treatment Project. The attached Biological Assessment (BA), using the National Fire Plan Consultation format, addresses actions and the potential impacts associated with the Frazier Fuels Treatment that may affect chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout.

Using the National Fire Plan Consultation Procedures, the BA concluded this project "May Affect, but is not Likely to Adversely Affect" chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout. The Baker Resource Area of the Vale District BLM would like to request a letter of concurrence for all actions associated with the Frazier Fuels Treatment Project. The appropriate BLM, NMFS, and USFWS level 1 team personnel have reviewed this project and the associated BA and concurred with the final affect determination contained within the Frazier Fuels Treatment BA.

The proposed project is consistent with Pacfish/Infish standards and guidelines and the Baker Resource Area Management Plan, 1989.

The Vale District BLM appreciates the NMFS and USFWS assistance in this process and the quick response time outlined in the National Fire Plan Consultation Guide. If you have any questions concerning the information contained with the BA, please contact Garth Ross at (541) 473-6339.

Sincerely,

Penelope Dunn Woods

Penelope Dunn Woods
Field Manager

Consultation Summary Worksheet
for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

Project Name: Frazier Fuels Treatment
Administrative Unit: Vale District BLM, Baker Resource Area
Agency Contact: Garth R. Ross Fisheries Biologist
Date: May 8, 2002

Project Description:

The proposed project is located on scattered BLM tracts in the Frazier Mountain area, southeast of La Grande. The legal description of the project area is as follows: T.5 S., R.41 E., Sec. 30, 32 and 33; and T.6 S., R.41 E., Sec. 5 (see attached maps). These parcels are near urban interface zones.

The Upper Grande Ronde is 1,033,101 acres in size. The U.S. Forest Service manages 472,2686 acres (46%), private holdings comprise 525,043 acres (51%), and the state of Oregon manages 13,600 acres (1%). The remaining 2,422 acres (0.23%) are administered by the BLM. The forested lands surrounding the BLM tracts have been logged heavily within the recent past, and hence the project area is accessible by several logging roads.

The Frazier Mountain treatment area is comprised of 200 acres (approximately 8% of the BLM administered land in the watershed) characterized by mixed conifer forest. Representative tree species are white fir, Douglas-fir, western larch and ponderosa pine. Most of this forested land contains heavy fuel loads generated primarily by spruce budworm-caused tree mortality and, to a lesser extent, by dwarf mistletoe-related mortality.

Standard design features

Timber and snag falling would be done by hand or with mechanical equipment. Limbs would remain attached to the bole of the tree during yarding (whole tree yarding). Log yarding would be done with small tractors or low ground pressure mechanical harvesters which are restricted to pre-designated skid trails spaced approximately 100 feet apart. Existing skid trails would be used wherever possible. When skidding uphill on slopes exceeding 20% the leading end of the logs would be suspended above the ground to prevent gouging of the soil. To prevent soil erosion following skidding, skid trails would be water-barred following operations. In areas where bare soil is exposed and it is determined that seeding is necessary, native grass seed would be used to rehabilitate the sites. Skidding operations would avoid noxious weed sites. The standard design features listed on pages 37-40 of the ROD would be implemented. Within the fuel treatment areas RMP guidelines for snag and down log retention would be followed.

This project is designed to reduce the existing fire hazard, pre-commercial thin areas with advanced conifer regeneration, and commercial thin the pockets of dense overstory trees. Within each proposed treatment area there are areas of heavy fuel combined with dense areas of commercial and pre commercial sized live trees. The boundaries of individual treatments may overlap, so that more than one treatment may be applied to a single area. The individual treatment areas added together exceed the total acreage of the tract.

Fuel Treatment - 168 acres - Fuel Treatment would be done, where needed, throughout the analysis area. The primary objective would be to reduce the existing ground fuel residue to less than five tons per acre in the 0-3" diameter size class as best represented by Fuel Model #8. The larger diameter fuels (greater than 3 inches) and snags would be reduced, while following the guidelines in the Baker Resource Management Plan for snag and down log retention.

Existing fuels would be treated in areas that currently have excess snags and down logs. This treatment would remove the excess snags and down logs. Surplus snags and down logs greater than 6 inches in diameter would be felled and skidded to landings located on existing roads. All of this material has been dead for several years and none of the logs are sawlog quality. Approximately ½ of the logs have enough sound material to make chip logs. In order to reduce the amount of fuel burned and potential smoke impacts to local communities chip logs would be hauled off of the project area. The landing piles created by this operation would be large. Piles would be burned in late fall or early winter.

Treated areas would be monitored and may require a post treatment broadcast underburn in the future to maintain desired fine fuel loadings and retard the re-establishment of less fire resistant tree species and shrubs.

Commercial Thinning - 69 acres - Would be done in commercial sized forest stands that are currently overstocked. This treatment would thin overstocked stands from below, removing smallest trees and retaining the largest trees, and remove the scattered mistletoe infected Douglas-fir trees. Treatments would reduce stand basal area to approximately 70 ft^2 per acre. The harvested trees would generally be in the 8-20" diameter at breast height (dbh) range, However, trees up to 24" dbh may be harvested in order to reduce stand basal area to desired levels or remove heavily mistletoe infected trees. Retention tree species preference would be ponderosa pine, western larch, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and grand fir would be the least favored species.

Pre commercial thinning - 85 acres - Areas of advanced regeneration would be pre commercial thinned to 12-20 foot spacing. Species preference would be ponderosa pine, western larch, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, then white fir. Any ponderosa pine, western larch, or Douglas fir would be favored over lodgepole pine or white fir. Areas where the slash generated by thinning exceeds 5 tons per acre the slash would be hand piled and burned in late fall or spring. Areas where the slash is less than five tons per acre the slash would be lopped and scattered.

Proposed Treatments

	Tract Size	Treatment Area	Fuels Treat	Comm Thin	PCT Ac
Unit 1	40 ac	40 ac	34 ac	10 ac	15 ac
Unit 2	80 ac	74 ac	74 ac	16 ac	35 ac
Unit 3	40 ac	40 ac	40 ac	13 ac	20 ac
Unit 4	40 ac	33 ac	20 ac	30 ac	15 ac
	200 ac	187 ac	168 ac	69 ac	85 ac

Purpose and Need for the Action:

Activity types included in this project include, Access and Equipment Maintenance, Mechanical Treatments, Prescribe Fire, Range Infrastructure, Reforestation, and Road and Road Maintenance.

The purpose of the project primarily is to reduce fuel loads that currently impose a high risk of stand replacement fire, particularly insofar as such a fire would impact urban interface areas. Subsidiary goals include increasing stand health, reducing the incidence of insect and disease problems within the stands and encouraging the growth of desirable hardy tree species. This project also incorporates reconstructing an old existing natural fence to protect a spring and prevent further degradation by cattle. The fence is not keeping cattle away from the spring. This project would rebuild the fence using existing downed trees and poles from areas outside the RHCA.

Forest stands within the proposed project area are quite dense, and most of these stands have suffered from tremendous insect and disease-related tree mortality. The stands are generally characterized by approximately 60% dead and down trees and standing dead trees. Historically, wildfire acted as a natural thinning agent within these stands, and the removal of fire as an ecosystem maintenance agent has resulted in the accumulation of a tremendous amount of fuel. This fuel, much of which is ladder fuel, is comprised both of dead trees and a dense understory of young trees and, to a lesser extent, ninebark. These dense stand conditions, as well as the presence of large quantities of dead, rotting wood, have reduced stand vigor, dramatically increased susceptibility to disease and insect infestation; and significantly raised the potential for a hot crown fire.

While the most prominent fuel-creating mortality agent in the area has been spruce budworm, some stands also are moderately infected with dwarf mistletoe. This dwarf mistletoe also can reduce tree vigor and predispose infected trees to bark beetle attack. Such bark beetle attack likely would result in increased mortality and consequent fuel creation. Many trees in both areas show signs of bark beetle infestation.

Approximately 35% of the private land in the watershed has been logged in the past 10 years. Pursuant to these logging operations, slash was created and left on the ground. This slash is now quite dry, and may present a fire hazard both to the private land and to the BLM-administered parcels, over and above the hazards created by the poor condition of the forest stands on BLM land.
The proposed action is designed to address the fire hazard and forest health concerns of the Frazier Mountain area. Treatment will consist of thinning from below so as to remove ladder fuels. Such thinning will favor fire resistant species such as ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and western larch. Douglas-fir trees infected with dwarf mistletoe would be isolated from other retained trees of the same species by at least 60 feet.

Design Features:

Design features are actions taken as part of a proposal to reduce or avoid negative effects of a proposed action. The design features listed below were developed by the interdisciplinary team and are additional to the project criteria outlined in the national fire plan consultation worksheets.

Snag and down log retention: Retention of down logs and snags upon which wildlife relies would follow RMP guidelines. Accordingly, 4 large (at least 21 inch diameter at breast height (dbh)) snags per acre, and 5-10 down logs, 20 feet in length, with 12 inch small end diameter will be retained.

Avoidance of sensitive species habitat: If northern goshawk, cougar, or other sensitive species habitat is found in the project area, that habitat will be avoided. In general, treatments will be scheduled to avoid or minimize disturbance of wildlife.

Slash pile burning: Slash piles will be burned in late fall or early winter after several inches of snow have fallen. This will minimize the risk of fire spread as well as impact to soils.

Precommercial thinning slash: Precommercial thinning slash will be lopped and scattered to an 18 inch depth during thinning operations.

RHCA buffers: Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) were established along all streams, in accordance with PACFISH Standards and Guidelines, to protect and restore riparian habitat and upslope stand conditions. PACFISH standards and guidelines are as follows;

Class I (perennial fish bearing streams) receive 300 feet slope distance buffers on both sides
Class III (perennial non-fish bearing streams) receive 150 feet slope distance buffers on both sides
Class IV (intermittent streams) receive 100 feet slope distance buffers on both sides
Seeps, springs, and ponds are buffered 150 feet slope distance from the edge of the maximum pool elevation.

Streamside buffers are implemented to protect riparian habitat. No actions would occur within RHCA's under this proposal except one natural fence would be reconstructed around a spring to reduce impacts from cattle.

Vegetation manipulation: Treatments will be designed to create a vegetation mosaic in areas bearing crucial wildlife habitat. Areas in which major vegetation manipulation occurs will be rested from livestock grazing for at least two to five growing seasons following treatment. Areas disturbed by treatments will be reseeded with native grasses, forbs and shrubs in accordance with habitat requirements.

Cultural resources: Cultural resources will be assessed and inventoried, and will be avoided during treatment.

Road Construction/Renovation: No new roads would be constructed to complete this project.

Species: Salmonids

The species to be considered in the Biological Assessment include spring/summer chinook salmon, summer steelhead and bull trout.

Gray wolf, Canada lynx, and bald eagle are all species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Due to lack of specific forest-types within the project area, habitat for Canada lynx does not exist and the possibility of this species traveling through the area is low. A designated habitat area for lynx is located approximately 5 miles to the northeast of the project area.

There would be no effect to wolves associated with the project as per a letter from the District Manager dated January 19, 2000.

Surveys of the area for wildlife and other visits to the area have not located eagle nests or roost locations. Furthermore, there have been no documented sightings of eagles in or around the area. Continued surveys for northern goshawks in the area will document any sightings of other wildlife species.

Condition of the Environmental Baseline:

The Frazier Fuels Treatment is located in the Catherine Creek watershed of the Upper Grande Ronde sub-basin. An analysis of the Catherine Creek watershed was completed by the La Grande Ranger District in 1999. According to this analysis, streams within this drainage support populations of spring/summer chinook salmon, summer steelhead, bull trout, redband trout, mountain whitefish, sculpins, dace, suckers, redside shiners, northern sqawfish, and several non-native, warm water species.

PacFish (Strategies for Managing Anadromous Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho and Portions of California) identifies Catherine Creek as a Priority Watershed. Priority watersheds are defined as a network of drainages that contain the most viable runs of anadromous fish or have a high likelihood of recovering in the short-term. Priority watersheds function as source of high quality habitat or strong genetic pools that have the ability to provide the basis for recovery of endangered fish stocks.

Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon

Spring chinook salmon currently use 34.5 miles of Catherine Creek and it's tributaries for spawning and rearing. Most spring and summer chinook salmon spawn in the main stem of Catherine Creek directly below the North and South Forks. In 1992, a total of 42 redds were observed in Catherine Creek, 36 of these were located within a few miles of the confluence with the North and South Forks. Current spring/summer chinook populations appear to be stable (Catherine Creek Watershed Analysis 1999).

Summer Steelhead

Steelhead are present in all but 21.7 miles of the 326.5 miles of potential habitat available within the Catherine Creek watershed. Spawning is widespread, but most spawning observations occur within headwater tributaries. Steelhead populations have also remained stable in recent years (Catherine Creek Watershed Analysis 1999).

Bull Trout

Bull trout spawn in approximately 36 miles of habitat within the Catherine Creek watershed, primarily within the North and South Forks of Catherine Creek. No current information is available for bull trout population status (Catherine Creek Watershed Analysis 1999).

All four tracts included in the Frazier Fuels Treatment are located above Milk Creek. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) aquatic habitat surveys, completed for Milk Creek documented salmonid fish species approximately 2 miles below the closest tract to Milk Creek (section 30) and 4.5 miles above section 33. Stream surveys for Milk Creek indicate that pool habitat is lacking, but the pools that are present contain high quality habitat and are functioning properly. The amount of vegetation along Milk Creek is insufficient to fully shade the creek. Maximum weekly average temperature for Catherine Creek measured on the South Fork is 63.2 averaged over a five year period of time. Stream temperatures throughout the Catherine Creek watershed are not outside the range required by anadromous salmonids. Large wood debris is present in adequate levels for this stream type. Overall, the habitat conditions within Milk Creek are considered to be fair to good. A properly functioning condition (PFC) rating of functioning at risk, with an upward trend applies to most of Milk Creek, primarily due to lack or pools. .

Effects of the Action Added to the Baseline:

Direct Effects: Direct effects to fisheries are defined as actions that cause direct mortality. Actions that have the potential to cause mortality generally occur from equipment working in or

near the stream channel. Under this proposal no actions would occur in or near any stream or RHCA, or have the potential to transmit effects to any stream. No actions associated with this proposal are expected to result in direct impacts to T&E salmonids.

Indirect Effects: Indirect effects happen at a later time and are farther removed from the action. Indirect effects most often occur from actions outside the stream channel, but within the riparian or adjacent upland habitat. Examples of indirect effects include altering stream temperature by removing riparian vegetation, and increasing stream turbidity through ground disturbing activities. Indirect effects are difficult to quantify or measure, but for the purposes of this report it is assumed that increased water temperature, and turbidity, altered woody inputs and streamflows, result in decreased fish production and negatively effect life history requirements.

Water temperature, and altered large woody inputs are closely linked to riparian to riparian habitat, primarily within 100 feet of streams (FEMAT V-28). Under this proposal, no riparian vegetation would be altered within RHCA's. Stream temperature, and large woody inputs would remain at existing rates and levels.

Increased turbidity is generally related to the amount of ground disturbance, the distance the disturbance occurs from a stream channel, and the ability of sediment to travel from the disturbance to an active stream channel. Under this proposal, no ground disturbing acitons would occur within areas that have the potential to transmit sediment or effects to an active stream channel.

Altered stream flows result from increasing the drainage network, primarily by increasing permanent road miles, and to a lesser extent from removal of riparian vegetation (FEMAT V-20). No new permanent roads would be constructed under this proposal. Removal of the understory trees, outside riparian reserves, through thinning would result in minor increases in runoff, but the amount of additional runoff would be minor and the effects to stream flow would be negligible.

Future actions on BLM and Forest Service lands are expected to be similar in scope and magnitude. No actions that have high potential to cause direct mortality to listed fish are currently planned or expected to occur. A complete list of future planned actions within the Upper Grande Ronde Assessment Area are discussed in the UGRAA.

Cumulative Effects (ESA):

Cumulative effects are all future non-federal actions, reasonable likely to occur, that affect fish species and habitat. Approximately 90% of the private forested acres have received some type of timber harvest in the last 30 years. Much of the remaining timber is planned for harvest in the near future. Not all of this timber has been removed and some acres have been re-established with viable timber stands. Timber harvest and related road construction on private lands is regulated by the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA). "Intent to harvest" notification is required by the OFPA 15 days prior to the commencement of the action. The short notification period

makes an accurate estimation of foreseeable future timber harvest impossible. In general, timber harvest on private lands is occurring at higher rates than in past years (Upper Grand Ronde Assessment Area Biological Assessment).

Timber activities and road construction occurring on private lands will have similar effects to riparian areas as harvest on federal land while the magnitude and extent of these effects has the potential to be higher. The lack of complete regulations and enforcement of existing regulations on private land timber harvest increases the likelihood of cumulative adverse effects. These activities are not completely controllable and cumulative effects are probable. Therefore, the risk of adverse cumulative effects for the proposed private timber harvests is high (Upper Grande Ronde Area Assessment)

Determination of Effects:

Criteria Application Worksheet for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

CRITERIA APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Project Name Frazier Fuels Reduction Admin Unit Vale BLM Baker Resource Area
Preparer Garth R. Ross Date May 9, 2002 Activity Type: Access and Equipment Maintenance
Activity Component: Access to work site Work Element: Access by vehicle on roads, within normal use patterns
Species: Salmonids

Conditional Statement	Effect Pathway	Potential Effect	List Project Criteria. Does Project Meet the Criteria? (Yes/no)*	List Rationale. Is Rationale Appropriate? (Yes/no)*	Final Effect Determination
In watersheds with at-risk fish species or with designated critical habitat or unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery.	Sediment and turbidity	Potentially Adverse	Only on existing open roads. Requires minimal brushing, ditch maintenance, existing culvert maintenance. No disturbance of existing cuts and fills. Leave a minimum of 6 to 8" of snow on road surface. Ditches and culverts will be made functional. Sidecast material will not include dirt and gravel. Snow berms will not be left on the shoulder unless drainage holes are open and maintained. Travel must cease when damage to the road surface will result or is occurring. Avoid ground disturbances during spawning and incubation periods. Project Meets Criteria – Yes	Criteria are sufficient to avoid potential adverse effects. Avoids sediment delivery. Rationale is Appropriate - Yes	Negligible

*** If yes, explain how the project meets the criteria and rationale (optional) or refer to project description:**

Access to the work site would use the existing, stable road network. Equipment and personnel accessing the site would only be allowed during periods of dry weather, or when damage to the road would not occur. No new roads would be constructed to complete this project and no road improvements, with the exception of some minor spot rocking is being proposed.

Criteria Application Worksheet
for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

CRITERIA APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Project Name Frazier Fuels Reduction **Admin Unit Vale BLM Baker Resource Area**
Preparer Garth R. Ross Date May 9, 2002 **Activity Type: Access and Equipment Maintenance**
Activity Component: Fueling/Maintenance **Work Element: All except where otherwise noted**
Species: Salmonids

Conditional Statement	Effect Pathway	Potential Effect	List Project Criteria. Does Project Meet the Criteria? (Yes/no)*	List Rationale. Is Rationale Appropriate? (Yes/no)*	Final Effect Determination
Outside the RHCA in watersheds with at-risk fish species or with designated critical habitat or unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery.	Water quality, take, channel morphology and habitat elements	Potentially Adverse	All helicopter fueling operations require an approved transportation, storage, and emergency spill plan. Other heavy equipment fueling operations will consist of a slip-tank not greater than 250 gallons. Maintenance operations must have spill containment and cleanup provisions. Follow PACFISH & INFISH Standard and Guideline RA-4 regarding fuel storage within RHCAs. Project Meets Criteria – Yes	Criteria are sufficient to avoid potential adverse effects. Rational is Appropriate - Yes	Negligible

*** If yes, explain how the project meets the criteria and rationale (optional) or refer to project description:**

Criteria Application Worksheet
for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

CRITERIA APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Project Name Frazier Fuels Reduction Admin Unit Vale BLM Baker Resource Area
Preparer Garth R. Ross Date May 9, 2002 Activity Type: Mechanical Treatments
Activity Component: Harvest Prescription/Implementation Work Element: Dead trees: salvage, hazard tree removal
Species: Salmonids

Conditional Statement	Effect Pathway	Potential Effect	List Project Criteria. Does Project Meet the Criteria? (Yes/no)*	List Rationale. Is Rationale Appropriate? (Yes/no)*	Final Effect Determination
The action occurs outside the RHCA in watersheds with at-risk fish species or with designated critical habitat or unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery.	Water quality and habitat elements	Potentially Adverse	No skid trails and/or landings located where erosion/sedimentation would intercept road drainage ditches. Project Meets Criteria – Yes	Criteria avoids sediment delivery from skid trails and landings - RHCA buffer plus disconnection from road-related runoff. Rationale is Appropriate – Yes	No Effect

*** If yes, explain how the project meets the criteria and rationale (optional) or refer to project description:**

No skid trails or landings would be located where the potential for erosion or sediment delivery to any stream would occur. All operations using equipment would be restricted to periods of low soil moisture and dry weather.

Criteria Application Worksheet
for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

CRITERIA APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Project Name Frazier Fuels Reduction Admin Unit Vale BLM Baker Resource Area
Preparer Garth R. Ross Date May 9, 2002 Activity Type: Mechanical Treatments
Activity Component: Rehab, removal of excess vegetation and slash Work Element: All except where otherwise noted
Species: Salmonids

Conditional Statement	Effect Pathway	Potential Effect	List Project Criteria. Does Project Meet the Criteria? (Yes/no)*	List Rationale. Is Rationale Appropriate? (Yes/no)*	Final Effect Determination
The action occurs outside the RHCA in watersheds with at-risk fish species or with designated critical habitat or unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery.	Water quality and habitat elements	Potentially Adverse	Dozer piling will only be conducted on slopes of 20% or less (Attachment 1, page 6). Project Meets Criteria – Yes	These activities do not pose the potential for adverse effect to at-risk fish species Rationale is Appropriate – Yes	Negligible

*** If yes, explain how the project meets the criteria and rationale (optional) or refer to project description:**

This project does not include dozer operations. This project would be completed using Harvester/Forwarders. Harvester/Forwarders have less impact on soils and existing vegetation and do have less ground disturbance. Harvester/Forwarders generally do not function well on slopes more than 20%, but can go straight up or down slopes steeper than 20% for short lengths. Approximately 10% of the project area has slopes in excess of 20%. Under this proposal, some work would be completed on these slopes, but the amount would be limited by the machine's capabilities. Operations in areas that cause excessive ground disturbance would be suspended. No operations would be allowed in areas where sediment could transferred into any waterway of stream.

Criteria Application Worksheet
for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

CRITERIA APPLICATION WORKSHEET **Page 5 of 11**

Project Name Frazier Fuels Reduction Admin Unit Vale BLM Baker Resource Area

Preparer Garth R. Ross Date May 9, 2002 Activity Type: Mechanical Treatments

Activity Component: All activity, components except where otherwise noted Work Element: All except where otherwise noted

Species: Salmonids

Conditional Statement	Effect Pathway	Potential Effect	List Project Criteria. Does Project Meet the Criteria? (Yes/no)*	List Rationale. Is Rationale Appropriate? (Yes/no)*	Final Effect Determination
The action occurs outside the RHCA in watersheds with at-risk fish species or with designated critical habitat or unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery.	Water quality, take, channel morphology and habitat elements	Potentially Adverse	Log hauling during wet weather on non-paved roads. Short spurs with no instability concerns, will be obliterated and re-vegetated immediately after timber harvest is completed. Harvest activities will not alter the timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows (ie, ECA = "functional"). . Other fueling operations will consist of a slip-tank not greater than 250 gallons. Use of chemical palliatives will not occur over bridges, or when precipitation is occuring/forcast. All fueling and fuel storage areas as well as service landings will be located outside the RHCA. All helicopter fueling operations require an approved transportation, storage, and emergency spill plan. Project Meets Criteria - Yes	These criteria were derived from previous programmatic consultations (Salmonid Species Team). They were designed to avoid adverse affects to the pathway elements. Rationale is Appropriate – Yes	Negligible

*** If yes, explain how the project meets the criteria and rationale (optional) or refer to project description:**

Criteria Application Worksheet
for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

CRITERIA APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Project Name Frazier Fuels Reduction Admin Unit Vale BLM Baker Resource Area
Preparer Garth R. Ross Date May 9, 2002 Activity Type: Mechanical Treatments
Activity Component: Skidding/Yarding, Hauling & Loading Work Element: Skidding/Yarding
Species: Salmonids

Conditional Statement	Effect Pathway	Potential Effect	List Project Criteria. Does Project Meet the Criteria? (Yes/no)*	List Rationale. Is Rationale Appropriate? (Yes/no)*	Final Effect Determination
The action occurs in watersheds with at-risk fish species or with designated critical habitat or unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery.	Water quality and habitat elements	Potentially Adverse	No skidding or ground-based yarding within the RHCA. Full suspension yarding would be acceptable within the RHCA. No removal of large woody material from RHCA during these activities. Project Meets Criteria – Yes	The RHCA is adequate as a buffer for potential sediment delivery associated with the activity (see Attachments 1 and 2). Rationale is Appropriate – Yes	Negligible

*** If yes, explain how the project meets the criteria and rationale (optional) or refer to project description:**

Criteria Application Worksheet
for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

CRITERIA APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Project Name Frazier Fuels Reduction **Admin Unit Vale BLM Baker Resource Area**
Preparer Garth R. Ross Date May 9, 2002 **Activity Type: Mechanical Treatments**
Activity Component: Killing submerchantable trees **Work Element: All except where otherwise noted**
Species: Salmonids

Conditional Statement	Effect Pathway	Potential Effect	List Project Criteria. Does Project Meet the Criteria? (Yes/no)*	List Rationale. Is Rationale Appropriate? (Yes/no)*	Final Effect Determination
The action occurs outside the RHCA in watersheds with at-risk fish species or with designated critical habitat or unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery.	Water quality and habitat elements	Potentially Adverse	See: ID # 500 - Mechanical Treatments Activity Type, Harvest Prescription/Implementation.	Killing submerchantable trees would have the same potential effect as timber harvest, because such trees have essentially the same influences on aquatic habitats (subalpine fir, spruce, and cottonwood for example).	Negligible

*** If yes, explain how the project meets the criteria and rationale (optional) or refer to project description:**

Criteria Application Worksheet
for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

CRITERIA APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Project Name Frazier Fuels Reduction **Admin Unit Vale BLM Baker Resource Area**
Preparer Garth R. Ross Date May 9, 2002 **Activity Type: Mechanical Treatments**
Activity Component: Landings and Skid Trails **Work Element: Construction and Location**
Species: Salmonids

Conditional Statement	Effect Pathway	Potential Effect	List Project Criteria. Does Project Meet the Criteria? (Yes/no)*	List Rationale. Is Rationale Appropriate? (Yes/no)*	Final Effect Determination
The action occurs in watersheds with at-risk fish species or with designated critical habitat or unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery.	Water quality, take, channel morphology and habitat elements	Potentially Adverse	No constructed landings and/or skid trails within any RHCA. Project Meets Criteria – Yes	These actions have the potential to deliver sediment to stream channels (see attachment 2). The RHCA is adequate as a buffer to prevent delivery of fine sediment to stream channels. Rationale is Appropriate – Yes	Negligible

*** If yes, explain how the project meets the criteria and rationale (optional) or refer to project description:**

Criteria Application Worksheet
for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

CRITERIA APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Project Name Frazier Fuels Reduction Admin Unit Vale BLM Baker Resource Area
Preparer Garth R. Ross Date May 9, 2002 Activity Type: Prescribed Fire
Activity Component: Ignition Work Element: All except where otherwise noted
Species: Salmonids

Conditional Statement	Effect Pathway	Potential Effect	List Project Criteria. Does Project Meet the Criteria? (Yes/no)*	List Rationale. Is Rationale Appropriate? (Yes/no)*	Final Effect Determination
The action occurs outside the RHCA in watersheds with at-risk fish species or with designated critical habitat or unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery.	Shade, sediment and temperature	Negligible	No criteria	Fire outside the RHCA is unlikely to adversely affect the pathway elements because they more frequently experience such disturbances naturally. Rationale is Appropriate – Yes	Negligible

*** If yes, explain how the project meets the criteria and rationale (optional) or refer to project description:**

Criteria Application Worksheet
for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

CRITERIA APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Project Name Frazier Fuels Reduction Admin Unit Vale BLM Baker Resource Area
Preparer Garth R. Ross Date May 9, 2002 Activity Type: Range Infrastructure
Activity Component: Fence Construction/Reconstruction Work Element: Onsite material cutting, gathering
Species: Salmonids

Conditional Statement	Effect Pathway	Potential Effect	List Project Criteria. Does Project Meet the Criteria? (Yes/no)*	List Rationale. Is Rationale Appropriate? (Yes/no)*	Final Effect Determination
The action occurs in RHCAs in watersheds with at-risk fish species or with designated critical habitat or unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery.	Water quality and habitat elements	Potentially Adverse	No material gathering within the RHCA e.g. fence posts, braces, stays, rock, etc.). Only hand work is allowed. Rock hauling will be non-motorized unless motorized access will cause no ground distrubance. No vegetation removal. No Fueling within RHCAs. Project Meets Criteria – Yes	This criteria reduces potential for Sediment production and delivery. Criteria limit potential for reducing streambank stability. Rationale is Appropriate – Yes	Negligible

*** If yes, explain how the project meets the criteria and rationale (optional) or refer to project description:**

Criteria Application Worksheet
for National Fire Plan Projects in the Northwest

CRITERIA APPLICATION WORKSHEET

Project Name Frazier Fuels Reduction **Admin Unit Vale BLM Baker Resource Area**
Preparer Garth R. Ross Date May 9, 2002 **Activity Type: Roads and Road Maintenance**
Activity Component: Road Maintained **Work Element: Surface Rocking**
Species: Salmonids

Conditional Statement	Effect Pathway	Potential Effect	List Project Criteria. Does Project Meet the Criteria? (Yes/no)*	List Rationale. Is Rationale Appropriate? (Yes/no)*	Final Effect Determination
The action occurs in watersheds with at-risk fish species or with designated critical habitat or unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery	Water quality and habitat elements	Potentially Adverse	Road surfaces may be upgraded with surface rock to reduce erosion and sedimentation so long as cut and fill-slopes are not enlarged or disturbed. Gravel used for this purpose should washed and cleaned of fines off-site. For BLADING see: Roads and Road Maintenance Activity Type, Road Maintained Component. Project Meets Criteria – Yes	Rocking stabilizes the road surfaces and reduces the potential for erosion and sedimentation, and the increase in infiltration associated with gravel surfaces decreases road runoff (Attachment 2). Rationale is Appropriate – Yes	Negligible -

*** If yes, explain how the project meets the criteria and rationale (optional) or refer to project description:**

Access into this project site is along a good, stable road network. Some minor spot rocking may occur, but not road grade work is being proposed.

Determination of Effects:

Data was utilized from the above charts to reach the **May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect** determination. Overall, this project will have negligible effects to listed species and habitat. This determination was reached after review of the above criteria charts, the small size of the project, the amount of vegetation that will be altered, the location of the project, and the distance of the project to listed species and habitat. Implementing this project is not expected to result in "take of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

In the long term, the implementation of this project is expected to move the landscape towards a more desirable condition resulting in a more beneficial effect on listed fish and their habitat.

Rationale for the Determination:

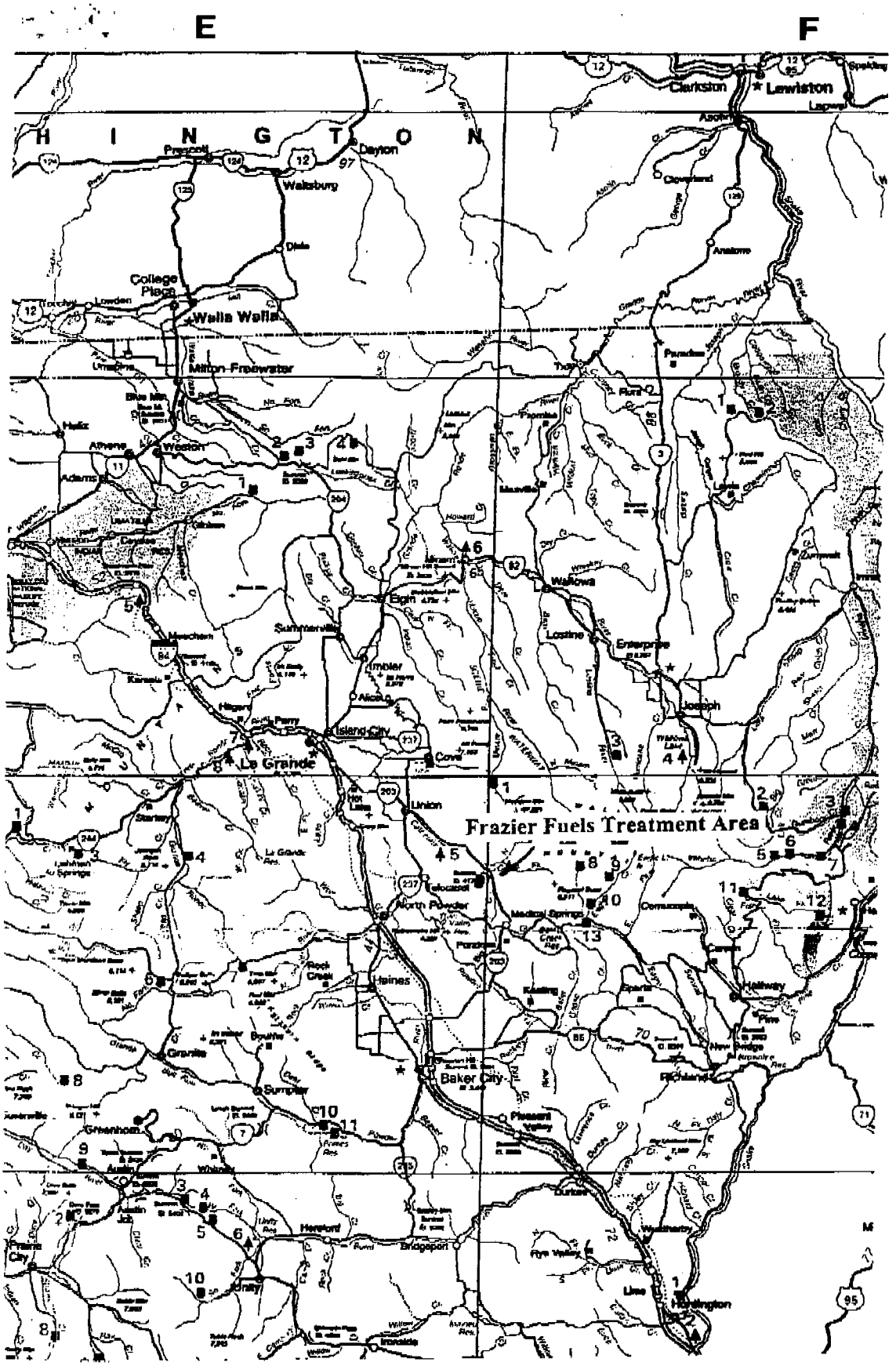
The rationale for the "Not Likely to Affect determination was based primarily on criteria application worksheets and the best available science. Refer to the above Criteria Application worksheets for the appropriate rationale for the effects determination.

References:

Catherine Creek Watershed Analysis, 1999. Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. LaGrande Ranger District.

Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team (FEMAT) 1993. Forest ecosystem management: an ecological, economic, and social assessment. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Department of the Interior (and others).

Upper Grande Ronde Assessment Area, Biological Assessment. U.S. Department of Agriculture; Forest Service, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management.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F
H I N G T O N
Clarkston
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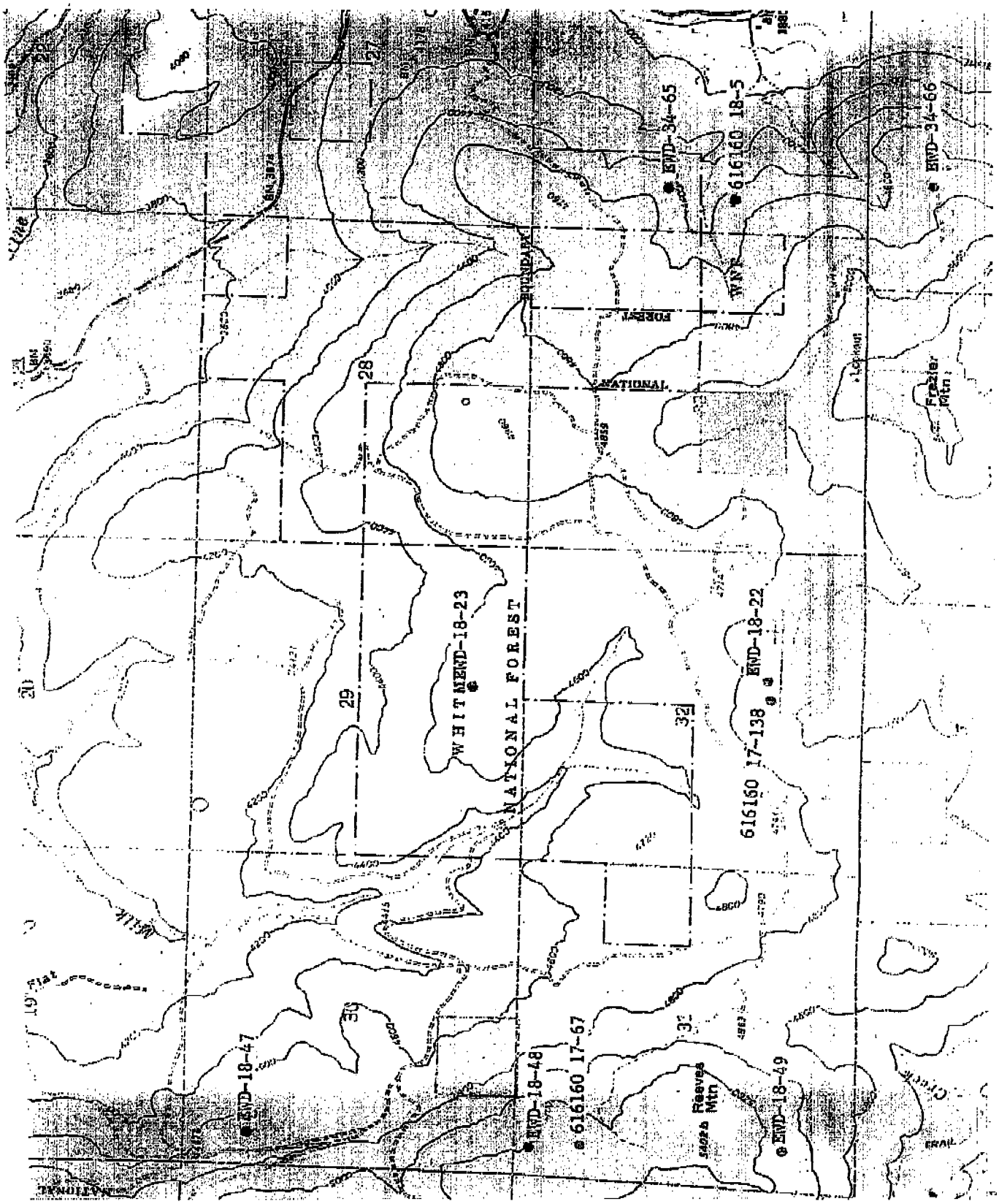
Dayton
Walla Walla
College Place
Milton-Freewater
Weston
Elgin
Wallowa
Lostine
Enterprise
Joseph
Summerville
Imbler
Island City
La Grande
Union
Frazier Fuels Treatment Area
Haines
Baker City
Hereford
Bridgeport
Huntington

BLM Boundaries
Existing Roads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29
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WHITMEND-18-23
NATIONAL FOREST
EWD-18-22
616160 17-138
EWD-18-47
EWD-18-48
616160 17-67
Reeves Mtn
EWD-18-49
TRAIL

TOTAL P.25