

3.8 Other Disclosures

3.8.1 Employment and Consumers

Short-term increases in local employment may occur during the implementation of these projects. This is primarily in the forest worker sector, such as equipment operator and general laborer.

3.8.2 Civil Rights, Women and Minority Groups

No effects with either alternative.

3.8.3 Wetlands and Floodplains

The No Action Alternative will not improve wetlands or flood plains. The Proposed Action, Alternative 2, will improve wetlands and flood plains over the long term because stream and riparian function would be improved in Vincent, Vinegar, and Granite Boulder Creeks.

3.8.4 Compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act

The Farmland Protection Policy Act does not apply to National Forest System Land.

3.8.5 Air Quality

No significant effects anticipated with any alternative.

3.8.6 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Irreversible commitment of resources refers to non-renewable resources, such as cultural resources, or to those factors that are renewable only over long time spans such as soil productivity. Irretrievable commitment applies to losses of production, harvest or use of renewable natural resources. No significant irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources has been identified with the implementation of either alternative.

3.8.7 Environmental Justice

Federal agencies are directed to focus attention on the human health and environmental effects to ethnic minorities (American Indians, Hispanics, African Americans, and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans), disabled people, and low-income groups. The proposed action (Alternative 2) would not have disproportionately high effects to these populations, nor would there be adverse environmental effects on minority populations, low-income populations, or Indian tribes. None of these groups would be affected by this proposed action in any manner. The project area is located 30 air miles from John Day, Oregon no access would be limited during the implementation of this project.

Chapter 4—Consultation With Others

4.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the results of consultation with other agencies. It also identifies the agencies, organizations, and interested publics contacted as part of the scoping effort associated with this project.

4.2 Consultation with US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Federal agencies that fund, authorize or carry out actions that "May Affect" listed species must consult with the USFWS under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Federal actions that are non discretionary or have "No Effect" on listed species are not subject to formal or informal consultation. It is the responsibility of the action agencies to determine which actions "May Affect" threatened or endangered species and to initiate consultation with the USFWS. Since the Biological Evaluations have determined that there is a "no effect" determination for all listed wildlife species therefore no formal consultation will take place (see Appendix B). A verbal agreement has been given to the Forest Service and a Biological Opinion Bull trout is being written by the consulting agencies while the EA is distributed for a 30 day review.

4.3 Consultation with NOAA Fisheries (formerly NMFS)

Formal consultation with NOAA for Mid-Columbia steelhead trout was initiated in February, 2003.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) subdivision agency, NOAA Fisheries, formerly called the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), a federal agency that regulates anadromous fish concerns, has listed this species as Threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Species listed as Threatened or Endangered species, which periodically utilize the project area, (or if their habitat occurs within the project area) are managed after consultation with NOAA Fisheries scientists. A verbal agreement has been given to the Forest Service and a Biological Opinion is being written by the consulting agencies while the EA is distributed for a 30 day review.

4.4 Consultation with State Historic Preservation Officer

Replacement of eight culverts and construction of armored drain dips will have no effect on the scientific or landscape values of historic properties identified in the Blue planning area. There is no potential for patterned archaeological deposits to exist in the immediate vicinity of the existing culverts. There are no known American Indian sacred sites or sites of religious or cultural importance in the project area. There are no known cultural uses of the natural environment that will be adversely affected by culvert replacement.

4.5. Public Scoping

A scoping letter sent on June 21, 2002, to interested members of the public, tribal and state and local governments. Five letters were received regarding this project.

Chapter 5- List of Preparers

Core Interdisciplinary Team

Fisheries Biologist: Perry Edwards

Hydrologist: Mary Lou Welby

Engineer: Richard Stowers

Team Leader/Writer: James Kelly

Minerals: Wil Tay

Roads: Mark Lysne

Consulting Team

District Ranger: Michael D. Montgomery

Engineering, Project Leader: Mary Ivers

Wildlife Biologist: Cheri Miller

Ecologist/Botanist--Sensitive Plants: Michael Tatum

Environmental Coordinator: Robert Lynch