

In Alternative C (Salvage Following South Cascade Late-Successional Reserve Assessment Guidelines and Moderate Restoration Emphasis), area salvage emphasis is proposed in high and moderate burn severity areas greater than 10 acres where the fire resulted in a stand-replacement event. Alternative C salvage is based on guidelines from the Late-Successional Reserve Assessment for snag and coarse woody debris retention. Restoration projects include fish habitat improvement, Late-Successional Reserve thinning, pine and oak woodlands restoration, reforestation of stand-replacement areas greater than 5 acres, fuels reduction along ridgelines, wildlife habitat enhancement projects, and road improvement projects.

In Alternative D (Late-Successional Reserve Guidelines for Salvage Using DecAID Wood Advisor Tool for Snags and Coarse Woody Debris (CWD) and Moderate Restoration Emphasis), area salvage emphasis is proposed in high and moderate burn severity areas greater than 10 acres where the fire resulted in a stand-replacement event. Instead of following LSRA salvage guidelines, snag and coarse woody debris retention levels in this alternative are based on the DecAID Wood Advisor tool. Restoration projects would be the same as Alternative C.

In Alternative E (High Level of Salvage and Extensive Restoration Emphasis), area salvage emphasis is proposed in high, moderate, low and very low burned severity areas. Snag retention levels within the high and moderate burn severity areas would be 6–14 snags/acre. This is based on study by Haggard and Gaines (2001) which found the highest diversity in cavity nesting species and the highest number of nests where snag densities ranged from 6–14 snags/acre. Snag retention within the low and very low burn severity areas with canopy cover greater than 40 percent would be 4 snags/acre. The coarse woody debris level in this alternative would be a minimum of 120 linear feet/acre. Extensive restoration would increase the scope of the projects (acres, miles of roads, etc.), intensity of the treatments, and location of the treatments identified in Alternative C and D. Alternative E also proposes seasonal closure of some roads.

In Alternative F (Salvage Logging and Post-fire rehabilitation actions consistent with report on *Recommendations for Ecologically Sound Post-Fire Salvage Management and Other Post-Fire Treatments on Federal Lands in the West* (Beschta *et al.*, 1995)), area salvage emphasis is based on recommendations to avoid severely burned areas, erosive sites,

fragile soils, riparian areas, steep slopes, or sites where accelerated erosion is possible. Existing snags and coarse woody debris levels would be retained on all these areas. Salvage would occur in 3–10 acre patches of fire-killed trees. Within each of these patches, a minimum of 2 acres would be reserved from salvage. The Beschta *et al.* report does not address actions outside of a burned area. As a result, no Late-Successional Reserve restoration actions are proposed. However, restoration projects within the fire perimeter, consistent with Beschta *et al.* report are proposed.

In Alternative G (Preferred Alternative—Salvage Including Research and Moderate Restoration Emphasis), area salvage emphasis is based on research to study the effects of various snag levels on selected wildlife species. Sixteen units were selected to be included in this study. These units are generally 30 acres or greater and would be salvaged at various levels. In addition, four control units would not be salvaged. Stand replacement areas (high and moderate burn severity) outside of research units greater than 10 acres would also be considered for salvaging. Snag and coarse woody debris levels would meet DecAid Wood Advisor recommendations, as well as, other local and regional recommendations. A reforestation study is also included, which would evaluate a variety of planting densities, species, and follow-up treatments in both salvaged and unsalvaged areas. Restoration projects would be the same as Alternatives C and D. Alternative G also proposes seasonal closure of some roads.

It is not the intent of this project to change land use allocations, nor Standard and Guidelines made through the Northwest Forest Plan and later adopted through the Medford District Resource Management Plan. The Preferred Alternative has been determined to be consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan and Medford District Resource Management Plan. However, if alternative E or F is selected as the Preferred Alternative in the Final EIS, a plan amendment may be required.

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Acting District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA–930–1020–AC]

Notice of Public Meetings: Northwest California Resource Advisory Council; Northeast California Resource Advisory Council; Central California Resource Advisory Council; California Desert District Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Northwest California Resource Advisory Council; Northeast California Resource Advisory Council; Central California Resource Advisory Council and California Desert District Advisory Council will meet as indicated below.

DATES: Northwest California Resource Advisory Council—September 3, 2003, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Holiday Inn, 1900 Hilltop Dr., Redding, CA. The council will discuss the Sustaining Working Landscapes initiative. Public comment will be received at 1 p.m.

Northeast California Resource Advisory Council—September 26–27, 2003. On September 26, the meeting begins at 8 a.m. at the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office, 2950 N. State St., Susanville, CA. The council will discuss the Sustaining Working Landscapes initiative and will receive public comment beginning at 1 p.m. Additional agenda items include juniper management and land use updates. A Public land improvement project field tour will be conducted on September 27, 2003. Members of the public are welcome. They must provide their own transportation and lunch.

California Desert District Advisory Council: September 19–20, 2003, at the Kerr McGee Center, 100 West California Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA. The Council will discuss a variety of agenda topics on Friday, September 19. Saturday, September 20 will include a briefing and overview of the Sustaining Working Landscapes initiative from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. followed by public comment from 10:15 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., followed by comments/recommendations from Council members. A court reporter will record all public comments. The meeting will adjourn 5 p.m.

Central California Resource Advisory Council—October 3–4, 2003 in the