

Fallen Bear

Cultural Resources Report

Sarah Wilson, Archaeologist
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I. Regulatory Framework

A. Forest Plan

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) Forest Plan requires systematic cultural resource inventory prior to ground-disturbing activities and the preservation of significant cultural 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.

B. National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) directs all Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings (actions, financial support, and authorizations) on properties included in or eligible for the National Register. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations at 36 CFR part 800 implement NHPA section 106.

Section 110 establishes inventory, nomination, protection, and preservation responsibilities for federally owned historic properties.

II. Affected Environment

A. Analysis Methods

1. Analysis Area

The spatial bounds of this project for the cultural resources analysis generally is the Fallen Bear Project Area. Some of the cultural resources in the project area extend beyond the project area boundary. In those cases, the analysis includes the entire site.

2. Methods Used

The project area has been systematically surveyed for cultural resources through three previous projects. In addition to the field surveys; historic records, maps, and photos were reviewed for confirmation of known sites and to possibly identify new sites. Some areas in the Fallen Bear Project were reexamined and some known sites were monitored and re-evaluated for eligibility for this supplement based on information obtained during field review. These surveys along with information on known and newly discovered sites have been documented and recorded in past and current inventory reports. In addition to the field surveys; historic records, maps, and photos were reviewed for confirmation of known sites and to possibly identify new sites. Site location 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. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and Native American groups has been completed as in accordance with the NHPA.

B. Existing Condition

1. The Fallen Bear Project area contains a number of cultural or historic sites of various types. These sites range in type from historic trails, to mining sites, to lithic scatters. Some of these sites have been evaluated, and found to be ineligible to the National Register, some have been determined to be eligible, and many have been recorded as a part of past projects, but not evaluated for National Register eligibility.
2. Past activities in the project area have affected the cultural resources in the area.
 - a) Timber harvest is inherently destructive to some types of cultural resources. In areas where logging has occurred in the Fallen Bear Project Area, significant portions of sites have been obliterated, or site damage has occurred through the removal of trees that are contributing to the sites integrity or historic feel.
 - b) Road construction has caused adverse effects to sites in or adjacent to the project area. Roads have been constructed across significant cultural resources causing irreversible damage.

III. Environmental Consequences

A. Analysis Methods

1. Analysis Area

The spatial bounds of this project for the cultural resources analysis generally is the Fallen Bear Project Area. Some of the cultural resources in the project area extend beyond the project area boundary. In those cases, the analysis will include the entire site, examining the effects to its integrity and significance as a whole.

2. Analysis Timeframe

Temporal analysis for cultural resources is absolute. When a historic or cultural site is affected, those effects are generally permanent and have been analyzed as such.

3. Methods Used

This project required an in depth records search to determine if the area had been inventoried adequately, and whether or not the sites were recorded and evaluated appropriately. Sites that appeared to be in areas where potential effects were imminent were visited and re-evaluated for their significance and effects.

B. Alternative A – No Action

1. Direct and Indirect Effects

Under Alternative A, current management practices would continue. This would result in no effects to the historic or cultural sites within the Fallen Bear Project Area.

2. Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects occur when past, present and foreseeable activities overlap with the proposed activities. In this case, the no-action alternative of continuing current management practices would not cause effects to the cultural resources in the project area.

C. Alternative B

1. Direct and Indirect Effects

Activity implemented under this alternative would have the potential to adversely affect one cultural site in the project area. A historic trail runs through the project area, and two timber harvest units are adjacent to the trail.

Logging activities would damage the trail's integrity by removing the blazed trees that mark the trail's route, and ground disturbing activities like log skidding would damage the trail tread where it is still intact. Design criteria have been developed to avoid culturally significant trails by implementing a buffer that will retain the trail's historic feel and look.

2. Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are the incremental impact of the proposal when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes those actions. The cumulative effect is the overlap in space and time of the effects of the proposed project with the effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

Past timber harvesting and road construction in the Fallen Bear Project Area have caused adverse effects to a historic trail. Road construction has obliterated many segments of the trail tread, and logging activity has resulted in some of the trees with blazes marking the trail location being removed.

Because portions of the historic trail have been damaged and/or obliterated, the location of the trail is patchy, and its integrity has been compromised. Proposed timber harvest on and adjacent to the trail has the potential to remove more of the historic blazes, continuing the degradation of the trail. Design criteria would be implemented to avoid these impacts. Both of the harvest units that are along the trail would be pulled back creating an effective buffer from along this trail. No blazed trees would be harvested, and no ground disturbing activity would take place within one tree length of the trail location where it still exists.

D. Alternative C

1. Direct and Indirect Effects

Alternative C does not include timber harvest units near the historic trail, removing the possibility of adverse effects to the site. Alternative C would not affect any cultural sites.

2. Cumulative Effects

Although past activities in the project activity have caused adverse effects to the historic trail in the project area, activity under Alternative C would not contribute or overlap with these effects, and would not cause any additional effects to the cultural resources in the project area.

IV. Regulatory Consistency

A. Forest Plan

All alternatives adhere to the forest plan which calls for the preservation of significant cultural resources in place whenever possible. All significant cultural resources in the project area will be preserved in accordance with the Forest Plan. Alternatives A and C would not cause effects to cultural resources, and Alternative B includes design features that would protect and preserve all cultural resources in the project area from adverse effects.

B. National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) directs all Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings (actions, financial support, and authorizations) on properties included in or eligible for the National Register. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations at 36 CFR part 800 implement NHPA section 106.

Qualified archaeologists systematically inventoried and analyzed the Fallen Bear Project Area. All appropriate design criteria and mitigation measures are in place. No cultural resources would be adversely affected by this project (CR-1, CR-2).

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and Native American groups has been completed as in accordance with the NHPA (CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-4).