

BROADAXE EA HERITAGE RESOURCES REPORT

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, this documents the procedures used in identifying and evaluating heritage resources within the project area. The Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) Forest Plan requires systematic heritage resource inventory prior to ground disturbing activities and the preservation of significant heritage resources in place whenever possible. The IPNF Forest Plan also requires consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer to determine significance of historic properties. This site evaluation process is outlined in the Programmatic Agreement among the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Region, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer regarding Cultural Resources Management on Region 1 National Forests in the State of Idaho. This includes consultation with Native American groups to determine if sites of religious or cultural significance are in the area.

Geographic Scope of Analysis

The analysis area for heritage resources is the project area of the Broadaxe project. The project area has been systematically surveyed for heritage resources through several previously proposed projects. These surveys and known sites have been documented and recorded in several inventory reports. In addition to field surveys, historic records, maps and photos were reviewed for confirmation of known sites and to possibly identify new sites. Site information is exempt from mandatory disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC 552(b)(5). Additional surveys for any newly discovered sites would be documented in accordance with established Forest procedures. There has been adequate inventory coverage on all potential impact areas within the project area.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Existing Condition

Heritage properties identified within the project area date to the historic period and are related to the historic contexts of mining, state line survey, and Forest Service history. Overall, the project area had a low level of historic activity.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

No Action

There are no direct, indirect or cumulative effects expected with the No-action Alternative.

Proposed Action

The proposed action includes salvage harvest on 510 acres. All ground disturbing activities can potentially affect heritage resources. The preferred method for conservation of these resources is avoidance, and this is planned for the action alternative. There are no known heritage sites that would be impacted.

There is potential for finding additional sites during project implementation. If additional sites are discovered, the sites would be inventoried and then protected if found to be of historic significance. The decision to avoid, protect or mitigate impacts to these sites would be in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act. The timber sale contract provision #C6.24 *Protection of Cultural Resources*, will be included in the timber sale contract to ensure protection of heritage sites located during project implementation. With site avoidance being the method to preserve heritage resources, the proposed action is basically the same as no action in terms of effects to the heritage resource. There are no expected direct, indirect or cumulative effects to the heritage resources with implementation of the action alternative. No potentially significant effects have been identified.

Consistency with the Forest Plan and Laws

Systematic inventory and reports are complete for this project area, and Native American groups have been given the opportunity to comment. The proposed action was discussed with representatives of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe during a meeting on March 21, 2005. Both alternatives comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and the IPNF Forest Plan.