

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense coniferous forest covering a hillside. The trees are a mix of green and brownish-green, suggesting a mix of species or perhaps some dryness. The forest extends to the top of the hill, where a few snow-capped peaks are visible in the distance. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed landscape.

Deer Creek Project

Special KVRI Meeting

June 4, 2015

Alternatives

Where We Are and Where We are Headed

- Scoping “Completed”
- Forest Supervisor Briefing on Public Involvement and Alternatives
- Specialist Reports and Analysis
- EA for public comment – August 2015
- EA and Draft DN for Objection– April 2016
- Final DN/FONSI – July 2016

Purpose and Need

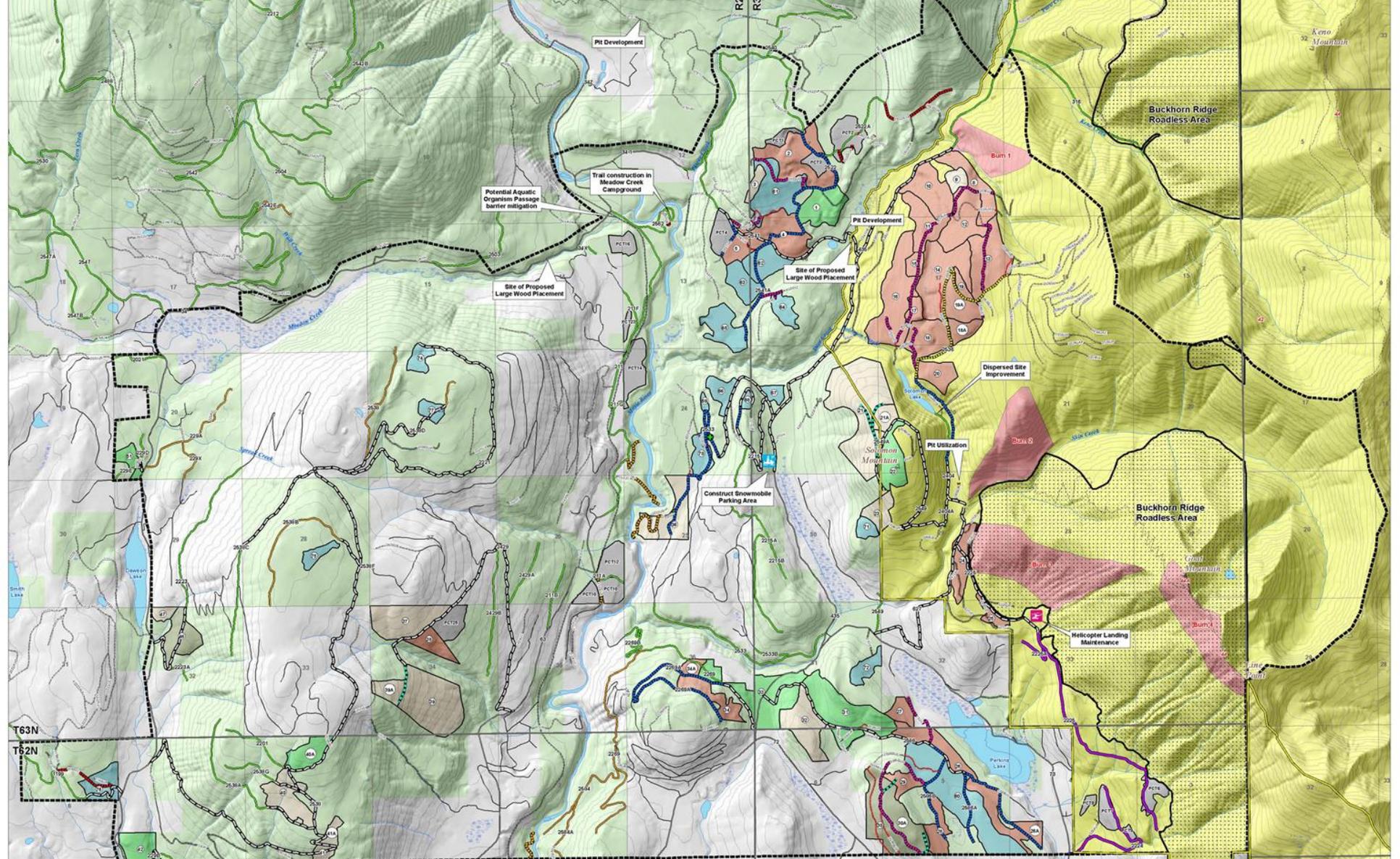


- **Maintain and improve landscape resiliency and resistance to disturbances such as wildfire, drought, and insects and diseases by managing for desirable forest composition, stocking levels and pattern.**
- **Promote forest conditions that reduce fire hazard on National Forest System lands, aiding fire suppression efforts to reduce the potential impacts of wildfire in order to protect firefighters, resource values and private lands**
- **Maintain and improve recreation facilities and opportunities.**
- **Improve aquatic resource conditions**
- **Other resource objectives we want to accomplish**
 - **Contain or control existing non-native invasive plant (“noxious weed”) populations**
 - **Contribute to the local economy through utilization of forest products**
 - **Manage the road system.**

Proposed Action

- The proposed action was designed to meet the purpose and need of the Deer Creek project
- The proposed action includes a substantial amount of vegetation management, transportation system management, aquatic restoration and recreational improvements

Treatment	Acres
Burn Only	662
Precommercial Thinning (PCT)	325
Small Wood Commercial Thinning	626
Shelterwood Removal/Seed Tree Removal w/PCT	392
Dry Site Improvement	186
Regeneration Harvest - Seed Tree	1,329
Regeneration Harvest - Shelter Wood	723
Total	4,243



Deer Creek - Proposed Action

<p>Legend</p> <p>Deer Creek Project Area</p> <p>Proposed Activities</p> <p>Prescription</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvest - SF Harvest - SW SWR/STR - PCT Dry Site Improvement Small Wood Thin Proposed Burns 	<p>ROADWORK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add System and Leave Open Add System and Store Maintenance Operate with Harvest Activities Reconstruction and Leave Open Reconstruction and Leave Open Reconstruction and Store Store Not a Road / remove from INRBA Proposed Temporary Roads Wildland Fence 	<p>Existing Transportation System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Highway County Roads Open Roads Seasonal / Restricted Roads Private Roads Nonmotorized Trails Administrative Roads Railroads 	<p>Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear Management Unit 100-foot contour Lakes Wetland Streams
--	---	--	--



1:15,840
Miles

ATTENTION
This product is reproduced from general information prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. GIS data and product accuracy is the user's responsibility. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy, accuracy only as stated on source. Do not rely on this information for purposes other than those for which they were created. No warranty is made concerning the accuracy of the information presented on this map. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this product without notification. For more information, contact: DeerCreek@fs.fed.us

Public Involvement

Project Scoped - January 21, 2015

Press Release and Web Posting

Working with the KVRI Forestry Subcommittee

(Meetings, field trip and open house)

- Alliance for the Wild Rockies (FOIA – Requested information related to old growth, stand exams and soil condition monitoring)
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Confederated Kootenai Salish Tribe
- Idaho Conservation League
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- >25 responses from interested individuals

Issues

WO AMENDMENT 1909.15-2012-3

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/25/2012

DURATION: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

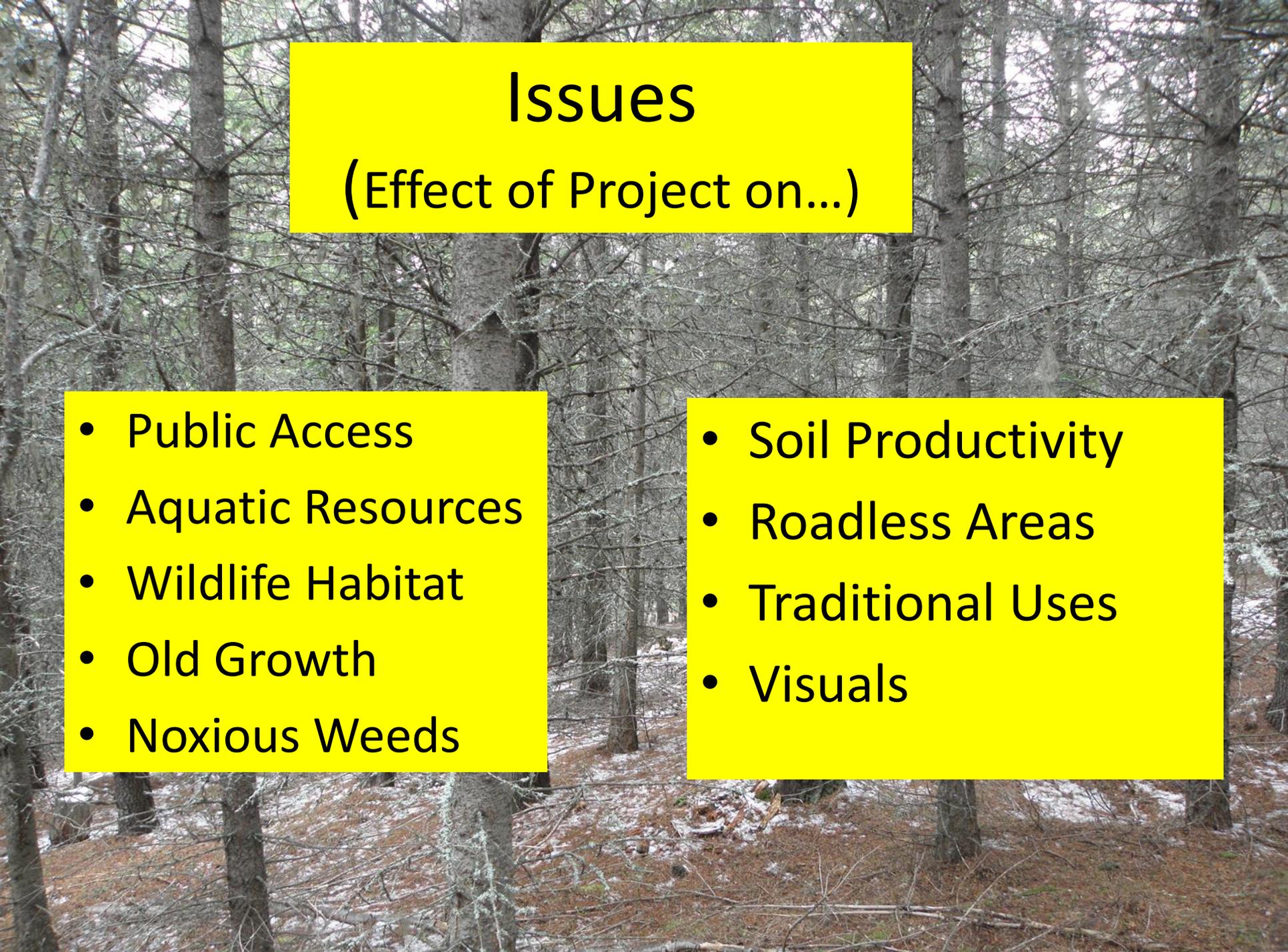
1909.15_10

Page 31 of 1

FSH 1909.15 – NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT HANDBOOK CHAPTER 10 – ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

12.4 - Identify Issues

Issues serve to highlight effects or unintended consequences that may occur from the proposed action and alternatives, giving opportunities during the analysis to reduce adverse effects and compare trade-offs for the decisionmaker and public to understand. Issues are best identified during scoping early in the process to help set the scope of the actions, alternatives, and effects to consider; but, due to the iterative nature of the NEPA process, additional issues may come to light at any time.



Issues

(Effect of Project on...)

- Public Access
- Aquatic Resources
- Wildlife Habitat
- Old Growth
- Noxious Weeds

- Soil Productivity
- Roadless Areas
- Traditional Uses
- Visuals

Alternatives

WO AMENDMENT 1909.15-2012-3

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/25/2012

DURATION: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

1909.15_10

Page 31 of 1

FSH 1909.15 – NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT HANDBOOK CHAPTER 10 – ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

14 - DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES

Under the CEQ regulations, the Agency is required to:

Study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources as provided by section 102(2)(E) of the Act. (40 CFR 1501.2(c))

No specific number of alternatives is required or prescribed. Develop other reasonable alternatives fully and impartially. Ensure that the range of alternatives does not prematurely foreclose options that might protect, restore, and enhance the environment.

Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action should fulfill the purpose and need and address unresolved conflicts related to the proposed action. Be alert for alternatives suggested by participants in scoping and public involvement activities. Consider alternatives, even if outside the jurisdiction of the Agency.

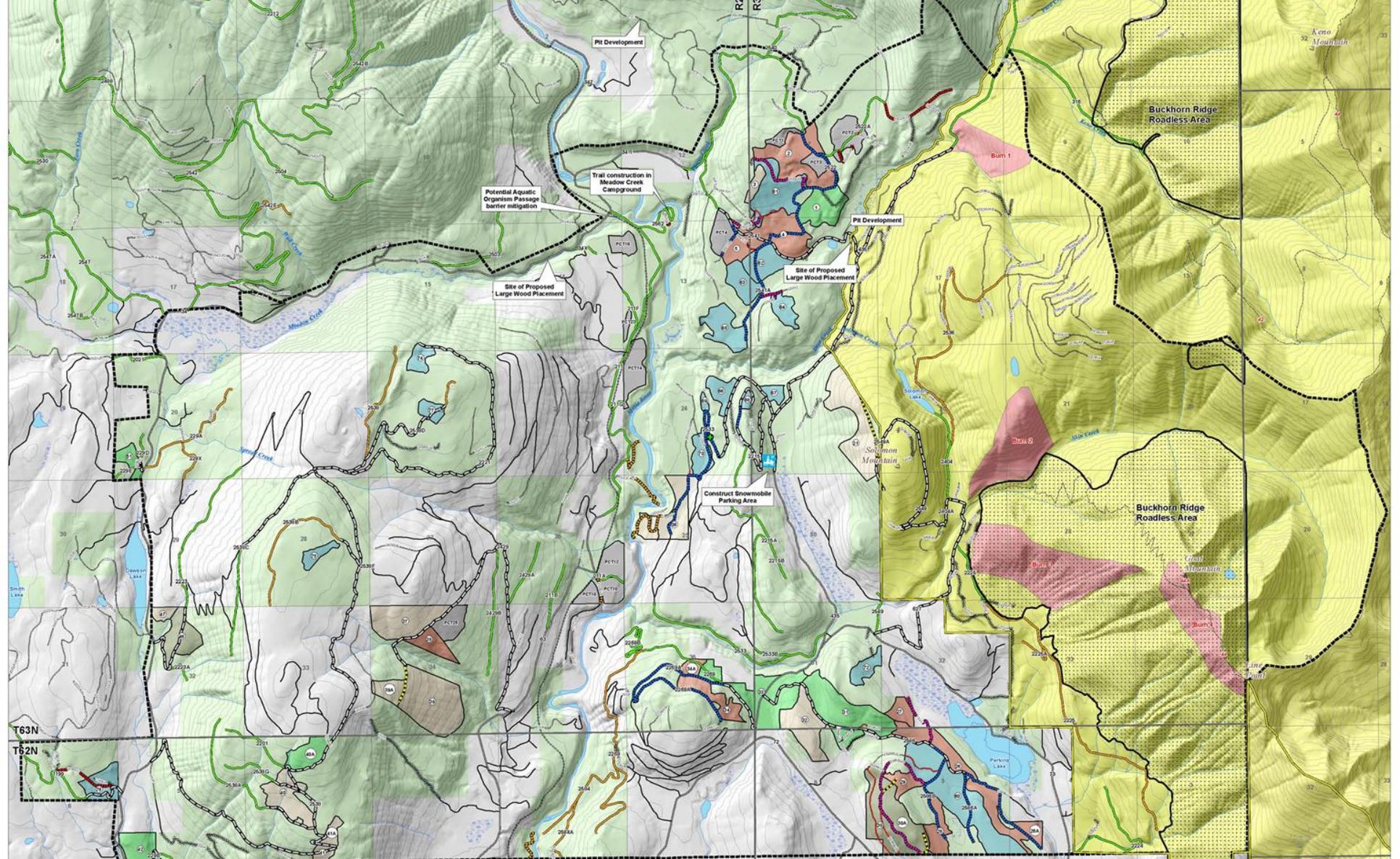
Alternatives

“...It is important that options to offset the loss of grizzly bear core habitat and increased road density be utilized and the BMU should remain in compliance with forest plan standards....”

(Public Comment)

No road work or timber harvest in the Cabinet Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone

- This alternative is intended to address concerns about the potential effects of our proposed activities on grizzly bears and their habitat.
- Responsive to concerns about the potential effects of the transportation system management changes needed to operate in the BMU on public access.
- Shows trade offs required to operate in the BMU



Deer Creek - Alternative B

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Legend</p> <p>Deer Creek Project Area</p> <p>Alternative B - Proposed Activities Prescription</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvest - ST Harvest - SW SWR/STR - PCT Dry Site Improvement Small Wood Thin Alternative B - Proposed Burns | <p>ROADWORK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add to System and Leave Open Add to System and Store Maintenance Not a Road / remove from SNFRA Reconstruct with Harvest Activities Reconstruction and Leave Open Reconstruction and Store Alternative B - Proposed Temporary Roads Washout Repair | <p>Existing Transportation System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Highway County Roads Open Roads Seasonal Roads Private Roads Nonmotorized Trails Administrative Roads Railroads | <p>Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear Management Unit USDA FS Ownership 100-foot contours Lakes Wetland Streams |
|--|--|---|--|

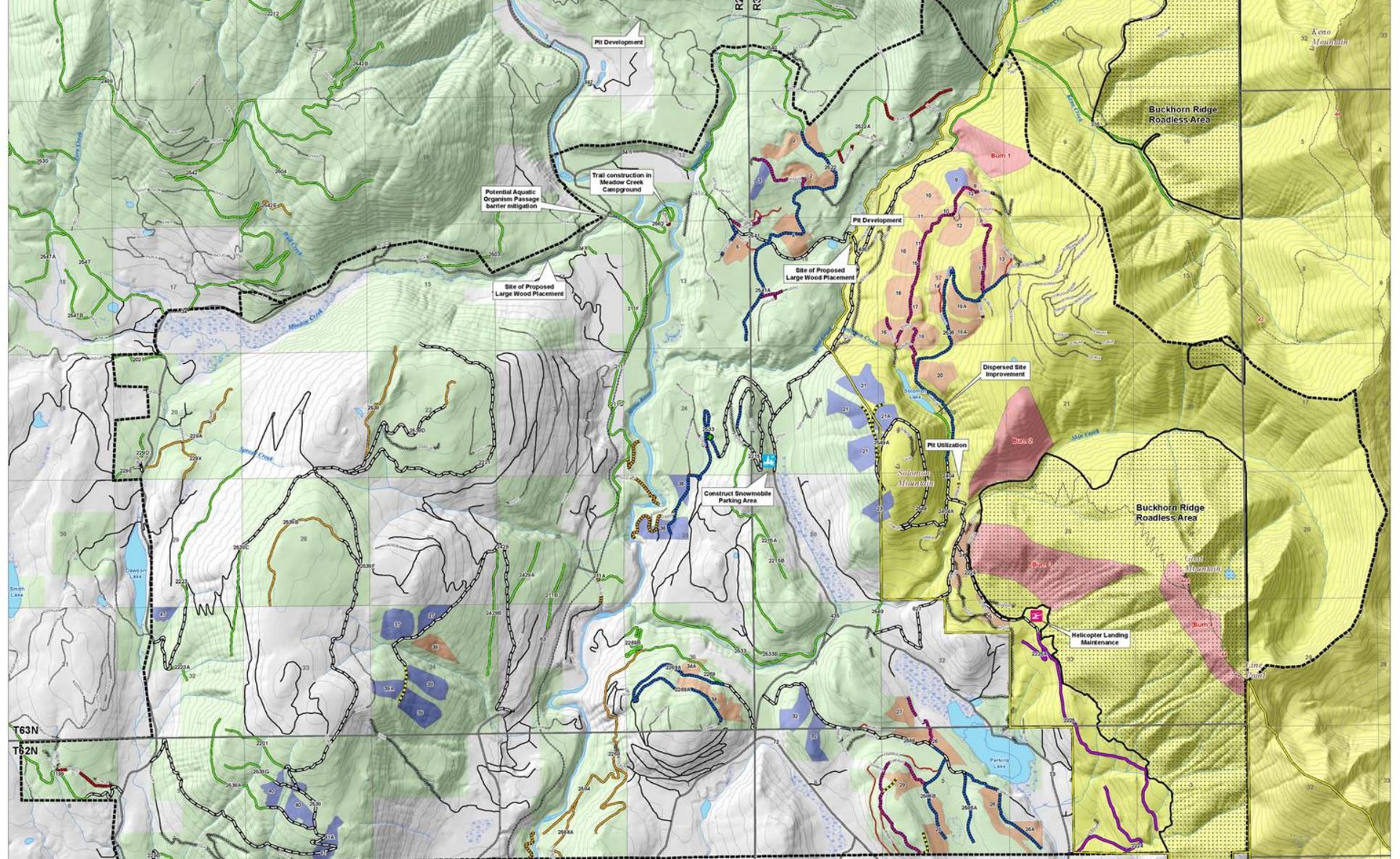


1:15,840
Miles

ATTENTION
This product is reproduced from general information prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. GIS data and product accuracy is the user's responsibility. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy, available only as certain to user. Generalized information is provided for reference only and does not constitute a warranty. Use of GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created may present a safety or health hazard. This information was released on 04/18/10. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification. For more information, contact: DeerCreek@fs.fed.us

Regeneration Openings < 40 Acres

- The proposed action would create forest openings larger than 40 acres in size.
- Forest Service policy (FSM 2471.1) and the NFMA limit openings created by regeneration type cuts to 40 acres or smaller unless the Regional Forester approves exceeding this limit.
- An alternative will be considered that constrains openings to the 40-acre limit as part of the process to receive Regional Forester approval.



Deer Creek - Alternative C

<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer Creek Project Area Alternative C - Proposed Burns Dry Site Improve Harvest - ST Harvest - SW PCT SWR/STR - PCT Small Wood Thin 	<p>ROADWORK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add to System and Leave Open Maintenance Not a Road / remove from INPRA Collaborate with Harvest Activities Reconstruction and Leave Open Reconstruction and Store Alternative C - Proposed Temporary Roads Wheelbar Repair 	<p>Existing Transportation System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Highway County Roads Open Roads Seasonal Roads Private Roads Nonmotorized Trails Administrative Roads Railroads 	<p>Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear Management Unit USDA FS Ownership 100-foot contours Wetland Streams
--	---	---	--



1:15,840

Miles



ATTENTION
 This product is reproduced from general information prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. GIS data and product accuracy is the user's responsibility. They may be developed from sources of varying accuracy, accuracy only as stated on source. Based on the user's responsibility. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created may present unacceptable or misleading results. This information was released on October 11, 2014. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification. For more information, contact: [unclear]@fs.fed.us

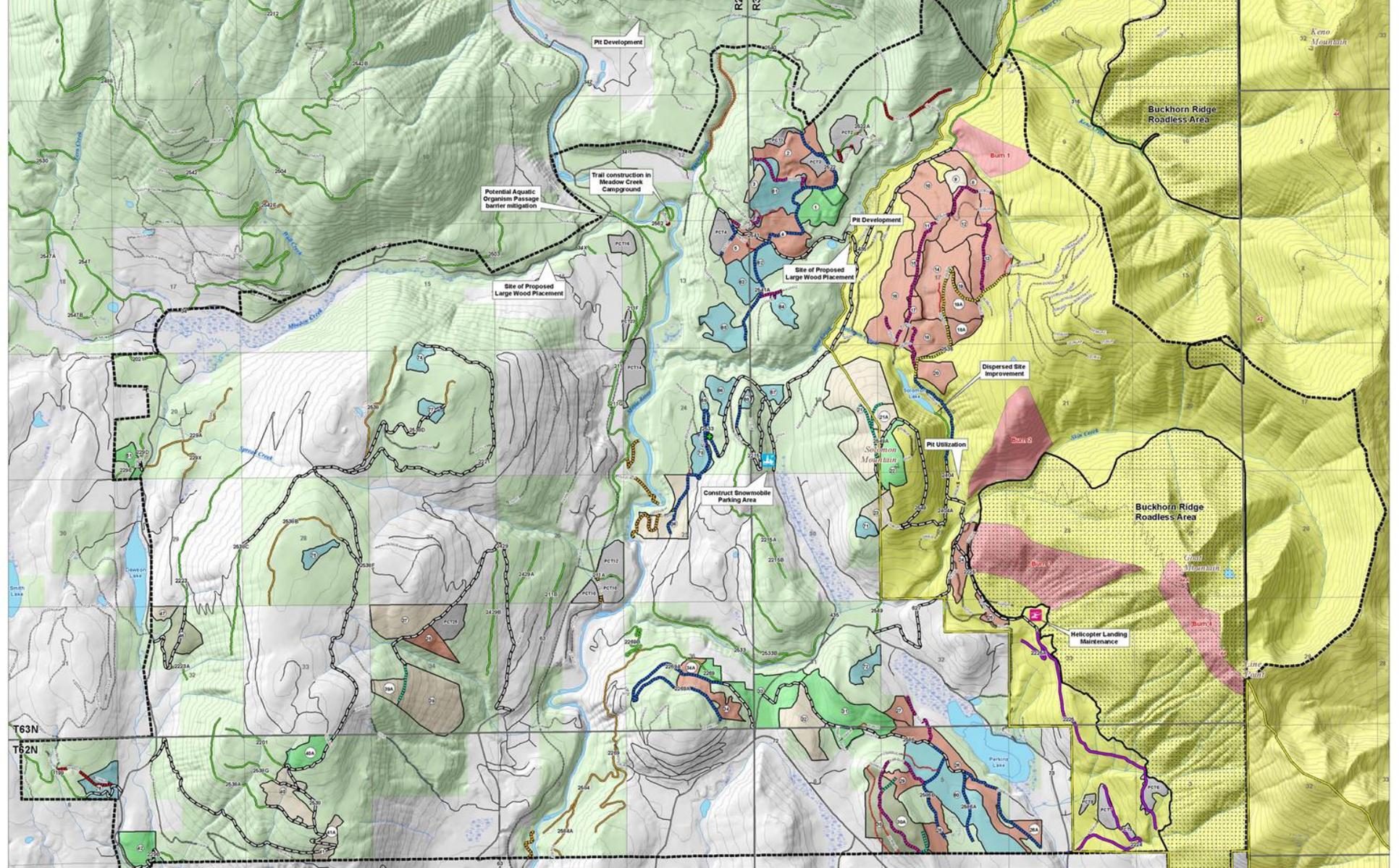
Alternatives

“...the Forest Service should develop an action alternative that includes decommissioning the Placer Creek Road...” (Public Comment)

Decommission 2540 Road along Placer Creek



- Otherwise identical to proposed action
- Alternate route provided by the 2541 and 2522 Roads
- Potentially improve aquatic habitat and respond to public comments



Deer Creek - Alternative A

Legend

Deer Creek Project Area

Alternative A - Perception

- Harvest - ST
- Harvest - SW
- SMRSTN - PCT
- Dry Site Improvement
- Small Wood Treat
- Alternative A - Proposed Burns

Alternative A - ROADWORK

- Add to System and Leave Open
- Add to System and Store
- Maintenance
- Collaborate with Harvest Activities
- Reconstruction and Leave Open
- Reconstruction and Restock
- Reconstruction and Store
- Reconstruct
- Side & Road Remove from MFRRA
- Alternative A - Proposed Temporary Roads

Existing Transportation System

- State Highway
- County Roads
- Open Roads
- Seasonal / Restricted Roads
- Private Roads
- Unimproved Trails
- Administrative Roads
- Subroads

Buckhorn Ridge Roadless Area

- Bear Management Unit
- USDA FS Ownership
- 100-ft contour
- Lakes
- Wetland
- Streams



1:15,640
Miles

ATTENTION

This product is reproduced from general information prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. GIS data and product accuracy is the user's responsibility. They may be developed from sources of varying accuracy, accuracy only as stated on source. Source data may be used for purposes other than those for which they were created. Any user assumes all responsibility for the information presented on this map. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification. For more information, contact: [unreadable]

**FSH 1909.15 – NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT HANDBOOK
CHAPTER 40 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS**

A decision notice must include:

(2) Decision and rationale (36 CFR 220.7(c))

This section should describe the selected alternative and the nature of the decision. Specifically, this section should discuss:

1. How comments were considered.
2. Factors other than environmental effects considered in making the decision.
3. Environmental document(s), by title, considered in making the decision.
4. How the preceding considerations were weighed and balanced in arriving at the decision.

Any alternatives considered, should be briefly discussed with specific citations to relevant information in the EA. Relevant mitigation measures, management requirements, and monitoring provisions should be discussed with specific citations to the EA.

Conceptual Comparison of Alternatives

Issue Indicator	No Action	Proposed Action	No BMU	<40 Acre	Placer Decom
Net Change in Legal Motorized Access (Miles)	0	+ 1.2	+1.4	+1.2	+0.3
Net Change in Social/Cultural Value (Qualitative)	No Change From Existing	Relative to the other action alternatives, all social/cultural value (positive or negative) directly associated with 0.88 miles of Placer Creek Road would be lost if it were decommissioned			
Timber Harvest Volume (MMBF)	0	10	5	7	10
Net Sediment Delivery (Tons/Year)	No Change From Existing	X	X	X	X
Net Project Revenue (\$'s)	0	300,000	150,000	210,000	250,000

Where We Are and Where We are Headed

- Scoping “Completed”
- Forest Supervisor Briefing on Public Involvement and Alternatives
- Specialist Reports and Analysis
- EA for public comment – August 2015
- EA and Draft DN for Objection– April 2016
- Final DN/FONSI – July 2016

