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CHAPTER 2: ALTERNATIVES

Introduction _____

No Change from FEIS.

Alternative Development _____

No Change from FEIS.

Alternatives Eliminated From Further Consideration _____

Insert in FEIS page 26, after the first paragraph and before the Alternatives Considered in Detail heading.

Habitat Effectiveness Index – Eliminated Option:

Change the HEI for the Monument Winter Range From 70 to 67 - This alternative addresses comments suggesting the Forest Plan needs to be amended at a broader scale. The Forest Service interdisciplinary team considered permanently changing the habitat effectiveness index for the Monument winter range from 70 to 67. We considered this because initial analysis of elk habitat and HEI revealed an HEI of 70 may not be sustainable given the low natural potential of the warm-dry area. This included disturbance return intervals for both fire and insects and disease. The team also considered addressing the HEI topic across all winter ranges.

Elk habitat effectiveness index has been identified as a possible need for change topic in forest plan revision. Developing and analyzing a new standard for the year remaining in the 15 year planning period would not be an efficient use of our time because we have begun our forest plan revision process. Working with the public in revision, standards in the current plan will be validated, those that are no longer relevant will be deleted and new standards may be added to form a balanced management strategy for the next planning period.

For these reasons this alternative was considered but not analyzed in detail.

Alternatives Considered in Detail _____

Alternative 1 - No Action

Add to the FEIS page 26, Alternative 1, Primary Features:

- The Forest Plan would not be amended; the HEI standard would remain unchanged.

Add to the FEIS page 26, Alternative 1, Details:

No commercial harvest or pre-commercial thinning would be implemented in the C3 management area to accomplish project goals (see Map I: Alternative 1, C3 Area or Rimrock EIS Map 1: Management Area Strategy).

(See separate pdf file for map)

Map I. [Alternative 1, C3 Area.](#)

Alternative 2 - Proposed Action

Add to FEIS, (page 27) Primary Features:

Amend the Forest Plan to change the HEI from 70 to 67 for the wildlife standard on Forest Plan page 4-152 for this site-specific project.

Add to FEIS, (page 27), Details:

The amendment would permit 926 acres of commercial harvest (3,300 mbf or 6,300 ccf) and 40 acres of pre-commercial thinning in the C3 management area (see Map II, Thinning Activities in the C3 Area, Alternative 2 and *Rimrock EIS Map 2: Alternative 2*).

(See separate pdf file for map)

Map II Thinning activities in the C3 Area, Alternative 2.

Alternative 3

Add to FEIS page 31, Primary Features:

Amend the Forest Plan to change the HEI from 70 to 67 for the wildlife standard on Forest Plan page 4-152 for this site-specific project.

Add to FEIS page 31, Details:

The amendment would permit 926 acres of commercial harvest (3,300 mbf or 6,300 ccf) and 40 acres of pre-commercial thinning in the C3 management area. See Map III, Thinning Activities in the C3 Area, Alternative 3 and *Rimrock EIS Map 3: Alternative 3*.

(See separate pdf file for map)

Map III Thinning activities in the C3 Area, Alternative 3.

Alternative 4

Add to FEIS page 33, Primary Features:

Amend the Forest Plan to change the HEI from 70 to 67 for the wildlife standard on Forest Plan page 4-152 for this site-specific project.

Add to FEIS page 33, Details:

The amendment would permit 830 acres of commercial harvest (2,900mbf or 5,600ccf) and 40 acres of pre-commercial thinning in the C3 management area. See Map IV, thinning activities in the C3 Area, Alternative 4 and *Rimrock EIS Map 4: Alternative 4*.

(See separate pdf file for map)

Map IV. Thinning activities in the C3 Area, Alternative 4.

Alternative 5

Add to FEIS page 35, Primary Features:

Amend the Forest Plan to change the HEI from 70 to 67 for the wildlife standard on Forest Plan page 4-152 for this site-specific project.

Add to FEIS page 36, Details:

The amendment would permit 804 acres of commercial thinning, 122 acres of shelterwood harvest (4,000 mbf or 7,700ccf) and 40 acres of pre-commercial thinning in the C3 management area. See Map V, Thinning activities in the C3 Area, Alternative 5 and *Rimrock EIS Map 5: Alternative 5*.

(See separate pdf file for map)

Map V. Thinning activities in the C3 Area, Alternative 5.

Potential Knutson-Vandenburg Projects _____

No change from FEIS

Mitigation _____

No change from FEIS

Monitoring Plan _____

No change from FEIS

Comparison of Alternatives in Response to the Key Issues _____

No change from the FEIS

