Using Decision Diagrams With the Field Guide

START HERE

Diagram 1 helps you determine whether your project qualifies for HFI CE or HFRA authorities.

Diagram 2 helps you determine whether your project qualifies as an “authorized” or “covered” project under HFRA authorities.

Diagram 3 helps you determine whether the old-growth or large-tree retention guidelines apply to “covered” projects.

CE: Categorical exclusion
HFI: Healthy Forests Initiative
HFRA: Healthy Forests Restoration Act
Consider using HFI CE authorities for hazardous-fuel reduction.

Is the project’s objective to protect communities, watersheds, T&E species, or natural resources by treating hazardous fuels?

Yes to all questions above.

Is the project consistent with the resource management plan?
• Consistent with the resource management plan?
• 1,000 acres or less with mechanical treatments?
• 4,500 acres or less with fire treatments?
• In WUI, CC2, or CC3 in Fire Regimes I, II, or III?
• No new permanent road construction or infrastructure?
• No pesticide or herbicide use?
• No extraordinary circumstances?

Yes to all questions above.

Consider using HFRA authorities. Go to decision diagram 2.

Is the project on NFS or BLM land?

Yes.

Consider using HFRA authorities. Go to decision diagram 2.

No.

Is the project on NFS or BLM land?

Yes to all questions above.

No to any question above.

Use HFRA authorities. Go to decision diagram 2.
Determining Whether a Project Meets the Definition of “Authorized” or “Covered” by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act

FROM DECISION DIAGRAM 1

WUI Test
- Is the project within \(\frac{1}{2}\) mile of the boundary of an at-risk community? (or within \(1\frac{1}{2}\) miles under exceptions)
- Is the project within or adjacent to an at-risk community covered by a Community Wildfire Protection Plan?
- Is the project in an area adjacent to an evacuation route for an at-risk community?
- Does the evacuation route require fuel reduction for safe evacuation?

Yes
- Project is in the WUI.

No
- Go to decision diagram 3, HFRA old-growth and large-tree retention.

Watershed Test
- Is the project in or near a municipal watershed or a stream feeding a municipal water supply?
- Is the project in CC3 or CC2 in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III?
- Would a wildland fire’s effects (including erosion) have adverse effects on water quality or maintenance of a municipal water supply?

Yes
- Qualifies as an “authorized” and “covered” project under HFRA.

No
- Go to decision diagram 3, HFRA old-growth and large-tree retention.

I&D Test
- Is the project in an area of blowdown, wind throw, or damage by ice storms?
- Is the project in an area with an insect or disease epidemic?
- Is there an insect or disease epidemic on lands adjacent to the project?
- Is there a significant risk to ecosystem components or the forest or range resource?

Yes
- Qualifies as an “authorized” hazardous-fuel reduction project under HFRA. The old-growth and large-tree retention requirements in Decision Diagram 3 do not apply.

No
- Go to decision diagram 3, HFRA old-growth and large-tree retention.

T&E Species Test
- Are T&E species present or could their habitat be affected by the project?
- Are natural fires important for T&E species or habitats?
- Is wildland fire a threat for T&E species or their habitats?
- Does the project provide enhanced protection from catastrophic wildland fire for T&E species or their habitat?
- Does the project comply with applicable guidelines in any resource management or recovery plans?

Yes
- Project does not qualify for HFRA authority.

No
- Go to decision diagram 3, HFRA old-growth and large-tree retention.
Applying Old-Growth and Large-Tree Retention Requirements

FROM DECISION DIAGRAM 2

- Qualifies as an “authorized” and “covered” project under HFRA?
  - YES
  - NO

  - OR

- Does the RMP contain old-growth management direction?
  - YES
  - NO

  - OR

- Is the project in old growth?
  - YES
  - NO

Apply large-tree retention requirements.

- Does the plan allow vegetation treatments in old-growth stands?
  - YES
  - NO

  - OR

  - Amend or revise the plan to conform to HFRA Section 102(e)(2).
  - Review plan direction. HFRA Section 102(e)(3)(b)

- Does the plan meet “project requirements”? HFRA Section 102(e)(2)
  - YES
  - NO

Make a finding that the plan’s direction is sufficient.

- Does the plan qualify as “newer management direction” (approved after Dec.15, 1993)? HFRA Section 102(e)(3)
  - YES
  - NO

Can old-growth stands be identified within the covered area?

- YES
  - NO

  - Develop a process to identify old-growth stands.

Document old-growth locations.

Proceed with project.