

Appendix C

Site-Specific Forest Plan Amendment

All action alternatives for the North Lochsa Face Ecosystem Management Project include a site-specific amendment to the Clearwater Forest Plan. Currently, the Forest Plan, Appendix D, Table D-1, designates a specific, maximum number of acres that a wildfire is not to exceed. The purpose of this amendment, Amendment No. 20, is to change the target maximum burned acres from wildfire to an undetermined number of acres (unscheduled). The limit of the size of the fire is to be dependent on a decision analysis that provides for the most reasonable probability of minimizing fire suppression cost and resource damage, consistent with probable fire behavior, probable resource and environmental impacts, safety, and smoke management considerations. This amendment will apply only to those management areas within the North Lochsa Face analysis area, which are A4, A6, A7, C3, C4, C6, C8S, including lands to be managed as B2, as per the Forest Plan lawsuit settlement stipulation of dismissal. The amendment will change Clearwater Forest Plan, Appendix D (Fire Management Direction), Table D-1, Column 7 (maximum burned acres from wildfire). The current plan has established maximum burned acres from wildfire set to management area designation. In some cases, suppression strategies dictated by these limitations would be in conflict with the Forest Service Fire Suppression Manual objective of safely suppressing wildfires at minimum cost. Manual direction is to initiate initial suppression action that provides for the most reasonable probability of minimizing fire suppression cost and resource damage consistent with probable fire behavior, resource and environmental impacts, safety, and smoke management considerations. In order to meet manual direction and objectives, **the proposed amendment would change the maximum burned acres in column 7, Table D-1 to "unscheduled" for all land management areas within the North Lochsa Face Analysis area except E1 and M1.** The limit of the size of the wildfire is to be based on a decision analysis that will identify the action that minimizes the sum of suppression costs plus resource damage while also considering public and firefighter safety. The appropriate suppression forces and tactics will be used to respond to each individual wildfire based on this cost plus loss analysis.

The need for this site-specific adjustment was identified in the environmental analysis of the North Lochsa Face Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) conducted on the Lochsa Ranger District (see North Lochsa Face Final EIS, Chapter 1, Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action). Forest Service policy permits Forest Plan amendments resulting from analyses conducted during Forest Plan implementation [36 CFR 219.10(f) and FSM 1922.5].

Goals, Objectives And Outputs: Adoption of this amendment will not significantly change the forest-wide environmental impacts disclosed in the Clearwater National Forest Plan EIS. I have determined the proposed changes are not significant, since they are minor adjustments resulting from site-specific analysis and will not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

Location And Size: This amendment is applicable to management areas A4, A6, A7, C3, C4, C6, C8S, including lands to be managed as B2, only within the North Lochsa Face Analysis Area.

Management Prescription: This amendment does not change the management prescription or anticipated goods and services to be produced. This change is procedural, not substantive.

Timing: This amendment will be effective concurrently with the vegetation management decision as it is needed to implement this aspect of the decision for this project.

AMENDMENT NUMBER 20

The Clearwater National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is amended to read as follows (Changes in **Bold** print):

APPENDIX D

Table D-1 *Fire Management Direction (Decade 1)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
WILDFIRE								PRESCRIBED FIRE					
MGT AREA ID	PRIMARY RESOURCE EMPHASIS (MAC)	STRATEGIES ALLOWED CONFINE	CONTAIN	CONTROL	MAC BURNED (ACRES)	PROBABLE (2) LOSS FROM FIRE	NATURAL FUEL		UNPLAN IGNIT	ACTIVITY FUEL (ACRES)	MIH CODE	MIH CODE	PRIORITY
							(ACRES)	CODE					
	.8	REC.	NO	NO	YES	0.1	H			NO			
A3	51.0	REC.	YES	YES	YES	(3)	M	UNSCH	P12	YES			
A4	55.3	REC.	YES (1)	YES (1)	YES	UNSCH	H	UNSCH	P12	YES	94	A01,P11	6
A5	1.8	REC.	NO	NO	YES	0	H			NO			
A6	18.8	REC.	YES (1)	YES (1)	YES	UNSCH	H	UNSCH	P12	YES	31	A01,P11	8
A7	23.6	REC.	YES (1)	YES (1)	YES	UNSCH	H	300	P12	YES		C02,P11, P12	4
B1	259.2	WLNS.	YES	YES	YES	UNSCH	L	UNSCH	P12	YES			
B2	198.2	WLNS.	YES	YES	YES	500	L	UNSCH	P12	YES			
C1	45.1	WLDF	YES	YES	YES	1000	L	UNSCH	P12	YES			
C3	34.4	WLDF	YES	YES	YES	UNSCH	L	1000	P12	YES		C02,P12	2
C4	75.5	WLDF	YES	YES	YES	UNSCH	L	UNSCH	P12	YES	1007	C02,P11	3
C6	102.4	FISH	YES	YES	YES	UNSCH	H	UNSCH	P12	YES			
C8S	207.5	WLDF/TBR	YES	YES	YES	UNSCH	M-H	UNSCH	P12	YES	3099	P11	7
E1	582.7	TBR.	YES	YES	YES	(4)	M-H			NO	3383	E04,P11	1
E3	13.0	TBR.	YES	YES	YES	(4)	M-H	UNSCH	P12	YES	64	P11	10
M1	4.0	RNA	NO	NO	YES	(0)	H	UNSCH	P12	YES			
M2	127.4	RIP	YES	YES	YES	(5)	H	UNSCH	P12	YES	3516	P11	5
M5	105.3	UNSCH	YES	YES	YES	(5)	L	UNSCH	P12	YES			

*For explanation of headings see Forest Plan, Appendix D, Page D-7.

(1) - Consistent with adjacent management areas.

(2) - Fire loss is defined as those acres damaged sufficiently by wildfire to impair their ability to fulfill their management emphasis.

(3) - A3 - Within Elizabeth Lakes area 30 acres or less. Within other areas 100 acres or less.

(4) - E1, E3 - Plantation etc. 1 acre or less. Mature timber 40 acres or less. Brush fields 500 acres or less.

(5) - M2, M5, - Acreage dependent upon direction of adjacent management areas.

Column 7 - Unscheduled acreage dependent on decision analysis that provides for the most reasonable probability of minimizing fire suppression costs and resource damage, consistent with probable fire behavior, probable resource impacts, safety and smoke management considerations.

---END AMENDMENT 20---