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Subject: Fire and Fuels Evaluation for Tumbledown

To: Project File

FIRE/FUELS

Regulatory Framework

There are four guiding documents that establish the direction for fire management. These documents provide the framework for fire management and provide specific goals, standards, and objectives for implementing a fire management program. Additional guidance and purpose for the Tumbledown project is recommended by the Bonner County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (discussed further in this section). Fire handbooks, guides, research, and technical papers provide further direction.

Guiding Documents	Direction
The IPNF Forest Plan	Provides standards and goals that Management Plans need to address on the Forest as well as provides Forest-wide and Management Area guidelines that define land uses.
The Forest Service Manual	Mandates all National Forests and lists objectives for fuels management.
Federal Wildland Fire Policy	Establishes standardized procedures and policies for Federal wildland fire management agencies.
National Fire Plan	Directs a comprehensive approach to the management of wildland fire, hazardous fuels, and ecosystem restoration on Federal and adjacent State, tribal, and private forest and range lands.

The IPNF Forest Plan objective is to implement efficient fire protection and fire use programs based on management objectives, site-specific conditions, and expected fire occurrence and behavior. The following are the key standards currently guiding the IPNF fire management plan:

- *Human life and property will be protected.*
- *The appropriate suppression response for designated old growth stands in all management areas, except in wilderness, will result in prevention of old growth loss.*
- *Activity fuels will be treated to reduce their potential rate of spread and fire intensity so the planned initial attack organization can meet initial attack objectives.*

The primary Forest Plan Management Area (MA4) within the Tumbledown project area include goals to manage suitable big game winter range through scheduled timber harvests. The fire protection standard to satisfy that goal is to use the most appropriate management response (confine, contain, and control) to achieve the best benefit based on commercial timber values and where appropriate, big-game winter range values. Prescribed fire is to be used as needed to meet both silvicultural and management area objectives.

Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5105 defines fuel as combustible wildland vegetative materials, living or dead. The objective of fuel management as stated by FSM 5150.2 is to identify, develop, and maintain fuel profiles that contribute to the most cost-efficient fire protection and use program in support of land and resource management direction in the Forest Plan. Methods used for controlling the flammability and intensity of a fire may include mechanical, chemical, biological, or manual means, including the use of prescribed fire and wildland fire use (FSM 5150).

The "Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review" was chartered by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture in 1995 to examine the need for modification of and addition to Federal fire policy. Fire suppression policy from the early 1900s until the late 1970s has been that of total suppression. Only recently has fire policy been modified to recognize the importance of fire in balancing vegetation cycles within the temperate forest. The review recommended a set of consistent policies for all federal wildland fire management agencies. In January 2001, 6 federal agencies revisited the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy driven by the severity of the 2000 fire season. This review and update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy highlighted several principal conclusions that are appropriate to emphasize in this Fire and Fuels analysis. One such conclusion states: "as a result of fire exclusion, the condition of fire-adapted ecosystems continues to deteriorate; the fire hazard situation in these areas is worse than previously understood" (referring to the conditions in 1995 when the parent document was published). The review continues with a conclusion that "the fire hazard situation in the Wildland Urban Interface is more complex and extensive than understood in 1995."

In adopting the policy, the Federal Agencies recognized the role of wildland fire as an essential ecological process and natural change agent that will be incorporated into the planning process (USDI and USDA 2001 and 2001b). The severe wildfire seasons in recent years throughout the country have made it clear that fire cannot be excluded from fire-dependent ecosystems. On the other hand, because of commercial forests, private lands, homes, and communities fire cannot be fully restored to its historic character without severe consequences to humans, except perhaps in a few of the largest wilderness areas (Brown et al. 1994, in Hardy and Arno 1996).

The National Fire Plan (NFP 2000) originated after the record-breaking wildfire season of 2000, President Bush requested a national strategy for preventing the loss of life, natural resources, private property, and livelihoods in the wildland/urban interface. Working with Congress, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior jointly developed the National Fire Plan ***(www.fireplan.gov)*** to respond to severe wildland fires, reduce their impacts on communities, and assure sufficient firefighting capabilities for the future. The National Fire Plan (2000) includes five key points:

- Firefighting/ preparedness
- Rehabilitation and restoration of burned areas
- Reduction of hazardous fuels
- Community assistance
- Accountability

The NFP is a long-term commitment based on cooperation and communication among federal agencies, states, local governments, tribes and interested publics. The federal wildland fire management agencies worked closely with these partners to prepare a 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy. The four goals of the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy are to

- Improve fire prevention and suppression
- Reduce hazardous fuels
- Restore fire-adapted ecosystems
- Promote community assistance

In response to the goal in the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy to promote community assistance, Bonner County initiated a contract to develop a Fire Mitigation Plan (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) to aid in the protection of the communities within the county (Online: http://www2.state.id.us/lands/nat_fire_plan/county_wui_plans/bonner/bonner_county_plan.htm).

The goal of the Bonner County Community Wildfire Protection Plan is to:

> *Reduce the risk to life and property, increase firefighter and public safety, and reduce suppression costs through forest fuels modification.*

The Bonner County Community Wildfire Protection Plan further states:

> *The creation of defensible space around individual homes is only a part of a strategy necessary to ensure adequate protection from wildfire. It is necessary to do hazardous fuels treatment (HFT) beyond defensible space within the wildland urban interface in order to more completely address the threat from wildfire.*

Wildland Urban Interface:
Any wildland area within two miles of dwellings used for human habitation and/ or infrastructure (Bonner County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, 2004)

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 defines the term Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) as an area within or adjacent to an at-risk community (Lakeview, Idaho) that is identified in recommendations to the Secretary in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Wildland Urban Interface is defined by the Bonner County Community Wildfire Protection Plan as being any wildland area within two miles of dwellings used for human habitation and/ or infrastructure that serves these points of habitation. The Tumbledown Project lies within the Wildland Urban Interface and dovetails with the County's Goals of protecting life and property from intense wildfire. The Tumbledown project can be found in Appendix H of the Bonner County Community Wildfire Protection plan. The Tumbledown project is a priority project near the community of Lakeview, Idaho. The Bonner County WIldland Urban Interface Committee (BONFIRE Committee) has supported this project since it was first discussed in 2004. The 2007 Draft revision of the Bonner County Community Wildfire Protection plan has identified areas (such as the Tumble down project area) which have no rural

or city structure fire department as high priority for fuels treatment. The BONFIRE Committee has continued it's support of this project during the annual update and review of Appendix H of the Bonner County Community Wildfire Protection plan.

In addition the Tumbledown project area was identified in 2004 as a future project priority under the IPNF Fire Year Fuels Strategy. http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/eco/fire/ipnf_5yr_fuels_plan.pdf The proposed treatments of the Tumbledown Project meet the intent of both the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (2003) and the Bonner County Community Wildfire Protection Plan in terms of reducing fire intensities in the WUI.

Homes and other structures continue to be constructed near and around lands managed as National Forests. When wildland fires occur, these structures within the wildland-urban interface are vulnerable to destruction from fire, post fire floods, and damage to natural resources. As people, homes, and structures continue to occupy the wildland-urban interface and as hazard fuels continue to accumulate, a high risk and volatile situation needs to be addressed. The proposed activities in the Tumbledown project area are designed to reduce fire intensity and increase the chance of successful fire suppression by reducing forest fuel loadings, reducing ladder fuels, and reducing the number of trees with interlocking crowns that could contribute to crown fire initiation and crown fire spread. The project is designed to capture all of the principles from guiding documents as well as the strategies of the NFP to reduce fire intensities in the urban-interface and restore fire-adapted ecosystems.

Methodology

Suppression of all wildfires in the Tumbledown project area has been ongoing for nearly a century. Fire exclusion, has caused a substantial change in stand conditions and related fire behavior, especially in the dry habitat types of the project area. Changes in surface, ladder, and crown fuels have resulted in the potential for an increase in fire intensity and burn severity when fires do/will initiate. The arrangement and amount of fuels currently present can now carry a fire into the crowns of trees, resulting in fires of high intensity and severity. These intense fires are difficult to suppress, threaten human life and property, and can result in the loss of key ecosystem components (tree species such as ponderosa pine, white pine, and western larch). Erratic fire behavior of this nature within close proximity to urban residences can endanger lives and disrupt communities. Thus defining the purpose and need of the project: to reduce hazardous fuels and lessen the risk of a severe wildfire by treating the vegetation and fuels on approximately 700 acres of Forest Service lands adjacent to private land and/or along Forest Service Road 278 within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

The BehavePlus (v.3.0.1) model will be used to compare fire behavior between existing conditions and after treatment. The BehavePlus (v.3.0.1) model assumes that fire is no longer affected by the source of ignition and the fire is not being affected by suppression action. Fire behavior is heavily weighted toward fine fuels, due to fuels larger than one inch having little effect on rate of spread and fuels larger than three inch having no effect. The model assumes that fuels are continuous and uniform, the more uniform the fuel bed, the more accurately the model will predict fire behavior. Uniform weather and topography are also assumed, changes in slope and weather parameters require new calculations.

Existing Condition

The following photos are examples of the existing fuel conditions in the project area that can now carry a fire into the crowns of trees, resulting in fires of high intensity and severity which are difficult to supress.

Figure 1. High fire risk areas
Tumbledown Stand # 628-03-16 10/14/04

Figure 2. High fire risk areas
Tumbledown Stand # 628-03-16 10/14/04

Figure 3. High fire risk areas.
Tumbledown - Stand # 628-02-45 10-14-04

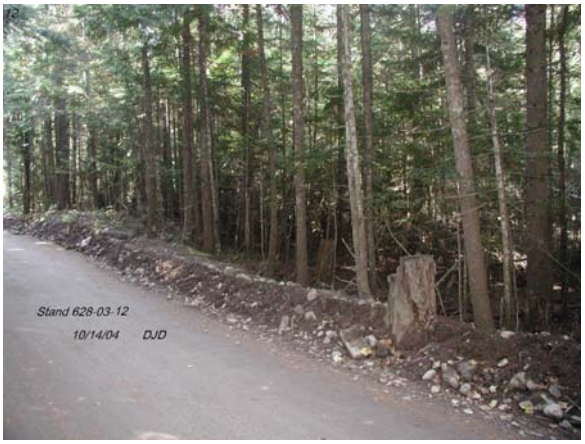

Figure 4. High risk fire areas.
Tumbledown - Stand # 628-03-12 10-14-04

Fire History

The fire history of the area has been described in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Packsaddle timber sale in 1995, and the West Gold SEIS 2006.

The fire history of the Packsaddle Analysis Area was developed from a series of aerial photographs. Three major fires were documented. A wildfire in 1919 burned the upper sections of Tumbledown and Canyon Creeks. Several fires in 1926 burned many large areas throughout the Analysis Area, which totally encompasses the Tumbledown project area. A large fire in 1934 burned nearly all the Project area leaving only scattered areas unburned (Packsaddle EIS).

The fire history of the West Gold Analysis Area utilized aerial photos, research from adjacent drainges, and documented historical records**.**

The most significant historic natural disturbance affecting vegetation in the Pend Oreille subbasin was fire. Based on the Zack and Morgan study (1994), historically over a 70-year period, the total acreage of stand-replacing fires would approximately equal one-third the area of the forest. These stand-replacing burns would be a combination of single stand-replacing fires and reburns of some of these areas a few years after the initial stand-replacing fire. Mixed-severity fires would have occurred across an area approximately the size of the forest, although repeated burns would have occurred over some of the same area (Art Zack 2002 personal communication).

Fire was also the major natural disturbance event in the Gold Creek watershed, including North Gold Creek. The historical descriptions that follow reveal the severity and expanse of the fire disturbances within these watersheds.

In 1891, Frederick J. Mills completed the original survey of the Boise Meridian (Mills 1891). In his notes Mills described the timber vegetation and some of the species present along the survey line. He noted that the timber had been burnt over many years prior and was primarily a combination of dense undergrowth and young trees. Based on Mills' description, it appears that a large lethal and mixed-severity fire occurred in this area sometime in the 1850s. Figure 5 shows a photograph of the town of Lakeview in 1899. Many of the trees that can be seen surrounding the town appear to be about 30 to 50 years old, confirming the past occurrence of such a large fire.

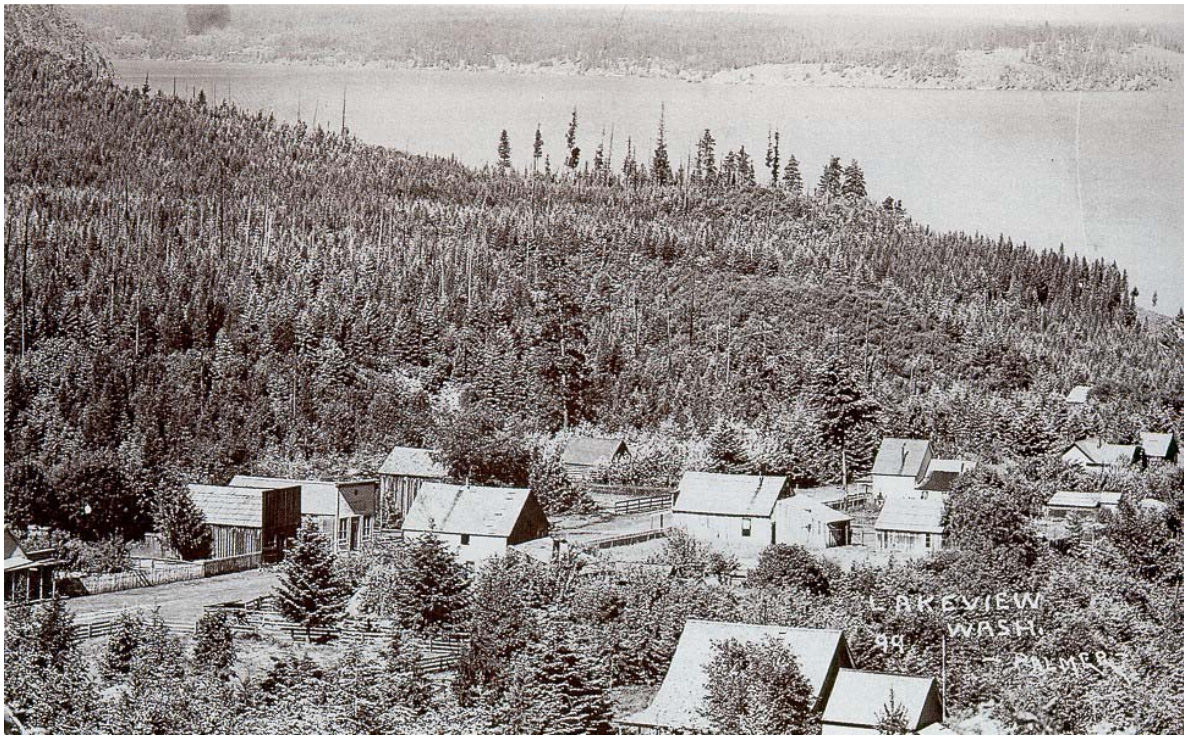

Figure 5. Lakeview, Idaho townsite in 1899. The photographer mistakenly labeled it “Lakeview Washington”. The size of the trees surrounding the town indicates that a large stand-replacing fire swept through the area sometime in the 1850s (used with permission from the Museum of North Idaho).

In 1908, when the Boise Meridian was resurveyed (Penland 1908), it was again noted that the entire area was burned over, and the surveyors stated, "…very few original corners remain." This fire is estimated to have occurred in 1896, as notes indicate that the Weber Mine burned in a forest fire that year (Kun 1970, Fulwider 1993).

R. M. Gumaer and J.C. Decamp gave another description eight years later in writing about the Pend Oreille National Forest Classifications (USDA 1916). They described the Gold Analysis area as being "well covered; in parts where excessive burning has destroyed the cover," and that "...a fine stand of reproduction covers the abrupt slopes and ridges."

The fire of 1896 appears to have been a very large stand-replacing and mixed-severity fire, with some nonlethal fire occurring on the dry slopes where large ponderosa pine were present. This fire and previous fires left the vegetation in an early successional stage of stand development, with grasses, brush and small trees of seedling, sapling and pole sizes dominating the landscape. Fires continued to play an active role in vegetation disturbance through approximately 1934. In fire history mapping compiled by Warren Peterson and Larry Stone (Peterson 1963 and Stone 1990), approximately 25 percent of the Gold Creek Watershed area reburned from the period 1926-1934 with stand-replacement and mixed-severity fires. Aerial photos of the project area taken in 1933 (Figures 6 and 7) show visually the open condition of the forest landscape. The mixed severity fire history had created this open mosaic.

Historic fire regimes in moist habitat types were variable and consisted of long-interval, large, lethal fires mixed with shorter return interval, nonlethal, and mixed-severity fires. The dry forest types within the project area are scattered among larger areas of moist types. These types historically burned more frequently with nonlethal and mixed-severity fire (Smith and Fischer 1997).

Figure 6. Twin Creek 1933 showing the open areas from past mixed severity fires in light gray.

Figure 7. Lakeview and the Gold Creek drainage 1933. Light gray areas are open from past mixed severity fires

Fire Regime & Condition Class

Fire regimes are identified by the interaction of fire with the environment, the number of fire occurrences and the frequency at which these occurrences take place. The fire regime indicates the frequency or fire return interval and the type of fire severity that is considered *typical*. Each fire regime has three condition classes that have been developed to categorize the current ecological condition as defined in terms of departure from the historic fire regime. Condition classes are a function of the degree of departure from historical fire regimes resulting in alterations of key ecosystem components such as species composition, structural stage, stand age, and canopy closure. One or more of the following activities may have caused this departure: fire exclusion, timber harvesting, grazing, introduction and establishment of exotic plant species, insects and disease (introduced or native), or other past management activities. As the condition class number increases a greater deviation is indicated with the associated greater risk of the loss of key biological elements found within the system.

Fire Regime Frequency and Severity

Fire Regime Group	Frequency Fire Return Interval	Fire Severity (Fire effects on the dominate vegetation)
I	0 – 35 year	Low severity
II	0 – 35 year	Stand replacement severity
III	35 – 200 + year	Mixed severity
IV	35 – 200 + year	Stand replacement severity
V	> 200 year	Stand replacement severity

Condition Class and Fire Regime Relationships

Condition Class	Fire Regime
CC1	Fire regimes are within an historical range and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Vegetation attributes (species composition and structure) are intact and functioning with an historical range.
CC2	Fire Regime has been moderately altered from their historical range. The risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Fire frequencies have departed from historical frequencies by one or more return intervals (either increased or decreased). This results in moderate changes to one or more of the following: fire size, intensity and severity, and landscape patterns. Vegetation attributes have been moderately altered from their historical range.
CC3	Fire regimes have been significantly altered from their historical range. The risk of losing key ecosystem components is high. Fire frequencies have departed from historical frequencies by multiple return intervals. This results in dramatic changes to one or more of the following: fire size, intensity, severity, and landscape patterns. Vegetation attributes have been significantly altered from their historical range.

The project area is best represented by Fire Regime Group III and Condition Class 3. The project area occurs on Habitats Types Groups (HTG) 2, 4 and 5 (see silviculture write up). These types are presented by both dry forests (HTG2) with fire return intervals of less then 25 year and moist forests (HTG 4 & 5) with fire free intervals ranging between 50 to 200 years and variable fire regimes including both mixed severity fires on 50 to 80 year interval as well as stand replacing fires. Key components such as Western White Pine have already been lost due to White Pine Blister Rust and historic fire frequencies have been altered due to successful fire suppression over the last 70 years.

Environmental Consequences

Fuels & Fire Behavior -Direct and Indirect Effects

Fires generally burn in the surface fuels. It is the logs, branches, twigs, litter, herbaceous and shrubby plants that make up the surface fuels. Surface fire predictions are based primarily on the flaming front advancing steadily in surface fuels within six feet of and contiguous to the ground (Rothermel 1983).

The majority of the project area is currently classified as a Fuel Model 10 due to composition (dead, down material, live ladder fuels, and timber overstory), fuel loading, and expected fire behavior. In this fuel model, fires burn in the surface and ground fuels with greater intensity than the other timber litter models. Crowning, spotting, and torching of individual trees is more frequent in this fuel model leading to potential fire control difficulties. (Anderson 1982). This is due to the amount of 1, 10, and 100-hour fuels present, which under the right conditions (high temps, low relative humidity, etc.) are receptive and will carry a fire.

After the project is implemented, a majority of the area that is currently Fuel Model 10 will be modified to more closely represent a Fuel Model 8. The areas not included in this fuel model conversion are the riparian zones and leave pockets of moist habitat types such as western red cedar where no commercial harvest will occur.

In the short term (up to five years), slash created from the treatment activities would increase the fire hazard until it was properly treated according to fuel mitigations in the proposed action, or it naturally abated. The unmerchantable branches and other fuels that are left after harvest can substantially increase fuel load, increasing fire hazard until the fuel on site is treated with underburning or piling (USDA Forest Service 2003). The increased hazard from slash is somewhat offset by stand density reduction. The removal of logs reduces fuels, and opening stands up would tend to force wildfires to burn on the ground and not in the tree crowns.

During harvesting operations, the potential of man-caused fire ignition increases. Common ignition sources include: equipment and vehicle operation, smoking, and arson. Standard timber sale contract provisions would require a timber purchaser to have fire suppression equipment on site and to take necessary fire precautions to prevent accidental wildfire ignitions. In the event of extreme fire conditions, harvest activities would be regulated or suspended until conditions improve. A timber sale administrator closely monitors the fire prevention requirements of the timber contract throughout the timber harvest operations.

The proposed action would remove part of the forest canopy, which would reduce the moderating effect of canopy (sheltering) on wind speed, so surface winds (winds beneath the canopy that effect surface fuels) would increase (Scott and Reinhardt 2001).

(Agee, Skinner 2005) has also stated that when activities are followed by sufficient treatment of surface fuels, the overall reduction of fire behavior and severity outweighs the increased winds and consequently the reduction in fuel moistures.

A small portion of the project area is classified as Fuel Model 2. Fire spreads primarily through the fine herbaceous fuels, either cured or dead. Within the project area these areas are found on the ridge tops, rocky areas with shallow soils and the west/southwest facing aspects of the project area. These areas are currently a mix of open ponderosa pine and Douglas fir with an annual grass shrub understory. Since these areas are a small portion of the project area and will remain a Fuel Model 2 post treatment there will be no comparison in this analysis.

The following figures compare predicted fire behavior outputs between Fuel Models 8 (post treatment), and 10 (pretreatment). The BehavePlus (v.3.0.1) model was used to compare the fire behavior outputs for the existing and post treatment conditions. The analysis reflects the 97th percentile weather conditions. The fire/fuels project file includes the environmental conditions and fire behavior estimates. A percentile is a value on a scale that indicates the percentage of a distribution that is equal to it or below it. For example a temperature at the 97th percentile is equal to or higher than 97 percent of the observed temperatures.

Figure 6: Output for BehavePlus (v.3.0.1) Existing Condition

Tumbledown 97th Percentile Weather Existing Condition

Surface Rate of Spread (maximum)	26.5 ch/h
Flame Length	9.0 ft
Critical Surface Flame Length	2.5 ft
Transition to Crown Fire ?	Yes
Active Crown ?	Yes
Fire Type	Crowning

Figure 7: Output for BehavePlus (v.3.0.1) Post Treatment

Tumbledown 97th Percentile Weather Post Treatment

Surface Rate of Spread (maximum)	6.8 ch/h
Flame Length	2.0 ft
Critical Surface Flame Length	5.8 ft
Transition to Crown Fire ?	No
Fire Type	Surface

The predicted fire behavior under post treatment conditions is much less intense and less resistant to control than the estimated fire behavior for the existing condition. The presence of Fuel Model 8 adjacent to key areas such as private land and values at risk would most likely result in a fire that has a lower probability of causing damage to those values. The limit of direct attack by hand crews is 4 foot flame lengths (NWCG Fireline Handbook 2004). Under existing condition Fuel Model 10 the predicted intensities would exceed the limit for direct attack by hand crews. Further under the existing conditions the fire behavior transitions into the crowns of trees and burns as an active crown fire (Figure 6). Under these conditions suppression efforts are often not successful.

By reducing the potential for high intensity and fast moving crown fires these fuel treatments will increase the chance of successful fire suppression and greatly lower the potential costs associated with large fires in the WUI. There would also be a considerable safety benefit to Firefighters working to suppress a fire.

The proposed action prescribes treatments that promote the existence and development of long lived species such as western larch, ponderosa pine, and white pine. Removal of shade tolerant species (grand fir, Douglas Fir) reduces the available fuels that provide a pathway for fire to burn into the tree crowns. Removal of those species facilitates a reintroduction of the historic fire régimes, a desired condition consistent with the purpose and need.

Air Quality Smoke Management

All prescribed burning would be conducted following the Memorandum of Understanding established between the States of Idaho and Montana to comply with State and Federal air quality standards. Burning would only occur when weather and atmospheric events (air conditions) are favorable for smoke dispersal. No burning would be initiated during times when air quality restrictions are in place. This practice has resulted in no air quality violations issued to the Sandpoint Ranger District.

Summary

The proposed treatments (Table 1 - Silvicultural Diagnosis Summary) would reduce hazardous fuels and improve our ability to suppress fire in the Tumbledown project area. Research states that fuel treatments help modify fire behavior so that some wildfires can be suppressed more easily. The most appropriate fuel treatment strategy is often removing ladder fuels and decreasing tree crown density followed by piling and the burning of the piles to reduce surface fuels (Graham , Jain 2004).

As stand conditions in the project area continue to deteriorate and fuel loads increase, the potential for fire to escape initial attack also increases. This in turn increases the chances of a fire escaping onto adjacent private lands or from private lands onto federal lands.

This analysis finds that implementing the proposal and the subsequent fuel treatment would decrease the potential fire hazard in and around these areas. The thinned canopies would be less susceptible to crown fire and the associated severe effects, the surface fuels would be less

hazardous resulting in lower fire intensities and severities. The ability for crews to suppress the fires would be easier and safer.

Cumulative Effects Common to All Alternatives

The cumulative effects area for all fire-related effects analysis for the Tumbledown project area encompasses all of the federal and non-federal lands that could burn from a fire burning into or out of the project area in any single fire event. This area is not definable on a map, because determining how large or how far a fire would travel is dependent on a number of variables including fuel conditions, temperature, relative humidity, wind, topography, and many others that cannot be determined until an ignition occurs. An example of how far and fast fires on the Sandpoint Ranger District can spread is the Sundance Fire of 1967, which traveled more than 16 miles and engulfed more than 50,000 acres, mostly within a nine-hour time frame (USDA 1968).

Current practices on private lands within and adjacent to the Tumbledown project area are expected to continue. Timber harvest would most likely occur on portions that are forested. Typical treatments on these lands usually include some form of partial cutting that focuses on removal of trees with the highest economic value, which are often the largest trees. This practice typically removes the large fire-resistant seral species that require abundant sunlight to flourish. Natural regeneration usually fills in any created openings. This type of environment tends to favor the reproduction of shade-tolerant species like Douglas-fir and grand fir. It is probably safe to say that inherent disturbance regimes and historic vegetation patterns would not likely be reestablished on these private land parcels.

Since private lands often include residences and other developments, fire would continue to be aggressively suppressed on private lands and National Forest lands in the vicinity. This is necessary, because reverting to the full range of historic disturbance patterns would generate significant threats to human life and property.

On National Forest System lands past timber harvesting (Falls Creek, Barton Hump, Barton Way, Upper Cedar, Packsaddle) and the combination of harvest, slash treatment, planting and subsequent thinning are moving these areas toward historic conditions where wildfires tended to have lower intensity fires. The roads constructed for these projects will continue to provide quick-response access to wildland fires started in or near the project area. The proposed timber harvest within the West Gold project area will further reduce fuels and improve our ability to suppress unwanted fires within that drainage.

Consistency with Forest Plan

The goal of the IPNF Forest Plan is to provide efficient fire protection and fire use to help accomplish land management objectives. The Forest Plan standards for fire management, 2a through 2g, are listed on page II-38 of the Forest Plan (USDA 1987).

This proposal would treat the acres in the project area through a combination of timber cutting, prescribed burning, and other fuels reduction methods. Through the implementation of those treatments, all of the standards listed above for fire suppression would be met, as well as standards 2c, f, and g, associated with fuels treatment.

This proposal is consistent with State law (Idaho Forest Practices Act) that requires management of slash and fuel hazards from forest management practices to reduce risk of fire.

Prepared by:

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