

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, ID 83522

ERRATA SHEET to ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2013-0003-EA
Sheep Fire Timber Salvage Project

1. Background

On June 17, 2013, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cottonwood Field Office, published Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2013-0003-EA for the Sheep Fire Timber Salvage Project and requested public review and comments. Based on these comments received, the BLM made several clarifications and revisions to the original EA. This errata sheet documents these revisions.

2. Revisions to Environmental Assessment

a. Section 1.3.2 Issues Considered but not Analyzed in Detail (p.5)

Add the following paragraph to the end of this section:

- The proximity to the US Forest Service's John Day Roadless Area and harvest in the nearly unroaded South Fork John Day Creek subwatershed was not analyzed in detail for several reasons. The 2008 Idaho Roadless Rule does not apply to the BLM. The entirety of the proposed project is in areas designated in the Cottonwood RMP as being in the Commercial Forest Land Base and thus open to harvest to meet forest management objectives. Harvest in the South Fork John Day Creek subwatershed will assist in meeting the purpose and need as stated in the section 1.1. The BLM is not proposing any temporary roads that would enter the Forest Service's John Day Roadless Area. The BLM is not changing route designations for any road as part of this project. Environmental Design Features of the Proposed Action (section 2.1.9) minimize impacts to affected resources. Road densities as shown in section 3.2.5.1, Table 33, will not change in the long term. All temporary roads will be fully obliterated following post-harvest activities that includes reforestation. For these reasons, this issue had been considered but not analyzed in detail

b. Section 2.1.1 Timber Harvest (p.8)

Correct Table 2 to reflect that Unit 2-D would be a short cable unit, not a tractor unit.

Table 2. Proposed Action Harvest Units, Harvest Methods, and Acres

Unit	Harvest Method	Acres
1	Tractor	40

Unit	Harvest Method	Acreage
2-A	Tractor	10
2-B	Short Cable	6
2-C	Tractor	44
2-D	Short Cable	6
4	Tractor	18
5-A-1	Cable	39
5-A-2	Short Cable	25
5-A-3	Cable	12
5-B-1	Short Cable	3
5-B-2	Short Cable	10
5-B-3	Tractor	115
5-C-1	Tractor	120
5-C-2	Short Cable	15
5-Y	Cable	18
5-Z	Cable	175
8-A	Tractor	148
8-B-1	Short Cable	10
8-B-2	Short Cable	4
8-C	Short Cable	3
8-D	Short Cable	6
9-A	Cable	36
9-B	Tractor	53
P-Plant Only	Plant only	52*
	Total Harvest Area:	916

* Not included in harvest total

Add a sentence stating “The estimated number of log truck loads from the proposed action is 2,620.”

c. Section 2.2.1 Timber Harvest (p.17)

Correct Table 5 under the No New Temporary Road alternative to reflect the change in harvest system type mentioned above for Unit 2-D

Table 5. No New Temporary Road Construction Alternative Harvest Units, Harvest Methods and Areas

Unit	Harvest Method	Acreage
1	Tractor	40
2-A	Tractor	10
2-B	Short Cable	6
2-C	Tractor	44
2-D	Short Cable	6
4	Tractor	18
5-A-1	Cable	39
5-A-2	Short Cable	25
5-A-3	Cable	12
5-B-1	Short Cable	3
5-B-2	Short Cable	10
5-B-3	Tractor	115
5-Y	Cable	18
8-A	Tractor	148
8-B-1	Short Cable	10

Unit	Harvest Method	Acreage
8-B-2	Short Cable	4
8-C	Short Cable	3
8-D	Short Cable	6
9-A	Cable	36
9-B	Tractor	53
P-Plant Only	Plant only	52*
Total Harvest Area:		606

* Not included in harvest total

Add a sentence stating “The estimated number of log truck loads from the No New Temporary Road Alternative is 1,785.”

d. Section 2.4 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis (p. 20)

Insert the following paragraph following the first paragraph of the section:

A plant only alternative was considered. An alternative that only reforested burned areas does not meet the purpose and need because it does not meet RMP goal FP-1 to provide forest products to help meet local and national demands which includes expediting salvage to capture economic return. This alternative was eliminated from detailed analysis because it does not meet the purpose and need for this action and analysis would be redundant with the ESR plan.

e. Section 3.2.1.1 Affected Environment [Vegetation] -- burn severity (p. 30)

Replace the paragraph under the italic subheading “*burn severity*” with the following:

Approximately 16,125 acres of the 18,217-acre combined John Day Creek watershed and the Wet Gulch portion of the Cow Creek-Salmon River watershed burned, or approximately 79%. Of the area burned, burn severity was generally high or moderate within the analysis area and the project area. Both high and moderate severity burned areas resulted in mortality greater than 80% and in most areas near 100%. Burn severity was determined by the US Forest Service’s Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team and was based on satellite Burned Area Reflectance Classification (BARC) mapping. Table 8 shows burn severity percentages of the watershed and of the burned area. Figure 10 shows a map of the burn severity.

f. Section 3.2.16.1 Affected Environment [Health and Safety] (p. 224)

Correct the first paragraph in the section to reflect a liquid form of the herbicide hexazinone being proposed rather than granular as originally stated.

3. Contact

For more information regarding this errata sheet or the Environmental Assessment, please contact the Project Lead, Zach Peterson, Forester, at 208-962-3594.