

**CHAPTER 3 – AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSEQUENCES OF IMPLEMENTING THE ALTERNATIVES**

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the environmental components that may be affected by implementation of the proposed action or an alternative to the proposed action in the American and Crooked River project area. This chapter also describes the environmental consequences of implementing these alternatives and displays the direct, indirect, cumulative, irreversible and irretrievable effects by indicator for each resource.

SCOPE OF THE ANALYSIS

The existing condition describes the baseline condition against which environmental effects can be evaluated and from which progress toward the desired condition can be measured. Data and analysis are commensurate with the importance of the possible impacts.

Environmental consequences form the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives, including the proposed action, through compliance with Forest Plan standards and a summary of monitoring required by NEPA and NFMA. The discussion centers on direct, indirect, and cumulative effects along with applicable mitigation measures. Irreversible and irretrievable effects are also discussed for each resource indicator. Effects of the action can be neutral, beneficial or adverse. These terms are defined as follows:

Direct effects are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.

Indirect effects are caused by the action and are later in time or further removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.

Cumulative effects are those that result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Irreversible effects are permanent or essentially permanent resource use or losses; they cannot be reversed, except in the extreme long-term. Examples of irreversible effects include minerals that have been extracted or soil productivity that has been lost.

Irretrievable effects are losses of productivity or use for a period of time; one example is road construction on suitable timber lands. Timber growth on the land is irretrievably lost while the land is used as a road, but the timber resource is not irreversibly lost because the land could grow trees again in the near future.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ANALYSIS

Cumulative effects are discussed for each indicator under each resource. The cumulative effects analysis area will vary for each resource. Past activities (including grazing, timber harvest, road building, prescribed fire, stream and meadow restoration in the American and Crooked River Wildlife Management Area, etc.) are considered part of the existing condition and are covered under that section. Table 3.0 displays the recently past, current (or present), ongoing or reasonably foreseeable future activities within the American and Crooked River watersheds, as well as in the adjacent watershed that are reasonably foreseeable within, or adjacent to, the American and Crooked River watersheds.

Table 3.0 – Projects considered for cumulative effects within and adjacent to the American and Crooked River Project Area.

Project	Location	Activity	Time Period
Blanco Burn ¹	Blanco and Lower Main Stem of Red River	1,000 acres of rehabilitation	Ongoing
Lower Red River Meadows Restoration ¹			Ongoing
Red River Roadside Hazard	13 sites along FDR 22, 234, 1182, 1150	Pruning, precommercial thinning, brush and sapling removal to create defensible space within 200 feet of structures on FS land.	Ongoing
Noxious Weed Program	Forest wide	Spot treatments of herbicide applications	Ongoing
Crooked River Mining Activity		Placer Mining	Current
EMC – Newsome		Placer Mining	Current
Nez Perce Tribe	Tribal restoration projects on the Nez Perce lands		Current
Watershed improvement projects (ongoing)	Forest Service	Improving road surface – graveling and grading work	Current
Crooked River Channel Maintenance	Forest Service	200 yards of channel restoration	Current
Starbucky	Forest Service	Timber Sale	Current
20-21	Forest Service	Defensible space burning project	Current
806	Forest Service	Defensible space burning project	Current
Red River Road Surfacing			Current
Otterwing TS		T.S.	Current
Blue Ridge Ridge ²		Prescribed burning project	Current
McComas meadow burning ²		Prescribed burning project	Current
South Fork Corridor		Prescribed burning project	Current
Whiskey South	Campbell Creek Forest Service and BLM	Treating fuels, creating fuelbreaks, timber sale and roading	Foreseeable Future
Upper Red River	Tribal restoration projects on the Nez Perce	Culvert replacement	Foreseeable Future
Mill Creek	Tribal restoration projects on the Nez Perce	Culvert replacement	Foreseeable Future
Upper Newsome	Tribal restoration projects on the Nez Perce	Culvert replacement	Foreseeable Future

¹ Above the mouth of Crooked/American – Upper South Fork

² Below the mouth of Crooked/American – Upper South Fork

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Project	Location	Activity	Time Period
School District Timber Sale		Timber removal on approximately 16 acres	Foreseeable Future
Tract 39 (Land Exchange – FS land for Seminal Tribe lands)			Foreseeable Future
Blacktail ²		Fuel reduction followed by a Rx burn	Foreseeable Future
Meadow Face ²			Foreseeable Future
Red River DSP	Forest Service	Defensible space burning project	Current
Orogrande DSP		Defensible space burning project	Foreseeable Future
Newsome Townsite DSP		Defensible space burning project	Foreseeable Future
Crooked River Demonstration	Forest Service		Past
Red Pines EIS			Foreseeable Future
Slims fireline restoration ¹		Catastrophic fireline restoration	Past
Templeton	Forest Service	Suction Dredging	Foreseeable Future
Genesis	Forest Service	Suction Dredging	Foreseeable Future
Booger	Forest Service	Suction Dredging	Foreseeable Future
Eastside Township Projects	BLM		Foreseeable Future
Aquatic Restoration Projects	BLM		Foreseeable Future
Lucky Marble		Fuels work	
East Fork Crooked River Bridge	FS	New bridge construction	Foreseeable Future
Bullied Grouse			
Bennett Logging	Private land	Timber removal on approximately 640 acres and roading	Past
Logging on Private Land		Timber removal on approximately 100 acres and roading	Past
Hungry Mill ²			Past

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The discussion of affected environment and environmental consequences is organized by resource. Under each resource, the existing conditions are described for each indicator, followed by the environmental effects discussion, by indicator for each alternative.

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