

**Twin Skin HFRA EA
Errata Sheets
May 30, 2008**

The following will be incorporated into the final document for implementation:

EA Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2, Connected Actions

1. Connected Action #1 (future salvage) described on page 16 of the EA is a deleted activity and will not be included in the decision document.
2. Connected Action #2 (herbicide use for noxious weeds) described on page 16 of the EA is a deleted activity and will not be included in the decision document.

EA Chapter 2, Section 2.3.3.1, Treatment Methods

The description of Roadside Hazard Tree Removal as described in the treatment methods in Table 2 under section 2.3.3.1 on page 18 of the EA will be reworded. This action is for safety purposes and focuses on the removal of hazard trees only along roadsides, and is unrelated to future salvage. The paragraph on page 18 of the EA in Table 2 under Roadside Hazard Tree Removal is deleted and replaced with the following:

Roadside Hazard Tree Removal could occur on up to 15 acres to remove individual or small groups of hazard trees at any single and scattered location where they are in striking distance of roads. No off-road equipment necessary – trees would need to be cable yarded to roadside or removed from road surface if they have fallen on the road – there should be no detectable change from the current condition based on this activity.

EA Appendix B, Section B pages 2-17, Wildlife BA

Updates to the Biological Assessment for Wildlife were made after the Environmental Assessment was published on March 10, 2008. The BA was updated and signed on March 11, 2008. These updates are mostly wording modifications and include:

- a. **Appendix B, page 12, Table 3. Keno BMU existing condition and proposed standards (%):**
 - 1) Add Row titled 'Forest Plan Standard'
 - 2) Add Column titled 'Security Habitat' and for Existing Condition add 71 mi²; for Forest Plan Standard add 70 mi².
- b. **Appendix B, page 12, paragraph 1:** Add 'security habitat' following the words 'core habitat' in the first sentence. Add the second sentence to read as follows: *Total and open road densities for that portion of the BMU within the project area are well above the recommended standard and only 40 acres of core habitat and 62 acres of security habitat currently exist.*

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- c. **Appendix B, page 13, paragraph 3;** Add the sentence at the end of paragraph 3: *Although treatments along 0.6 miles of open road will increase visibility, a minimum of one sight distance will be maintained along open roads and all units are within the 500 m influence zone of drivable roads, outside of core habitat.*
- d. **Appendix B, page 13, paragraph 5;** Add the sentence at the end of paragraph 5: *Proposed treatments will reduce security habitat by three acres, although available security habitat within the BMU will continue to exceed the 70 mi² standard.*
- e. **Appendix B, page 15, the last bullet under ‘Determination of Effect’;** Add: *Greater than 70 mi² (71 mi²) of security habitat will be provided and Alternative 2 meets the 1987 Forest Plan security standard.*
- f. **Appendix B, page 15, Conservation Measures to Reduce or Avoid Adverse Effects:** Add the following:
 - To reduce the chance of grizzly bears foraging along open roads and motorized trails, clover or similar species would not be included along open roads and motorized trails.
 - Appropriate provisions for site sanitation would be included within the pertinent contract operations associated with the implementation of the proposed activities.

The Mitigation Measures (in item ‘f’ above) will be added to Section 2.4 (Design Criteria), item 2) for wildlife on page 19 of the EA

The signed Wildlife BA – dated March 11, 2008 – has been updated to the project file.

In addition to the updates to the BA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued an update species list for Listed and Proposed Endangered and Threatened Species, Candidate Species and Species of Concern that may occur within the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (FWS 1-9-08-SP-0067). The following is amended to the Wildlife BA in Appendix B page 16:

Effective April 9, 2008, the US Fish and Wildlife Service officially de-listed the gray wolf and this species has been added to the Northern Region sensitive species list. All project mitigation measures included in the Twin Skin Environmental Assessment related to reducing impacts to the gray wolf and its habitat will remain in place during implementation of treatments and there is no change in anticipated effects to the gray wolf from those considered in the Biological Assessment. As a result implementation of Alternative 2 of the Twin Skin project may impact individuals, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or a loss of viability for this species.

The Twin Skin project area is not included within a lynx analysis unit (LAU) and is not along a linkage corridor between lynx habitat. As a result designation of

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critical lynx habitat will have no effect on this species or alter the analysis of effects discussed in the Twin Skin Biological Assessment.

EA Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2 Alternative 2 – Proposed Action, Table 1

Unit 9 will be split into two units – Unit 9 and Unit 9A. These two units together will cover the same area as what was analyzed for under Unit 9 in the EA. Unit 13 will be split into two units – Unit 13 and Unit 13A. These two units together will cover the same general area as what was analyzed for under Unit 13 in the EA, but fewer acres will be treated to avoid impacts to a cultural resource. In addition, there will be slight modifications to the prescription for Unit 11. The following updates the EA:

Update Table 1: Proposed Fuels Reduction Treatments by Unit as follows:

1. Unit 9 – Change to 20 acres
2. Add Unit 9A (split out from the original Unit 9) – ‘Silvicultural Rx’ is Commercial Thin/Sanitation Salvage – 5 acres – Skyline – ‘Fuels Rx’ is UB
3. Unit 11 – Change ‘Silvicultural Rx’ to Weed and Release (drop ‘Improvement Cut’ portion of prescription) – No harvest system – ‘Fuels Rx’ is GP
4. Unit 13 – Change to 25 acres
5. Add Unit 13A (split out from the original Unit 13) – ‘Silvicultural Rx’ is Weed and Release (WR) – 4 acres – No harvest system – ‘Fuels Rx’ is GP
6. In addition to the changes for Units 9, 9A, 11, 13 and 13A, delete the ‘PCT’ Unit – 22 acres. The precommercial thin unit will not be part of the decision, as it was accomplished under a previous decision document.

EA Chapter 2, Section 2.3.3 Detailed Description of Proposed Activities – Table 2

Add the following:

1. Unit 9A under Commercial Thin/Sanitation Salvage
2. Units 11 (40 acres) and 13A (4 acres) under a new section called ‘Treatment – Weed and Release’ as follows:

General Stand Conditions – These stands were previously treated with a seed tree harvest in the early 1990s. Much of the immature trees and advanced regeneration are undesirable lodgepole, western hemlock and grand fir with poor form and vigor that are competing with regenerating larch and white pine.

Description of Treatment and Residual Stand – A Weed and Release prescription will favor leaving white pine and larch regeneration over other conifer species on these sites, especially lodgepole.

Incidental grapple-piling and pile burning where necessary for small diameter activity fuels left after implementation of the weeding operations.

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3. Update acres to Table 2 of the EA as described above.
4. Delete the Precommercial Thin Treatment – PCT – 22 acres.

EA Chapter 2, Section 2.4, Design Criteria

Incorporate and update changes to Units 11, Units 9A and 13A into appropriate Design Criteria starting on page 19 of EA:

1. Delete Unit 11 under bullet item ‘Soils’ for tractor-yarded Units, EA page 20
2. Add Unit 9A under bullet item ‘Soils’ for skyline-yarded units, EA page 20
3. Add Unit 13A under bullet ‘Soil productivity and nutrient cycling’ item (b), moist forest habitat, EA page 21. In the same paragraph, change the word ‘harvest’ in the second sentence to ‘treatment’.
4. Add Unit 9A under bullet ‘Soil productivity and nutrient cycling’ item (b), dry forest habitat, EA page 21
5. Add Unit 13A to item (1) under ‘Snag Resource’ top of EA page 22
6. Add Unit 9A to item (2) under ‘Snag Resource’ top of EA page 22.

EA Chapter 2, Section 2.6, Alternative Comparison

Update Table 3: Alternative Comparison of Project Activities, to include acreage updates as follows:

- Mechanical Harvest: 625 Acres
- Underburn: 80 Acres
- Pile Burn: 590 Acres

For Chapter 3:

- Delete discussions of the 22 acre precommercial thin unit where it is referred to on pages 34 and 38.
- Add Unit 9A under Section 3.2.3 under *Dry Habitat Groups*, page 26
- Add Unit 13A to the fourth sentence in the second paragraph under *Effects of proposed action in relation to previous activities*, page 47.

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Revised Project Treatment Map

