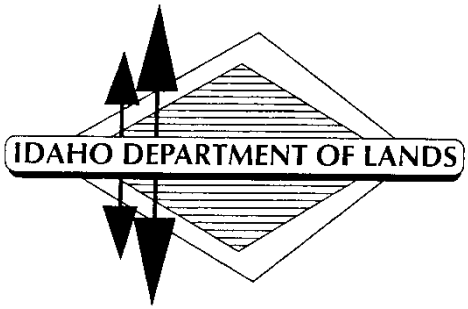


PRE-SALE REPORT

Sloans Yarder LS GNA Ton

CR-12-0008

PREPARED BY: _____ Date: _____
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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Descriptions in *italics* are as written in the "Sloans Point Forest Resilience Project, Decision Memo" (SPFR DM).

A. General Location:

The Sloans Yarder LS GNA Ton sale is a phase of the Sloans Point Forest Resilience Project. The sale will treat 117 acres on the Payette National Forest, McCall Ranger District. Project is located approximately 13 air miles south-southeast of McCall Idaho, east of HWY 55 in Valley County. It is within the upper Kennally Creek watershed. The main access point is Forest Service Road 388 (Paddy Flat Road), which intersects HWY 55.

B. Historical:

The Sloans Point project area is part of the Kennally Creek Watershed in the North Fork Payette River Subbasin, designated a national insect and disease treatment area by Governor Otter under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), as amended by the 2014 Farm Bill1. The primary objective of the Sloans Point Project is to limit the insect and disease disturbances which may be interfering with forest resiliency and reducing key components of the forest matrix, especially western larch and ponderosa pine.

For the Sloans Point Project, the Forest Service is partnering with the Idaho Department of Lands through the Good Neighbor Authority, which enables the Forest Service to achieve restoration and resilient landscape objectives across ownership boundaries through cooperative agreements. This cooperative effort will improve forest health in the Sloans Point project area while simultaneously creating jobs and economic benefits.

C. Purpose of Sale:

The purpose of the sale is to meet the objectives set forth in the 2003 Payette National Forest Land Management Plan. *The purpose of proposed treatments within the project area include:*

- *Move forest stands toward desired conditions by increasing forest resiliency to insects and disease, and by promoting the development of large tree forest structures mixed with a mosaic of size classes and seral species composition.*

- *Reduce the risk of additional tree mortality and subsequent tree hazards to forest visitors and infrastructure in areas of high visitor use.*

- Contribute to the local economy and forest products industry through timber production.

II. CURRENT CONDITIONS

A. Physiographic:

1. Drainages: All streams are part of the Upper Kennally Creek sub-watershed.

   All class II intermittent streams are buffered with 120-foot Riparian Conservation Areas and all class I perennial streams are buffered with 240-foot Riparian Conservation Areas. No tree felling or harvesting will occur within RCAs in the timber sale.

2. Aspect: North, West.

3. Slopes: 0% - 65%, average 45%

4. Soil Characteristics: *Total detrimental soil disturbance in Activity Areas meets Forest Service standard SWST02 and ranges from 0% to 13%. Total soil resource commitment for the Project Area meets the standard and accounts for 4.9% of the project area. Coarse woody debris was found to be within or above desired ranges for most units with only two having low levels of down debris. Almost all the project area (97.8%) falls in the stable category for Landslide Prone Areas.*

5. Elevation: 5,535’ – 6,645’, 5,900’

B. Stand Description:

1. Potential Vegetation Groups (PVG):

   The Payette National Forest is classified into potential vegetation groups (PVG). PVG’s found within this sale include:

   <u>PVG 6 – Moist Grand Fir</u>:

   Mixed severity fire regimes and adjacent to PVG 5 sites. Topography typically distinguishes between the two. Mixed coniferous overstory species include ponderosa pine (PIPO), Douglas-fir (PSME), western larch (LAOC), grand fir (ABGR), Engelmann spruce (PIEN), and lodgepole pine (PICO) on colder sites. Understory species include blue huckleberry (VADE), Rocky Mountain maple (ACGL), Rocky Mountain ash (SOSC), and mallow

ninebark (PHMA). Mostly found on north and northeastern aspects of sale area.

Reference *Appendix A* of the *Payette National Forest Land Management Plan* for more information regarding PVGs and desired conditions for each.

2. Pathological*: Dwarf mistletoes; conks (Indian paint fungus, red belt fungus); and western gall rust. Left unmanaged, dwarf mistletoe in the project area will likely spread, leading to an overall decline in condition and eventual mortality. Infected trees are also susceptible to attack by other pathogens and/or insects.*

3. Entomological: *Western spruce budworm; balsam woolly adelgid; western pine beetle; red turpentine beetle; pine engraver beetles (Ips species); mountain pine beetle; Douglas-fir beetle; fir engraver beetle; Douglas-fir tussock moth; wood borer beetles. According to the Sloans Point Forest Health Report (Forest Service 2018), without forest management actions or major disturbance events, such as a fire, in the long term, the western spruce budworm, balsam woolly adelgid could have the most impacts to stand development in this area, and bark beetles may remove the large early seral species—such as ponderosa pine and western larch—within each habitat type as the stands age.*

4. Current Stand Structure:

UNIT	SPECIES COMPOSITION (%)	Rx	QMD* (in)	TPA*	BASAL AREA* (ft^2)	ACRES
46	GF(42), DF(38), LP(12), ES(5), WL(2), PP(1)	SW	15.2	95	120	117*
					Total Acres:	117

* 8-inch DBH trees and larger.

B. Silvicultural and Harvest Plan:

1. Treatment Summary:

UNIT	SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION	GROSS ACRES	CURRENT MBF/ACRE	CURRENT TREES/AC.	RESIDUAL MBF/ACRE	RESIDUAL MERCHANTABLE TREES PER ACRE	RESIDUAL WILDLIFE TREES PER ACRE**
46	Shelterwood	117	16.5	95.2	3.3	17.3***	9.6

*Conifer tree data only **Based off snag data from timber cruise; 8-inch DBH and larger. See PNW-GTR-390. ***GNA leave tree tally.

Anticipated Stand Composition

UNIT	SPECIES COMPOSITION (%)	Rx	QMD* (in)	TPA**	BASAL AREA* (ft^2)	ACRES
46	DF(72), WL(10), GF(9), LP(7), PP(2)	SW	16.5	20	20	117*
					Total Acres:	117

* 8-inch DBH trees and larger.

2. Treatment Description as prescribed by Payette NF Staff in *italics*:

a) *Vegetation treatments are designed to promote species adapted to disturbance and desired forest and wildlife habitat conditions in accordance with the Payette Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Land Management Plan) (2003). Treatments will maximize the retention of old-growth and large trees, as appropriate for the forest type, to the extent that the trees promote stands that are resilient to insects and disease. Additionally, the project considered the best available scientific information to maintain or restore the ecological integrity, including maintaining or restoring structure, function, composition, and connectivity*.

Shelterwood - Unit 46.
Shelterwood treatments (117 acres) will be used to regenerate shade intolerant species such as ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and western larch. Preferred retention trees should be vigorous seral species, with full healthy crowns, spatially distributed throughout the treatment unit. Large diameter (>20"), dominant grand fir cull trees are acceptable for shelterwood retention. Generally, 10-30% canopy closure would be left for site protection and to provide seed.

Targeted stands would generally be areas with high levels of defoliation, stands that do not have enough healthy, vigorous early seral species to free thin, but have a greater component of early seral species than patch cut treatments. Shelterwood treatments would be utilized in areas with high levels of defoliation.

b) Forest Improvement Activity*: Maintenance burning (burning after initial application of fire) will occur as necessary according to Fire Regime conditions to maintain desired conditions; especially density management, forest structural and species composition diversity. Prescribed burning operations may occur at any time of year when conditions permit, typically spring (April, May, June) and fall (August, September, October). Prescribed fire will occur after harvest activities and ground disturbance from heavy equipment has been completed. Prescribed fires will be designed to achieve a mosaic of burned and unburned areas resulting in low soil severities and low-moderate vegetation severities in treatment areas.*

Following harvest, sale units will be assessed for artificial regeneration. Early seral species such as ponderosa pine (PIPO) and western larch (LAOC) are likely to be interplanted in shelterwood and patch cut areas to achieve desired future conditions.

c) Harvest Specifications:

Prior to any ground-disturbing activity, including but not limited to, the construction of landings, temporary roads, skid trails, road maintenance, prescribed burning, and logging activity, the USFS Wildlife Biologist or designated staff and the USFS Forest Botanist or designated staff must do on-site surveys for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive Wildlife and Plant species. Project area could require additional protections based upon findings.

Logging will only be permitted July 1 through December 15 of each year. Logging outside this time period shall require written approval from the State (Forester-in-charge) and may require a submission of a detailed plan to the State (Forester-in-charge) for approval not less than 30 days prior to the commencement of any work on the sale area. The plan shall describe how the procedure will provide a food chain of green ponderosa pine material to protect the residual stand from the pine engraver beetle (Ips). Any

alternate plans describing pine slash disposal shall be submitted to the State (Forester-in-charge). Each plan will include a map showing the location of proposed work.

Method	Acres	Equipment Specification*	Distance
Tractor	46	Rubber tire grapple skidder or grapple cat.	Up to 900’
Off Road Jammer	1	Off road jammer, single drum loader with tong.	300’
Cable	70	Cable yarder with locking carriage, 75’ of lateral skidding capacity.	Up to 900’

*Refer to Special Terms (30.) in contract for additional harvest specifications.

Leave tree mark (LTM) ***Unit 46 (117 acres):*** All conifers except white bark pine, alive, 8 inches diameter breast height and larger, containing at least 1 merchantable log **not marked with a band of orange paint** shall be felled and merchantable products removed.

Tree length skidding is required. However, the purchaser will be permitted to manufacture oversize trees in the woods to facilitate skidding.

C. Hazard Management Plan:

Whole tree yarding (117 acres), slash piling, and pile burning is adequate to meet FPA slash requirements. The purchaser will grapple pile all landings and larger roadside slash concentrations. If there is a concentration of slash greater than 2 feet in height in any unit, (117 acres) the purchaser will be required to lop and scatter slash to a height of less than 2 feet.

A combination of USFS and IDL personnel will burn landing and roadside piles. Noncommercial thinning (NCT) has been completed in adjacent areas and prescribed fire is planned in the area post harvest.

D. Erosion Control Plan:

1. All roads and skid trails will have erosion control measures in place as logging progresses, at the end of each logging season, or as directed by the State (Forester-in-charge) with recommendation from the Forest Service.

2. Skidding or hauling will not be permitted if the operation causes excessive soil erosion and/or compaction as determined by the State (Forester-in-charge) with recommendation from the Forest Service.

3. New skid trail locations and the use of existing skid trails shall be approved by the State (Forester-in-charge) with recommendation from the Forest Service. Trails shall not follow the bottoms of draws or be located in RCAs without prior approval by the State (Forester-in-charge) with recommendation from the Forest Service. Constructed skid trails shall not exceed 30% grade, except for short distances and width and depth of excavation shall be minimized as directed by the State (Forester-in-charge) with recommendation from the Forest Service.

4. All constructed and non-constructed skid trails will be decompacted/recontoured to the natural slope following harvest operations. Skid trails will be rehabilitated within one year and landings within three years of completion of harvest. Logs, slash, and grass seed will be applied on all exposed soil.

5. Ground based equipment will be allowed to operate on slopes up to 35%. On slopes greater than 35% offroad jammer or skyline harvesting systems will be required. As approved by a soil scientist, harvesting equipment may operate on areas with up to 40% slope for short distances (<150 feet).

6. All log landing/decking locations, and skid trails will be located outside of RCAs unless approved by the State (Forester in charge) with recommendation by the Forest Service.

E. Forest Practices Act:

This sale as prepared, meets or exceeds all Forest Practices Act rules and regulations. Variances are not anticipated for this sale.

IMPACT STATEMENT

A. Aesthetics:

The harvesting of units adjacent to Forest Service roads will have some visual impact on the general public traveling on said roads. Design features used during sale unit layout that will reduce the visual impact of the harvest areas include leaving more reserve trees adjacent to open roads and creating openings and harvest units that emulate natural openings with various shapes and sizes. All stumps will be cut to a height of less than 12 inches and all slash will be piled and burned or lopped and scattered so it appears to be mostly naturally occurring downed woody

material. With the implementation of these design features, the expectation is that overall, these units will have minimal visual impacts on the general public traveling on Forest Service roads.

B. Affected Interests:

Dispersed campers, hunters and other forest users will be minimally impacted by aesthetics, log truck traffic, and temporary closures due to active harvest operations. Log hauling will be prohibited on weekends (all day Saturday and Sunday); and all major holidays (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day).

C. Air Quality:

A burn plan will be developed according to the Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide, and *Forest Service Plan Standard ASST02*, to address prescribed fire mitigations for air quality, contingency, safety, and environmental effects (fire behavior). Integrate requirements of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group and those found in the Forest Plan. Ensure the burn plan specifies that weather parameters affecting fire behavior need to be within a desired range.

D. Cultural Resources:

If any cultural materials are encountered during the project, cease all ground-disturbing activities until a qualified archaeologist is consulted and regional inadvertent discovery protocols (Forest Service N.D.) are followed.

Leases:

The district range management specialist will be notified of the timing of project activities, including timber harvest, noncommercial thinning, prescribed burning, and road activities. Inform permittee(s), through the allotment annual operating instructions, of pending project activities to minimize the potential for conflicts and allow for short-term modification of grazing practices where necessary. Short-term modifications of grazing practices during project implementation should be coordinated with the hydrologist, fish biologist, and soil scientist to ensure compliance with the Forest Plan rangeland resource direction.

E. Roads and Traffic Patterns:

This sale is not expected to alter normal traffic patterns in the area. At times the secondary and spur roads may be blocked for short durations

during logging activity. Warning signs will be posted at critical intersections indicating “trucks entering roads” or other appropriate nomenclature.

F. Site Productivity:

Some minor site degradation and soil compaction is expected as the result of skid trail construction and harvesting operations. To mitigate compaction, whole tree yarding will be practiced as feasible to reduce the number of trips per skid trail. All newly constructed skid trails will be obliterated and recontoured following harvest activities.

See Erosion Control Plan for more information.

G. Water Quality:

There are no Class I fish bearing streams located in the timber sale harvest area.

No significant impacts are anticipated. Road construction and skidding activities pose the greatest impact to water quality. The items listed in the “Erosion Control Plan” and adhering to the Forest Practices Act best management practices will help to minimize any erosion problems that would affect water quality.

Stream channels will be kept clear of debris. No tree removal or harvest activity will be permitted within 120 feet of intermittent Class II non-fish bearing stream channels. Class II perennial non-fish bearing streams will have no tree removal or harvest activity within 240 feet of stream.

Storage of fuels and other toxicants or refueling sites within RCAs shall be approved by the State (Forester-in-charge) and have an approved spill containment plan commensurate with the amount of fuel (Forest Plan Standard SWST11).

These design features exceed Forest Practices Act minimum requirements for Class II streams.

H. Botanical, Wildlife, Fisheries / Threatened and Endangered Species:

1. Botanical: *Protect Region 4 sensitive and Payette National Forest watch plant locations (including whitebark pine) found before or during project implementation except where protection will create safety or project feasibility concerns (Forest Plan Standard BTST01). Protection measures may include reserve areas, relocation of project activities, seasonal restrictions, or other measures. Protection measures for new Region 4 sensitive plant*

and Payette National Forest watch occurrences will be evaluated on a site-specific basis in coordination with the Forest botanist.

2. Wildlife, T&E Species: See *SPFR DM – Project Design Features – WL-1 – WL-10. Prior to any ground-disturbing activity including all road maintenance and harvest activity the Forest Wildlife Biologist or designated staff must conduct on site activities to identify threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species; Management Indicator Species (MIS); or Sensitive species presence. Project activities and/or timing could be altered to protect wildlife species, as practicable. Using approved measures.*

3. Fisheries: See measures listed in the Erosion Control Plan and Water Quality sections of this report.