EDDY GULCH LATE-SUCCESSIONAL RESERVE FUELS / HABITAT PROTECTION PROJECT

RECREATION REPORT

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Contents

Figures

Appendix A: Maps

Recreation Report

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Project Location

The Eddy Gulch LSR Project Assessment Area is located on the Salmon River and Scott River Ranger Districts, Klamath National Forest, in southwestern Siskiyou County. The LSR is located mostly west of Etna Summit, south of North Russian Creek and the town of Sawyers Bar, east of Forks of Salmon, and north of Cecilville. The LSR is about 61,900 acres in size, making it one of the largest LSRs on the Klamath National Forest. The LSR encompasses much of the area between the North and South Forks of the Salmon River, as well as headwaters of Etna Creek. Elevations range from 1,100 feet to about 8,000 feet. The terrain is generally steep and dissected by sharp ridges and streams. There are a few private inholdings in the LSR and along the main Salmon River and other stream corridors adjacent to the LSR.

The legal description for the Eddy Gulch LSR includes the following (all Mount Diablo Meridian):

T38N, R11W, Sections 2–5, 8–10, and 17–19;
T38N, R12W, Sections 1–3, 9–16, and 22–24;
T39N, R10W, Sections 2–10, 15–21, and 29–31;
T39N, R11W, Sections 1–18, 20–29, and 32–36;
T39N, R12W, Sections 11–14, 23–25, and 36;
T40N, R10W, Sections 3–5, 8–11, and 13–35;
T40N, R11W, Sections 24–27 and 34–36;
T41N, R10W, Sections 2–5, 8–17, 20–24, 26–29, and 31–34;
T42N, R10W, Sections 28–29 and 32–35

1.1.2 Terms

Eddy Gulch LSR — the entire 61,900-acre LSR.

Assessment Area — the 37,239-acre portion of the Eddy Gulch LSR west of Etna Summit where various treatments are proposed. All released roadless areas that occur in the LSR were excluded from planning efforts and are therefore not part of the Assessment Area.

Treatment Unit — the acres proposed for some type of on-the-ground treatment under a particular alternative.

Analysis Area — the area around treatment units considered in the effects analysis (the analysis area may be larger than the LSR Assessment Area). The analysis area varies by resource.

1.2 Summary of the Alternatives

Chapter 2 in the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Eddy Gulch LSR Project presents more information about the three alternatives, and Appendix A in the EIS contains project maps.

1.2.1 Alternative A: No Action

The no-action alternative is described as continuation of the current level of management and public use—this includes road maintenance, dispersed recreation (hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking), mining, watershed restoration projects, and the modeled wildfire. The time frame for analysis is considered to be 20 years. Given the fuel hazard in the Eddy Gulch LSR and current predictions of climate change, it is assumed at least one wildfire will escape initial attack during the 20-year period and burn under 90th percentile weather conditions (defined as 10 percent of the days in the historical weather database that had lower fuel moisture and higher wind speeds compared to the rest of the days). An analysis of a wildfire for three days that escaped initial attack in the Eddy Gulch LSR Project Assessment Area indicates that fire would burn 7,200 acres. Of those 7,200 acres, 1,355 acres (19 percent) would be surface fire; 5,065 acres (70 percent) would be a passive crown fire; and 780 acres (11 percent) would be an active crown fire.

1.2.2 Alternative B: Proposed Action

The Klamath National Forest proposes 25,969 acres of treatments to protect late-successional habitat and communities. Three primary treatment types were identified in the Assessment Area: Fuel Reduction Zones (FRZs), Prescribed Burn Units (Rx Units), and Roadside (RS) treatments along emergency access routes, which are described below.

- **FRZs**—strategically located on ridgetops to increase resistance to the spread of wildfires. The FRZs would be wide enough to capture most short-range spot fires, and ground, ladder, and crown fuels would be reduced so as to change crown fires to surface fires within the treated areas. The FRZs would provide safe locations for fire-suppression personnel to take fire-suppression actions during 90th percentile weather conditions, and they serve as anchor points for additional landscape-level fuel treatments, such as underburning.

  - ***Proposed Action*.** Construct 16 FRZs totaling 8,291 acres to increase resistance to wildfires. The 8,291 acres includes 931 acres in 42 M Units (thinning units) and 7,383 acres in fuel reduction areas (outside the M Units) to reduce ground and ladder fuels.

- **Rx Units**—a series of landscape-level treatments (ranging from 250 to 4,300 acres in size) designed to increase resilience to wildfires by reducing ground and ladder fuels. Most of these treatments would occur on south-facing aspects where fuels dry faster, and treatments would support the role of the FRZs.

  - ***Proposed Action*. *Implement*** 17,524 acres of Rx Units to increase resiliency to wildfires.

- **RS treatments**—along 60 miles of emergency access routes identified in the Salmon River Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) (SRFSC 2007) and designed to facilitate emergency access for residents to evacuate and for suppression forces to safely enter the LSR in the event of a wildfire.

  – ***Proposed Action*.** Treat 44 miles of emergency access routes in FRZs and Rx Units (treatments would be similar to the FRZ or Rx Unit the route passes through) and 16 miles (with 154 acres of treatments) of RS treatments outside of FRZs and Rx Units—a total of 60 miles of RS treatments along emergency access routes.

1.2.2.1 Proposed Temporary Roads and Landings

The construction of new temporary roads and the use of former logging access routes are proposed to access treatment units.

- Approximately 1.03 miles (5,433 feet) of new temporary roads would be used to access all or portions of seven M Units. All of these temporary roads would be closed (ripped and mulched, as needed) following thinning.

- Approximately 0.98 mile (5,177 feet) of former logging access routes would be re-opened (vegetation removed and bladed) to access all or portions of five M Units. These routes would be water-barred and closed immediately after thinning is completed.

- Five short spurs, each less than 100 feet long, would be bladed for tractor or cable yarding operations in two units.

- Existing landings would be used.

1.2.3 Alternative C: No New Temporary Roads Constructed

Alternative C responds to public concerns regarding the environmental and economic effects of constructing new temporary roads. Alternative C is similar to the Proposed Action but approximately 1.03 miles (5,443 feet) of new temporary roads identified in the Proposed Action would not be constructed. As a result, no fuels treatments would occur in portions of seven M Units. This reduces the total acres of treatments in M Units from 931 acres under Alternative B to 832 acres in Alternative C. Fuels treatments could not be carried out in those M Units because of excessive treatment costs, high existing dead crown fuel loadings, and potential heat damage to the overstory if these untreated units were prescribed burned.

Under Alternative C, the FRZs would continue to total 8,291 acres; however, 99 acres in M Units would remain untreated. The total number of acres treated by tractor yarding would remain at 361 acres; however, the acres of cable yarding would be reduced from 570 acres under Alternative B to 471 acres under Alternative C. Reducing acres of M Units treated would also reduce the number of acres treated in two Rx Units because excessive fuels remaining in M Units would preclude safely burning portions of the two Rx Units. Six-foot-wide control lines would be constructed around the perimeter of those untreated areas to keep prescribed burns out of those portions of Rx Units. There

would be no changes in the miles of emergency access routes treated, transportation plan, or resource protection measures.

1.3 Significant Issue

Public and agency comments received during collaboration and scoping efforts did not identify any significant issues related to forest vegetation. The only significant issue was in regard to construction of new temporary roads to access some of the treatment units. Alternative C was developed in response to public concerns regarding the environmental and economic impacts of constructing new temporary roads.

1.4 Regulatory Framework

1.4.1 Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

The Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Klamath LRMP) has the following general guideline for recreation management for this area: provide a broad range of recreational opportunities that meet changing recreational needs. Specifically for the Eddy Gulch LSR, dispersed recreation should be emphasized and recreational settings should be managed to generally achieve semi-primitive or roaded natural Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) conditions. Existing developed recreation sites and facilities can be maintained.

1.5 Methodology

1.5.1 Analysis Methods and Assumptions

Existing recreational resources were inventoried through existing map data, existing user survey data, web sources, Geographic Information System (GIS) data, and interviews. The Klamath LRMP was reviewed with respect to Management Direction to determine recreation-specific guidance. Additionally, Klamath National Forest Recreational Activity Participation Data from the National Visitor Use Monitoring Report, FY2001, was used to determine recreation trends in the Klamath National Forest. The Klamath National Forest Recreation Evaluation Process was used to identify Recreation Setting Attributes and recreation experiences available in the Assessment Area.

1.5.2 Scope of the Analysis

1.5.2.1 Analysis Area

The analysis area for recreation is consistent with the Eddy Gulch LSR Project Assessment Area.

1.5.2.2 Analysis Period

- Short-term effects are those occurring from actions in the immediate future (0–3 years).
- Long-term effects are those occurring over several seasons, 3 years and beyond.

1.5.3 Definitions for Terms Used in this Report

(Note: A full glossary can be found in Chapter 5 of the environmental impact statement.)

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum — A continuum of recreation opportunity settings. A recreation opportunity setting is a combination of physical, biological, social, and managerial conditions that give value to a place. The ROS assumes that recreationists seek a range or spectrum of recreational opportunities from the highly constructed and interactive to the natural and solitude oriented. The Klamath National Forest uses five classes:

1. Primitive (P). Characterized by essentially unmodified natural environments with size and configuration assuring remoteness from the sights and sounds of human activity.

2. Semi-Primitive Non-motorized (SPNM). Characterized by predominantly natural or natural-appearing landscapes and the absence of motorized vehicles. The size gives a strong feeling of remoteness. The presence of roads is tolerated, provided they are closed to public use, used infrequently for resource protection and management and road standards are visually appropriate.

3. Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). Characterized by predominantly natural or natural-appearing landscapes and the presence of motorized vehicles. The size gives a strong feeling of remoteness.

4. Roaded Natural (RN). Characterized by predominantly natural-appearing settings with moderate sights and sounds of human activities and structures.

5. Rural (R). The sights and sounds of human activity are readily evident while the landscape is often dominated by human-caused geometric patterns.

1.5.4 Intensity of Effects

"Intensity" refers to the severity of effects or the degree to which the action may adversely or beneficially affect a resource. The intensity definitions used throughout the effects analysis are described below.

1.5.4.1 Visitor Use / Recreational Users

Negligible. Visitors would not be affected, or changes in visitor experience would be below or at the level of detection. Visitors would not likely be aware of the effects associated with the alternative.

Minor. Changes in visitor experience would be detectable, although the changes would be slight. Visitors could be aware of effects associated with the alternative but only slightly.

Moderate. Changes in visitor experience would be readily apparent. Visitors would be aware of the effects associated with the alternative and would likely be able to express an opinion about the changes.

Major. Changes in visitor experience would be readily apparent and would have important consequences. Visitors would be aware of the effects associated with the alternative and would likely express a strong opinion about the changes.

1.5.5 Measurement Indicators

Measurement indicators for recreational resources are expressed by the potential for effects on visitor experience, enjoyment, and accessibility during project implementation. Depending on the location of recreational facilities and roads to the proposed treatment units, direct effects could result in:

- damage or alterations to improvements, such as signs, waterlines, water sources, access roads, cleared areas used by the public, and tables;
- short-term limited access to roads, campgrounds, or trails;
- unsafe conditions for visitors at the sites, on trails, or accessing them such as falling trees or heavy traffic; and
- changes in recreation setting and experiences that are inconsistent with ROS direction of the Klamath LRMP.

With any project there is the potential for indirect effects; those could result in:

- sustained sound above the ambient level that would be heard at a developed site;
- dust on a developed site;
- evidence of humans, and
- changes to the setting from the current ROS Classification.

Recreation measurement indicators include:

- Recreation Setting Attractions (Salmon River; Campgrounds; Pacific Crest, Deacon Lee, and other trails),
- Recreation Setting Attributes:
  - Remoteness from activity areas or travel ways,
  - Empty space for independence and solitude,
  - Evidence of human activities,
  - Amount of human contact, and
  - Level of restrictions imposed.
- Recreation Experiences Available:
  - Adventure (frequency, duration, and intensity),
  - Challenge and risk,

- Independence (vs. dependence on others),
- Nature Contacts (frequency, duration, and intensity), and
- Social Contacts (frequency, duration, and intensity).

1.6 Affected Environment (Existing Conditions)

The Klamath LRMP states that a general guideline for recreation management in the area is to provide a broad range of recreational opportunities that meet changing recreational needs. Specifically for the Eddy Gulch LSR, dispersed recreation should be emphasized, and recreational settings should be managed to generally achieve semi-primitive or roaded natural ROS conditions. Existing developed recreation sites and facilities can be maintained.

Semi-Primitive ROS classes should include some opportunity for isolation from human-induced sights, sounds, and controls with the chance to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment using outdoor skills, with moderate challenge and risk. Environments should be predominantly unmodified. Evidence of managed landscapes is subtle, concentration of visitors is low, but evidence of visitors may be present. Facilities may be provided for resource protection and safety.

The Roaded Natural ROS class contains equal opportunities to interact with other groups or to be isolated from human sights and sounds. Scenic character is generally natural, and human modifications may be moderately evident. User densities are low to moderate, and facilities for group activities may be present. Challenge and risk opportunities are generally not important. Construction standards and facility design incorporate motorized uses.

Riparian Reserves, scenic and recreational rivers, retention and partial retention VQO, and general forest management areas should be managed to generally achieve Semi-Primitive or Roaded Natural ROS classes. The Klamath LRMP allows management of general forest areas as Rural ROS class, but areas suitable for rural management do not occur in the Assessment Area.

Recreation Setting Attributes noted in the Project Recreation Evaluation include remoteness from activity areas and travel ways, “empty space” for independence and solitude, evidence of human activities, amount of human contact expected, and level of restrictions imposed. These attributes are generally consistent with the Semi-Primitive and Roaded Natural ROS classes. The available recreation experiences include adventure, challenge and risk, independence, nature contacts, and social contacts, which are generally consistent with these ROS classes as well.

According to an August 2002 National Visitor Use Monitoring Report (USDA 2002), the popular recreational activities in the Klamath National Forest include viewing wildlife and scenery, general relaxing and retreat, pleasure driving, hiking/walking, camping, picnicking, nature study, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, fishing, and cross-country skiing/snow shoeing and other nonmotorized activities such as swimming, games and sports (see Figure 1). Favorite activities included viewing scenery, relaxing and retreat, cross-country skiing/snow shoeing, pleasure driving, picnicking and nonmotorized boating (Figure 2). All of these activities are enjoyed by visitors to the Eddy Gulch LSR Project Assessment Area.

Figure 1. Percent of visitors participating in activities.

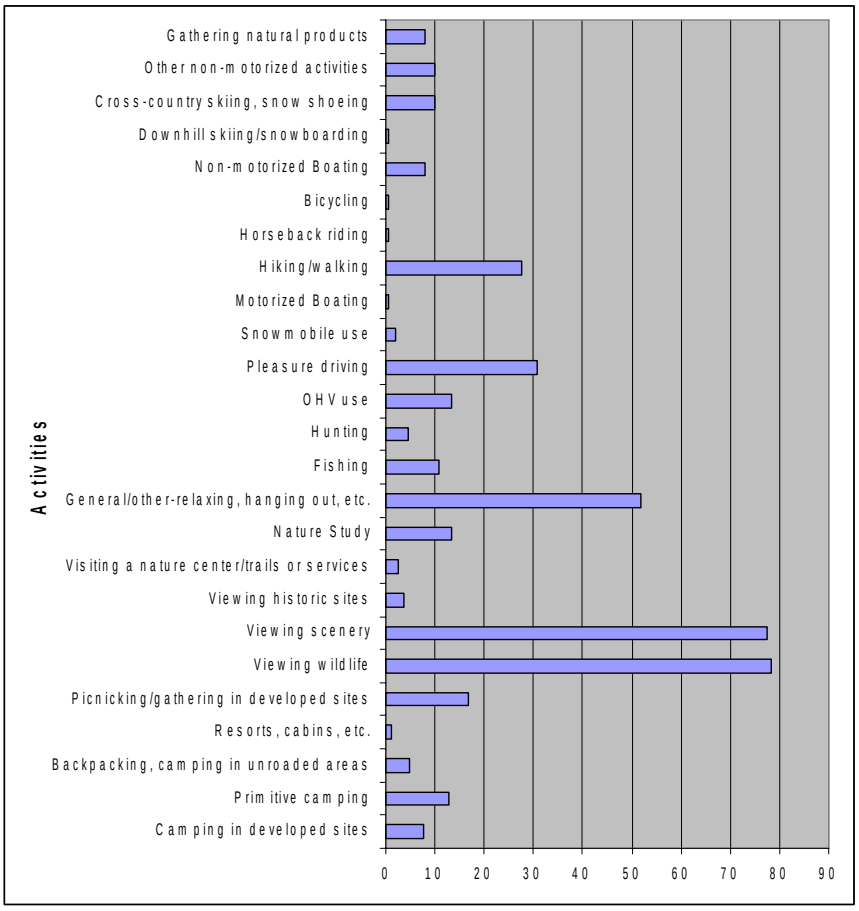
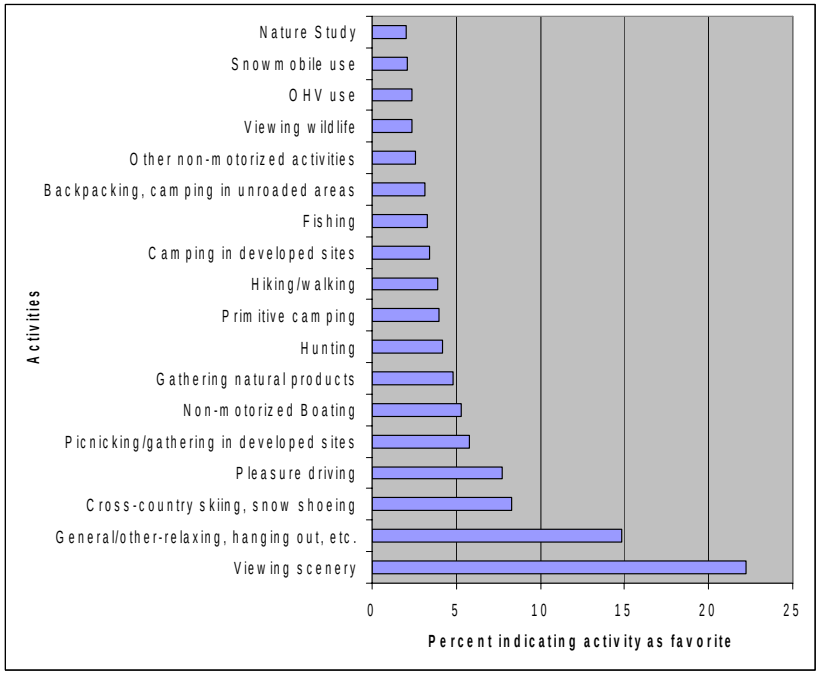


Figure 2. Percent of visitors listing activity as favorite.



Existing camping areas in the Eddy Gulch LSR include Shadow Creek and Idlewild (outside, but adjacent to the LSR). Campgrounds outside, but nearby, the LSR include Mulebridge, Shadow Creek, Trail Creek, and East Fork. Matthews Creek and the Matthews Creek river access border the project area's southwest corner. Existing recreation/hiking trails include the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and numerous trails in and around the Russian Wilderness, along Russian Creek, following the east fork of White's Gulch, and along Sixmile Creek and Trail Creek. Additionally, the Deacon Lee trailhead provides access to the Deacon Lee trail eastward to the Russian Wilderness. Whitewater rafting and kayaking is a popular activity on the south fork of the Salmon River below Matthews Creek during summer months. The North Fork of the Salmon River only skirts the Eddy Gulch LSR for a short distance, and no segments of the Salmon lie entirely within the LSR; however, camping sites located within the Assessment Area could serve as staging areas for boating expeditions.

According to the Klamath LRMP, 20 percent of visitors engage in recreation at developed sites, with 80 percent participating in dispersed activities such as hiking, fishing, and nature viewing. The LRMP places emphasis on dispersed recreation, particularly in the LSRs, as well as maintenance of existing developed sites.

Most of the LSR that was inventoried as Roaded Modified in 1990 has regrown sufficiently to be classified as Roaded Natural today. Some of it would be classified as Semi-Primitive Motorized depending on the size of the area and primitive nature of the roads. The Roadless Area retains most of its Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Primitive characteristics.

1.7 Desired Conditions

Desired conditions for the Assessment Area are similar to existing conditions. Existing developed sites should be maintained, and Semi-Primitive Motorized recreation opportunities enhanced where practical without degrading primitive areas.

Scenery Management Techniques have been used in Roaded Natural Areas to protect road and trail foregrounds, developed and dispersed sites, communities, and other special places. Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized characteristics of the Roadless Area should be protected.

The Proposed Action is not expected to have a measurable effect on recreation in the Assessment Area. Scenery impacts, discussed elsewhere in this document, would generally lead to improved scenic character and stability, which in turn would support Semi-Primitive and Roaded Natural ROS classes. Improved fuels management, leading to increased Scenic Stability, would reduce the likelihood that a catastrophic natural event, such as a wildfire, will occur and adversely impact recreational opportunities in the Eddy Gulch LSR. Fuel reduction and prescribed fire in the north portion of the Assessment Area, near the Pacific Crest Trail, should be undertaken with the recommendations contained in the Scenery Analysis section to avoid effects on recreational users of this trail. The short-term effects of the project, including traffic, dust, and noise, are temporary. Potential effects from controlled burning, including smoke and fire hazard, are also temporary and should be minimal if controlled burning is conducted when recreational use is low. There is no reason to expect recreation use to measurably increase or decrease because of the proposed project.

1.8 Environmental Consequences

Potential effects on Recreation are evaluated through the project's ability to affect valued recreational setting attractions, setting attributes and experiences.

Valued attractions include the following:

- North Fork of the Salmon River
- South Fork of the Salmon River
- Campgrounds
  - Shadow Creek
  - Idlewild
  - Matthews Creek
- Pacific Crest Trail
- Deacon Lee Trail
- Various other trails in the Assessment Area

Recreation setting attributes include:

- Remoteness from activity areas or travel ways
- "Empty space" for independence and solitude
- Evidence of human activities
- Amount of human contact
- Level of restrictions imposed

Recreation experiences available in and around the Assessment Area are:

- Adventure
- Challenge and risk
- Independence
- Nature contacts
- Social contacts

1.8.1 Alternative A: No Action

1.8.1.1 Recreation Setting and Experience

Direct Effects. The no-action alternative would have no direct effects on Recreation Setting attractions or attributes or Recreation Experience.

Indirect Effects. Growth of vegetation could reduce fishing access to rivers. This would have a minor adverse effect on recreational fishing attraction.

Growth of small and intermediate trees and shrubs could enhance "remoteness" of setting and/or increase "adventure" experience. This would have a minor beneficial effect on recreation.

Other than as mentioned above, the no-action alternative would have no appreciable indirect effects on Recreation Experience.

Cumulative Effects. Burning of the forest by a major wildfire would affect recreation attractions and attributes. A major wildfire would potentially destroy campgrounds, trailhead signage, and other facilities. Additionally, the high risk of wildfire poses a potential danger to health and safety of visitors. This sense of danger could diminish recreational use. Recreational use in itself increases the risk of accidentally set wildfires. Additionally, forest visitors may change their use patterns due to a major wildfire. Repeat visitors may find alternative recreation sites due to the affects, and thus the effects on recreation use could result in long-term reductions in recreation use. The effects on recreation settings of a major wildfire would be short- and long-term major adverse.

Burning of the forest by a major wildfire would affect recreation experiences. Whether a major wildfire affects adventure, challenge and risk, or independence experiences depends upon the visitor and the types of experience that they are seeking. Such a fire would have a short- and long-term major adverse effect on nature contacts. Major wildfire would also likely have a moderate adverse effect on social contact experiences because fewer visitors would recreate in the forest for several years to come. Since the majority of visitors are local residents whose pattern of use would likely not change significantly following a major fire event, overall changes on recreation usage would be minor. It is likely that the type of visitors seeking adventure, challenge and risk or independence experiences would change in a landscape recovering from a major fire. Effects would likely not meet current LRMP ROS classes for Semi-Primitive Roaded or Roaded Natural for some years following a large fire due to the unnatural scenic character of an event outside the HRV and the possible destruction of recreation facilities and other amenities.

Conclusion. Direct and indirect effects of the no-action alternative on recreation would be negligible and remain within Semi-Primitive or Roaded Natural ROS classes. Cumulative effects of continuing current vegetation management combined with a major wildfire could be major and adverse and result in conditions not meeting Klamath LRMP ROS directives.

1.8.2 Alternative B: Proposed Action

1.8.2.1 Recreation Setting and Experience

Direct Effects. Implementing FRZs would create noise and dust. Noise and dust from fuel reduction activities would primarily affect Recreation Setting attributes "remoteness of activity areas or travel ways," and "evidence of human activities" within the Assessment Area. These potential effects could occur around Shadow Creek Campground, the South Fork of the Salmon River, the Deacon Lee Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and several other trails and recreational roads in the Assessment Area. Possible effects would be temporary, though potentially of moderate level. Timing of implementation to correspond to times of low recreational use should reduce the possible effects to short-term minor adverse.

Burning in prescribed fire units would create smoke and fire. Smoke and fire can be a danger to public health and safety for visitors to the Assessment Area, as well as being aesthetically

unpleasant. Provided that prescribed burning is contained to designated areas, risk would be greatest to users of the Pacific Crest Trail, Crawford Creek Trail, and Shadow Creek Campground, and the roads within the prescribed burn units. Scheduling of fire treatments to occur outside of the peak recreation season (Memorial Day through Labor Day), posting of burn times, closing of trails and campgrounds, and patrolling of trails during burning would help to reduce the effects to short-term minor adverse.

Burning and other fuel reduction techniques would improve views from recreation attractions. Views are important for reinforcing valued recreational experiences. Removal of overly dense small and intermediate trees would open up views to create a more open park-like setting and improve opportunities for wildlife observation. This would have a minor beneficial effect on recreation experience.

Indirect Effects. Reducing the possibility of wildfire would have a *major, long-term beneficial effect* on recreation attractions, attributes and experience. This would increase the protection for attractions such as Shadow Creek, Idlewild, and Matthews campgrounds from direct combustion; trails and recreational roads, including the Pacific Crest Trail, Deacon Lee Trail, and other trails from the increased chance of landslide following a major fire; and the North and South Forks of the Salmon River and Russian Creek from increased debris and sedimentation resulting from a major fire.

Implementing fuel reduction and prescribed fire techniques would allow the growth of larger trees such as ponderosa pine. This would enhance recreation experience, particularly "nature contacts" through greater opportunities to observe wildlife and see and touch large trees. This would be a minor beneficial effect.

Cumulative Effects. Reducing the possibility of wildfire would support greater numbers of recreational users. Future growth of the communities in northern California is likely to put more demands on the Assessment Area for recreation, and higher visitor levels would increase the potential for accidentally ignited wildfires. Reducing fuel loads lowers the possibility that accidentally set fires will grow into a major wildfire. This would result in long-term major beneficial effects on both the recreation setting and experience.

See above for beneficial effects of reducing wildfire potential. There are no other cumulative effects to recreation experience.

Conclusion. Alternative B would have beneficial effects of various possible degrees on recreation setting and experience primarily through reduction of potential future wildfires. Minor beneficial effects would occur due to creation of a more open, park-like setting with large trees and increased opportunities for wildlife viewing. Temporary adverse effects could occur primarily due to the effect of fuel reduction treatments and prescribed burning. These effects would be reduced to minor levels with proper scheduling and implementation of standard health and safety measures. Except for these temporary impacts, the study area should continue to meet the Roaded Primitive and Semi-Primitive Natural ROS classes.

1.8.3 Alternative C: No Temporary Roads

1.8.3.1 Recreation Setting and Experience

Direct Effects. Implementing FRZs would create noise and dust. Noise and dust from fuel reduction would primarily affect Recreation Setting attributes "remoteness of activity areas or travel ways," and "evidence of human activities" within the Assessment Area. These potential effects could occur around Shadow Creek Campground, the South Fork of the Salmon River, Deacon Lee Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and several other trails and recreational roads in the Assessment Area. Possible effects would be temporary, though potentially of moderate level. Timing of implementation to correspond to times of low recreational use should reduce the potential effects to short-term minor adverse.

Burning in Prescribed Fire Units would create smoke and fire. Smoke and fire can be a danger to public health and safety for visitors to the Assessment Area, as well as being aesthetically unpleasant. Provided that prescribed burning is contained to designated areas, risk would be greatest to users of the Pacific Crest Trail, Crawford Creek Trail, and Shadow Creek Campground, and the roads in the prescribed fire units. Scheduling fire treatments to occur outside of the peak recreation season (Memorial Day through Labor Day), posting burn times, closing trails and campgrounds, and patrolling trails during burning would help to reduce effects to short-term minor adverse.

Burning and other fuel reduction treatments would improve views from recreation attractions. Views are important for reinforcing valued recreational experiences. Removal of overly dense small and intermediate trees will open up views to create a more open park-like setting and improve opportunities for wildlife observation. This would have a minor beneficial effect on recreation experience.

Indirect Effects. Reducing the possibility of wildfire would have a long-term major beneficial effect on recreation attractions, attributes, and experience. This would increase the protection for attractions such as Shadow Creek, Idlewild, and Matthews campgrounds from direct combustion; trails and recreational roads, including the Pacific Crest Trail, Deacon Lee Trail, and other trails from the increased chance of landslide following a major fire; and the North and South Forks of the Salmon River and Russian Creek from increased debris and sedimentation resulting from a major fire.

Implementing fuel reduction and prescribed fire techniques would allow the growth of larger trees such as ponderosa pine. This would enhance recreation experience, particularly "nature contacts" through greater opportunities to observe wildlife and see and touch large trees. This would be a minor beneficial effect.

Cumulative Effects. Reducing the possibility of wildfire would support greater numbers of recreational users. Future growth of the communities in northern California is likely to put more demands on the Assessment Area for recreation, and higher visitor levels would increase the potential for accidentally ignited wildfires. Reducing fuel loads lowers the possibility that accidentally set fires would grow into a major wildfire. There would be long-term beneficial effects of various possible degrees for both recreation setting and experience.

See above for beneficial effects of reducing wildfire potential. There would be no other cumulative effects on recreation experience.

Conclusion. Alternative C would have beneficial effects of various possible degrees on recreation setting and experience, primarily through reduction of potential future wildfires. Minor beneficial effects would occur due to creation of a more open, park-like setting with large trees and increased opportunities for wildlife viewing. Temporary adverse effects would primarily occur due to the effect of fuel reduction treatments and prescribed burning. These effects would be reduced to minor levels with proper scheduling and implementation of standard health and safety measures. Except for these temporary impacts, the study area should continue to meet the Roaded Primitive and Semi-Primitive Natural ROS classes.

1.9 Resource Protection Measures

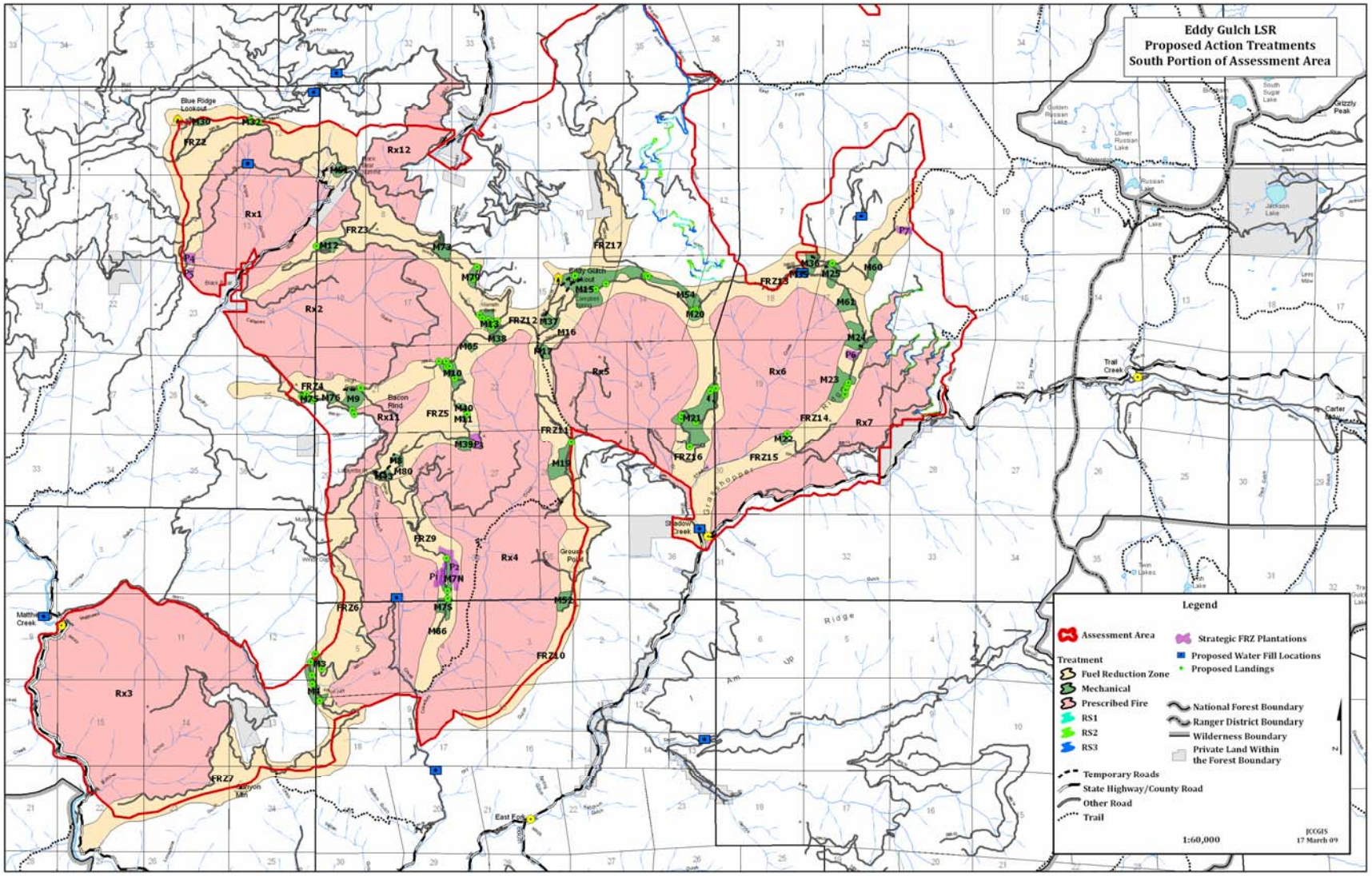
Safety and convenience of recreational users of the project area is important. Safety concerns primarily revolve around traffic and project activities. These concerns are highest during hunting season (October), when the amount of road use is the highest and hunters are dispersed in the woods. There is also a specific concern for hikers on the PCNST from project activities adjacent to the trail, of which the heaviest use is mid-July to-mid August. Measures to ensure the safety and convenience of the public include:

- Traffic Safety and Control Plans prior to commencing project operations. The Plan will provide for public safety on Forest Service controlled roads and trails open to public travel.
- Roads and trails open to the public will be kept open or only closed for short durations. Project activities will minimize conflicts with public use on weekends and holidays.
- Dispersed campsites will be maintained in a usable condition if possible, however they are not protected nor managed as developed sites.
- Warning signs will be posted on the PCNST during any adjacent project activities. Any damage to the trail will be immediately repaired.

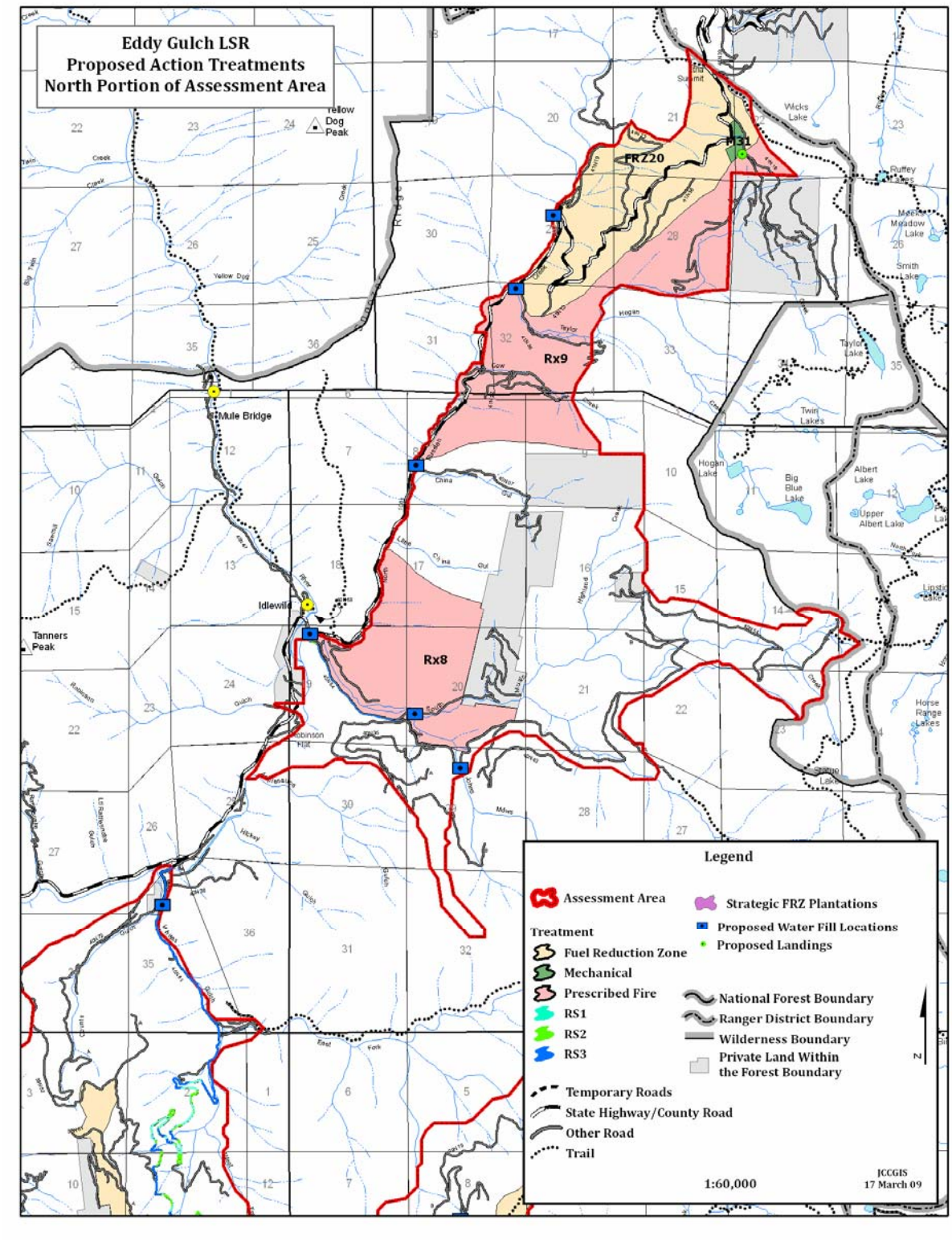
None of the alternatives will result in measurable impacts to recreation activities if the measures above are followed. The operational impacts of the projects such as traffic, noise and dust will be temporary. Changes in stand structure and composition resulting from different treatments may result in changes in recreational use patterns, but the same recreational opportunities will continue which is the very nature of dispersed recreation. There is no reason to expect recreation use to measurably increase or decrease because of the proposed project.

Appendix A
Maps

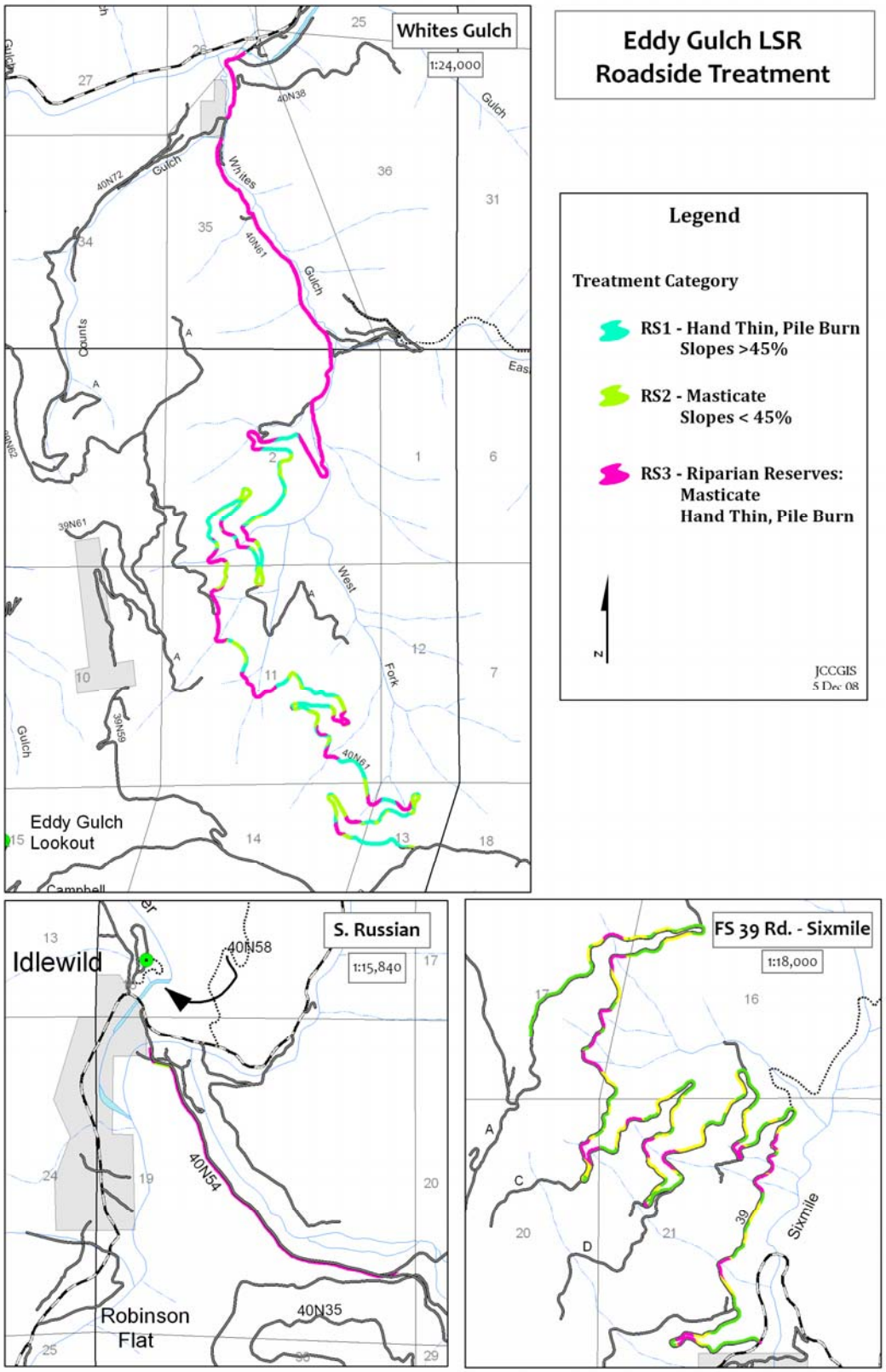
Map A-1. Proposed treatment units in the south portion of the Eddy Gulch LSR Project Assessment Area.



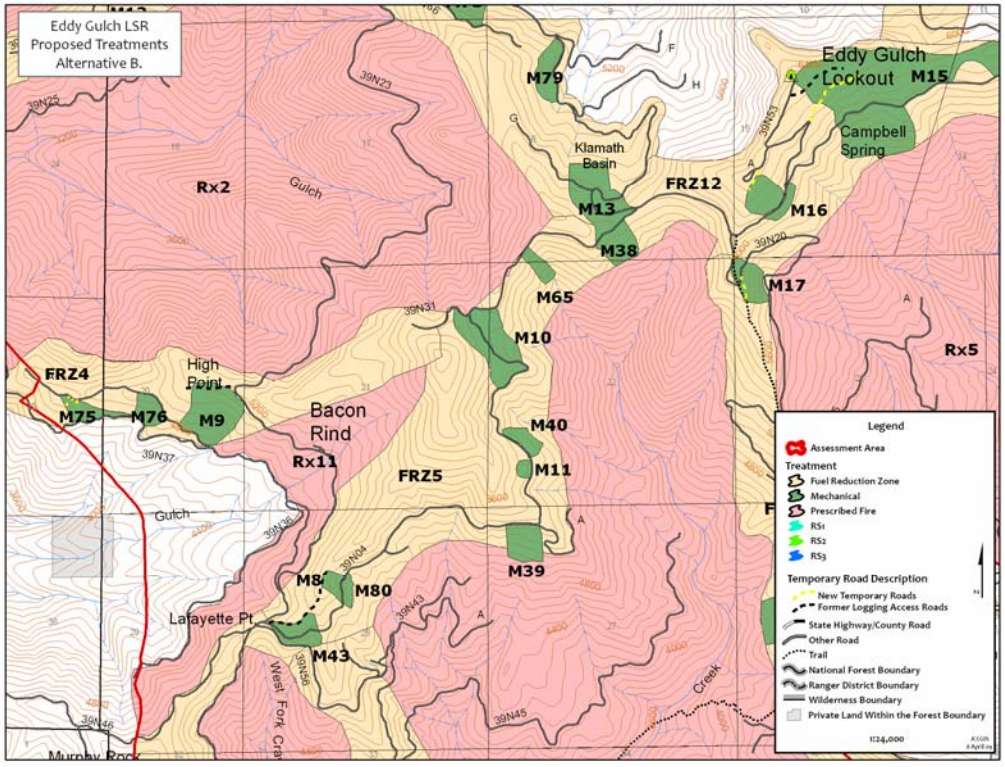
Map A-2. Proposed treatment units in the north portion of the Eddy Gulch LSR Project Assessment. Area.

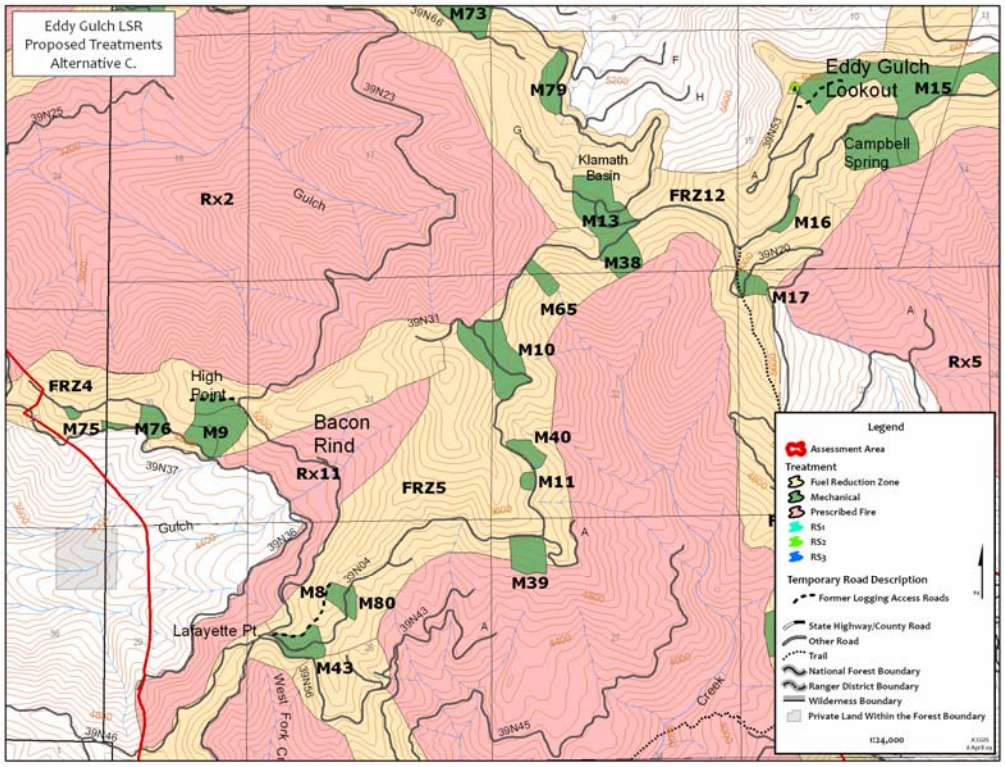


Map A-3. RS treatments along emergency access routes that do not pass through an FRZ or Rx Unit.

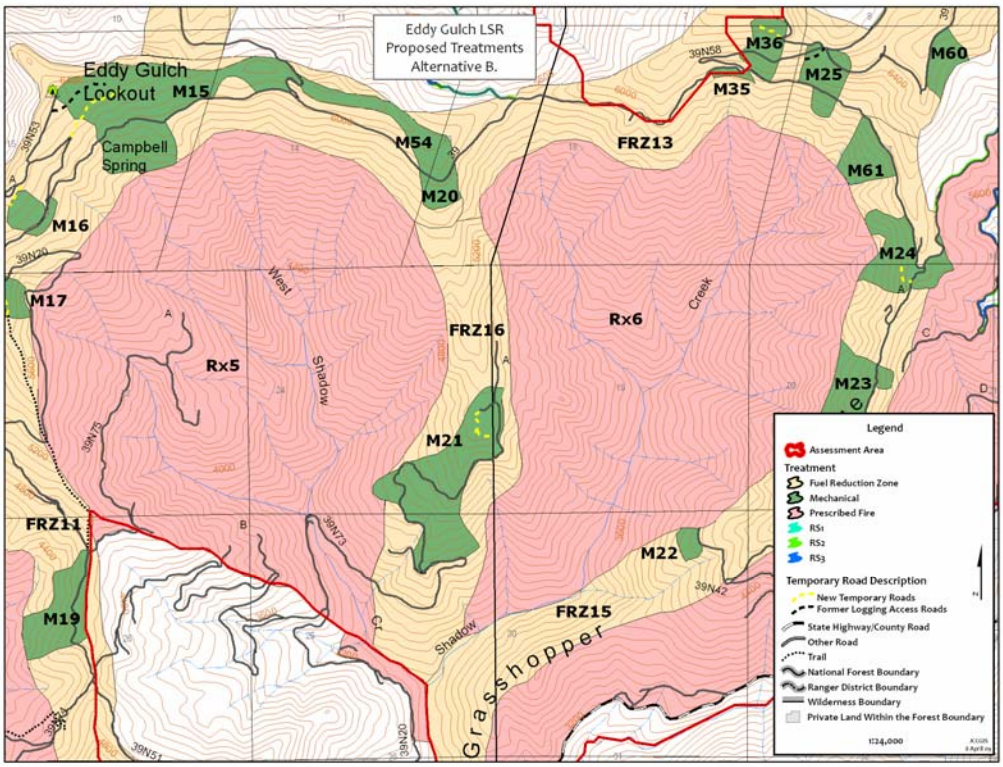


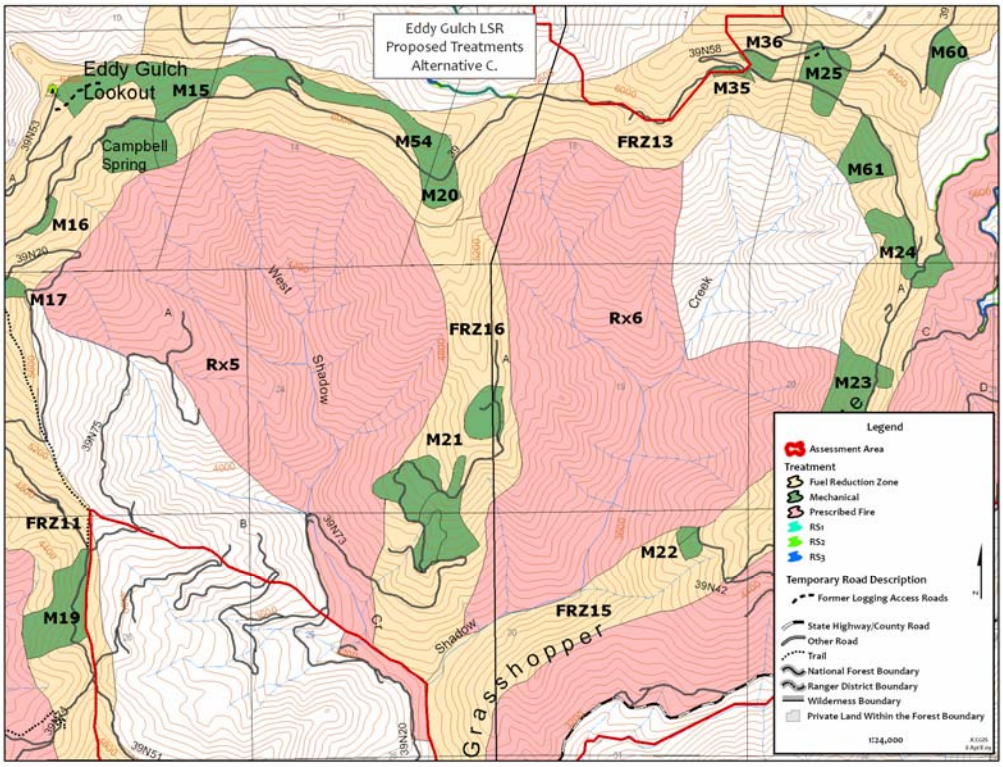
Map A-4a. View 1: Alternative B–configuration of treatment units *with construction* of 1.03 miles of new temporary roads and Alternative C–configuration of treatment units *without construction* of 1.03 miles of new temporary roads.





Map A-4b. View 2: Alternative B–configuration of treatment units *with construction* of 1.03 miles of new temporary roads and Alternative C–configuration of treatment units *without construction* of 1.03 miles of new temporary roads.





Map A-5. Eddy Gulch LSR Viewpoints of Concern.