



Timber Management

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Resource Objectives and Planned Actions

The resource area will meet local demand for timber products through small negotiated sales. Additionally, occasional advertised sales will be held which could amount to sales of up to 1 million board feet (MMBF) being offered in the Twin Coulee area. An annual cut of 70 thousand board feet (MBF) over 30 acres is expected to occur. In the short term (8 years), 560 MBF will be harvested on 240 acres. In the long term (25 years), 1,750,000 will be harvested on 750 acres.

A total of 9,500 acres of forested land will be protected from cutting, except where needed for other resource value or concern such as watershed, safety or wildlife. The protection area includes the Pryor Mountain WSAs, Bad Canyon, Young's Point, Hamilton's (Asparagus) Point, Shepherd Ah-Nei and the Acton area.

Rationale

This action will allow continued small negotiated sales and occasional advertised sales to meet the local demand for timber products. This type of timber management will allow a reasonable harvest of timber products while protecting other resource values such as watershed and wildlife habitat.

A sale of up to 1 MMBF could occur in the Twin Coulee area if it is not designated wilderness by Congress and if local demand warrants.

Monitoring

Monitoring will consist of annual inspections of forested lands for possible trespass and designated protection areas for possible insect infestations or disease epidemics. These inspections may be done by any qualified specialist on the resource area staff.

A pre-work conference, periodic inspections and a final inspection will be conducted on all timber sales by the area or district forester.

Implementation Priorities

Commercial forest and protection area designations made in this plan will become effective upon its approval.

Saw timber, firewood, post and pole sales and road construction are examples of specific actions to be taken. The majority of these sales will be negotiated sales. Manuals, policy and District Office guidance on small timber sales will offer specific direction for implementing these actions. Implementation priorities are as follows:

1. Monitor designated protection areas.
2. Investigate all trespass and epidemics reported by resource area personnel and take appropriate action.
3. Attempt to accommodate requests made by the public for the sale of forest products.
4. Prepare and advertise timber sales identified in the annual work plan.

Support

Cadastral survey and engineering support will be needed on an intermittent basis for the purpose of design and lay out of timber sales and access roads. Fire protection support will be needed to protect the forest values. On occasion, acquisition of legal access to public land will be needed to open areas to commercially harvest forest lands. Acquisition of legal access to public lands for the purpose of firewood and post and pole sales will not be pursued.

