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Scratchings Timber Sale

Record of Decision II

USDA Forest Service



Suemez Island

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USDA Forest Service
Craig Ranger District
Tongass National Forest
Alaska Region

Introduction

The Scratchings Timber Sale project area is located on Suemez Island, west of Prince of Wales Island and 12 miles southwest of Craig, on the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska. Suemez Island is 37,127 acres in size, 35,960 acres of which are National Forest System lands. In the northwest corner of the island, the remaining 1,167-acre parcel is owned by the University of Alaska. Suemez Island is only accessible by water or air.

This Record of Decision (ROD) documents my decision to implement timber harvest within units that were analyzed in the Scratchings Timber Sale Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) but deferred in the March 2007 Record of Decision. The seven harvest units and associated road construction were postponed in accordance with the provisions of the settlement agreement¹ with the Natural Resources Defense Council, Organized Village of Kake and the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, et al. The settlement agreement sought to resolve issues regarding timber harvest in roadless areas and delayed the issuance of RODs

¹ “Settlement agreement” refers to the agreement made in the disposition of Natural Resources Defense Council, et al., v. U.S. Forest Service, et al., Case Nos. 1:03-cv-0029-JKS, 1:04-cv 0010-JKS, 1_04-cv-0029-JKS and 1:06-cv-0005-JWS.

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for timber harvest in those areas until after the completion of the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (2008 Forest Plan).

The agreement stipulated that:

“ . . . the Forest Service will not sign new records of decision (RODs) or other decision documents for timber sales in inventoried roadless areas (as shown on the 2003 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for TLMP) or on Kuiu Island until 30 days after the publication in the Federal Register of the notice of availability for the final environmental impact statement (Final EIS) for the TLMP review process now underway unless the Forest Service designates a later effective date for the new plan, in which case the Forest Service will not sign new RODs or other decision documents for timber sales in inventoried roadless areas or on Kuiu Island until the effective date designated by the Forest Service.

For the Scratchings project, the Forest Service may complete an EIS that considers roaded and roadless options, but will not issue a decision document that authorizes logging or road construction in inventoried roadless areas until 30 days after publication in the Federal Register of the notice of availability of the Final EIS for the TLMP review process now underway unless the Forest Service designates a later effective date for the new plan, in which case the Forest Service will not issue a decision document that authorizes logging or road construction in inventoried roadless areas until the effective date designated by the Forest Service. This provision does not affect decision documents for the Scratchings project that authorize logging exclusively outside of inventoried roadless areas.”

Alternative 3 of the Scratchings Final EIS was selected for implementation, but was modified to postpone harvest in the six units located within Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) 502, and the one unit of which all but approximately 20 acres were in IRA 502. The construction of National Forest System (NFS) Road 1086500, designed as access to these units, was also delayed in the initial ROD.

The decision for the 2008 Forest Plan was signed on January 23, 2008. The notice of availability of the 2008 Forest Plan was placed in the Federal Register on February 15, 2008. The effective date for implementation of the 2008 Forest Plan was 30 days from the notice. This second ROD for Scratchings Timber Sale meets the conditions set forth in the settlement agreement for the Natural Resources Defense Council, et al; therefore, the seven harvest units and associated road construction from the first Scratchings decision may now be included in this subsequent ROD.

Decision

My decision encompasses the following:

- The location, amount, and method of timber harvest, road construction, log transfer facilities, and silvicultural practices (ROD Appendix 1, Unit Cards);
- Road management objectives (ROD Appendix 2, Road Cards);
- Any necessary project-specific design criteria, mitigation measures, and monitoring requirements; and

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- A finding on significant restrictions on subsistence uses.

This decision is based on the environmental analysis in the March 2007 Scratchings Timber Sale Final EIS. That analysis incorporated agency, tribal, and public comments received during the comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). It is responsive to issues raised during scoping, information gathered during the environmental analysis development, and addresses public and agency comments on the Draft EIS. This decision meets the Purpose and Need for the project; and is consistent with the transition language of the 2008 Forest Plan decision.

Description of this Decision

In the March 2007 Scratchings Timber Sale Final EIS ROD, the Selected Alternative modified Alternative 3 by deferring implementation of harvest in Units 634-067, 634-068, 634-069, 634-070, 634-073, 634-098, and 634-111. These units are located all or partially within the Suez IRA 502 (Figure R-1). IRA 502 is considered a lower value roadless area in the 2008 Forest Plan and is available for harvest as part of the Timber Sale Program Adaptive Management Strategy.

The first ROD also deferred construction of NFS Road 1086500, which provides access to the harvest units. Both the road construction and unit harvest will now be implemented as part of the Scratchings Record of Decision II.

This ROD authorizes harvesting of timber from approximately 177 acres, which includes approximately 157 acres in IRA 502 and about 20 acres outside of IRA 502. Timber harvest will provide an estimated 3 million board feet of timber harvest volume. Design features and mitigation measures for the harvest units are described in detail on the unit cards in Appendix 1 of this Record of Decision.

This decision authorizes building about 0.8 mile of NFS road (Road 1086500) that will provide access to Units 634-067 and 634-068, and to serve as a helicopter landing for Units 634-111 and 634-073. Also authorized are about 1.4 miles of temporary roads for access to Units 634-068 and 634-069. At the conclusion of harvest activities, all temporary roads will be decommissioned, and all drainage structures removed. NFS Road 1086500 will have all drainage structures removed and placed into storage. Design features and mitigation measures are described in ROD Appendix 1 (Unit Cards) and Appendix 2 (Road Card).

The Selected Alternative for the 2007 Scratchings ROD modified the four small Old-growth Reserves (OGRs) in Value Comparison Units (VCUs) 6330, 6340, 6350, and 6370, through a non-significant amendment to the 1997 Forest Plan. An interagency team of biologists further refined these small OGRs during the analysis for the 2008 Forest Plan. No further adjustments to OGRs are proposed as a part of this ROD for the Scratchings project area.

Reasons for Decision

In making my decision, I considered the many issues raised during the development and scoping of this project, the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines relevant to the project area, and the competing interests and values of the public. Many divergent public and agency opinions were expressed during the analysis, and have helped make a better-informed

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decision. I have considered all views that have been expressed, and have incorporated them into the project where feasible and consistent with the project purpose and need, laws and regulations.

I considered the need to help provide a sustained level of timber supply to seek to meet annual and Forest Plan planning cycle market demand, and to provide diverse opportunities for natural resource employment, consistent with multiple use and sustained yield of all renewable forest resources. The estimated 3 MMBF of timber resulting from harvest of these 7 units will help meet Southeast Alaska timber supply needs.

To insure the consequences of project implementation will fall within acceptable bounds, I have considered cumulative watershed effects including those of past harvest. Implementation of actions associated with this decision, such as road building, bridge construction and culvert installation could temporarily increase sediment delivery to streams. Current science also suggests that water yield and peak flows in stream channels may increase when forest canopies are decreased by more than 20 percent. Any increases in water yield and sedimentation are anticipated to be minor. Design measures described in the Scratchings project record, including the implementation of BMPs, are expected to maintain water quality within standards established by the State of Alaska and are not expected to degrade fish habitat. Following harvest activity, new road segment 1086500 will be placed in storage. Road storage will reduce long-term risks of sedimentation and inhibited fish passage.

By putting road segment 1086500 in storage and by decommissioning all temporary roads following harvest activities, my decision to implement this action also responds to road maintenance cost issues.

This decision includes partial harvest and/or even-aged harvest with reserves, using both helicopter and short-span cable logging systems. Unit prescriptions are based on consideration of resource objectives, which are described in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS, and on a unit-by-unit basis in the unit cards. Even-aged harvest will help reduce windthrow in stands determined to be of moderate to high risk.

I considered the public's concerns related to subsistence uses, fish and deer being the highest uses in nearby communities. Hearings on subsistence were held in Craig and Hydaburg. No oral testimony was received at these hearings.

In addition to these hearings, an informal open house was held on a separate date in Craig, as an opportunity for the public to voice any concerns or preferences they might have on management activities in the project area.

I considered the public's concern related to cumulative effects of past harvest and concerns for specific watersheds. The IDT analyzed cumulative effects at a scale appropriate to each resource. The analysis determined that application of the 2008 Forest Plan standards and guidelines maintain fish and wildlife and their habitat, as well as other resource values and uses. Primary concerns for past harvest that were raised during scoping centered on the Dolores watershed, near Port Dolores. The seven units in this decision all fall within the Indiana and West watersheds adjacent to Port Santa Cruz, and will not affect the Dolores watershed.

The 2008 Forest Plan expanded some existing Special Interest Areas (SIA) for protection of their geologic features. Suemez Island Geological Area was one of those expansions. The

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Suemez Island Geologic Area is located on the southwest portion of Suemez Island and encompasses the area of volcanic vents and flows between Cape Felix, Arena Cove and Port Santa Cruz. Features of this area include various surface flow types, obsidian sources, volcanic vents, and other unique geologic features, such as the formations found on the beach west of Cape Felix, and a waterfall and grotto near the western margin of the volcanic area. The timber sale harvest units that are part of this decision fall outside of the SIA and, therefore, are not anticipated to have an impact on its features.

Though some karst and related features are found on Suemez Island, these areas are not proximal to these harvest units. No direct, indirect or cumulative effects to karst are expected as a result of project implementation.

In making this decision, I considered the comments received on the 2008 Forest Plan Amendment Draft EIS regarding climate change and reviewed the analysis in the 2008 Forest Plan Amendment Final EIS. The forest-wide analysis discusses the considerable uncertainty concerning specific predictions for how the climate may change and even more uncertainty regarding the effects of climate change on the resources of the Tongass National Forest. In this context, climate change is not essential to a reasoned choice among the alternatives considered in the Scratchings Timber Sale project analysis. The Tongass National Forest will continue to monitor potential effects of climate change through the existing Forest Plan monitoring programs and other studies that are happening regionally and nationally. Existing procedures will be used to address any need for a different course of action that might affect this decision.

I evaluated the trade-off between resource protection, social values, and timber sale economics. My decision to implement harvest in these units provides a beneficial mix of resources for the public, within a framework of existing laws, regulations, policies, public needs and desires, and the capabilities of the land, while meeting the Purpose and Need for this project. My decision to implement this decision conforms to the Forest Plan and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).

2008 Forest Plan

The 2008 amendment to the Forest Plan was completed using the 1982 planning regulations during the time the environmental analysis for Scratchings EIS was being conducted. The Forest Plan Amendment DEIS was released in January 2007, with an extended public comment period ending on April 30, 2007. The 2008 Forest Plan was completed with the signing of the ROD on January 23, 2008 and became effective on March 17, 2008. The 2008 Forest Plan ROD adopts a Timber Sale Program Adaptive Management Strategy, under which portions of the suitable land base become available for project-level planning in three phases. These phases respond to levels of actual timber harvest. My decision to implement the Scratchings ROD II decision conforms to the 2008 Forest Plan and sound National Forest System management.

During Phase 1, timber harvest will be restricted to developed areas and lower value roadless areas as defined in the 2008 Forest Plan. Harvest will be generally restricted from the suitable land base within Phase II and III areas until actual market thresholds are met. The Timber

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Sale Program Adaptive Management Strategy designates the Scratchings ROD II project area as being within Phase I suitable timber base.

The 2008 Forest Plan ROD also contains transition language for timber sale projects that were already being planned. This language identifies three different categories of projects, depending on how far along the projects are in the planning process. The Scratchings project is identified as falling within Category 2, which requires me to review the project and incorporate the new direction in the 2008 Forest Plan to the extent this can be done without causing major disruption in the implementation of the project.

Timber sales in Category 2 include those with a Final Environmental Impact Statement, but with no Record of Decision as a result of the May 18, 2007 *Settlement Agreement in Natural Resources Defense Council v. Forest Service*, Case No. 1:03-cv-00029-JKS (approved by Alaska District Court on May 25, 2007). The effects of these actions have already been disclosed to the public through site-specific and project-level environmental documents. Projects in Category 2 have been reviewed and found consistent with the goals and objectives of the 2008 Forest Plan. Additionally, the inclusion of these units in the Settlement Agreement is the rationale for authorizing timber harvest now.

The 2008 Forest Plan brings forward the conservation measures for habitat connectivity from the 1997 Forest Plan, as well as the standards and guidelines for landscape connectivity and for endemic terrestrial mammals. To ensure the intent to maintain connectivity between large and medium old growth reserves, minor changes to the 1997 Plan guidelines were made in the 2008 Plan.

The endemic terrestrial mammal standard was modified to allow the use of existing inventory data on endemic mammal distribution when analyzing effects of proposed management projects. Surveys would still be necessary where existing information is not adequate, in order to assess project-level effects.

The 1997 Forest Plan structure retention guidelines for marten and goshawk have been replaced in the 2008 Forest Plan amendment by a legacy forest guideline. Neither the old nor the new guidelines apply on Suemez Island.

Approximately 90,000 acres were added to the network of small Old-Growth Habitat reserves in the 2008 Forest Plan. Some of these additional acres were previously allocated to development Land Use Designations (LUDs). In addition, there were some refinements made to the boundaries of some small old-growth reserves.

The 2008 Scratchings Final EIS addresses wolf mortality as a result of road access and other factors. The Selected Alternative for the 2008 Forest Plan Final EIS has a similar viability rating for wolves in comparison to the 1997 Forest Plan. Implementation of this decision is not anticipated to have unacceptable effects to wolf mortality and is consistent with 2008 Forest Plan direction.

Sacred sites consultation with tribal governments is required in project planning. Tribal relations are an aspect of the work of all resource disciplines. Consultations have been and continue to be conducted with the tribal governments and Native corporations of Craig, Klawock, and Hydaburg. During these meetings, the Scratchings EIS was highlighted and concerns were solicited. One concern was raised during the development of the Scratchings EIS, and was addressed by changes to Heritage (Archaeology and History) Section in

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Chapter 3 of the Scratchings Final EIS. No other comments addressing heritage resources have been received from tribal entities.

Significant Issues

In making my decision, I considered all the issues identified during the planning process, particularly the three significant issues.

Issues for the Scratchings project were identified through public and internal scoping and further defined after analyzing comments on the Draft EIS. Issues were identified early in the process and guided the analysis through the Draft and Final EIS. The following summary discloses how the selection of this Alternative addresses each of the significant issues.

Chapter 3 of the Draft and Final EIS supplement the following discussion. Table 2-2 in the Scratchings Final EIS provides a comparison of the alternatives.

Issue 1: Timber Harvest Economics

Comments indicated that people are concerned about economically viable timber sales and the impact of timber harvest on the livelihoods of residents of Southeast Alaska.

The Scratchings units in this ROD will provide an estimated 3 MMBF of timber that contribute to market demand in a manner consistent with the 2008 Forest Plan standards and guidelines for all resources. Timber from this project is needed as a component of the timber sale schedule and is designed to provide raw material to industry in an even flow over the 5-year planning cycle.

I considered the need to seek to provide a long-term, stable supply of timber for local sawmills and timber operators. This decision contributes to the annual planning cycle market demand while managing these lands for sustained long-term yields, consistent with sound multiple-use and sustained-yield objectives. At the same time, the decision implements the 2008 Forest Plan direction.

I considered the need to provide diverse opportunities for natural resource related employment, and to contribute to local and regional economies. Timber harvested as a result of this decision could help to support local and regional economies. Implementation of the decision will support an estimated 12 to 17 jobs in the local community. This range of jobs accounts for the variety of options timber purchasers have under the limited interstate shipping policy. To respond to market and industry conditions, purchasers may elect to process all the sawlogs locally or ship up to 50 percent of the total sawlog volume to markets outside Alaska. For this project, this could be primarily interstate shipment to the lower 48 of unprocessed Sitka spruce and western hemlock sawlogs that are: a) smaller than 15 inches in diameter at the small end of a 40-foot log, or b) grade 3 or grade 4 logs of any diameter.

Currently, Alaska yellow cedar identified as surplus to Alaska domestic needs may be exported to domestic and foreign markets at the purchaser's option, with the approval of the Regional Forester. Western redcedar that is surplus to Alaska domestic needs may be available for exports if local markets do not respond to purchasers offer to sell at a government set price. Prior to export, an approval is required by the Regional Forester and a price adjustment is made to the purchaser to compensate for the export values.

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Because the impacts to other resources such as recreation, scenery, and watershed meet the Forest Plan and effects are expected to be moderate or less, I do not expect changes to other natural resource related employment.

Timber harvest economics for the 7 units were analyzed as part of Alternative 3 in the Scratchings Final EIS. Actual appraised value for any sale that is advertised for bid will depend on the amount of volume offered; road costs; logging systems used; and the market conditions at the time of the appraisal. The actual bid rate and value will be determined through the Residual Value at the time of the sale offer for these units.

Issue 2: Cumulative Impacts on the Dolores Watershed from Road Building and Timber Harvest

Comments indicated concern about harvesting timber and road construction in the Dolores Watershed because of the amount of past management activities that occurred there. Units that are in this decision are not within the Dolores Watershed, nor will there be effects to the Dolores Watershed with the implementation of this ROD. All harvest units fall within the West and Indiana Watersheds.

Issue 3: Timber Harvest and Road Construction in Roadless Areas and Unroaded Areas

Comments indicated there are ongoing concerns about timber harvest or road construction in roadless areas. This decision covers seven timber harvest units, of which all but about 20 acres are within Inventoried Roadless Area 502 Suemez Island (IRA 502).

Approximately 156 acres of IRA 502 are within timber harvest units with this decision. Harvest would reduce the area containing roadless character from 24,356 acres to 23,670 acres. This includes an area of 600 feet around harvest units and 1200 feet along each side of roads that would no longer maintain roadless characteristics. These distances are based on the process used for the roadless inventory completed for the 2003 Forest Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), which was incorporated into the 2008 Forest Plan.

The unique geological values of the inventoried roadless area are now located within the Special Interest Area LUD as allocated by the 2008 Forest Plan decision.

I considered the effects of proposed harvesting and associated road construction on the roadless character of Inventoried Roadless Area 502. The effects to roadless character will be minimized by decommissioning and/or placing roads in storage after harvest. Furthermore, harvest methods include helicopter logging, requiring less road construction than with only ground-based methods.

Alternatives Considered in the Scratchings Final EIS

The Scratchings Final EIS considered five alternatives. Each action alternative was consistent with the 1997 Forest Plan, which was in effect at that time. The selected alternative for the 2007 Scratchings ROD was a modified Alternative 3, deferring 7 units from harvest. For a complete description of all the alternatives and the effects of their implementation, refer to

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Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 of the Scratchings Final EIS. A comparison of the alternatives is in the 2007 Scratchings Final EIS in Table 2-2. The alternatives considered in the EIS were as follows.

Alternative 1—No action would occur in the project area at this time, no harvest of timber sale units and no road construction.

Alternative 2—this alternative proposed to construct more than 2 miles of road across University of Alaska lands, needed to access harvest units in Port Dolores. Alternative 2 proposed to provide more than 36 million board feet (MMBF) of timber from 1,919 acres. Road construction would have totaled 7 miles of temporary road and 12 miles of NFS roads. All newly constructed roads and about 11 miles of existing NFS road would have been placed in storage under this alternative. Approximately 10 miles of existing NFS road would have remained open after all harvest and road activities.

Alternative 2 would have modified the project area small old-growth reserves to meet the minimum Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

Alternative 3—this alternative proposed to provide up to 25 MMBF of timber from approximately 1,376 acres. Proposed road construction included 5 miles of temporary roads and 7 miles of NFS road. All newly constructed roads and about 11 miles of existing NFS road would be placed in storage or decommissioned under this alternative. Approximately 10 miles of existing NFS road would have remained open after all harvest and road activities.

Alternative 3 would have modified the project area small old-growth reserves to meet the minimum Forest Plan standards and guidelines as recommended by an interagency group of biologists.

Alternative 4—this alternative proposed to harvest up to 17 MMBF of timber from approximately 1,059 acres. Proposed road construction would have built about 3 miles of temporary road and 4 miles of NFS road. All newly constructed roads and about 11 miles of existing NFS road would be placed in storage or decommissioned under this alternative. Approximately 10 miles of existing NFS road would have remained open after all harvest and road activities.

Alternative 4 proposed to modify the small old-growth reserves as recommended by an interagency group of biologists.

Alternative 5—this alternative would have provided up to 20 MMBF of timber from approximately 1,030 acres. Proposed road construction would have built about 4 miles of temporary road, about 250 feet of which would have crossed University of Alaska lands, for access to Unit 634-004. All newly constructed roads and about 11 miles of existing NFS road would be placed in storage or decommissioned under this alternative. Approximately 10 miles of existing NFS road would have remained open after all harvest and road activities.

Alternative 5 proposed to modify the small old-growth reserves as recommended by an interagency group of biologists.

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Alternatives Considered in this Decision

Two alternatives were considered in this Scratchings ROD II decision. Both are consistent with the Forest Plan and the effects described in Chapters 2 and 3 of the Scratchings Final EIS.

Alternative 1—No action (no harvest of Units 634-067, 634-068, 634-069, 634-070, 634-073, 634-111, 634-098)

Alternative 2—Harvest of Units 634-067, 634-068, 634-069, 634-070, 634-073, 634-111, 634-098, and construction of 0.8 mile of NFS road as well as approximately 1.4 miles of temporary road.

Public Involvement

Public involvement has been instrumental in the identification and clarification of issues for this project. This has been helpful in the formulation of alternatives and has assisted me in making a more informed decision for the Scratchings project. Public hearings, *Federal Register* notices, an open house, government-to-government consultation, and the Tongass National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions, were used to solicit input for this project.

Notice of Intent (NOI)

A Notice of Intent to publish an EIS was printed in the *Federal Register* on July 6, 2005, when it was decided that an EIS was to be undertaken for the project.

Public Mailing

On July 7, 2005, a scoping letter providing information and seeking public comment was mailed to individuals and groups that had previously shown interest in Forest Service projects in Southeast Alaska. The mailing list included people who had requested to be on the mailing list; those who previously expressed interest in timber sale proposals; and those who either own property or conduct business within or near the project area. The mailing list also included many local, state, and federal agencies and federally recognized tribal governments with whom the USDA Forest Service routinely consults during project planning for the Craig and Thorne Bay Ranger Districts. The Craig Ranger District received 35 responses to this mailing. The DEIS was mailed in August 2006. Eleven comment letters on the DEIS were received and included in Appendix 2 of the Final EIS.

Open House

An open house that presented information on the Scratchings project was held July 28, 2005 at the Craig Ranger District conference room. This open house provided information on the project and provided an opportunity for the public to voice any concerns or preferences they might have about management activities in the project area.

Draft EIS

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Availability of Draft EIS for Public Comment

The Notice of Availability of this Draft EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on August 4, 2006 starting the 45-day public comment period. Legal notice was published in the *Juneau Empire*, the official newspaper of record at the time, and in the *Ketchikan Daily News* on August 4, 2006. Legal notice was published in the *Island News* on August 7, 2006. The Draft EIS was mailed to everyone on the project mailing list, and to all others who requested a copy. The Draft EIS was also made available at the Craig Ranger District and was mailed to public libraries throughout Southeast Alaska.

Subsistence Hearings

Subsistence hearings were held in Craig on July 19, 2006 and Hydaburg on July 20, 2006. No oral testimony was received at either of these hearings. A single written comment received from the Hydaburg hearing stated that the Scratchings project was too large of a sale.

The open house that presented information on the Scratchings project was held July 28, 2005 at the Craig Ranger District conference room. It provided an additional opportunity to share concerns regarding subsistence activities. No subsistence comments resulted from that meeting.

Analysis and Incorporation of Public Comments

Public comments and subsistence comments were analyzed and incorporated into the Final EIS. Several comments were received regarding timber harvest in the Dolores Watershed and in the Suemez Inventoried Roadless Area, and timber sale supply and economics. For an analysis of public comment and the Forest Service response to public comment, see Appendix B of the Final EIS.

Final EIS

Publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement

The Notice of Availability of the Scratchings Final EIS was published in the *Federal Register*. Legal notices were published in the *Juneau Empire*, the official newspaper of record at the time, and in the *Ketchikan Daily News* and the *Island News*. Copies of the Final EIS and Record of Decision were mailed to Federal and State agencies, federally recognized tribal governments, public libraries throughout Southeast Alaska, and to those who requested copies of the Final EIS or who responded to the Draft EIS. The Final EIS is also available at the Craig Ranger District Office. No appeals were made of this decision.

Record of Decision, 2007

The Record of Decision was signed on March 12, 2007. This decision selected a modified Alternative 3, deferring harvest of seven units located partially or entirely within Suemez Inventoried Roadless Area 502, and deferring the construction of the National Forest System road needed to access them. The seven units and new road were deferred under the

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stipulations and for the time period specified in the Settlement Agreement. No appeals of this decision were received.

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This ROD addresses the seven harvest units and one NFS Road which were part of Alternative 3 in the Scratchings Final EIS, but deferred under the stipulations and for the time period specified in the Settlement Agreement.

Consultation with Tribal Governments

Letters providing information and inviting government-to-government consultation were sent to tribes in May 2005 prior to public scoping for the Scratchings EIS. These letters were sent to the following federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native corporations: Klawock Cooperative Association; Klawock Heenya Corporation; Craig Community Association; Shaan Seet Inc.; Hydaburg Cooperative Association; Haida Corporation; the Organized Village of Kasaan; Kavalco Inc.; Ketchikan Indian Community; the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska; and Sealaska Corporation. The letters were followed by telephone calls to all federally recognized tribal governments on Prince of Wales Island. No comments or responses to these letters were received.

The Craig District Ranger and acting District Ranger attended tribal council meetings on Prince of Wales Island in October 2005 to highlight high interest projects on the Craig and Thorne Bay Ranger Districts and to review the 2006 program of work. The Scratchings Timber Sale project was highlighted and concerns were solicited. On September 26, 2006, a meeting was held in Craig between the Tongass National Forest and representatives of the Craig, Klawock, and Hydaburg Tribal Councils. The focus of that meeting was the 2008 Forest Plan; however, the Scratchings Timber Sale project was discussed as well.

During the late winter and spring of 2006 the Prince of Wales Island District Rangers or acting Rangers attended tribal council meetings to highlight the year's active projects. The Scratchings Timber Sale project was discussed at each of these meetings. Meetings were held in February, March, and April 2006 in Hydaburg, Klawock, and Craig. No comments regarding Scratchings planning were received at these meetings.

Following distribution of the Scratchings Draft EIS in August 2006, additional tribal consultation was conducted. A comment letter was received from the Craig Community Association, which led to modification to the Heritage Resources section of Chapter 3 in the Final EIS. Letters presenting the 2007 program of work for the Craig and Thorne Bay Ranger Districts were mailed to tribes in mid-December 2006. During January 2007, the Craig District Ranger or acting Ranger attended tribal council meetings in Hydaburg, Klawock, and Craig. The Scratchings Timber Sale project was discussed and the timeline for completion explained. The Scratching EIS and implementation were included in a list of Forest Service Projects on Prince of Wales Island discussed at Island-Wide Tribal/Forest Service consultations on October 29, 2007 and April 7, 2008. No comments were received at these meetings. Ongoing dialogue is planned.

Coordination with Other Agencies

The Alaska Coastal Management Plan (ACMP) consistency review process was initiated upon publication of the Draft EIS through the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting. The Office of Project Management and Permitting concurred with our determination.

A Biological Assessment was prepared and sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as part of the Section 7 consultation process under the Endangered Species Act. Both agencies concurred with our findings.

To comply with the essential fish habitat (EFH) agreement, the Forest Service prepared an EFH assessment. The EFH assessment was sent to NMFS, which concurred with the finding that Scratchings Timber Sale may adversely affect EFH.

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has been consulted, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and 36 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 800. Native communities have been contacted and public comment encouraged. The Forest Service has satisfied the consultation process with the State Historic Preservation Officer. No effects on known heritage resources are anticipated. See discussion under Heritage Resources in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS for more details.

The Final EIS identified the agencies that were informed of and/or involved in the planning process (see List of Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals Sent Copies of the EIS in Chapter 4 of the Final EIS).

An interagency team of biologists representing the USFWS, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), and the Forest Service reviewed small old-growth reserves (OGRs) for location and function, including those on Suemez Island. The Scratchings ROD included an amendment to the Forest Plan for changes to OGRs in VCUs 6330, 6340, 6350 and 6370.

Project Record

The project record for Scratchings project includes the Draft EIS, Final EIS, 1997 Forest Plan and the 2008 Forest Plan, as well as material incorporated by reference, and all materials produced during the environmental analysis of this project. The project record is available for review at the Craig Ranger District.

Mitigation

Mitigation measures are prescribed to avoid, reduce, or eliminate the adverse effects of actions. These measures were applied in the development of the project alternatives, including this decision, and in the design of the harvest units and road corridors.

As noted in the Mitigation section of Chapter 2 in the Scratchings Final EIS, additional archaeological surveys and/or monitoring will be done in conjunction with road and unit harvest layout to identify potential obsidian quarry sites or tool manufacturing sites. If a

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significant historic property is located during these surveys or monitoring, development of roads or units will cease at that location until the Forest Service, in consultation with SHPO, can craft a mitigation strategy. This scope of the strategy would depend on the extent and character of the historic property, and may range from small scale data recovery to dropping the unit or road. SHPO has concurred with a determination of no adverse affect with the implementation of this mitigation strategy.

The Mitigation Measures section of Chapter 2, Unit Cards and Road Cards of the Scratchings Final EIS and appendices to this Record of Decision discuss mitigation measures for the action alternative.

Monitoring

A monitoring program is the process by which the Forest Service can evaluate whether the resource management objectives of the final environmental documents have been implemented as specified and whether the steps identified for mitigating the environmental effects were effective. Project-level monitoring is specified in Chapter 2 of the Final EIS and prescribed on the unit cards for all harvest units (ROD Appendix 1). These monitoring items are part of this decision.

Findings Required By Law

Several of the laws and executive orders listed in Chapter 1 of the Final EIS require project-specific findings or other disclosures. They apply to all alternatives considered in detail.

National Forest Management Act

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires specific determinations in this Record of Decision: consistency with existing Forest Plans; a determination of clearcutting as the optimum method of harvesting, if used, and specific authorizations to create openings over 100 acres in size. Specific information and rationale used to develop unit prescriptions is shown on unit cards (ROD Appendix 1), in Chapter 3 of the Draft and Final EIS, and in the project record.

Clearcutting as the Optimum Method of Harvesting

The 2008 Forest Plan gives guidance on when to use even-aged management. Clearcutting (an even-aged method) may be used in this project to preclude or minimize the occurrence of potentially adverse impacts from windthrow. It is applied where windthrow potential is a concern. Clearcutting is also used to minimize mistletoe infestations, logging damage or other factors affecting forest health. Specific information and rationale for use of this prescription is shown in the silvicultural prescriptions (which are a part of the project planning record) and in Chapter 3 of the Scratchings Draft and Final EIS.

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Harvest Openings Over 100 Acres in Size

The Scratchings project complies with all resource integration and management requirements of 36 CFR 219 (219.14 through 219.27), through application of Forest Plan standards and guidelines at the project level. No openings will be created that are in excess of 100 acres.

Forest Service Transportation Final Administrative Policy (Roads Rule)

The Scratchings Final EIS, Scratchings ROD and Scratchings ROD II were prepared to be consistent with the Forest Service Transportation Final Administrative Policy, the *Tongass National Forest Level Road Analysis* (January 2003), and the Suemez Island Travel Management Plan. The Suemez Island Travel Management Plan is consistent with the Prince of Wales Access and Travel Management Plan Environmental Analysis that is currently in progress. I have determined that the Suemez Island Road system is the minimum road system needed for safe and efficient travel and for administration, utilization, and protection of National Forest System lands (36 CFR 212.5).

Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA)

Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines have been applied to this project. No commercial timber harvest will occur within 100 feet of any Class I stream or any Class II stream flowing directly into a Class I stream, as required in Section 103 of the TTRA. The design and implementation direction for the decision incorporates Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for the protection of all stream classes.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (as amended)

The decision will not have a direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse effect on any threatened or endangered species. Consultation was initiated with USFWS and NMFS. No terrestrial or threatened or endangered species are listed for the project area. A combined biological assessment (BA) and biological evaluation (BE) was prepared for the project, as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended, and the USDA Forest Service Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plant and Animal Species Policy (Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2670).

Bald Eagle Protection Act

This decision will comply with the Bald Eagle Protection Act. No eagle nests have been found within or adjacent to the harvest units that are part of this decision. Protective measures are not required for this project.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat)

The potential effects of the project on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) are discussed in Chapter 3 of the Scratchings Final EIS. This discussion includes reference to the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act, which requires the Forest Service to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on projects that may affect EFH. It also includes a description of

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the EFH in the project area, a description of the proposed activities, and a specification of the mitigation measures that will be protecting these essential habitats.

In accordance with the Forest Service and National Marine Fisheries Service agreement on the method to complete EFH consultation using National Environmental Policy Act procedures (dated August 25, 2000); the consultation process was formally initiated by providing the Draft EIS to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The analysis in the Scratchings Final EIS led to a determination in the 2007 ROD that the project may adversely affect EFH. Risk of effects to EFH is minimized through the implementation of Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and Best Management Practices. In evaluating the potential effects on EFH of activities authorized as part of this decision, these factors were considered:

1. All Class II streams within the project area will be protected by a no-harvest riparian management area (RMA) buffer of 100 feet or more (Unit Cards ROD Appendix 1).
2. All Class III streams will be protected by no-harvest RMA buffers to at least the top of the side slope according to the Forest Plan.
3. Where wind damage is a concern, buffer widths may be increased, and additional trees may be left standing to assure resistance to windthrow (Unit Cards ROD Appendix 1).
4. BMPs will be implemented to protect water quality and aquatic habitat for all freshwater streams within the project area.
5. New construction of NFS roads will be approximately 0.8 mile and will cross one Class II stream and two Class III streams. All newly constructed NFS road will be placed in storage after timber harvest is complete.
6. Construction of 1.4 miles of new temporary road will occur. No temporary roads will be constructed across fish streams.
7. The newly constructed NFS road will be placed into storage after timber harvest is complete.
8. Rebuilding of an existing log transfer facility (LTF) by using the existing footprint will minimize the chance for sea floor impacts.
9. Using low tide cycles to complete rebuilding of an LTF will allow for flushing of small-scale fine sediments.
10. Loading of logs directly onto a barge will eliminate the need for placing logs into marine waters, thereby eliminating the accumulation of bark debris in the marine environment.

The NMFS reviewed the Draft EIS and has provided comments on the findings of the assessment. These comments are included in a letter dated August 25, 2006, outlining five conservation recommendations pertaining to the project (see Appendix 2 of the Final EIS for this letter). The Forest Service has responded to the conservation recommendations made by the NMFS.

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National Historic Preservation Act

Heritage resource surveys of various intensities have been conducted in the project area, following inventory protocols approved by the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer. The State Historic Preservation Officer has been consulted, in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA and 36 CFR Part 800. I have determined that there will be no effects on known heritage resources.

Native communities have been contacted and public comment encouraged. The Forest Service has satisfied the consultation process with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Also, Forest Service timber sale contracts contain enforceable measures for protecting any undiscovered heritage resource that might be encountered during sale operations. See discussion under Heritage Resources in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS for more details.

Federal Cave Resource Protection Act of 1988

The actions in this decision will not have a direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on any significant cave in the Scratchings project area. Karst and cave systems have developed on the southeastern portion of Suemez Island. However, there is no proposed timber harvest on the southeastern portion of the Island.

Implementation of this decision will not have an effect on the karst systems found within the project area.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Section 810, Subsistence Evaluation and Findings

Subsistence Evaluation and Findings: A subsistence evaluation was conducted for the five alternatives, in accordance with Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Section 810. An ANILCA 810 subsistence hearing was conducted during the comment period for the Draft EIS. No oral testimony was received at these hearings.

This evaluation indicates that the potential foreseeable effects from the alternatives do not indicate a significant possibility of a significant restriction of subsistence uses for deer, bear, furbearers, marine mammals, waterfowl, salmon, other finfish, shellfish, and other foods such as berries and roots. See Chapter 3, Subsistence section, in the Final EIS for more detail.

However, the Forest Plan addressed the long-term consequences on subsistence and concluded that there may be a significant possibility of significant restriction to subsistence use of deer some time in the future due to the combined potential effects of projects implementing the 2008 Forest Plan and the predicted human population growth on the abundance and distribution of deer and on competition for deer. The analysis in the Subsistence section in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS addresses this finding.

Clean Water Act (1977, as amended)

Congress intended the Clean Water Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-500) as amended in 1977 (Public Law 95-217) and 1987 (Public Law 100-4) to protect and improve the quality of water resources and maintain their beneficial uses. Section 313 of the Clean Water Act and Executive Order 12088 of January 23, 1987 address Federal agency compliance and consistency with water pollution control mandates. Agencies must be consistent with

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requirements that apply to "any governmental entity" or private person. Compliance is to be in line with "all Federal, State, interstate, and local requirements, administrative authority, and process and sanctions respecting the control and abatement of water pollution."

The Clean Water Act (Sections 208 and 319) recognized the need for control strategies for nonpoint source pollution. The National Nonpoint Source Policy (December 12, 1984), the Forest Service Nonpoint Strategy (January 29, 1985), and the USDA Nonpoint Source Water Quality Policy (December 5, 1986) provide a protection and improvement emphasis for soil and water resources and water-related beneficial uses. Soil and water conservation practices (BMPs) were recognized as the primary control mechanisms for nonpoint source pollution on National Forest System lands. The Environmental Protection Agency supports this perspective in their guidance, "Nonpoint Source Controls and Water Quality Standards" (August 19, 1987).

The Forest Service must apply Best Management Practices that are consistent with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Regulations to achieve Alaska Water Quality Standards. The site-specific application of BMPs, with a monitoring and feedback mechanism, is the approved strategy for controlling nonpoint source pollution as defined by Alaska's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Strategy (February, 2007). In 1997, the State approved the BMPs in the Forest Service's Soil and Water Conservation Handbook (FSH Handbook 2509.22, July, 2006) as consistent with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Regulations. This Handbook is incorporated into the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan.

A discharge of dredge or fill material from normal silviculture activities such as harvesting for the production of forest products is exempt from Section 404 permitting requirements in waters of the United States, including wetlands (404(f)(1)(A)). Forest roads qualify for this exemption only if they are constructed and maintained in accordance with best management practices to assure that flow and circulation patterns and chemical and biological characteristics of the waters are not impaired (404)(f)(1)(E)). The BMPs that must be followed are specified in 33 CFR 323.4(a). These specific BMPs have been incorporated into the Forest Service's Soil and Water Conservation Handbook under BMP 12.5.

The design of harvest units for this decision was guided by standards, guidelines and direction in the Forest Plan, and applicable Forest Service manuals and handbooks. The unit cards and road card (Appendices 2 and 3 of the Scratchings ROD) contain specific details on practices prescribed to prevent or reduce nonpoint sediment sources.

Clean Air Act

Emissions expected from implementation of this decision will be of short duration and are not expected to exceed State of Alaska Ambient Air Quality Standards (Alaska Administrative Code, Title 18, Chapter 50).

Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)

Under the CZMA, Federal activities that affect any land or water use or any natural resource of a State's coastal zone must be carried out in a manner that is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the State's coastal management plan. The Forest Service made a determination that the Scratchings Project will affect the coastal zone.

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Implementation of the project will be carried out in a manner that is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Alaska Coastal Management Program. The Office of Project Management and Permitting of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources reviewed and concurred with that determination.

Executive Orders

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplains)

Executive Order 11988 directs Federal agencies to take action to avoid, long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains to the extent possible. A floodplain is defined as the lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters including flood prone areas of offshore islands. Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for riparian areas exclude most commercial timber harvesting from floodplains. Roads may be constructed in or through floodplains subject to the design requirements of Best Management Practices. Effects on floodplains from project activities are avoided or minimized as much as possible.

Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands)

Executive Order 11990 requires Federal agencies to avoid, to the extent possible, the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands. Because wetlands are so extensive in the Scratchings project area, it is not feasible to avoid all wetland areas. Wetland soils not meeting Forest Plan criteria for timber harvest suitability are excluded from the timber harvest base. Though soil moisture regimes and vegetation on some wetlands may be altered in some harvest units, the affected wetlands will still meet wetland classification and will function as wetlands in the ecosystem.

Road construction across wetlands was avoided to the extent practicable (Road Cards ROD Appendix 2). Road 1086500 is mostly located on emergent short sedge and forested wetlands (0.77 mile) due to high density of wetland complexes across the ridgeline. Effects to wetlands are minimized through the application of specific Best Management Practices, using overlay road construction and adequate drainage to provide hydrologic connectivity of the roaded wetland with surrounding areas.

Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)

Executive Order 12898 directs Federal agencies to identify and address the issue of environmental justice, i.e., human health and environmental effects of agency programs that disproportionately impact minority and low-income populations. The Executive Order specifically directs agencies to consider patterns of subsistence hunting and fishing when an agency action may affect fish or wildlife. Subsistence use of resources by area residents does not vary significantly by ethnicity. No known subsistence food or material from the project area is used primarily by minority or low-income populations. Project level analysis shows this project will not result in a significant restriction of subsistence uses of deer, black bear, furbearers, marine mammals, waterfowl, salmon, other finfish, shellfish or other foods. However, the Forest Plan addressed the long-term consequences on subsistence and

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concluded that there may be a significant possibility of significant restriction to subsistence use of deer some time in the future due to the combined potential effects of projects implementing the Forest Plan and the predicted human population growth on the abundance and distribution of deer and on competition for deer. The analysis in the Subsistence section in Chapter 3 of the Final EIS addresses this finding. The decision to implement activities that are a part of the Scratchings project area will not cause adverse health, social, or environmental effects that disproportionately impact minority and low-income populations (see also the ANILCA Section 810 findings).

Executive Order 12962 (Recreational Fisheries)

Executive Order 12962 directs Federal agencies to conserve, restore, and enhance aquatic systems to provide for increased recreational fishing opportunities nationwide. This order directs Federal agencies to evaluate effects on aquatic ecosystems and recreational fisheries; develop and encourage partnerships; promote restoration; provide access; and promote awareness of opportunities for recreational fishery resources. The effects of this project on freshwater and marine resources were evaluated during the analysis. No significant adverse effects to freshwater or marine resources are expected to occur with the application of Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, including those for riparian areas. Partnerships continue to be used to leverage Federal project funds to address water quality concerns in areas of the Tongass National Forest; however, none have been proposed for recreational fisheries in conjunction with this project.

Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)

Executive Order 13007 directs Federal agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of American Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. In a government-to-government relationship, the tribal government is responsible for notifying the agency of the existence of a sacred site. A sacred site is defined as a site that has sacred significance due to established religious beliefs or ceremonial uses, and which has specific, discrete, and delineated location, which has been identified by the tribe. One sacred site is known to exist on Suemez Island. This site is not located near any of the project units. Access to this site will not be affected by any timber unit or road development associated with this decision.

Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species)

Executive Order 13112 directs Federal agencies whose actions may affect the status of invasive species to insure coordinated, cost-efficient and effective agency actions addressing the prevention, detection, control and monitoring of alien species. "Alien species" refers to those that do cause or are likely to cause economic, environmental harm or harm to human health. Actions to be taken include planning at the local, tribal, state, regional and ecosystem levels, in cooperation with stakeholders and organizations addressing invasive species. Agencies are not to fund or authorize actions that the agency believes are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species, unless the benefits of the action outweigh the potential harm caused by the species.

Inventories for invasive species were completed for the main portion of the Suemez Island road system in 2006, and recorded in the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse

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(AKEPIC) database. No high priority invasive plants were found. Due to the absence of high priority invasive plant species and the low level of proposed road construction, the ecologist determined the risk of spreading invasive species is quite low. No mitigation measures are needed as the overall risk of spread is low with project implementation.

Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments)

Executive Order 13175 directs Federal agencies to respect tribal self-government, sovereignty, and tribal rights, and to engage in regular and meaningful government-to-government consultation with tribes on proposed actions with tribal implications. The Forest Service met with local tribes during the planning stages of the project as previously noted in Consultation with Tribal Governments.

Executive Order 13186 (Migratory Birds)

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (amended in 1936 and 1972) prohibits the taking of migratory birds, unless authorized by the Secretary of Interior. The law provides the primary mechanism to regulate waterfowl hunting seasons and bag limits but its scope is not just limited to waterfowl. Over 100 species of birds migrate from the other states and countries to Alaska to breed, nest, and fledge their young. Most of these birds fly to interior or northern Alaska and only pass through the project area on the way to their breeding grounds. The migratory species that may stay in the area utilize most, if not all, of the habitats described in the Final EIS analysis for breeding, nesting, and raising their young. The effects on these habitats were analyzed for this project.

This decision is not anticipated to have a significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on any migratory bird species for this project area. There may be direct minor effects on individuals or small groups and their nests from the harvest of timber or the disturbance caused by harvest activities.

Federal and State Permits, Licenses, and Certifications

Federal and State permits necessary to implement the authorized activities are listed at the end of Chapter 1 in the Final EIS.

Implementation Process

Implementation of this decision may occur no sooner than 50 days following publication of the legal notice of the decision in the *Ketchikan Daily News*, published in Ketchikan, Alaska (see the following Right to Appeal section). Timber from this project will be offered as one or more timber sales, or combined with another sale beginning in 2009.

This project will be implemented in accordance with Forest Service Manual (FSM) and Handbook direction for Timber Sale Project Implementation in FSM 2430 and FSH 2409.18.

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This direction provides a bridge between project planning and implementation and will ensure execution of the actions, environmental standards, and mitigation approved by this decision, and compliance with TTRA and other laws. All applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be applied to the implementation of this decision.

Implementation of the activities authorized by this Record of Decision will be monitored to ensure that they are carried out as planned and described in the Final EIS and unit cards included as part of this ROD.

The unit and road cards associated with this Record of Decision are contained in Appendices 1 and 2 of this ROD. The cards are an integral part of this decision because they document the specific resource concerns, management objectives, and mitigation measures to govern the layout of the harvest units. These cards will be used during the implementation process to assure that all aspects of the project are implemented within applicable standards and guidelines and that resource impacts will not be greater than those described in the Final EIS. Similar cards will be used to document any changes to the planned layout as the actual layout and harvest of the units occurs with project implementation.

The implementation record for this project will document:

- Each harvest unit as actually implemented,
- Any proposed changes to the design, location or other mitigation measures for the project, and
- Authorization of the proposed changes.

Process for Change During Implementation

Proposed changes to the authorized project actions will be subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA), the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), and other laws concerning such changes.

In determining whether and what kind of NEPA action is required, the Forest Supervisor will consider the criteria set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1502.9(c)), and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, sec. 18 for determining whether to supplement an existing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In particular, the Forest Supervisor will determine whether the proposed change is a substantial change to the approved activities as planned and whether the change is relevant to environmental concerns. Connected or interrelated proposed changes regarding particular areas of specific activities will be considered together in making this determination. The cumulative impacts of these changes will also be considered.

The intent of field verification is to confirm inventory data and to determine the feasibility and general design and location of a unit or road, not to locate final boundaries or road locations. Minor changes are expected during implementation to better meet on-site resource management and protection objectives. Minor adjustments to unit boundaries are also likely during final layout for the purpose of improving logging system efficiency. This will usually

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entail adjusting the boundary to coincide with logical logging setting boundaries. Many of these minor changes will not present sufficient potential impacts to require any specific documentation or other action to comply with applicable laws. Some minor changes may still require appropriate analysis and documentation to comply with FSH 1909.15, sec. 18.

Right to Appeal

This decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 215. Individuals or organizations who submitted comments during the comment period specified at 215.6 may appeal this decision. The notice of appeal must be in writing, meet the appeal content requirements at 215.14 and be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer:

Denny Bschor, Regional Forester
Alaska Region
US Department of Agriculture
709 W. 9th Street
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK. 99802-1628
Email address: appeals-alaska-regional-office@fs.fed.us
Fax (907) 586-7840

The Notice of Appeal, including attachments, must be filed (regular mail, fax, e-mail, express delivery or messenger service) with the Appeal Deciding Officer at the correct location within 45 calendar days of the date that the legal notification of this decision is published in the *Ketchikan Daily News*, now the official newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file and appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Hand-delivered appeals will be accepted at the Regional Office during normal business hours (8:00 am through 4:30 pm) Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Implementation of decisions subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215, may occur on, but not before, five business days from the close of the appeal filing period, if no appeals are received.

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Greg Killinger, District Ranger, Craig Ranger District, P.O. Box 500, (physical address 900 9th St.), Craig, AK 99921, or call (907) 826-3271.



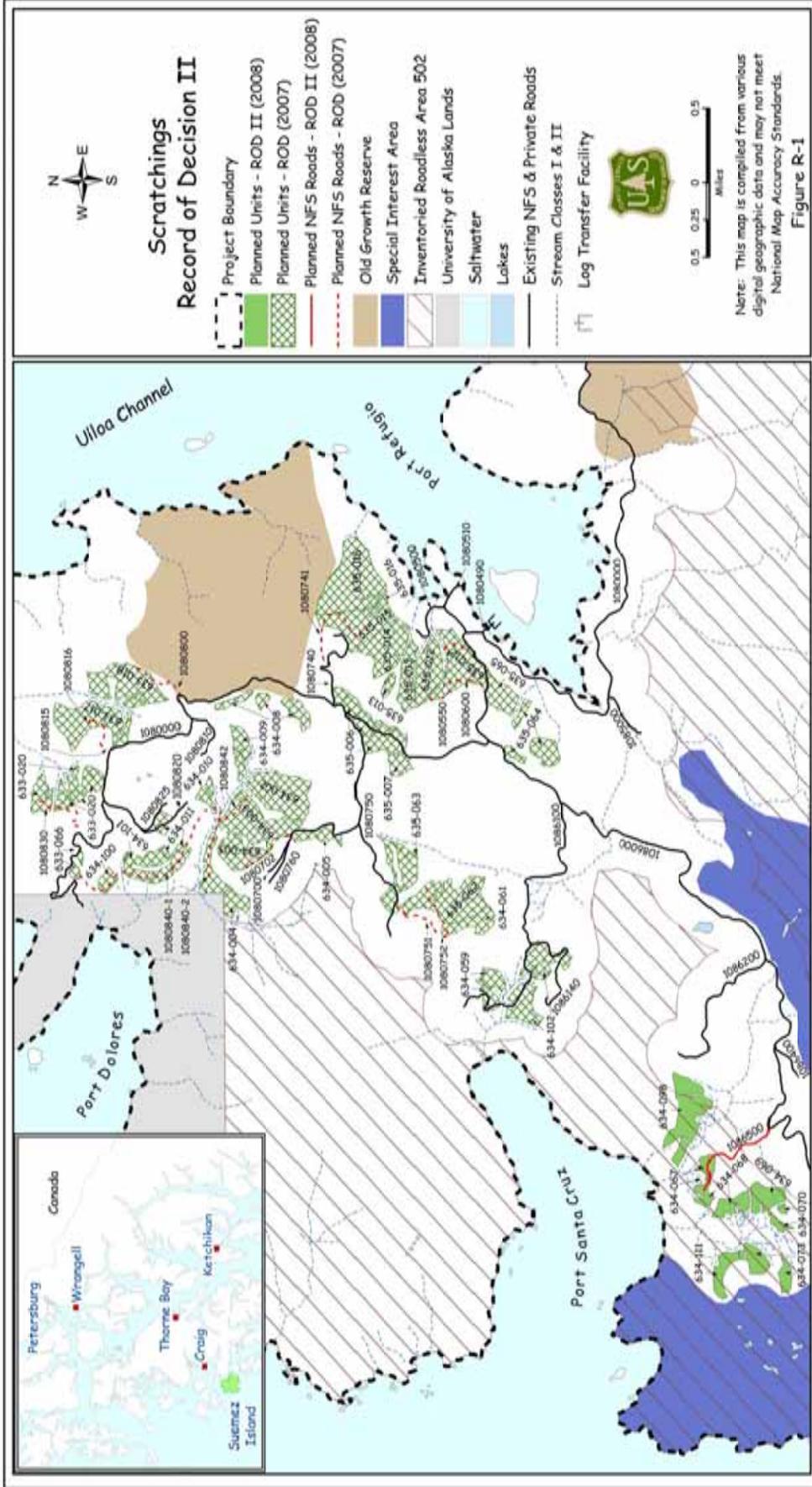
FORREST COLE
Forest Supervisor

7.21.08

Date

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Appendix 1 - Unit Cards

The Unit Cards are used to explain site-specific information about each unit. Narrative cards and maps for each unit are in numerical order. The unit cards summarize the silvicultural prescriptions, and describe the resource concerns and mitigation measures for each unit.

Unit boundaries do not include known riparian management area (RMA) buffers, high vulnerability karst, or non-forested areas. Areas of slopes over 72%, raptor nests, or wetlands are described in the text of the unit cards and/or displayed on the maps. The management of these areas is described in the text.

The Unit Cards provide information on all resources and summarize the project design elements including silvicultural prescription, mitigation measures, and unit layout instructions, either where a particular resource or resource condition is found, or where these conditions are found during unit layout. These elements and measures can be either from the Forest Plan or project specific.

Introduction to Unit Cards

Silvicultural Prescriptions

Silvicultural prescriptions have been developed for each unit to meet site specific management objectives and Forest Plan direction. These objectives may include retaining old-growth characteristics for biodiversity, protection of soils, watershed, wildlife habitat or scenery values or designing systems that are most economical for logging feasibility on a site.

Minor changes to unit boundary location and to prescriptions are expected during implementation to better meet on-site conditions. Information on the silvicultural prescriptions is included on the unit card. The detailed silvicultural prescriptions are located in the project record and will be used during implementation.

Fish and Watershed

All known streams, either field surveyed or identified from the GIS layer, are shown on the unit card maps. These mapped streams, and any additional streams found during layout, will be protected by following the Forest Plan Riparian Standards and Guidelines. Timing restrictions for instream work may be required for each fish stream crossing listed on the road card (for the NFS system road segment) or the unit cards (for temporary roads). Instream work would be permitted through the State of Alaska Office of Habitat Management and Permitting.

Process Groups and Channel Types

A process group describes streams with similar interrelationships between watershed runoff, landform relief, geology, and glacial or tidal influences on erosion and deposition. A channel

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type more precisely characterizes a stream and helps predict the probable responses to natural and human influences. Channel types incorporate other aspects such as gradient, pattern, stream bank incision and containment and riparian area vegetation communities. See the Forest Plan, Figure D-1 (page D-4) for a visual representation of the typical distribution of channel process groups. The following table includes only the Forest Plan codes used on the unit card narratives. Unit cards summarize protection needed for each stream in the unit by process group.

Table C-1: Process Groups in the Scratchings Project Area (Paustian et al. 1992)

Process Group	Description	Channel Morphometry	Riparian Management Area
HC	High Gradient Contained	Steep mountain slope tributaries	Within side-slope break
AF	Alluvial Fan	multi-branched channels on depositional footslopes	Greater of 140 feet or active fan surface, remove no more than 10% of trees on remainder of fan
MC	Moderate Gradient Contained	Confined stream entrenched in footslopes or lowlands	Within side-slope break
MM	Moderate Gradient/Mixed Control	Valley bottom streams with variable confinement	Greater of 120 feet or floodplain, riparian wetland extent
LC	Large Contained	Confined streams in lowlands and valleys	Greater of 100 feet or within side-slope break
FP	Floodplain	Unconfined valley flood plain streams	Greater of 130 feet or extent of floodplain or riparian vegetation or wetlands
PA	Palustrine	Placid, sinuous, lowland streams	100 feet (Class I, II)
ES	Estuarine	Unconfined streams on tidal deltas	1000 feet

Source: Forest Plan, pages D-1 - D-4.

Riparian Standards and Guidelines for Timber Harvest

Riparian Management Areas are areas of special concern to fish, other aquatic resources and wildlife. Stream buffers help maintain biodiversity and productivity, streambank and stream channel processes, and the natural and beneficial qualities of large woody debris over the

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short and long term. They are generally delineated as identified in the process group direction (RIP2, III, E).

The Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA) mandates the use of minimum 100-foot wide buffer strips along both sides of all Class I and Class II streams that flow into Class I streams. This was incorporated into the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines as “No commercial harvest within 100 feet of Class I streams and Class II streams that flow into Class I streams.” Class II streams in or adjacent to timber units flow into Class I streams.

Reasonable Assurance of Windfirmness (RAW) Zone for Streams

RAW zones are areas alongside stream buffers that are managed to improve windfirmness where windthrow is a concern. RAW zones depicted on unit card maps will be reviewed in the field at the time of unit layout and modified as necessary, to protect the no-harvest stream buffers from accelerated windthrow.

Project Design, General Mitigation Measures, and Unit Lay-out Instructions

The following general project design, mitigation measures, and unit lay-out instructions apply to all units, actions, and roads in the Scratchings project where those conditions exist. The source(s) of each general measure are listed after the measure in terms of individual Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines found in Chapter 4 of the Forest Plan, or BMPs (see Chapter 10 of FSH 2509.22, The Soil and Water Conservation Handbook), where applicable.

Silvicultural Prescription Guidelines

Harvest of trees may be clearcutting by cable, shovel or helicopter. This would result in even-aged stands, though areas of tree retention may occur for economic, windthrow prevention or other objectives. Retention areas do not meet the distribution requirements for two-aged management and will not be considered as such. If encountered during layout, non forested/nonproductive areas will result in a reduced harvest area and volume. In portions of the unit with a diameter harvest limit, partial harvest by helicopter or cable may be used. In this instance, a two-aged stand will result, with the residual trees being separate in age from the rest of the stand by at least 20% of the rotation. These trees would be retained through the rotation.

Harvest of other species and diameter classes will be based on market conditions at the time and refined during layout. Harvest prescriptions in most units are for even-aged clearcuts. A minimum harvest diameter of 24 inches at diameter at breast height (DBH) is prescribed for stands that are designated as a two-aged management regime. Reserves should be protected to the extent possible during harvest. Refer to individual unit prescriptions and marking guides for additional site-specific information.

Temporary Road Decommissioning

Decommissioning of temporary roads will be part of the timber sale contract for this project, and will occur after timber harvest is completed. To decommission roads in the Scratchings

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project, roads will be closed to all motorized vehicles, access will be blocked, and all drainage structures removed. The goal of this treatment is stabilization of unneeded roads, and restoration to more natural conditions.

Stream Channel Protection Measures Incorporated into Unit Design

The following stream protection measures are required in all units where streams are identified. See individual unit cards for stream categories.

Stream Protection Categories

Category A: Class I streams and Class II streams are marked with blue and white striped flagging, and will be protected by no-cut buffers designated by process group in Forest Plan Riparian Standards and Guidelines. No commercial timber will be removed from these buffers. Trees identified for harvest will be felled to avoid no-cut buffers. Prior to any operations within a buffer, a Stream course Protection Plan will be developed for that buffer (BMP 13.16).

Category B: Class III streams are marked with orange and white striped flagging. These stream courses will be protected by no-cut buffers within the v-notch. Class IV streams with unstable side-slopes may also be assigned Category B protection without buffers. The following are Category B protections:

Split yard and directionally fall trees away from Class III and IV streams without buffers (RIP2-II). Felled trees that inadvertently enter or cross stream courses shall not be bucked or limbed until clear of stream courses, unless limbing or bucking would reduce damage to the riparian vegetation or stream banks. Debris in stream courses resulting from falling or yarding shall be removed immediately to a stable location above high water mark. Existing natural stable debris will be left undisturbed. When ground skidding systems are employed, logs will be end-lined out of riparian areas. Fully suspend logs where yarding is to be done across streams or the full length of a stream or drainage (BMP 13.16, RIP2-II).

Category C: Class IV streams and all other intermittent, ephemeral, and small perennial channels and V notches designated for soil and water quality protection are marked with green and white striped flagging and will be protected in the following manner:

Where practicable, trees will be felled and yarded away from stream courses. The trees that cannot be felled away from stream courses will be felled to bridge the stream providing these trees will be yarded during the same operating season. Trees felled to bridge stream courses will be bucked, limbed, and topped clear of stream course and its banks. Debris which restrict natural water flow, adversely affect water quality or have potential for debris flow will be removed to a stable location above high water mark before the yarder leaves the unit or upon completion of seasonal logging activities in the unit, whichever comes first (BMP 13.16).

Stream Crossing Protections (BMP 13.16)

Location and method of stream crossings must be agreed to prior to construction. Crossings are authorized after the location of skid trails, tractor roads, and the Forest Service and the

Record of Decision II

Purchaser agree to temporary roads. Temporary crossings shall not impede fish passage, or result in significant degradation of water quality (BMP 14.17).

Material from temporary road and skid trail stream crossings will be removed from the stream channel and the stream banks will be restored to an acceptable condition upon completion of Purchaser's use or prior to the next seasonal high runoff period, unless otherwise agreed (BMPs 13.11, 13.14, 14.17, and 14.24).

Purchaser shall repair all damage to a stream course caused by Purchaser's operations, including damage to banks and channel, as designated by the Forest Service. Revegetation may be required on disturbed stream banks, V-notch sideslopes, and adjacent floodplains (BMP 12.17).

Water bars, windrowed slash, and other erosion control structures will be properly located to prevent water and sediment from being channeled into stream courses, and to dissipate concentrated flows.

Wheeled or track-laying equipment will not be operated in stream courses unless approved by Forest Service except at crossing designated by Forest Service, or as essential to construction or removal of culverts and bridges (BMP 14.14).

Unit Card Map Key

Harvest System:

SS = Short-span cable yarding

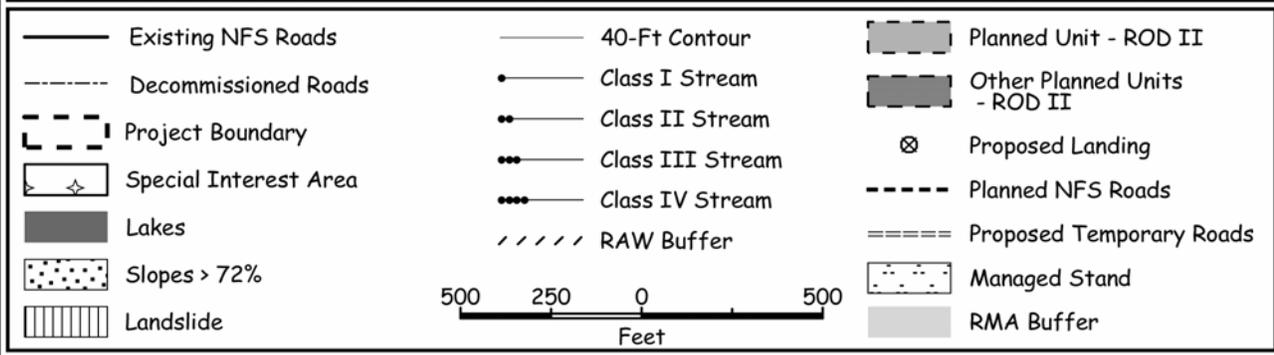
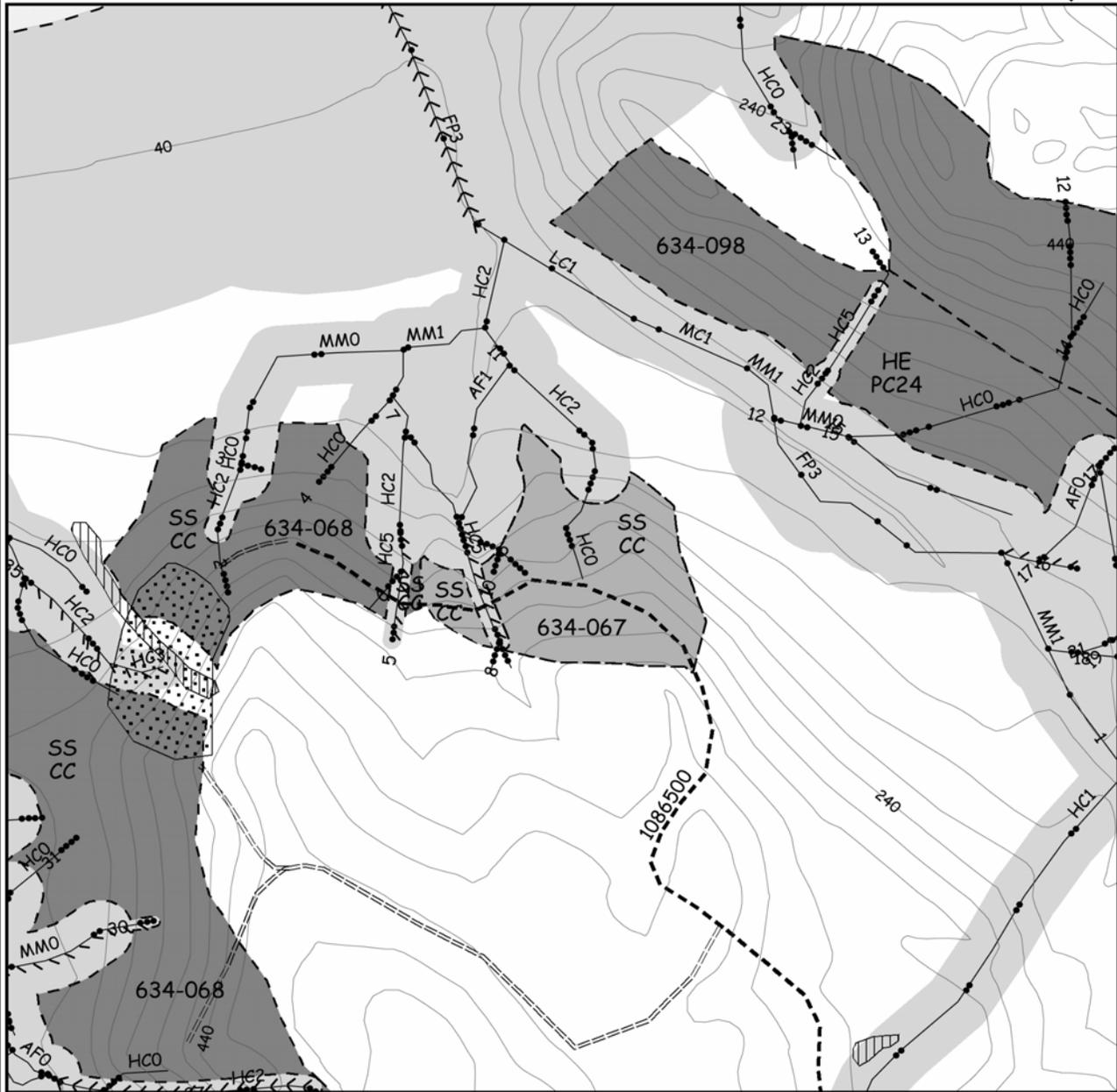
HE = Helicopter yarding

Prescription/Percent Retention:

CC = Clearcut

PC ## = Partial Cut with a minimum diameter limit

Scratchings ROD II Unit No. 634-067



Note: This map is compiled from various digital geographic data and may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards.

LUD:	Timber production	Silvicultural Prescription:	Even-aged CC 4113	Total Unit Acres:	9	Unit Number:	0634-067
VCU: TM Compartment:	6340 63402	Logging Systems:	SS	Harvest Acres:	9	In Selected Alternative	
Photo Number:	610051A 190-258					Net Harvest Volume:	
			Inventoried Roadless Area Acres:	9	MBF:	183	

SILVICULTURE: Existing Stand Condition/Vegetation: Stand Average site index: 80; Productivity class: 4. Blowdown risk is moderate to high throughout the setting. Evidence of older blowdown was noted but no recent damage was seen. Insect and Disease - The most prevalent disease noted within the stand was found to be stem decays and Alaska-cedar decline. The majority of volume loss could be attributed to stem decays.

Silvicultural Objective/Desired Condition: The desired condition for this stand is a highly productive, healthy, windfirm, stand grown for timber management that retains residual trees as needed to meet standards and guides or other objectives.

Silvicultural Prescription: Even-aged management –Clearcut (CC) 4113. Mark boundaries paying particular attention to windfirmness. For example, bring unit boundaries to the edge of existing young-growth or muskeg and to the lee side of a ridgeline where possible. Interdisciplinary review of RAW zones to determine RAW zone prescription should occur at the time of layout, as described in the Fish/Watershed section. Even-aged clearcutting is being prescribed for this unit to preclude or minimize the occurrence of potentially adverse impacts from hemlock dwarf mistletoe or other insect or disease infections, logging damage and windthrow. All past harvest areas adjacent to or near this prescribed clearcut are adequately restocked with trees at least 5 feet tall.

TIMBER/LOGGING: Low volume muskeg scrub has been deleted along northern boundary as well as in southeast 1/3 of setting. A mid to upper slope road in the setting has been located and allows yarding with cable systems over the entire setting. System road in this setting could be continued into setting 6340-068.

ENGINEERING/ROADS: See Road Card

BOTANY RESOURCES: No concerns.

FISH/WATERSHED: Stream 1- Class 1, FP3 no cut buffer 130'; Stream 2- Class 2, PA0 no cut buffer 100' with RAW buffer on east side; Class 3, HC0 slope break buffer with RAW buffer on both sides; Stream 3- Class 3, HC5 slope break buffer with RAW buffer; on east side. Buffer Class I, II, and III streams with additional RAW to the southeasterly direction for watershed protection.

GEOLOGY/KARST: No concerns.

HERITAGE RESOURCES: Proposed Units 6340-067, 6340-068, 6340-069, 6340-070, 6340-073, 6340-098, and 6340111 fall within and area of high sensitivity for heritage resources. Obsidian (volcanic glass) cobbles have been noted in the lower reaches of the creeks deriving from the drainage basins containing these units. In place beds of obsidian have been identified in one location above 6340-069. Obsidian from this source is known

to be a raw material for stone tool manufacture and trade dating back at least 10,000 years. Although surveys of these units (archaeological and other disciplines) have not identified a prehistoric quarry site there is the possibility that one exists. Options for mitigation in this situation include dropping these units (H1); or conduct archaeological monitoring in conjunction with road construction and harvest. Should sites of archaeological value be noted during monitoring data recovery would be undertaken (H3). A second contributing factor to the high sensitivity of these units is their proximity to the historic Spanish uses (1775 and 1779) of Port Santa Cruz. However, historic journals make no mention of upland activities by Spanish sailors.

Aside from the possibility of obsidian quarry sites and its proximity to historic Spanish activity Unit 6340067 has little likelihood of containing cultural resources. It lies on steep slopes at elevations between 70 and 360 feet above sea level.

Archaeological survey and monitoring of the proposed unit and surrounding area were conducted on June 23-25, 2008. No cultural resources were documented. There are no historic properties in the area of potential effects.

LANDS: T 76S; R 79E, Sec. 21 Copper River Meridian

RECREATION: Although no developed recreation sites exist in this unit, it is in the proximity of a perennially utilized recreation site. The first Spanish contact in Alaska occurred at the mouth of the stream that runs through this unit. Currently, the Catholic Church maintains a pilgrimage site to this area to celebrate the first Catholic Mass in Alaska. It is a recreation site of interest (see recreation and heritage sections for more details). No mitigation measures are suggested because the site is located on the beach fringe and would not likely be affected by the harvest activities.

The site is also a recreation site of interest because of its special geological features. It represents a unique recreation opportunity to see volcanic landforms, karst areas and other special geologic features. Recreation activities are limited in the area and harvest activities are unlikely to affect them.

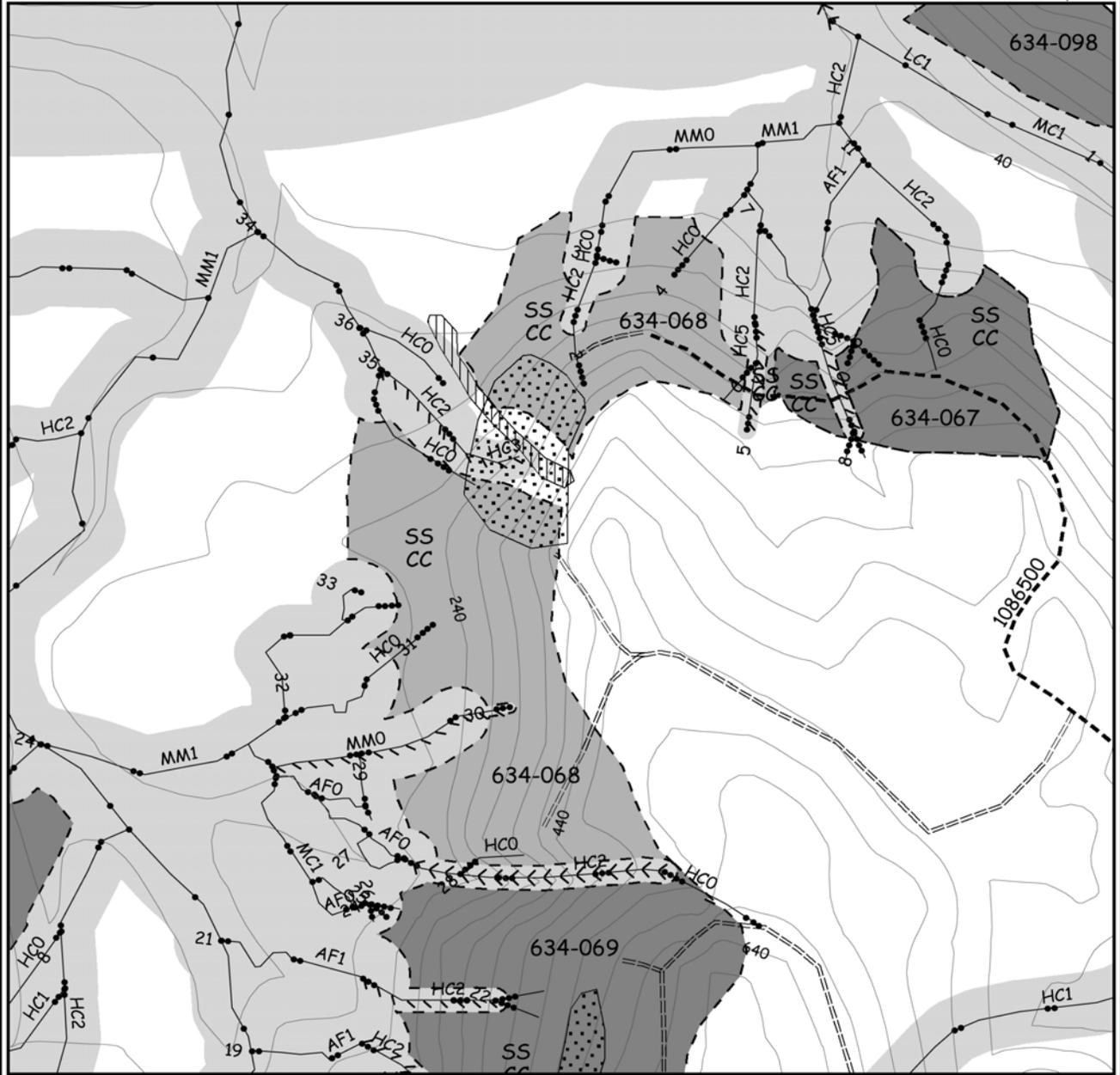
SCENERY: The units along the northwest portion of Suemez Island are in middleground distance zone. This unit is seen from Port Santa Cruz (view point 4). The VQO to be met is Maximum Modification. In order to minimize visual disturbance and reduce visual contrast with adjacent areas use clearcutting with reserve trees (even-aged system) as a harvest prescription.

SOILS: Partial suspension is required to meet soil quality standards and to protect wetland resources (BMPs 12.5, 13.5, and 13.9). Aerial photos, GIS data, slope data, and soil survey data were reviewed by the soil scientist to identify potential soil resource concerns. No soil or slope concerns were identified; therefore, no field reconnaissance was completed by the soil scientist. See fisheries section for complete details on streamcourse protections (BMPs 12.6 and 13.16).

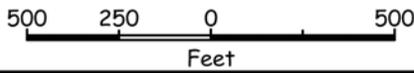
WILDLIFE: This unit was not surveyed by wildlife. Should a nest be discovered, all applicable Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines would be applied.

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Scratchings ROD II Unit No. 634-068



Existing NFS Roads	40-Ft Contour	Planned Unit - ROD II
Decommissioned Roads	Class I Stream	Other Planned Units - ROD II
Project Boundary	Class II Stream	Proposed Landing
Special Interest Area	Class III Stream	Planned NFS Roads
Lakes	Class IV Stream	Proposed Temporary Roads
Slopes > 72%	RAW Buffer	Managed Stand
Landslide		RMA Buffer



Note: This map is compiled from various digital geographic data and may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards.

LUD:	Timber production	Silvicultural Prescription:	Even-aged CC 4113	Total Unit Acres:	27	Unit Number:	0634-068
VCU:	6340	Logging Systems:	SS	Harvest Acres:	27	In Selected Alternative	
TM Compartment:	63402	Photo Number: 610051A 190-258			Net Harvest Volume:		
				Inventoried Roadless Area Acres:	27	MBF:	625
						CCF:	

SILVICULTURE: Existing Stand Condition/Vegetation: Stand average site index: 100; Productivity class: 2. Blowdown risk is high over the majority of the setting. Insect and Disease - The most prevalent disease noted within the stand was found to be dwarf mistletoe. The majority of volume loss could be attributed to stem decays. Pockets of foliage damage were noted in understory. Western Hemlock. This damage was attributed to Hemlock Canker.

Silvicultural Objective/Desired Condition: The desired condition for this stand is a highly productive, healthy, windfirm, stand grown for timber management that retains residual trees as needed to meet standards and guides or other objectives.

Silvicultural Prescription: Even-aged management –Clearcut (CC) 4113. Mark boundaries paying particular attention to windfirmness. For example, bring unit boundaries to the edge of existing young-growth or muskeg and to the lee side of a ridgeline where possible. Interdisciplinary review of RAW zones to determine RAW zone prescription should occur at the time of layout, as described in the Fish/Watershed section. Even-aged clearcutting is being prescribed for this unit to preclude or minimize the occurrence of potentially adverse impacts from hemlock dwarf mistletoe or other insect or disease infections, logging damage and windthrow. All past harvest areas adjacent to or near this prescribed clearcut are adequately restocked with trees at least 5 feet tall.

TIMBER/LOGGING: An area of merchantable timber was found outside the original planned setting boundary in the southeastern corner of the unit. This area has been included in the planned unit (See map). This setting was planned for helicopter yarding in the original LSTA. During the 2000 field season a grade line was located into the setting from the northwest by Robert Emley verifying that cable yarding would be a viable option. With roading options possible, Running Skyline would be preferred yarding system. Skyline yarding appears feasible to a road along the upper unit boundary. Running Skyline would allow for partial suspension.

ENGINEERING/ROADS: See Road Card

BOTANY RESOURCES: No concerns

FISH/WATERSHED: Stream 3- Class 3, HC5 slope break buffer with RAW buffer on east side; Stream 11- Class 2, HC1 no cut buffer 100' with RAW buffer on south side; Class 3, HC1 slope break buffer with RAW buffer on south side; Stream 10- Class 2, HC5 no cut buffer 100' with RAW buffer on both sides; Class 3, HC6 slope break buffer with RAW buffer on both sides. No watershed concerns.

GEOLOGY/KARST: No concerns

HERITAGE RESOURCES: Proposed Units 6340-067, 6340-068, 6340-069, 6340-070, 6340-073, 6340-098, and 6340111 fall within and area of high sensitivity for heritage resources. Obsidian (volcanic glass) cobbles have been noted in the lower reaches of the creeks deriving from the drainage basins containing these units. In place

beds of obsidian have been identified in one location above 6340-069. Obsidian from this source is known to be a raw material for stone tool manufacture and trade dating back at least 10,000 years. Although surveys of these units (archaeological and other disciplines) have not identified a prehistoric quarry site there is the possibility that one exists. Options for mitigation in this situation include dropping these units (H1); or conduct archaeological monitoring in conjunction with road construction and harvest. Should sites of archaeological value be noted during monitoring data recovery would be undertaken (H3). A second contributing factor to the high sensitivity of these units is their proximity to the historic Spanish uses (1775 and 1779) of Port Santa Cruz. However, historic journals make no mention of upland activities by Spanish sailors.

Aside from the possibility of obsidian quarry sites and its proximity to historic Spanish activity Unit 6340068 has little likelihood of containing cultural resources. It lies on steep slopes at elevations between 70 and 500 feet above sea level.

Archaeological survey and monitoring of the proposed unit and surrounding area were conducted on June 23-25, 2008. No cultural resources were documented. There are no historic properties in the area of potential effects.

LANDS: T 76S, R 79E, Sec. 20 Copper River Meridian

RECREATION: Although no developed recreation sites exist in this unit, it is in the proximity of a perennially utilized recreation site. The first Spanish contact in Alaska occurred at the mouth of the stream that runs through this unit. Currently, the Catholic Church maintains a pilgrimage site to this area to celebrate the first Catholic Mass in Alaska. It is a recreation site of interest (see recreation and heritage sections for more details).

The site is also a recreation site of interest because of its special geological features. It represents a unique recreation opportunity to see volcanic landforms, karst areas and other special geologic features.

SCENERY: The units along the central west portion of Suemez Island are in middleground distance zone. This unit is seen from Port Santa Cruz (view point 4). The VQO to be met is Maximum Modification. In order to minimize visual disturbance and reduce visual contrast with adjacent areas use clearcutting with reserve trees (even-aged system) as a harvest prescription.

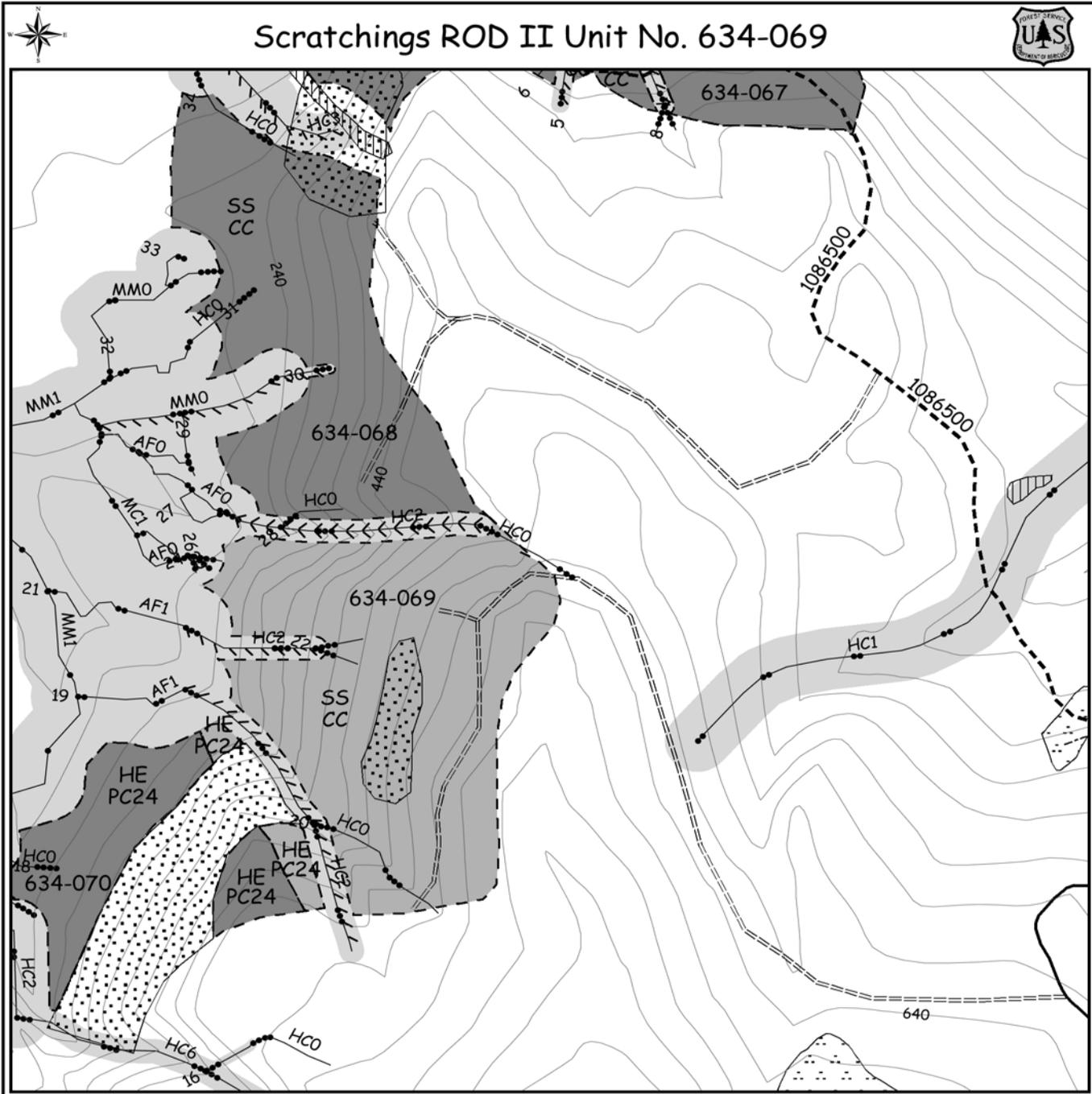
SOILS: An on-site analysis for suitability on slopes greater than 72% was conducted on this unit per Forest Plan standards. The unit was modified following soils reconnaissance to exclude a landslide is located on hollow topography in the northern portion of the unit. Small cliffs up to 10 feet high are present along the steep slopes. A total of 1.4 acres of unstable slopes (including the landslide) are unsuitable for logging activities. See soils report for details.

Slopes range from 30 to 80% and consistently average 60% across the existing unit. Landslide potential ranges from high to very high. Suitable slopes greater than 72% occupy approximately 5 acres in the northern portion of the unit. Partial suspension would be required across the unit to maintain slope stability (BMPs 13.5 and 13.9). Minimal forested wetland is present at the footslopes and shoulder slopes of the unit (BMP 12.5). See fisheries section for complete details on streamcourse protections (BMPs 12.6 and 13.16).

WILDLIFE: Wildlife was in this unit for 5.5 hours with one possible goshawk response in the direction of Units 6340-073 and 6340-111. An active sharp-shinned hawk was discovered in this unit. A 600 foot buffer was placed around the nest site. Disturbance would be minimized by restricting activity during the active nesting season, generally March 1 to July 31.

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Scratchings ROD II Unit No. 634-069



Existing NFS Roads	40-Ft Contour	Planned Unit - ROD II
Decommissioned Roads	Class I Stream	Other Planned Units - ROD II
Project Boundary	Class II Stream	Proposed Landing
Special Interest Area	Class III Stream	Planned NFS Roads
Lakes	Class IV Stream	Proposed Temporary Roads
Slopes > 72%	RAW Buffer	Managed Stand
Landslide		RMA Buffer

500 250 0 500
Feet

Note: This map is compiled from various digital geographic data and may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards.

LUD:	Timber production	Silvicultural Prescription:	Even-aged CC 4113, Two-aged CC with reserves 4177	Total Unit Acres:	24	Unit Number:	0634-069
VCU: TM Compartment:	6340 63402	Logging Systems:	SS/HE PC24	Harvest Acres:	24	In Selected Alternative	
Photo Number:	610051A 190-258					Net Harvest Volume:	
			Inventoried Roadless Area Acres:	24	MBF:	613	

SILVICULTURE: Existing Stand Condition/Vegetation: Stand average site index: 100; Productivity class: 2. Blowdown risk is moderate in the setting. Insect and Disease - The most prevalent disease noted within the stand was found to be dwarf mistletoe. The majority of volume loss could be attributed to stem decays.

Silvicultural Objective/Desired Condition: The desired condition for this stand is a highly productive, healthy, windfirm, stand grown for timber management that retains residual trees as needed to meet standards and guides or other objectives.

Silvicultural Prescription: Even-aged management –Clearcut (CC) 4113. Mark boundaries paying particular attention to windfirmness. For example, bring unit boundaries to the edge of existing young-growth or muskeg and to the lee side of a ridgeline where possible. Interdisciplinary review of RAW zones to determine RAW zone prescription should occur at the time of layout, as described in the Fish/Watershed section. Even-aged clearcutting is being prescribed for this unit to preclude or minimize the occurrence of potentially adverse impacts from hemlock dwarf mistletoe or other insect or disease infections, logging damage and windthrow. All past harvest adjacent to or near this prescribed clearcut are adequately restocked with trees at least 5 feet tall.

Two-aged Management, Clearcut with Reserves 4177, Individual Tree Marking

Maintain at least 50 percent of the setting pretreatment basal area, based on standing live tree total for the unit, uncut. Individual trees selected for harvest may occur in small groups. Any small groups will usually be less than one acre but may occasionally go up to two acres in size. Trees selected for harvest will generally be well distributed and no large openings will occur as a result of the harvest. Review full silvicultural prescription and marking guides prior to layout. Interdisciplinary review RAW zones as described in the fish/watershed section on unit card should occur at the time of layout to determine the RAW zone prescription. In general, additional retention to meet RAW requirements is not expected to be required where dispersed retention occurs in helicopter yarding areas.

TIMBER/LOGGING: This setting has large v-notches and water quality streams on both the north and southwest boundaries. Benches may interrupt cable logging from a single road. Planned access is by spur route from the 1086 road.

ENGINEERING/ROADS: See road card

BOTANY RESOURCES: No concerns.

FISH/WATERSHED: Stream 1- Class 1, MM1 no cut buffer 120', Stream 10- Class 2, HC6 no cut buffer 100' with RAW buffer on both sides; Class 3, HC6 slope break buffer with RAW buffer on both sides; Stream 9- Class 3, HC6 slope break buffer with RAW buffer on both sides. For watershed protection, buffer streams with additional RAW to the southerly direction.

GEOLOGY/KARST: No concerns.

HERITAGE RESOURCES: Proposed Units 6340-067, 6340-068, 6340-069, 6340-070, 6340-073, 6340-098, and 6340-111 fall within and area of high sensitivity for heritage resources. Obsidian (volcanic glass) cobbles have been noted in the lower reaches of the creeks deriving from the drainage basins containing these units. In place beds of obsidian have been identified in one location above 6340-069. Obsidian from this source is known to be a raw material for stone tool manufacture and trade dating back at least 10,000 years. Although surveys of these units (archaeological and other disciplines) have not identified a prehistoric quarry site there is the possibility that one exists. Options for mitigation in this situation include dropping these units (H1); or conduct archaeological monitoring in conjunction with road construction and harvest. Should sites of archaeological value be noted during monitoring data recovery would be undertaken (H3). A second contributing factor to the high sensitivity of these units is their proximity to the historic Spanish uses (1775 and 1779) of Port Santa Cruz. However, historic journals make no mention of upland activities by Spanish sailors.

Aside from the possibility of obsidian quarry sites and its proximity to historic Spanish activity Unit 6340069 has little likelihood of containing cultural resources. It lies on steep slopes at elevations between 90 and 620 feet above sea level.

Archaeological survey and monitoring of the proposed unit and surrounding area were conducted on June 23-25, 2008. No cultural resources were documented. There are no historic properties in the area of potential effects.

LANDS: T 26 S, R 79 E, Sec. 20, 29 Copper River Meridian

RECREATION: The site is a recreation site of interest because of its special geological features. It represents a unique recreation opportunity to see volcanic landforms, karst areas and other special geologic features. Recreation activities are limited in the area and harvest activities are unlikely to affect them.

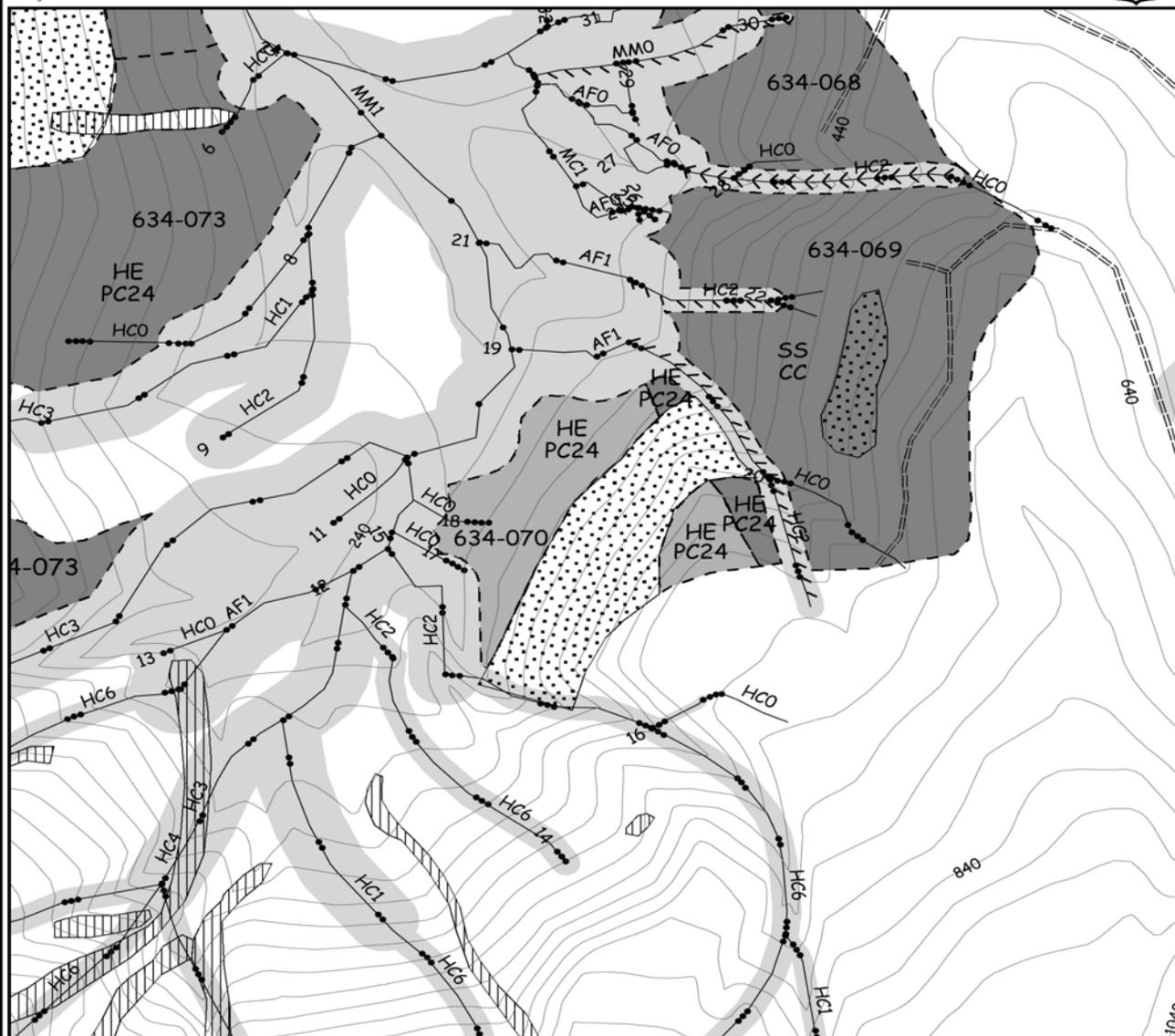
SCENERY: The units along the central west portion of Suemez Island are in middleground distance zone. This unit is seen from Port Santa Cruz (view point 4). The VQO to be met is Maximum Modification. In order to minimize visual disturbance and reduce visual contrast with adjacent areas use clearcutting with reserve trees (even-aged system) as a harvest prescription.

SOILS: Partial suspension is required to meet soil quality standards and to protect wetland resources (BMPs 12.5, 13.5, and 13.9). Aerial photos, GIS data, slope data, and soil survey data were reviewed by the soil scientist to identify potential soil resource concerns. No soil or slope concerns were identified; therefore, no field reconnaissance was completed by the soil scientist. See fisheries section for complete details on streamcourse protections (BMPs 12.6 and 13.16).

WILDLIFE: Wildlife was in this unit for 5.5 hours with one possible goshawk response in the direction of Units 6340-073 and 6340-111. Should a nest be discovered, all applicable Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines would be applied.

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Scratchings ROD II Unit No. 634-070



Existing NFS Roads	40-Ft Contour	Planned Unit - ROD II
Decommissioned Roads	Class I Stream	Other Planned Units - ROD II
Project Boundary	Class II Stream	Proposed Landing
Special Interest Area	Class III Stream	Planned NFS Roads
Lakes	Class IV Stream	Proposed Temporary Roads
Slopes > 72%	RAW Buffer	Managed Stand
Landslide		RMA Buffer

500 250 0 500
Feet

Note: This map is compiled from various digital geographic data and may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards.

LUD:	Timber production	Silvicultural Prescription:	Two-aged CC with reserves 4177	Total Unit Acres:	7	Unit Number:	0634-070
VCU: TM Compartment:	6340 63402	Logging Systems:		Harvest Acres:	7	In Selected Alternative	
Photo Number:	610051A 190-258					Net Harvest Volume:	
			Inventoried Roadless Area Acres:	7	MBF: CCF:	142	

SILVICULTURE: Existing Stand Condition/Vegetation: Setting average site index: 100; Productivity class: 2. Blowdown risk is moderate within the setting. Insect and Disease - The most prevalent disease noted within the stand was found to be stem decays, which accounted for the majority of volume loss. Pockets of foliage damage were noted in understory and overstory Western Hemlock. This damage was unidentified in the field but either Hemlock Sawfly or Hemlock Canker is suspected.

Silvicultural Objective/Desired Condition: The desired condition for this stand is a highly productive, healthy, windfirm, stand grown for timber management that retains residual trees as needed to meet standards and guides or other objectives.

Silvicultural Prescription: Two-aged Management, Clearcut with Reserves 4177, Individual Tree Marking
Maintain at least 50 percent of the setting pretreatment basal area, based on standing live tree total for the unit, uncut. Individual trees selected for harvest may occur in small groups. Any small groups will usually be less than one acre but may occasionally go up to two acres in size. Trees selected for harvest will generally be well distributed and no large openings will occur as a result of the harvest. Review full silvicultural prescription and marking guides prior to layout. Interdisciplinary review RAW zones as described in the fish/watershed section on unit card should occur at the time of layout to determine the RAW zone prescription. In general, additional retention to meet RAW requirements is not expected to be required where dispersed retention occurs in helicopter yarding areas.

TIMBER/LOGGING: Logging System and Roding Options - This setting has large v-notches on both the north and south boundaries. These notches would stop a mid-slope road coming into the unit from either direction. The planned road enters the unit from the top and switchbacks down the hill until reaching a significant break. Landings at planned location appear workable for Running Skyline or Live Skyline systems. Overall setting has poor timber due to high defect in larger diameter classes. The area of scrub timber in the southeast has been deleted.

ENGINEERING/ROADS: See Road Card

BOTANY RESOURCES: No concerns.

FISH/WATERSHED: Stream 1- Class 1, MM 1 no cut buffer 120'; Class 2, HC3 no cut buffer 100'; Stream 8- Class 3, HC6 slope break buffer; Stream 9- Class 3, HC6 slope break buffer with RAW buffer on both sides. For watershed protection, buffer streams with additional RAW to the southerly direction.

GEOLOGY/KARST: No concerns.

HERITAGE RESOURCES: Proposed Units 6340-067, 6340-068, 6340-069, 6340-070, 6340-073, 6340-098, and 6340111 fall within and area of high sensitivity for heritage resources. Obsidian (volcanic glass) cobbles

have been noted in the lower reaches of the creeks deriving from the drainage basins containing these units. In place beds of obsidian have been identified in one location above 6340-069. Obsidian from this source is known to be a raw material for stone tool manufacture and trade dating back at least 10,000 years. Although surveys of these units (archaeological and other disciplines) have not identified a prehistoric quarry site there is the possibility that one exists. Options for mitigation in this situation include dropping these units (H1); or conduct archaeological monitoring in conjunction with road construction and harvest. Should sites of archaeological value be noted during monitoring data recovery would be undertaken (H3). A second contributing factor to the high sensitivity of these units is their proximity to the historic Spanish uses (1775 and 1779) of Port Santa Cruz. However, historic journals make no mention of upland activities by Spanish sailors.

Aside from the possibility of obsidian quarry sites and its proximity to historic Spanish activity Unit 6340070 has little likelihood of containing cultural resources. It lies on steep slopes at elevations between 240 and 560 feet above sea level.

Archaeological survey and monitoring of the proposed unit and surrounding area were conducted on June 23-25, 2008. No cultural resources were documented. There are no historic properties in the area of potential effects.

LANDS: T 76 S, R 79E, S20, 29 Copper River Meridian

RECREATION: The site is a recreation site of interest because of its special geological features. It represents a unique recreation opportunity to see volcanic landforms, karst areas and other special geologic features. Recreation activities are limited in the area and harvest activities are unlikely to affect them.

SCENERY: The units along the central west portion of Suemez Island are in middleground distance zone. This unit is seen from Port Santa Cruz (view point 4). The VQO to be met is Maximum Modification. In order to minimize visual disturbance and reduce visual contrast with adjacent areas use clearcutting with reserve trees (even-aged system) as a harvest prescription.

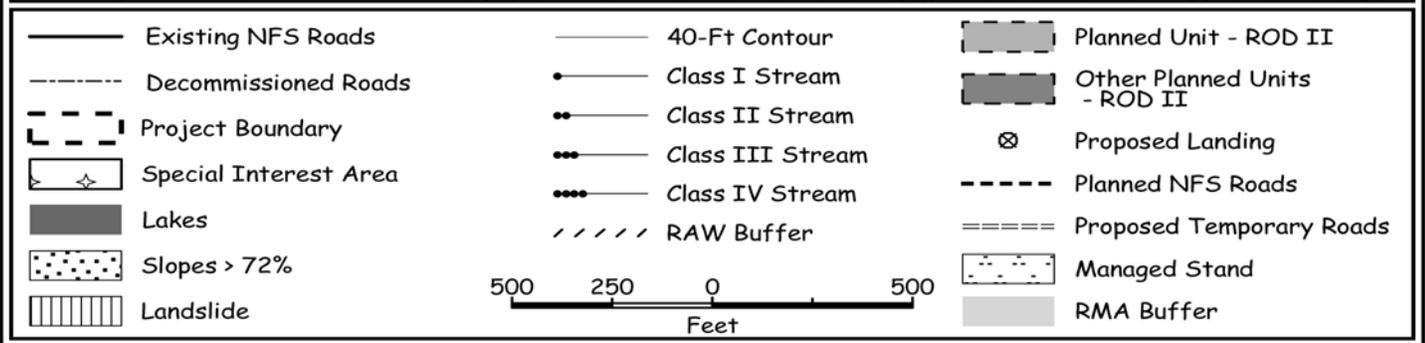
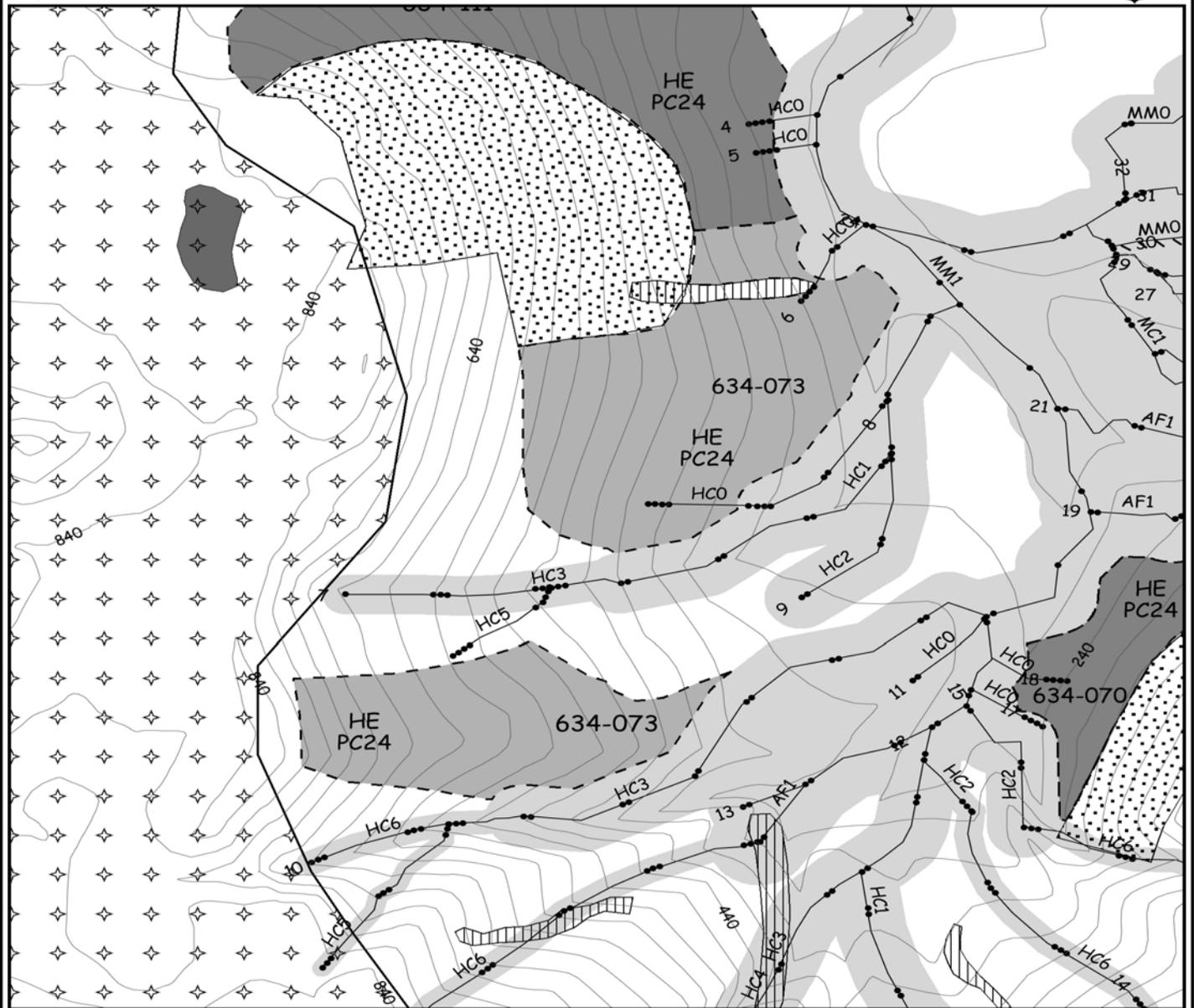
SOILS: Partial suspension is required to meet soil quality standards and to protect wetland resources (BMPs 12.5, 13.5, and 13.9). Aerial photos, GIS data, slope data, and soil survey data were reviewed by the soil scientist to identify potential soil resource concerns. No soil or slope concerns were identified; therefore, no field reconnaissance was completed by the soil scientist. See fisheries section for complete details on streamcourse protections (BMPs 12.6 and 13.16).

WILDLIFE: Wildlife was in this unit for 5.5 hours with one possible goshawk response in the direction of Units 6340-073 and 6340-111. Should a nest be discovered, all applicable Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines would be applied.

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Scratchings ROD II Unit No. 634-073



Note: This map is compiled from various digital geographic data and may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards.

LUD:	Timber production	Silvicultural Prescription:	Two-aged CC with reserves 4177	Total Unit Acres:	28	Unit Number:	0634-073
VCU:	6340	Logging Systems:	HE PC24	Harvest Acres:	28	In Selected Alternative	
TM Compartment:	63401						
Photo Number:	610051A 190-258					Net Harvest Volume:	
				Inventoried Roadless Area Acres:	28	MBF:	620
						CCF:	

SILVICULTURE: Existing Stand Condition/Vegetation:

Setting average site index: 100; Productivity class: 2. Blowdown risk is high at the uppermost elevations within the setting. Blowdown risk in the remaining portions of the setting is expected to decrease with elevation. Insect and Disease - The most prevalent disease noted within the stand was found to be dwarf mistletoe. The majority of volume loss could be attributed to stem decays. Minor pockets of foliage damage were noted in understory Western Hemlock. This damage was attributed to Hemlock Canker.

Silvicultural Objective/Desired Condition: The desired condition for this stand is a highly productive, healthy, windfirm, stand grown for timber management that retains residual trees as needed to meet standards and guides or other objectives.

Silvicultural Prescription: Two-aged Management, Clearcut with Reserves 4177, Individual Tree Marking

Maintain at least 50 percent of the setting pretreatment basal area, based on standing live tree total for the unit, uncut. Individual trees selected for harvest may occur in small groups. Any small groups will usually be less than one acre but may occasionally go up to two acres in size. Trees selected for harvest will generally be well distributed and no large openings will occur as a result of the harvest. Review full silvicultural prescription and marking guides prior to layout. Interdisciplinary review RAW zones as described in the fish/watershed section on unit card should occur at the time of layout to determine the RAW zone prescription. In general, additional retention to meet RAW requirements is not expected to be required where dispersed retention occurs in helicopter yarding areas.

TIMBER/LOGGING: This setting is planned for helicopter logging. Original setting 6340-073 has steep slopes, cliffs, areas of low volume timber, streams and v-notches in the center of the setting. These have been deleted from harvest consideration (see map). This deletion would split the setting into two potential harvests.

ENGINEERING/ROADS: See road card.

BOTANY RESOURCES: No concerns.

FISH/WATERSHED: Stream 4- Class 2, HC5 no cut buffer 100'; Class 3, HC5/HC6 slope break buffer; Stream 5- Class 4, HC6; Stream 1- Class 2, HC3 no cut buffer 100'; Stream 7- Class 2, HC2/HC6 no cut buffer 100'; Class 3, HC6 slope break buffer. For watershed protection, buffer streams with additional RAW to the southerly direction.

GEOLOGY/KARST: No concerns

HERITAGE RESOURCES: Proposed Units 6340-067, 6340-068, 6340-069, 6340-070, 6340-073, 6340-098, and 6340111 fall within and area of high sensitivity for heritage resources. Obsidian (volcanic glass) cobbles have been noted in the lower reaches of the creeks deriving from the drainage basins containing these units. In place beds of obsidian have been identified in one location above 6340-069. Obsidian from this source is known to be

a raw material for stone tool manufacture and trade dating back at least 10,000 years. Although surveys of these units (archaeological and other disciplines) have not identified a prehistoric quarry site there is the possibility that one exists. Options for mitigation in this situation include dropping these units (H1); or conduct archaeological monitoring in conjunction with road construction and harvest. Should sites of archaeological value be noted during monitoring data recovery would be undertaken (H3). A second contributing factor to the high sensitivity of these units is their proximity to the historic Spanish uses (1775 and 1779) of Port Santa Cruz. However, historic journals make no mention of upland activities by Spanish sailors.

Aside from the possibility of obsidian quarry sites and its proximity to historic Spanish activity the two part Unit 6340-073 has little likelihood of containing cultural resources. It lies on steep slopes at elevations between 150 and 810 feet above sea level.

Archaeological survey and monitoring of the proposed unit and surrounding area were conducted on June 23-25, 2008. No cultural resources were documented. There are no historic properties in the area of potential effects.

LANDS: T 76S; R 79E , Sec. 29 Copper River Meridian

RECREATION: The site is a recreation site of interest because of its special geological features. It represents a unique recreation opportunity to see volcanic landforms, karst areas and other special geologic features. Recreation activities are limited in the area and harvest activities are unlikely to affect them.

SCENERY: The units along the central west portion of Suemez Island are in middleground distance zone. This unit is seen from Port Santa Cruz (view point 4). The VQO to be met is Maximum Modification. In order to minimize visual disturbance and reduce visual contrast with adjacent areas use clearcutting with reserve trees (even-aged system) as a harvest prescription.

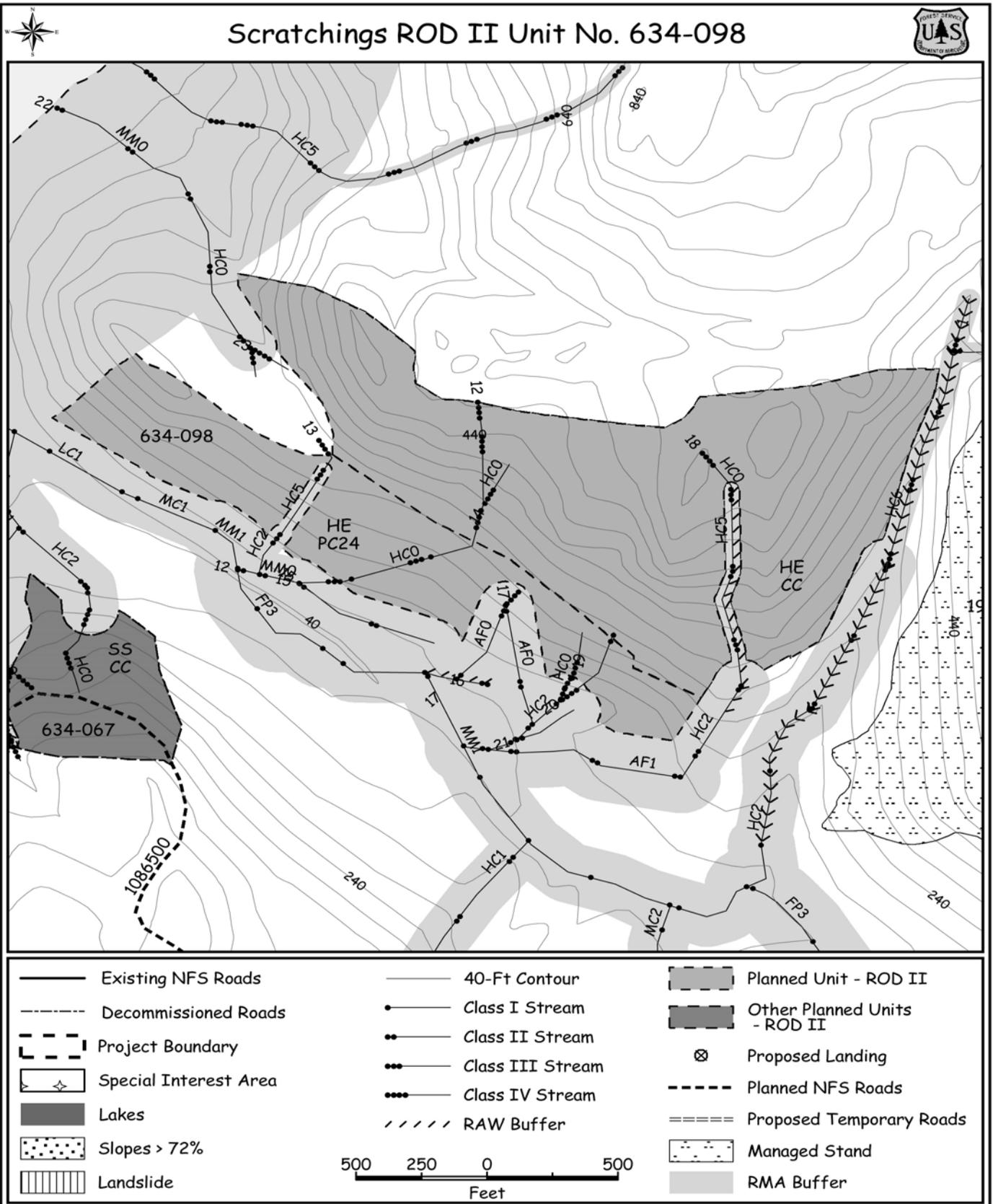
SOILS: An on-site analysis for suitability on slopes >72% was conducted on this unit per Forest Plan standards. The unit was modified following soils reconnaissance to exclude a 4 acre patch of slopes >72% unsuitable for harvest activities. A landslide recently originated in the unstable Kupreanof soils on these steep slopes. See soils report for details.

Slopes range from 30 to 50% across the existing unit. Landslide potential ranges from moderate to high across the unit. Partial suspension would be required across the unit to maintain slope stability (BMPs 13.5 and 13.9). Minor areas of forested wetland are present along the footslopes and floodplains.

WILDLIFE: Wildlife was in this unit for 5.5 hours. A possible goshawk response was heard in the vicinity of this unit. A follow up visit to this area was done but no goshawks were seen or heard. Should a nest be discovered, all applicable Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines would be applied.

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Scratchings ROD II Unit No. 634-098



Note: This map is compiled from various digital geographic data and may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards.

LUD:	Timber production	Silvicultural Prescription:	Even-aged CC 4113, Two-aged CC with reserves 4177	Total Unit Acres:	64	Unit Number:	6340-098
VCU:	6340	Logging Systems:	HE & HE PC24	Harvest Acres:	64	In Selected Alternative	
TM Compartment:	63402					Net Harvest Volume:	
Photo Number:	610051A	190-258		Inventoried Roadless Area Acres:	Approx. 44	MBF:	1,113
						CCF:	

SILVICULTURE: Existing Stand Condition/Vegetation: Stand average site index: 80; Productivity class: 4. Blowdown risk is high at the uppermost elevations within the central part of the setting. Blowdown risk in the remaining portions of the setting is expected to decrease with elevation. Insect and Disease - The most prevalent disease noted within the stand was found to be dwarf mistletoe. Alaska Cedar Decline was prominent in areas of wetland soils. The majority of volume loss could be attributed to stem decays.

Silvicultural Objective/Desired Condition: The desired condition for this stand is a highly productive, healthy, windfirm, stand grown for timber management that retains residual trees as needed to meet standards and guides or other objectives.

Silvicultural Prescription: Even-aged management –Clearcut (CC) 4113. Mark boundaries paying particular attention to windfirmness. For example, bring unit boundaries to the edge of existing young-growth or muskeg and to the lee side of a ridgeline where possible. Interdisciplinary review of RAW zones to determine RAW zone prescription should occur at the time of layout, as described in the Fish/Watershed section. Even-aged clearcutting is being prescribed for this unit to preclude or minimize the occurrence of potentially adverse impacts from hemlock dwarf mistletoe or other insect or disease infections, logging damage and windthrow. All past harvest areas adjacent to or near this prescribed clearcut are adequately restocked with trees at least 5 feet tall.

Two-aged Management, Clearcut with Reserves 4177, Individual Tree Marking

Maintain at least 50 percent of the setting pretreatment basal area, based on standing live tree total for the unit, uncut. Individual trees selected for harvest may occur in small groups. Any small groups will usually be less than one acre but may occasionally go up to two acres in size. Trees selected for harvest will generally be well distributed and no large openings will occur as a result of the harvest. Review full silvicultural prescription and marking guides prior to layout. Interdisciplinary review RAW zones as described in the fish/watershed section on unit card should occur at the time of layout to determine the RAW zone prescription. In general, additional retention to meet RAW requirements is not expected to be required where dispersed retention occurs in helicopter yarding areas.

TIMBER/LOGGING: This setting was planned for helicopter yarding in the LSTA. Areas of forested wetland have been deleted in the central western part of the setting as well as along the northern boundary. Fringe areas and some additional areas may remain in the unit.

ENGINEERING/ROADS: See Road Card

BOTANY RESOURCES: No concerns.

FISH/WATERSHED: Stream 1- Class 1, FP3 no cut buffer 130'; Stream 4- Class 3, HC6 slope break buffer, Stream 5- Class 4, HC6. To protect watershed, buffer Class III stream with additional RAW to the southeasterly direction. Evidence of windthrow to the east of unit following past harvest. Potential for direct impact of sedimentation to downstream fish habitat.

GEOLOGY/KARST: No concerns.

HERITAGE RESOURCES: Proposed Units 6340-067, 6340-068, 6340-069, 6340-070, 6340-073, 6340-098, and 6340111 fall within and area of high sensitivity for heritage resources. Obsidian (volcanic glass) cobbles have been noted in the lower reaches of the creeks deriving from the drainage basins containing these units. In place beds of obsidian have been identified in one location above 6340-069. Obsidian from this source is known to be a raw material for stone tool manufacture and trade dating back at least 10,000 years. Although surveys of these units (archaeological and other disciplines) have not identified a prehistoric quarry site there is the possibility that one exists. Options for mitigation in this situation include dropping these units (H1); or conduct archaeological monitoring in conjunction with road construction and harvest. Should sites of archaeological value be noted during monitoring data recovery would be undertaken (H3). A second contributing factor to the high sensitivity of these units is their proximity to the historic Spanish uses (1775 and 1779) of Port Santa Cruz. However, historic journals make no mention of upland activities by Spanish sailors.

Aside from the possibility of obsidian quarry sites and its proximity to historic Spanish activity Unit 6340098 has little likelihood of containing cultural resources. It lies on steep slopes at elevations between 40 and 600 feet above sea level.

Archaeological survey and monitoring of the proposed unit and surrounding area were conducted on June 23-25, 2008. No cultural resources were documented. There are no historic properties in the area of potential effects.

LANDS: T 76S; R 79E, Sec. 21 Copper River Meridian

RECREATION: Although no developed recreation sites exist in this unit, it is in the proximity of a perennially utilized recreation site. The first Spanish contact in Alaska occurred at the mouth of the stream that runs through this unit. Currently, the Catholic Church maintains a pilgrimage site to this area to celebrate the first Catholic Mass in Alaska. It is a recreation site of interest (see recreation and heritage sections for more details). No mitigation measures are suggested because the recreation site is on the beach fringe and would not likely be affected by the harvest activities.

The site is also a recreation site of interest because of its special geological features. It represents a unique recreation opportunity to see volcanic landforms, karst areas and other special geologic features. Recreation is limited in the area and would not likely be affected by the harvest activities.

SCENERY: The units along the central west portion of Suemez Island are in middleground distance zone. This unit is seen from Port Santa Cruz (view point 4). The VQO to be met is Maximum Modification. In order to minimize visual disturbance and reduce visual contrast with adjacent areas use clearcutting with reserve trees (even-aged system) as a harvest prescription.

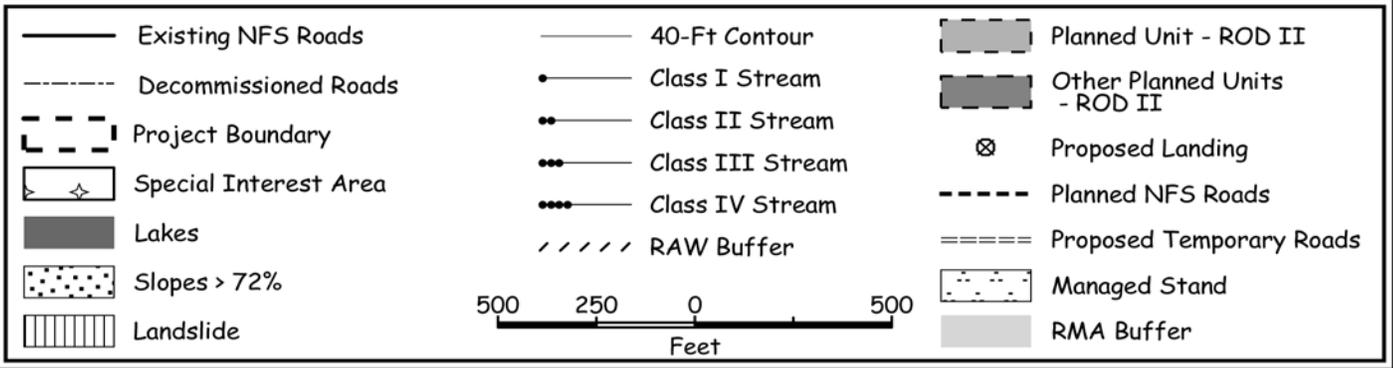
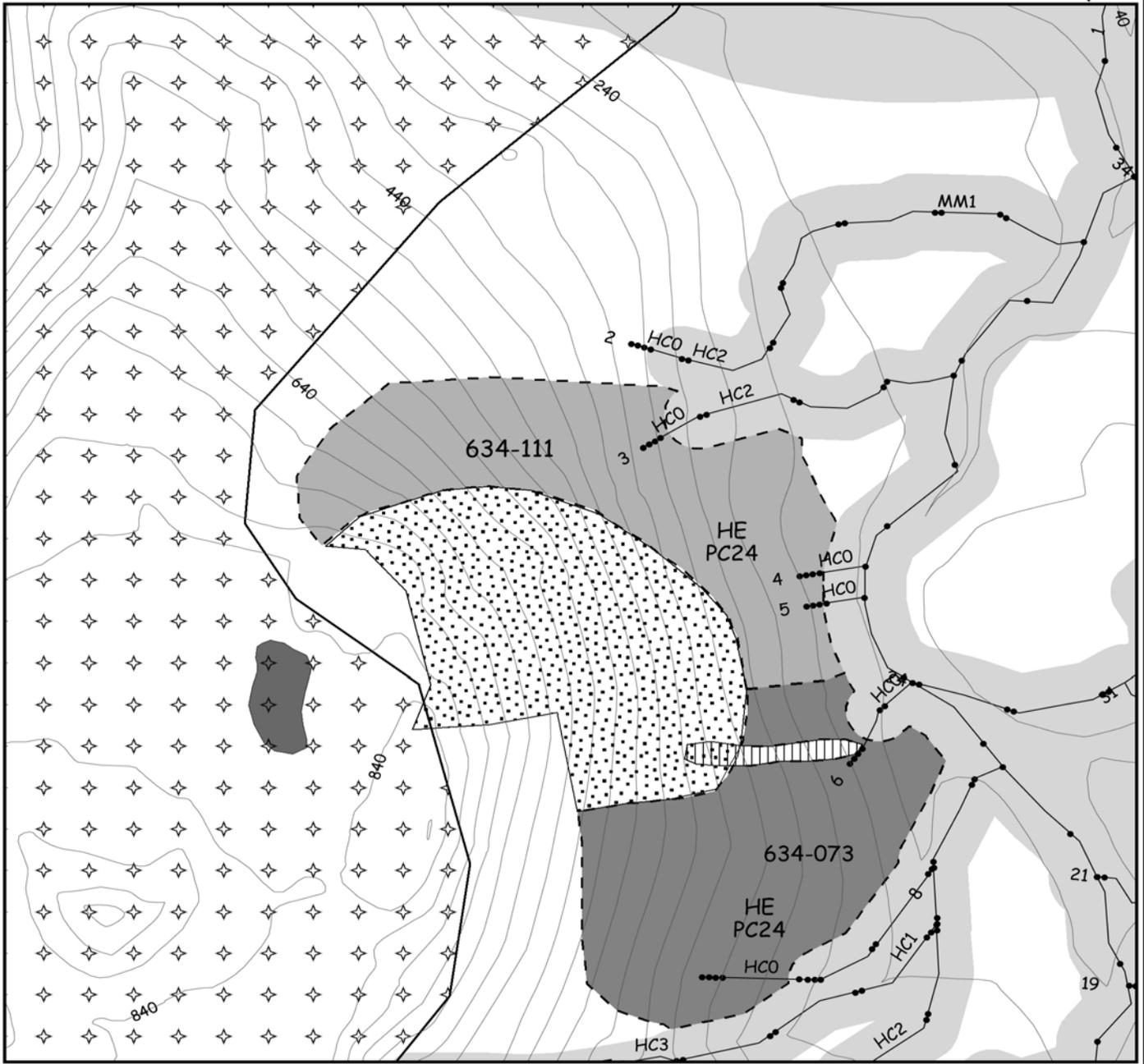
SOILS: Partial suspension is required to meet soil quality standards and to protect wetland resources (BMPs 12.5, 13.5, and 13.9). Aerial photos, GIS data, slope data, and soil survey data were reviewed by the soil scientist to identify potential soil resource concerns. No soil or slope concerns were identified; therefore, no field reconnaissance was completed by the soil scientist. See fisheries section for complete details on streamcourse protections (BMPs 12.6 and 13.16).

WILDLIFE: Wildlife spent about 6.5 hours surveying in this unit. No evidence of goshawk use was seen. Should a nest be discovered, all applicable Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines would be applied.

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Scratchings ROD II Unit No. 634-111



Note: This map is compiled from various digital geographic data and may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards.

LUD:	Timber production	Silvicultural Prescription:	Two-aged CC with reserves 4177	Total Unit Acres:	18	Unit Number:	6340-111
VCU: TM Compartment:	6340 63402	Logging Systems:	HE PC24	Harvest Acres:	18	In Selected Alternative	
Photo Number:	610051A 190-258					Net Harvest Volume:	
			Inventoried Roadless Area Acres:	18	MBF:	298	
					CCF:		

SILVICULTURE: Existing Stand Condition/Vegetation: Setting average site index: 100; Productivity class: 2. Blowdown risk is high at the uppermost elevations within the setting. Blowdown risk in the remaining portions of the setting is expected to decrease with elevation to a moderate risk. Insect and Disease - The most prevalent disease noted within the stand was found to be dwarf mistletoe. The majority of volume loss could be attributed to stem decays. Minor pockets of foliage damage were noted in understory Western Hemlock. This damage was attributed to Hemlock Canker.

Silvicultural Objective/Desired Condition: The desired condition for this stand is a highly productive, healthy, windfirm, stand grown for timber management that retains residual trees as needed to meet standards and guides or other objectives.

Silvicultural Prescription: Two-aged Management, Clearcut with Reserves 4177, Individual Tree Marking

Maintain at least 50 percent of the setting pretreatment basal area, based on standing live tree total for the unit, uncut. Individual trees selected for harvest may occur in small groups. Any small groups will usually be less than one acre but may occasionally go up to two acres in size. Trees selected for harvest will generally be well distributed and no large openings will occur as a result of the harvest. Review full silvicultural prescription and marking guides prior to layout. Interdisciplinary review RAW zones as described in the fish/watershed section on unit card should occur at the time of layout to determine the RAW zone prescription. In general, additional retention to meet RAW requirements is not expected to be required where dispersed retention occurs in helicopter yarding areas.

TIMBER/LOGGING: This setting is planned in the LSTA for helicopter yarding. Potential for road access to this setting may exist from a system road in settings 6340-068 and 6340-069. This route has not been verified on the ground. (This route was later determined to not be feasible due to stream crossings and unsuitable soils.)

ENGINEERING/ROADS: See Road Card

BOTANY RESOURCES: No concerns.

FISH/WATERSHED: Stream 1- Class 1, MM1 no cut buffer 120'; Stream 2- Class 2, HC1 no cut buffer 100' with RAW buffer on south side; Class 3, HC1 slope break buffer with RAW buffer on south side; Stream 3- Class 2, HC1 no cut buffer 100' with RAW buffer on south side; Class 3, HC1 slope break buffer with RAW buffer on south side. For protection of watershed, buffer streams with additional RAW to the southerly direction.

GEOLOGY/KARST: No concerns.

HERITAGE RESOURCES: Proposed Units 6340-067, 6340-068, 6340-069, 6340-070, 6340-073, 6340-098, and 6340111 fall within and area of high sensitivity for heritage resources. Obsidian (volcanic glass) cobbles

have been noted in the lower reaches of the creeks deriving from the drainage basins containing these units. In place beds of obsidian have been identified in one location above 6340-069. Obsidian from this source is known to be a raw material for stone tool manufacture and trade dating back at least 10,000 years. Although surveys of these units (archaeological and other disciplines) have not identified a prehistoric quarry site there is the possibility that one exists. Options for mitigation in this situation include dropping these units (H1); or conduct archaeological monitoring in conjunction with road construction and harvest. Should sites of archaeological value be noted during monitoring data recovery would be undertaken (H3). A second contributing factor to the high sensitivity of these units is their proximity to the historic Spanish uses (1775 and 1779) of Port Santa Cruz. However, historic journals make no mention of upland activities by Spanish sailors.

Aside from the possibility of obsidian quarry sites and its proximity to historic Spanish activity Unit 6340111 has little likelihood of containing cultural resources. It lies on steep slopes at elevations between 150 and 770 feet above sea level.

Archaeological survey and monitoring of the proposed unit and surrounding area were conducted on June 23-25, 2008. No cultural resources were documented. There are no historic properties in the area of potential effects.

LANDS: T 76S; R 79 E, Sec. 20 Copper River Meridian

RECREATION: The site is a recreation site of interest because of its special geological features. It represents a unique recreation opportunity to see volcanic landforms, karst areas and other special geologic features. No developed recreation sites exist in the area. Due to the limited number of dispersed recreation users, it is unlikely that the timber harvest would affect recreation opportunities in this unit.

SCENERY: Visual management objective for this unit is Modification. The unit is seen from Port Dolores (view point 1). Use even-age harvest systems (clearcutting with reserves) with reduced acreage only where visual analysis simulations have shown VQOs would be met; or use reserves under a two-age harvest system to reduce visual contrast with adjacent areas by leaving reserve trees under a two-aged system as a harvest prescription; or use patch/strip clearcutting to reduce visual contrast with adjacent areas by using patch or strip clearcutting (two-aged or uneven-aged systems) as a harvest prescription.

SOILS: An on-site analysis for suitability on slopes >72% was conducted on this unit per Forest Plan standards. The unit was modified following soils reconnaissance to exclude a total of 15 acres in the central and southwestern portions of the original unit due to steep slopes and unstable soils. See soils report for details.

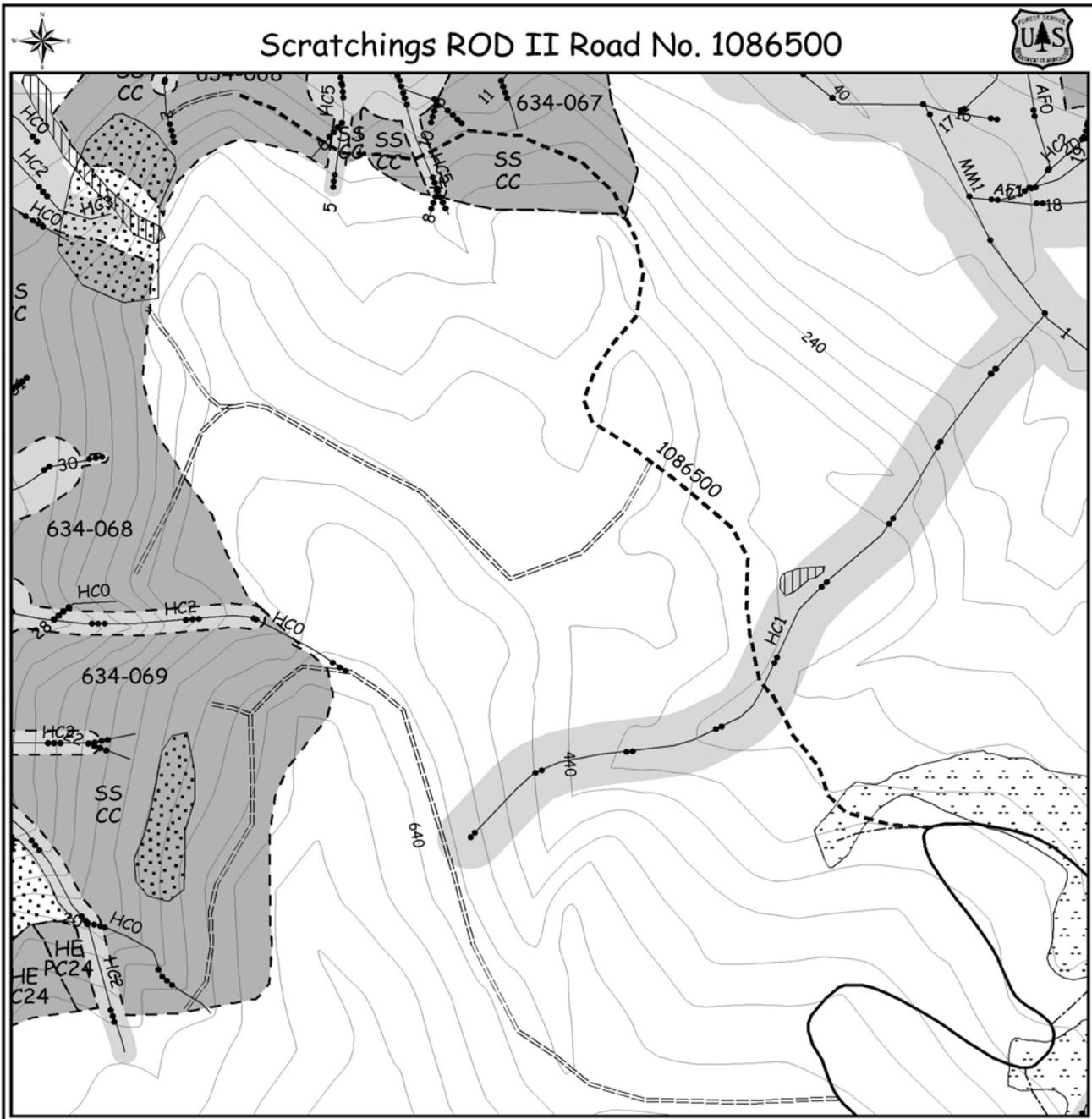
Slopes average less than 60% across the existing unit. The unit is suitable for harvest with partial suspension (BMPs 13.5 and 13.9). Landslide potential ranges from moderate to high. Minor areas of forested wetland are present along the slope benches and the Class II floodplain (BMP 12.5). See fisheries section for complete details on streamcourse protections (BMPs 12.6 and 13.16).

WILDLIFE: Wildlife spent 5.5 hours in this unit. A possible goshawk detection was heard. A follow up survey was done with no detections. Should a nest be discovered, all applicable Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines would be applied.

Appendix 2

Road Card

Scratchings ROD II Road No. 1086500



Existing NFS Roads	40-Ft Contour	Planned NFS Roads
Decommissioned Roads	Class I Stream	Proposed Temporary Roads
Project Boundary	Class II Stream	Proposed Landing
Lakes	Class III Stream	Planned Units - ROD II
Slopes > 72%	Class IV Stream	Managed Stand
Landslide		RMA Buffer

500 250 0 500
Feet

Note: This map is compiled from various digital geographic data and may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards.

Road Card 1086500 – Scratchings

Project Scratchings			System Suemez	Land Use Designation Timber Production
Route No 1086500	Route Name		Begin Terminus MP 4.2 of Rd. 1086000	End Terminus MP 0.79
Begin MP 0.00	Length 0.79	Route Status PL	Managing Organization 100551	

General Design Criteria and Elements

Functional Class	Service Life	Traffic Service Level	Surface	Width	Design Speed	Critical Vehicle	Design Vehicle
L	S	D	Rock	14	10	Log Truck	Log Truck

Intended Purpose/Future Use

Access for silvicultural activities; during periods of operation manage as maintenance level 2. Manage as maintenance level 1, storage, between periods of operation.

Maintenance Criteria

Bmp	Emp	Operational Maintenance Level (Current/Initial Condition)	Objective Maintenance Level (Desired Future Condition)	Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Act Class
0.00	0.79	2	1	Inactive

Maintenance Narrative

Road will be maintained in “Active” status while road is open during timber haul; post timber haul road will be stored and maintained in “Inactive” status.

AFR&P Regs. “Active” status: Keep culverts, catch basins, ditches and ditch blocks functional. Grade as needed to maintain crown and running surface. Control roadside brush to maintain sight distance.

AFR&P Regs. “Inactive” status: Road is stored. Remove or bypass all drainage structures to restore natural drainage patterns, add water bars as needed to control runoff, and seed and fertilize disturbed soils. The road will be placed in a self maintaining state.

Operation Criteria

Highway Safety Act:	No	Jurisdiction:	National Forest Ownership
Traffic	Encourage:	N/A	
Management Strategies	Accept:	Hikers, Bicycles	
Discourage:	N/A		
Prohibit:	N/A		
	Eliminate:	N/A	

Travel Management Narrative: Use by trucks is expected to be minimal for silvicultural purposes. This road system is not connected to any public or community road systems or to any ferry system terminal. The road system is to be closed to motorized vehicles during and after initial entry. After silvicultural activities are completed road will have drainage structures removed and road put into storage (FRPA status of closed).

Approved _____

District Ranger

_____ Date

Site Specific Design Criteria - Road # 1086500

The following mitigation measures either are in the road design or will be applied during project implementation: F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F9, F10, F12, F14, F15, F16, F17. These measures are described below in the resource sections that apply and correspond to Appendix D in the Scratchings Final EIS.

ROAD LOCATION: Road accesses Unit 634-067 and 634-068. Adverse grades to 15% coming out of Unit 634-067. A 36 inch cmp required for stream at edge of reproduction and a log culvert required at MP 0.15. Road is located to accommodate logging systems and have least impact on other resources (BMP 14.2). During construction follow BMPs 14.6, 14.7, 14.12, 14.14, 14.17, and 14.19. Full bench construction required on slopes over 55%. End haul material to area designated by Forest Service specialist (BMP 14.7 and 14.12).

WETLANDS: The majority of the route (0.77 miles) is located on emergent short sedge and forested wetlands. Road construction in these wetlands is unavoidable (BMP 12.5, 14.2) along the ridgeline route due to the high density of wetland complexes across the ridgeline. Road location was completed to avoid wetlands, although construction in wetlands was unavoidable on the entire length of the proposed road due to safety considerations, engineering design constraints and considerations for other resources. Overlay construction is recommended to minimize disturbance to the wetland and ensure adequate drainage is provided to maintain hydrologic connectivity of the roaded wetland with the surrounding areas (BMP 12.5, 14.3, 14.9, 14.17 and CFR BMPs 5 and 7). The road is planned for storage following harvest by means of removing drainage structures (BMP 14.22 and CFR BMPs 2 and 7). Storage should be adequate to discourage ATVs from crossing streams and wetlands. This road meets the silviculture exemption for 404 permitting through Army Corp of Engineers.

Road location was completed to avoid wetlands, although wetlands were unavoidable on the entire length of the proposed road due to safety considerations, engineering design constraints and considerations for other resources.

EROSION CONTROL: An erosion control plan for construction and maintenance will be developed according to standard project specifications (BMP 14.5). All areas of organic or mineral soil exposed during construction shall be grass seeded and fertilized (BMP 12.17, 14.8).

ROCK PITS: Timing will be required on all pit and r/w blasting within 1/2 mile of known eagle nests. Rock source for this road will be located off of designated wetlands. During periods of high rainfall (as defined in current Regional specifications), blasting operations will be suspended at quarries near potentially unstable sites where ground vibration may induce mass movement (BMP 14.6).

STREAM CROSSINGS:

MP 0.15	AHMU Class 2	Channel Type - HC	Incision
Max. Width - 7 feet		Gradient - 12%	Substrate - Cobbles to 10"
Structure - Log culvert	Passage - Yes	Timing dates – 6/15 to 9/1	

Narrative: Provide for fish timing. Remove structure post harvest.

MP 0.66	AHMU Class 3	Channel Type - HC	Incision - 15
Max. Width – 6 feet		Gradient - 43	Substrate – Cobbles / Bedrock
Structure – 48 cmp	Passage - No	Timing dates – NA	
Narrative: Remove post harvest			

MP 0.71	AHMU Class 3	Channel Type HC	Incision - 15
Max. Width - 5		Gradient 52	Substrate - Cobbles / Bedrock
Structure – 36 cmp	Passage - No	Timing dates – NA	
Narrative: Remove post harvest			

MP 0.72	AHMU Class 4	Channel Type HC	Incision - 3
Max. Width - 2		Gradient 48	Substrate -
Structure – 18 cmp	Passage - No	Timing dates – NA	
Narrative: Remove post harvest			

OTHER RESOURCE INFORMATION (if applicable)

TIMBER/LOGGING SYSTEMS: Road provides access to Units 634-067 and 634-068. Road will also function as helicopter landing for Units 634-111 and 634-073. Post harvest surveys will be needed in these units within 4 years of harvest. If road closure is required after harvest activity is complete, close so that ATV use is possible for administrative purposes.

WILDLIFE/BOTANY: No concerns. Should any raptor nests be discovered, all applicable standards and guidelines will be applied.

VISUAL/RECREATION: No Visual Concerns.

HERITAGE - Proposed Units 634-067, 634-068, 634-069, 634-070, 634-073, 634-098, and 634-111 and associated roads fall within and area of high sensitivity for heritage resources. Obsidian (volcanic glass) cobbles have been noted in the lower reaches of the creeks deriving from the drainage basins containing these units. In-place beds of obsidian have been identified in one location above 634-069. Obsidian from this source is known to be a raw material for stone tool manufacture and trade dating back at least 10,000 years in southeast Alaska. Although surveys of these units (archaeological and other disciplines) have not identified a prehistoric quarry site there is the possibility that one exists. Options for mitigation in this situation include dropping these units (H1); or conducting archaeological monitoring in conjunction with road construction and harvest. Should sites of archaeological value be noted during monitoring data recovery would be undertaken (H3). A second contributing factor to the high sensitivity of these units is their proximity to the historic Spanish uses (1775 and 1779) of Port Santa Cruz. However, historic journals make no mention of upland activities by Spanish sailors.

Aside from the possibility of obsidian quarry sites and its proximity to historic Spanish activity this road has little likelihood of containing cultural resources. It lies on steep slopes at high elevations.

Archaeological survey and monitoring of the proposed unit and surrounding area were conducted on June 23-25, 2008. No cultural resources were documented. There are no historic properties in the area of potential effects.

SOILS/WATER: The proposed route initiates from the 1086 road and traverses north along the ridgeline to Units 634-067 and 634-068. The road across the ridgeline is located on gentle slopes. The majority of the ridgeline route is located on emergent short sedge and forested wetlands. Overlay road is recommended to minimize disturbance to the wetland and ensure adequate drainage is provided to maintain hydrologic connectivity of the roaded wetland with the surrounding areas. Apply BMPs 12.5, 14.2, and 14.17 and CFR BMPs 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 14. The route does traverse across the upper slopes of the timber units. Some areas of steep slopes are encountered. Full bench road construction with endhaul will be required on road segments with slopes exceeding 55 percent (BMP 14.7 and 14.12). All areas of organic and mineral soil exposed during construction shall be grass seeded and fertilized (BMPs 12.7 and 14.8). Road is scheduled for storage following timber sale activities. Storage activities would involve culvert removal, water bar placement, and revegetating road bed and potential erosion sources (BMP 14.8, 14.22).

INVASIVE SPECIES: Due to the absence of high priority invasive species in the area, and the low risk of spread due to minimal footprint for road construction, no mitigation measures are proposed.