



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Tongass
National Forest
R10-MB-742b

February 2013



Dargon Point Commercial Thinning

Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

Thorne Bay Ranger District
Thorne Bay, Alaska



Dargon Point EA Acronyms

ANHP – Alaska Natural Heritage Program	OHV – Off Highway Vehicle
ANILCA – Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act	POG – Productive old-growth
ATM – Access and Travel Management	POW – Prince of Wales Island
BA – Biological assessment	RAW – Reasonable assurance of windfirmness
BE – Biological evaluation	RMA – Riparian Management Area
BMPs – Best Management Practices	S&G – Standards and Guidelines
CFR – Code of Federal Regulations	SOPA - Schedule of Proposed Actions
CMAI - Culmination of mean annual increment	TES – Threatened, endangered and sensitive species
EA – Environmental Assessment	TM – Timber production
EFH – Essential Fish Habitat	TTRA – Tongass Timber Reform Act
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement	VDT – Variable density thinning
FASTR – Financial Analysis Spreadsheet Tool-Residual	WAA – Wildlife analysis area
FSH – Forest Service Handbook	YG – Young-growth
FSM – Forest Service Manual	
FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact	
HUC – Hydrologic unit code	
IDT – Interdisciplinary team	
ITS - Individual-tree selection	
LUD – Land Use Designation	
MAF – Marine Access Facility	
MBF – Thousand Board Feet	
MMBF – Million Board Feet	
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act	
NFMA – National Forest Management Act	
NFS – National Forest Service	
NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act	
NRIS – Natural Resource Information System	

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Forest
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Thorne Bay Ranger District

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File Code: 1950

Date: February 19, 2013

Dear Planning Participant:

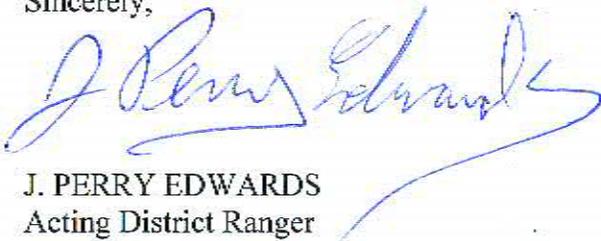
I am pleased to announce that the Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Dargon Point Commercial Thinning Environmental Assessment (EA) are available for your review. The DN and FONSI have been posted on the internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=38409> along with color photos of the project area. The DN/FONSI and EA are also available at the Thorne Bay Library and upon request from the Thorne Bay Ranger District.

This Decision Notice documents my decision to select Alternative 3 and the factors I considered in reaching the decision. This alternative was developed based on comments received during the scoping period, input from the Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team, and comments received during the public comment period. This project will harvest approximately 2.5 MMBF of mature young-growth timber through clearcut harvest of approximately 54 acres, thin approximately 16 acres within the beach fringe buffer and construct approximately 1 mile of new road.

As District Ranger, I am responsible for this decision. Information concerning implementation of this decision and appeal rights are included in the Decision Notice.

I want to thank those of you who took the time to review and comment on this project. For more information, please call Ben Case at 907-772-5883.

Sincerely,



J. PERRY EDWARDS
Acting District Ranger



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Dargon Point Commercial Thinning

Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

Lead Agency:

USDA Forest Service
Tongass National Forest
Thorne Bay Ranger District

Responsible Official:

Perry Edwards
Thorne Bay District Ranger
PO Box 19001
Thorne Bay, Alaska

For More Information Contact:

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Tongass National Forest
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Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Abstract

Alternative 3 of the Dargon Point Commercial Thinning Environmental Assessment was selected for implementation. The Selected Alternative consists of harvest of around 2.5 million board feet (MMBF) of mature (60-70 years old) young-growth timber from a stand approximately 70 acres in size. Approximately 1 mile of road construction requires further development of roughly 1 acre of an existing rock pit. No road would be constructed within the 1,000-foot beach fringe. The project area is located in the Naukati area on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.

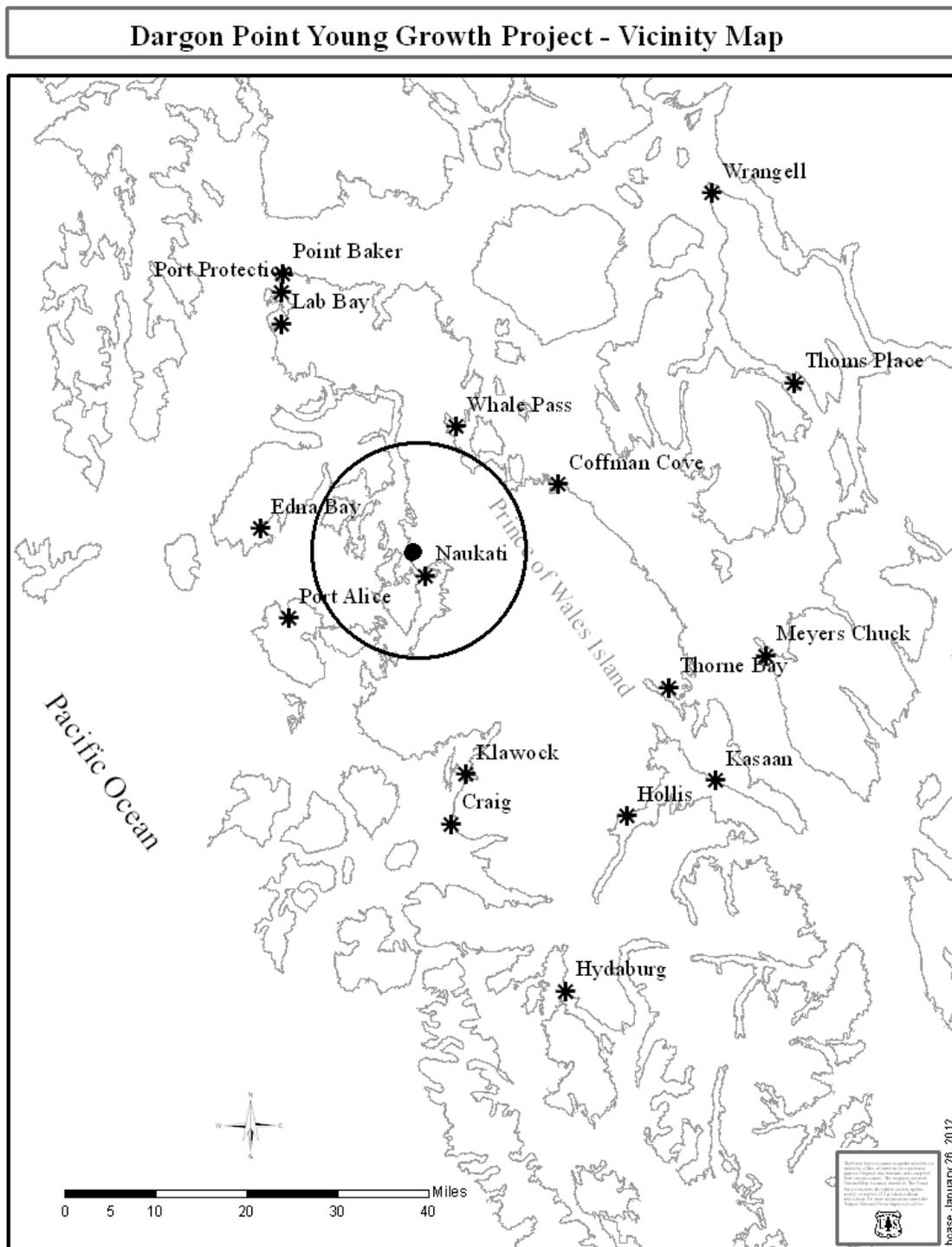


Figure 1. Dargon Point vicinity map

**Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Dargon Point Commercial Thinning Environmental Assessment**

**USDA Forest Service
Tongass National Forest
Thorne Bay Ranger District**

Introduction

This Decision Notice (DN) contains a brief summary of the environmental analysis completed for the Dargon Point Commercial Thinning Project, my decision regarding which alternative to implement and the rationale for my decision. It also contains certain findings required by various laws and information concerning the right to Administrative Review of this decision. The Environmental Assessment (EA) completed for this project is incorporated by reference in this decision document.

Project Area Location

The 2,276-acre Dargon Point project area is located along the western shore of Prince of Wales Island, approximately 3 miles north of the community of Naukati, within the Thorne Bay Ranger District, Tongass National Forest (see Vicinity Map, Figure 1, and Project Map, Figure 2).

The project area includes a portion of wildlife analysis area (WAA) 1422 and a portion of the Sarkar Creek and Jinhi Bay-Frontal El Capitan Passage (6th level HUC) watersheds. This project occurs outside of an inventoried roadless area, and entirely within the TM LUD. Overall, the terrain is relatively gentle, comprised of glacial till over limestone bedrock.

This area has one of the higher concentrations of young-growth on the Tongass, with a small portion of these stands dating back to the early 1900s. The area also has a significant amount of young-growth from more recent harvest (1960s through the 1990s). Older harvest in the area originally accessed stands of timber from the beach; however, harvest since 1960 has developed a network of roads throughout most of the project area.

Decision

After consideration of the public and agency input, the recommendations of resource specialists, and the applicable laws and regulations, it is my decision to select Alternative 3 (hereafter called the Selected Alternative) for implementation including all project design elements, mitigation, and monitoring described in the EA.

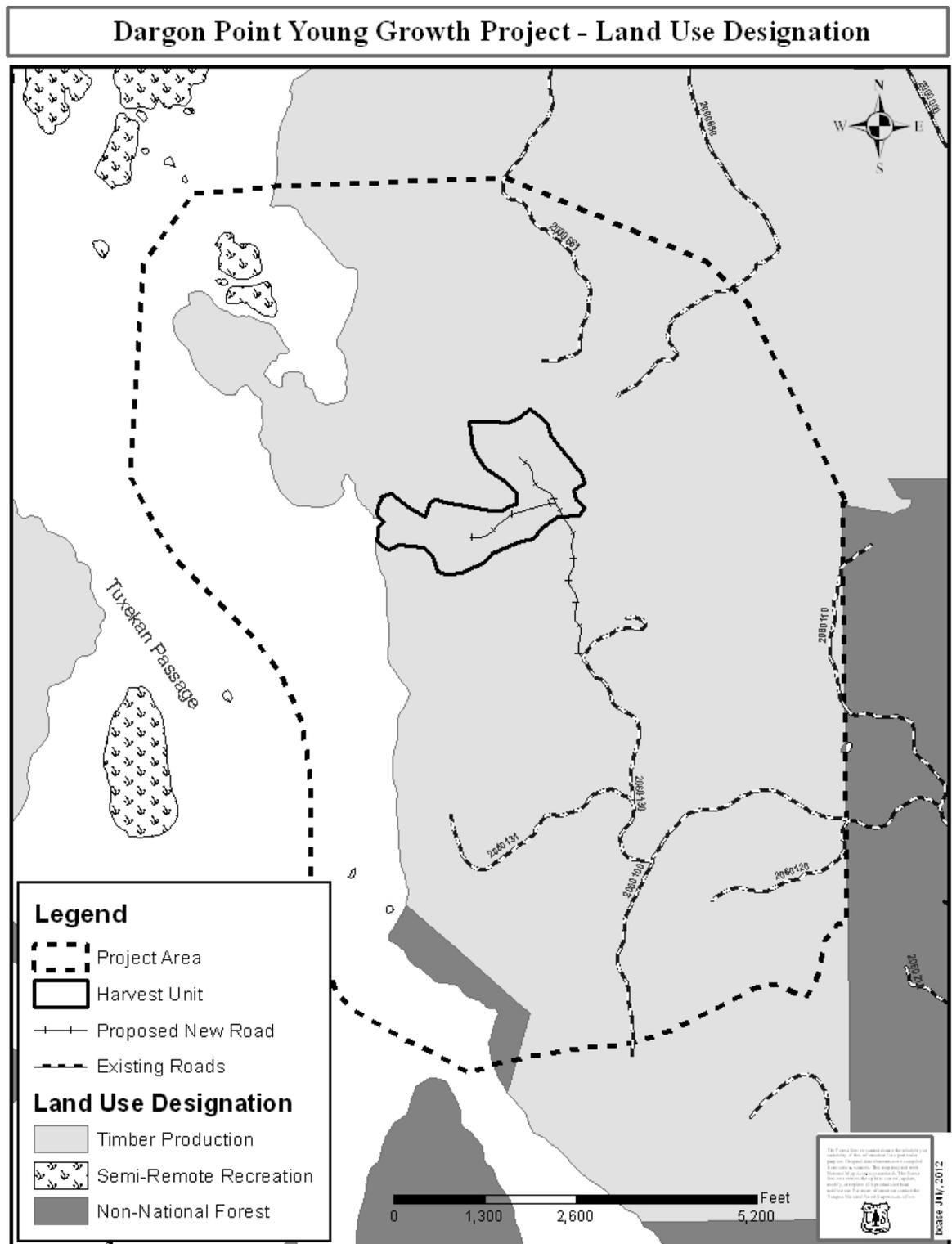


Figure 2. Project area, harvest unit and Land Use Designations

The Selected Alternative includes harvest of around 2.5 million board feet (MMBF) of mature (60-70 years old) young-growth timber from a stand approximately 70 acres in size. Harvest consists of clearcutting on approximately 54 acres and thinning through variable-density thinning within the 16 acres of 1,000-foot Beach and Estuary Fringe Buffer. Approximately 1 mile of road construction requires further development of roughly 1 acre of an existing rock pit. No road would be constructed within the 1,000-foot beach and estuary buffer.

Decision Rationale

In making this decision, I considered applicable laws, regulations, policy, and the 2008 Forest Plan in relation to information disclosed in the EA and project record. I believe the best available science and information was used in the analysis. I considered how the alternatives met the purpose and need for action and addressed the issues. I also considered the effects of the project on the human and natural environment and weighed the potential resource effects, as well as the public benefit.

While the public comments generally supported this project, some commenters expressed concern over timber harvest economics, while others conveyed concerns over potential adverse effects to wildlife and soil resources.

I believe that these concerns are addressed in the EA and through Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, best management practices (BMPs), and mitigation and monitoring which will minimize the potential for adverse environmental effects. I believe the Selected Alternative best meets the desires expressed by the public and the project's purpose and need. I also believe this decision is in line with the intent of the Transition Framework, which outlines a commitment to improving ecological functions while providing goods and services and supporting economic growth through young-growth management.

I recognize that the size of this project presents challenges for potential purchasers. Potential purchasers commented that the amount of volume is important in order to cover mobilization and operating costs. Another comment indicated that this project, if offered as one sale, would exceed the capacity of smaller operators who may be interested in processing young-growth. I believe the Selected Alternative provides the greatest flexibility in providing one or more economical offerings for potential purchasers. Currently, tree diameters at breast height for the co-dominant and dominant trees range from 18-26 inches. Trees of this size are conducive for mechanized equipment. If the stand was thinned, there is a risk the remaining trees would be too large for a future entry using more modern mechanized equipment.

The Selected Alternative also addresses, to the extent reasonable, the risk of windthrow. There is a greater risk of windthrow when thinning a stand of this age that has not had previous silvicultural treatment, such as pre-commercial thinning. To address this, the treatment within the beach fringe has been designed to mitigate the risk of windthrow by leaving an untreated windfirm buffer along the shoreline; however, further away from this buffer and outside of the 1,000-foot beach fringe, the risk of windthrow is greater.

Where even-aged management will occur with the Selected Alternative, I am confident effects from clearcutting relative to stand development, including regeneration, will be

consistent with past harvest of young growth on other similar karst sites and soils. Forest soil scientists have conducted monitoring on many recently harvested young growth sites (Winter Harbor, Staney, Soda Nick, and the PCTs) with similar soils. All of these projects are within R10 Soil Quality Standards and are productive for regeneration.

Considering the concerns to wildlife habitat, the Selected Alternative is designed to increase forage production, improve stand structural diversity and accelerate stand succession toward old-growth conditions within the beach buffer. Outside of the beach buffer, harvest will delay the progression toward old-growth conditions and reduce forage access during periods of deep snow on approximately 54 acres of the stand. Harvest will benefit, however, some species during the summer and winters during periods of little snow by improving shrub and forb production until the clearcut portion re-enters the stem exclusion stage.

Purpose and Need

In an effort to implement Forest Plan Goals and Objectives, as well as respond to an increasing interest and effort in producing commercial wood products through management of young-growth on the Tongass National Forest, there is a need in the Dargon Point project area for vegetation treatments that:

- Improve forest vegetation conditions for timber production and wildlife habitat,
- Promote forest health,
- Respond to the goals and objectives in the Forest Plan for the management of young-growth stands.

Issues

I chose the Selected Alternative because it best addresses the relevant issues and concerns. The key issue developed from scoping comments concerned the timber economics and that even-aged harvest would have a positive impact on the production of young-growth timber for the stand. The Selected Alternative best meets this issue by providing the greatest potential to make available wood products in an economically efficient manner while improving wildlife habitat in the 1,000 foot beach fringe.

Alternatives Considered

Three alternatives are presented in the EA, a No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action and the Selected Alternative, which was developed to respond to the scoping comment received. A comparison of alternatives is presented in the EA, pages 4-10.

Public and Agency Involvement

The project was introduced to the collaborative Staney Community Forest Working Group in a June 15, 2011 progress report and reported on again September 23, 2011 by the Thorne Bay District Ranger.

The project has been listed on the Thorne Bay Ranger District Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) since April 1, 2012. A scoping letter¹ was sent on April 23, 2012 to approximately 140 individuals, organizations, and federal and state agencies that had previously shown interest in USDA Forest Service projects within the vicinity of Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. The scoping letter solicited comments, and summarized the purpose and need and actions proposed. One response to scoping was received. To address the comments, the IDT developed an alternative to the proposed action (Alternative 3).

An EA was sent to approximately 189 interested parties in December 2012. In addition, two news releases were sent to Alaska media outlets on December 3 and 10, 2012. The 30-day comment period on the EA was initiated on December 10, 2012 with the publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Ketchikan Daily News*, the newspaper of record. The comment period ended on January 9, 2013.

The Thorne Bay Ranger District (TBRD) received 10 letters/emails from respondents during the 30-day comment period. Excerpts from these communications, followed by responses from TBRD were filed in the project record and are available on the project website².

Changes and Clarifications to the EA

After public and agency review of the EA, the following changes and clarifications have been made.

Page 1, “What is Being Proposed With This Project?” The following is an addition to the proposed action. *The approximate 1 acre expansion of the existing rock pit located at milepost 0.65 on NFS road 2060130 was analyzed for in the project’s resource-specific analyses and will be carried out in compliance with Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines as well as project specific BMPs (EA, pages 16-17, 60 and 62). The expansion of this rock pit involves approximately 1 acre for the production of roughly 6,500 cubic yards of rock for road construction.*

Page 17. A hyphen was missing in item two under “Mitigation.” It should read, “*High vulnerability karst features would receive no-harvest buffers.*” Without the hyphen in “no-harvest,” the reader may infer that karst features would not receive harvest buffers.

Page 34, last sentence, should read, “Alternative 2 will have *negligible* effects to wolves since it will not result in a change to the deer density *and* road density in WAA 1422 *will only increase by <0.2 percent.*”

Page 38, Table 5, Archipelago Wolf, Level of Influence Determination should be “*negligible*” rather than “no effect.” The determination of “no effects” is only for Threatened and Endangered species.

Appendix A. Additional language added to the unit and road cards within this document. Mitigation measures for reducing the risk of introducing or spreading invasive plant

¹ A copy of this letter is on the project webpage: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=38409>

² Project website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=38409>

species were added to the unit and road cards. These measures require that ground-based equipment (road building equipment, yarders, shovels, skidders, forwarders, harvesters, processors or feller bunchers, etc.) will be cleaned prior to implementation and mobilization, if the equipment is imported to Prince of Wales Island from another location. Only Forest Service approved rock sources will be used. Any new introductions of high-priority invasive plants found in the project area will be treated according to Forest Service Manual supplement (TNF 2000-2007-1), and the Region 10 and Tongass Invasive Plant Management Plan as part of the District's program of work for invasive species management.

Finding of No Significant Impact

After considering the environmental effects described in the EA, I have determined that these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). Thus, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. I base my finding on the following:

1. *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial.* Neither adverse nor beneficial effects are significant in context or intensity to warrant an EIS for this project. My finding of no significant environmental effects is not biased by the beneficial effects of the action.
2. *The degree to which the Selected Alternative affects public health or safety.* Based on the conclusions in the EA, I have determined that no significant impact would occur to the public health and safety. The project area is located away from populated areas. While project operations could cause temporary traffic delays or congestion to recreation users of the road system, the Forest Service would communicate with the public regarding when and where potential delays could take place.
3. *Unique characteristics of the geographic areas such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.* The project does not enter into any inventoried roadless areas. No historic properties, park lands or farmlands are located within the area of potential effects for the project. No wild and scenic rivers occur in the project area or are affected by the project. High-value wetlands and high-vulnerability karst will not be affected by the project. Therefore, I have determined there will be no significant effects on any unique characteristics of the area.
4. *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.* The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial. This project was proposed in response to increasing interest in producing commercial wood products through management of young-growth on the Tongass National Forest. While there is general controversy over old-growth timber harvest in Southeast Alaska, this project proposes only the harvest of young-growth timber. This project responds to the goals and objectives of the Forest Plan (pages 2-7 through 2-9) and helps move the project area towards conditions described therein. Therefore, I have determined

there will be no significant impacts based on the evidence found in the EA that would be highly controversial.

5. *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.* The Forest Service has extensive experience with the types of activities to be implemented. The effects analysis shows the effects are not uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risk. Similar type of harvest and road construction, like what is proposed and analyzed in the EA, has been successfully implemented on the Thorne Bay Ranger District and elsewhere on the Tongass National Forest. Based on this analysis, I have determined there are no unique or unknown risks involved with this project, therefore there is no significant impact due to uncertainty or a possible unique or unknown risk.
6. *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.* This action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects since the proposed activities are small in scale and are expected to have overall beneficial effects to wildlife and timber resources. I have therefore determined the Selected Alternative would not set precedent for future actions with significant impacts, nor would it represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.
7. *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.* I have determined the Selected Alternative will have individually insignificant impacts and cumulatively insignificant impacts as they relate to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. All previously harvested stands on the District have regenerated and many have received previous treatments such as thinning, pruning, or planting. No significant cumulative effects were identified for any resource in the EA. The proposed vegetation treatments should have long-term beneficial effects to beach buffer wildlife habitat and future timber production outside of the beach fringe. Road construction will also have beneficial effects to future timber management.
8. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.* The Forest Service has determined that a finding of No Historic Properties Affected is appropriate for this project. This project meets the provisions stipulated in the Programmatic Agreement between the Forest Service, Alaska Region, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Officer. Therefore, I have determined no significant impacts would occur that adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.* The action will not adversely affect any endangered or

threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, because there are no listed species or critical habitat in the project area and no marine environment is included in the project area. Effects to the marine environment are anticipated to be negligible and would consist of small pulses of sedimentation that will likely settle out in the estuary before reaching marine waters where marine mammals occur. Therefore, I have determined no significant impacts would occur that adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat. The Biological Assessment concluded there was “No Effect” for any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats.

10. *Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.* The following findings show that the action does not violate federal, state, or local law requirements imposed for the protection of the environment and has been reviewed by federal and state agencies. The action is consistent with the Forest Plan.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

Many federal laws and executive orders pertain to project-specific planning and environmental analysis on federal lands. While most of the laws and executive orders listed below pertain to all federal lands, some of the laws are specific to Alaska.

Several of the laws and executive orders listed below require project-specific findings or other disclosures. These apply to federal land management projects and activities and are included here and in any future Decision Notice. They apply to all alternatives considered in this EA.

National Forest Management Act

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires specific determinations to be made for this project: consistency with the Forest Plan and FSM 2410.3, R10 Supp. 2400-2002-1 (5/7/2002); a determination of clearcutting as the optimal method of harvesting, if used; and specific authorizations to create openings over 100 acres in size. Specific information and rationale used to develop the unit prescription is located in the project record.

2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan):

This project is consistent with the Forest Plan and all project alternatives comply with the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. This project incorporates all applicable Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and management prescriptions, and complies with Forest Plan goals and objectives. The Forest Plan complies with all resource integration and management requirements of 36 CFR 219 (219.14 through 219.27). Application of Forest Plan direction for the Dargon Point Commercial Thinning project ensures compliance at the project level. Therefore, the Dargon Point Commercial Thinning Selected Alternative is consistent with the Forest Plan.

Even-aged Management as the Optimal Method of Harvesting:

The Forest Plan (USDA FS 2008a, pp. 4-71 to 4-72) gives guidance on when to use even-aged management. Even-aged management will be used in this project to:

- achieve timber production objectives;
- preclude and minimize the occurrence of, and the potential adverse impacts from windthrow; and
- to provide for the establishment and growth of desired trees.

Harvest Openings over 100 Acres in Size:

There are no harvest openings over 100 acres proposed for this project. Therefore, the Dargon Point Commercial Thinning project is consistent with the Forest Plan and FSM 2410.3, R10 Supp. 2400-2002-1 and consequently complies with the National Forest Management Act.

Endangered Species Act

The project alternatives are not anticipated to have a direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on any threatened and endangered species in or outside the project area. A biological evaluation has been completed for this action which indicates that no federally listed threatened or endangered species will be affected by this activity. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not required because no threatened and endangered terrestrial species occur in the project area. ESA does not require consultation for "no effect" determinations.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

Management activities within bald eagle habitat will be in accordance to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Tongass Timber Reform Act

The Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA) prohibits commercial timber harvest within 100 feet on either side of Class I streams and Class II streams that flow directly into Class I streams. TTRA also requires the use of BMPs. The Forest-wide Riparian Standards and Guidelines in the Forest Plan incorporate the requirements of TTRA.

National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on significant historic properties. The Forest Service program for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) includes locating, inventorying and evaluating the National Register of Historic Places eligibility of historic and archeological sites that may be directly or indirectly affected by scheduled activities. Regulations (36 CFR 800) implementing Section 106 of the NHPA require federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on sites that are determined eligible for inclusion in or are listed in the National Register of Historic Places ("historic properties").

A Forest Service archaeologist has reviewed this project. The final determination by Forest Service Heritage Resources is that the project will have no effect on historic properties eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

Federal Cave Resource Protection Act

No known significant caves in the project area will be directly or indirectly affected by project activities. Forest Plan Karst and Caves Standards and Guidelines will be applied to areas known or suspected to contain karst resources. One significant resurgence feature was found along the southern portion of the unit and will be protected by a 100-foot no-harvest buffer.

ANILCA Sections 810 & 811, Subsistence Evaluation and Finding

Consistent with section 810 of ANILCA, potential effects of this project on subsistence opportunities and resources were evaluated. Because there will be no reduction in abundance and distribution of, access to and competition for subsistence resources, the proposed project will not result in a restriction of subsistence uses of wildlife, fish, or other foods. Addition of about 1 mile of road may add to access for some subsistence users. Therefore, the Dargon Point Commercial Thinning project is consistent with ANILCA.

Clean Water Act

Congress intended the Clean Water Act of 1972 as amended in 1977 and 1987 to protect and improve the quality of water resources and maintain their beneficial uses. Section 313 and Executive Order 12088 of January 23, 1987 address federal agency compliance and consistency with water pollution control mandates. Sections 208 and 319 address nonpoint source pollution caused by activities such as timber harvest. The site-specific application of best management practices (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 (ADEC 2007). Annual Tongass National Forest BMP monitoring results consistently report a high success rate at applying BMPs (USFS 2005-2012). In 1997, the State approved the BMPs as described in the Forest Service's Soil and Water Conservation Handbook (USDA FS 2006) as consistent with the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Regulations. The BMPs are incorporated into the Tongass Land Management Plan.

The Forest Service recently issued National Core BMPs (USDA FS 2012). Directives for using these BMPs are currently in development. The Dargon Point project will implement the most up-to-date BMP guidance. A list of key BMPs that would be implemented as part of the Dargon Point project is included in the watershed resource report.

A discharge of dredge or fill material from normal silvicultural 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 BMPs to assure that flow and circulation patterns and chemical and biological characteristics of the waters are not impaired (404)(f)(1)(E)). The BMPs are specified in 33 CFR 323.4(a). These specific BMPs have been incorporated into the Forest Service's BMP 12.5 (USDA FS 2006).

Currently, there is uncertainty as to whether a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit will be required for stormwater discharges from logging roads associated with this project. Should it be determined that a NPDES permit is required for this project, the Forest Service will comply with any applicable NPDES permitting requirements.

Clean Air Act

Emissions anticipated from the implementation of any project alternative will be minor and of short duration and are not expected to exceed State of Alaska ambient air quality standards (18 AAC 50). Therefore, no significant impact to air quality is expected to occur from this project.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act states that all federal agencies must consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for actions and proposed actions that may adversely affect essential fish habitat (EFH). Following our 2007 agreement with the NMFS, the EFH Assessment was included in the EA. The Forest Service determined that the Dargon Point Commercial Thinning project may adversely affect EFH, but would be minor and localized and would not degrade fish habitat. The NMFS did not submit comments on the EA. This satisfies the EFH consultation requirement based on the 2007 Agreement with NMFS.

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplains)

Executive Order 11988 directs agencies to avoid construction in and modification of floodplains. Although this act deals largely with avoiding flood damage and hazards, it also directs agencies to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values of floodplains while planning for land use. There are no floodplains affected by the Dargon Point project.

Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands)

Executive Order 11990 directs agencies to avoid to the extent feasible the destruction or modification of wetlands where there is a practicable alternative. It also directs agencies to preserve and enhance natural and beneficial values of wetlands in conducting land use planning. There are no wetlands affected by the Dargon Point project (Saari 2012).

Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)

Executive Order 12898 directs federal agencies to identify and address the issue of environmental justice, i.e., adverse human health and environmental effects of agency programs that disproportionately impact minority and low-income populations.

Implementation of any of the project alternatives is not anticipated to cause any adverse human health or environmental effects; therefore, implementation of any of the project alternatives is not anticipated to cause disproportionate adverse human health or environmental effects to minority or low-income populations. Expected effects are similar for all populations, regardless of nationality, gender, race, or income.

Executive Order 12962 (Aquatic Systems and Recreational Fisheries)

Executive Order 12962 directs federal agencies to conserve, restore, and enhance aquatic systems to provide for increased recreational fishing opportunities nationwide.

With the application of Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, including those for riparian areas, no significant adverse effects to freshwater or marine resources will occur. Best management practices will be implemented to provide assurance of water quality and aquatic habitat protection for all freshwater streams affected by the project. There will be no effects to recreational fishing opportunities.

Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)

Executive Order 13007 directs federal agencies to (1) accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and (2) avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. Where appropriate, agencies shall maintain the confidentiality of sacred sites. Based on consultations with the appropriate Indian tribes (EA, pp. 10-11), this project will not affect the integrity of any sacred sites or limit access to any sacred sites.

Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species)

This order addresses a broader group of not only plants, but other taxa as well. An invasive species is one whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Specifically, EO 13112 directs all federal agencies to address the impacts their actions may have on invasive species. This project may have a moderate risk of introducing and spreading invasive plant species in the harvest unit or road corridor; however, with mitigation measures such as equipment cleaning, increased risk would be reduced to low, or minor.

Required Permits

Permits will be obtained from federal and state agencies as needed. No permits have been identified, as required, for project activities at this time.

Distribution

The Dargon Point Commercial Thinning Decision Notice, FONSI, and EA are available on the internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=38409>. Notification of the availability of this Decision Notice was sent to those on the project mailing list including state and federal agencies, anyone commenting on the project, and anyone requesting a copy of this decision. In addition, a legal notice of the availability of this decision was published in the *Ketchikan Daily News*.

The project mailing list is available in the project record. The Decision Notice is also available in hard copy or on CD, upon request.

Implementation

If no appeals are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, the 5th business day following the close of the appeal-filing period. The appeal-filing period begins the day after the publication of this decision's legal notice in the *Ketchikan Daily News*.

Administrative Review (Appeal) Opportunities

This decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215. Individuals or non-federal organizations who submit written comments or otherwise express interest in this particular action during the comment period specified at 215.6 have standing to 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:

Forest Supervisor, Forrest Cole
Tongass Supervisors Office, Ketchikan
648 Mission St.
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Fax: 907-228-6292
Email: appeals-alaska-tongass@fs.fed.us

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 publication of notice of this decision in the *Ketchikan Daily News*, the newspaper of record for this project. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal.

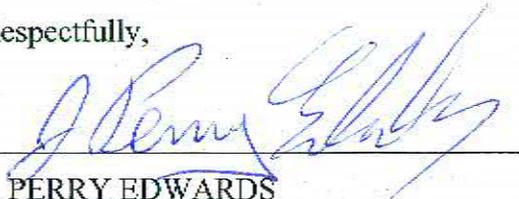
Appeals submitted electronically, including attachments, must be in an electronic format compatible with Microsoft Word.

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

Contact

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact Ben Case, Tongass National Forest, P.O. Box 309, Petersburg, AK, 99833, 907-772-5883.

Respectfully,



J. PERRY EDWARDS
Acting District Ranger
Thorne Bay Ranger District

2/19/13
Date

Literature Cited

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). 2007. Alaska's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Strategy. 110 p.

http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wnpnpc/pdfs/2007_NPSSStrategy.pdf (accessed 10/15/2012).

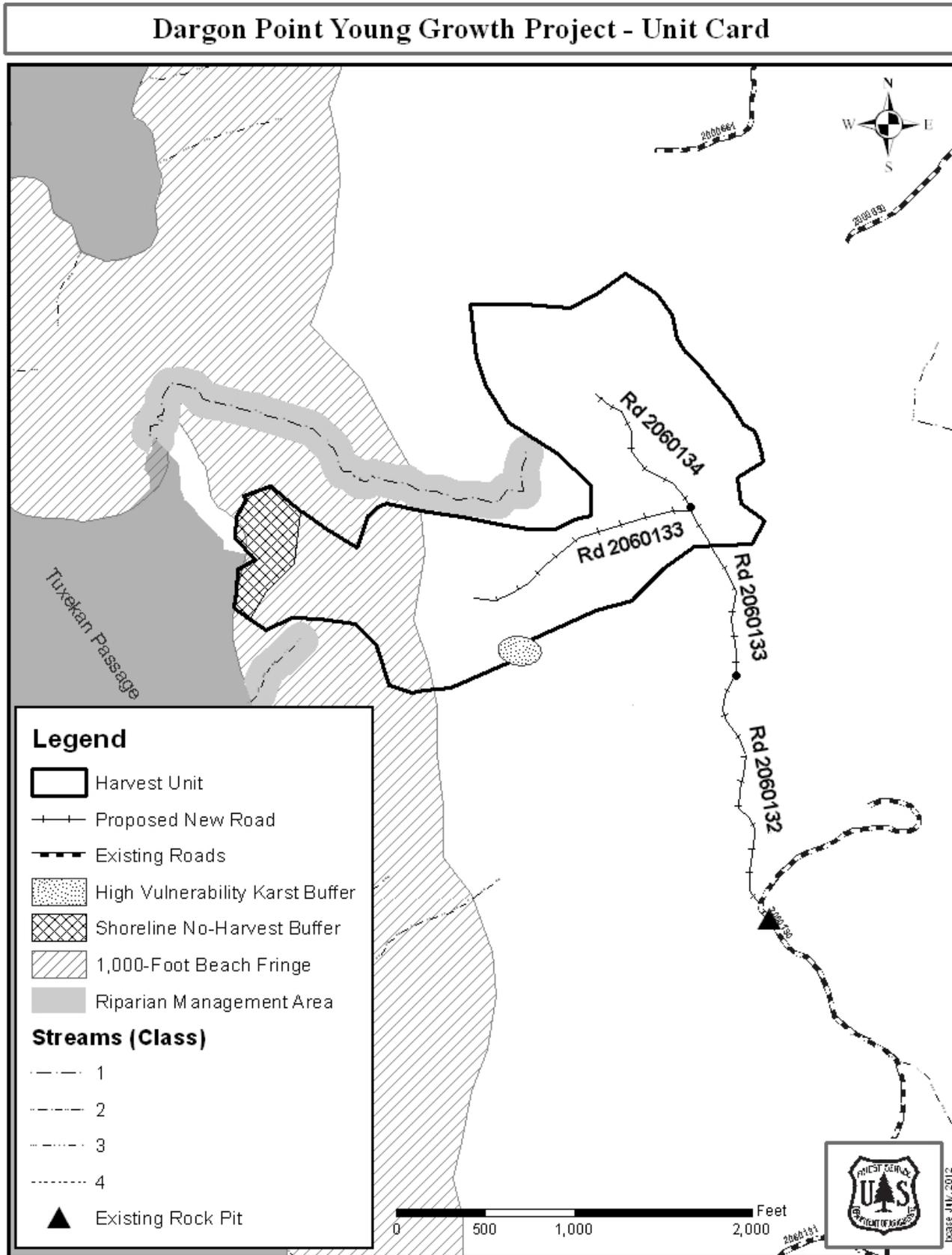
USDA Forest Service. 2012. National Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands. Volume 1: National Core BMP Technical Guide. FS-990. 177 p.

USDA Forest Service. 2008a. Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan. Management Bulletin. R10-MB-603b. Juneau, AK: USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region, Tongass National Forest.

USDA Forest Service. 2008b. Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Plan Amendment, Volumes I and II. Management Bulletin. R10-MB-603c and R10-MB-603d. Juneau, AK: USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region, Tongass National Forest.

USDA Forest Service. 2006. Soil and Water Conservation Handbook. R10-2509.22-2006-2. Chapter 10, Section 14.26. Juneau, AK: USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region. 117 p.

Appendix A - Unit and Road Cards



Unit Data Card

LUD: TM	Logging Systems: Shovel	Total Unit Acres: 70	Net Harvest Volume MMBF: 2.5
<p>SILVICULTURE:</p> <p><u>Existing Stand Condition/Vegetation:</u> The unit is a 70 year old even-aged young-growth stand of spruce and hemlock. Western redcedar does occur within the unit but to a minor extent. Species composition is estimated to be 86% Sitka spruce, 14% western hemlock and <1% redcedar. Currently, a majority of the stand is in the stem exclusion stage. Average stem height-to-diameter ratios over most of the stand are within the range suitable for intermediate treatment; however, portions of the stand consists of taller, more spindly trees making these areas unstable if predisposed through thinning to wind, snow and ice damage. Pockets of windthrow are present in the southern portion of the stand. Minor tree species, if present, consist of the occasional western redcedar. Snags and downed trees are comprised of mostly intermediate and smaller sized material from trees that have succumbed to suppression mortality; however small groups of larger trees of the dominant and codominant crown have blown over within the stand. Windthrow risk high. Mistletoe occurrence is low, but is present in old growth trees outside of the unit where old growth exists.</p> <p>The understory condition relative to deer browse was noted by the IDT as higher than expected for a stand in stem exclusion stage. Understory plants include mostly ferns, however vaccinium, fernleaf goldthread, and threeleaf foamflower are common and vary significantly throughout. Bunchberry dogwood is lacking overall.</p> <p><u>Silvicultural Prescription:</u> Even-aged management - clearcut with natural regeneration for the 54 acres in the TM LUD. [Clearcutting is prescribed to preclude or minimize the occurrence of mistletoe, windthrow, or logging system damage, increase the regeneration of desirable species and remove decayed trees.] The remaining 16 acres in the beach fringe would be variable-density thinning by individual tree selection, retaining 50% of the stand's basal area, with a 4-acre skip and ¼-acre gaps. Thinning intensity should be lighter along the skipped corridor than within that portion of the beach fringe adjacent to the clearcut The resulting stand within the beach fringe would be two-aged tending to uneven-aged.</p>			
<p>TIMBER/LOGGING: Shovel yarding to proposed road. This unit is designed for partial suspension using a shovel in conjunction with a feller-buncher where possible, and conventional felling where the feller-buncher cannot be used.</p>			
<p>ENGINEERING/ROADS: Refer to road cards for Routes 2060132, 2060133, 2060134, in this section.</p>			
<p>GEOLOGY/KARST: A 100-foot buffer is required around a high-vulnerability karst feature that is located along the southern boundary of the unit. Karst features within the proposed unit would be protected by designating them with stream protection flagging to minimize adjacent ground disturbance, control equipment crossings, and require logging debris removal.</p>			
<p>Fisheries: One Class I stream is located along the north western boundary of the unit. Required no-harvest buffer is 130 ft. or to the extent of floodplain and riparian vegetation or soils; whichever is greater. One Class II stream located along the south western boundary of the unit. Required no-harvest buffer is 100 ft. or to the top of the side-slope break; whichever is greater. There is blowdown present along the streams and an IDT review for RAW zone will be required.</p>			
<p>Soils: Avoid the limestone rock outcrop and cliff on the southern boundary of the unit. The trees on the toeslope may be directionally felled to the shovel. Use care when operating on slopes greater than 25%. Generally avoid shovel use on slopes over 35% gradient. Use slash to support equipment, especially on multi-pass skid trails. If mineral soils are exposed on skid trails, slash and if necessary use waterbars to prevent erosion (R10 BMP 12.17 and National BMPs Veg-2 and Veg-4). The puncheon trails should be scattered upon completion of yarding activities. If necessary, a soil scientist will visit pre, during, and post harvest.</p>			

Dargon Point Commercial Thinning - Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

Wildlife: Windfirmness in the beach buffer is emphasized, as well as promotion of old growth structure including accelerating growth of large, windfirm trees. Gaps in the beach fringe should be situated where the best understory recruitment of forage species is likely and avoid the largest young-growth or residual trees.

Heritage: Full avoidance of known cultural resources is required. All known cultural resources will be flagged and removed from the harvest unit and approved by a heritage specialist prior to implementation.

Invasive Plant Species: In the event that sediment control is necessary, use of silt fence or coconut fiber matting is recommended instead of straw bales (since straw bales have been known to introduce invasive species). If reseeding is required, utilized contract specifications that specify weed free material, and that the seed contain no more than 0.01% other seed, whether identified or not. Native seed may or may not be available, check with the POW Ecologist otherwise, typical weed-free mixes tend to include: 40% Annual ryegrass, 40% boreal red fescue, 20% Arctared fescue. Ground-based equipment (road building equipment, yarders, shovels, skidders, forwarders, harvesters, processors or feller bunchers, etc.) will be cleaned prior to implementation and mobilization, if the equipment is imported to Prince of Wales Island from another location.

Any new introductions of high-priority invasive plants found in the project area will be treated according to Forest Service Manual supplement (TNF 2000-2007-1), and the Region 10 and Tongass Invasive Plant Management Plan as part of the District's program of work for invasive species management.

No resource concerns were identified for Recreation and Scenery.

Road Management Objectives

Project Dargon Point		System Prince of Wales		Land Use Designation TM	
Route No. 2060132	Route Name	Begin Terminus MP 0.69 Road 2060130		End Terminus MP 0.26	
Begin MP 0.00	Length 0.26	Status Proposed	Managing Organization 100554		

General Design Criteria and Elements

Functional Class	Service Life	Surface	Width	Design Speed	Critical Vehicle	Design Vehicle	Design Speed
Local	1	Shot rock	14'	10	Lowboy	Logging Truck	10 mph

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 or Planned Initial Condition)	Objective Maintenance Level (Desired Future Condition)	Traffic Service Level	Alaska Forest Practices Act
0.00		2	1	C	Active during haul Inactive while stored

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. Storage category "A" assigned.

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: USFS National Forest System Land

Travel Management Strategies

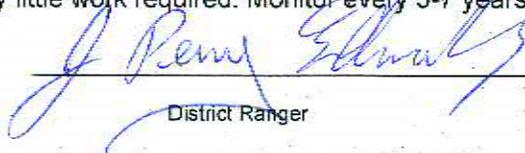
Accept: Non-motorized use after road storage

Eliminate: Motor Vehicles

Travel Management Narrative

After timber harvest, road will be assigned maintenance level 1 and motor vehicle use will be eliminated. Storage category "A" to be implemented at storage. Road is stable, with very little or no resources affected. Road will have minimal closure devices, typically have drivable waterbars, rolling dips, and nearly all existing drainage structures are retained. Roads can be opened by permit, contract or for administrative use with very little work required. Monitor every 5-7 years and adjust maintenance as needed.

Approved


District Ranger

2/19/13

Date

Road Management Objectives Site Specific Design Criteria Road 2060132

ROAD LOCATION: Route utilizes decommissioned road bed. Gentle grades with adverse to 8%. No streams along road.

WETLANDS: Road avoids wetlands (R10 BMP 12.5).

EROSION CONTROL: An erosion control plan will be developed by the contractor and subject to approval by the Contracting Officer (R10 BMP 14.5 and National BMPs Road-3 and Veg-2). All areas of organic or mineral soil exposed during construction shall be grass seeded and fertilized (R10 BMPs 12.17, 14.8, 14.11, 14.12 and National BMP Road-3). After timber harvest, road storage will implement measures to intercept, collect, and remove water from the road surface and surrounding slopes in a manner that reduces concentrated flow in ditches, culverts, and over fill slopes and road surfaces without frequent maintenance (R10 BMP 14.20).

ROCK PITS: During periods of high rainfall (as defined by regional specifications), blasting operations will be suspended at quarries near potentially unstable sites where ground vibrations may induce mass movement (R10 BMP 14.6). Also during these periods, road construction that requires rock supplied from quarries shall be suspended in high risk areas on roads where rock hauling would increase the risk of mass failure (R10 BMP 14.7 and National BMP Min-5). Potential rock source located at milepost 0.65 on road 2060130.

OTHER RESOURCE INFORMATION (if applicable)

TIMBER/LOGGING SYSTEMS: no concern

WILDLIFE: no concern

BOTANY: no concern

INVASIVE SPECIES: In the event that sediment control is necessary, use of silt fence or coconut fiber matting is recommended instead of straw bales (since straw bales have been known to introduce invasive species). If reseeding is required, utilized contract specifications that specify weed free material, and that the seed contain no more than 0.01% other seed, whether identified or not. Native seed may or may not be available, check with the POW Ecologist otherwise, typical weed-free mixes tend to include: 40% Annual ryegrass, 40% boreal red fescue, 20% Arctared fescue

Ground-based equipment (road building equipment, yarders, shovels, skidders, forwarders, harvesters, processors or feller bunchers, etc.) must be cleaned prior to implementation and mobilization, if the equipment is imported to Prince of Wales Island from another location. Only Forest Service approved rock sources will be used. Any new introductions of high-priority invasive plants found in the project area will be treated according to Forest Service Manual supplement (TNF 2000-2007-1), and the Region 10 and Tongass Invasive Plant Management Plan as part of the District's program of work for invasive species management.

VISUAL/RECREATION: no concern

CULTURAL: no concern

LANDS/MINERALS/GEOLOGY/KARST: Road avoids high vulnerability karst features (R10 BMP 14.2). Road sidcast, construction slash and excess excavation will not be placed near karst features (R10 BMPs 14.10, 14.12 and 14.19),

Dargon Point Commercial Thinning - Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

SOILS/WATER: The proposed route traverses gentle slopes. Apply R10 BMPs 14.2 and 14.7 and National BMPs Min-5 and Road-2). All exposed areas of mineral soil exposed during construction shall be grass seeded and fertilized (R10 BMPs 12.17 and 14.8 and National BMPs Road-3, Road-6, and Veg-2). Storage activities would involve culvert removal, water bar placement, and revegetating road bed and potential erosion sources (R10 BMPs 14.8 and 14.22 and National BMPs Road-1 and Road-3).

FISHERIES: no concern

Road Management Objectives

Project Dargon Point		System Prince of Wales		Land Use Designation TM	
Route No. 2060133	Route Name	Begin Terminus MP 0.26 Road 2060132		End Terminus MP 0.48	
Begin MP 0.00	Length 0.48	Status Proposed	Managing Organization 100554		

General Design Criteria and Elements

Functional Class	Service Life	Surface	Width	Design Speed	Critical Vehicle	Design Vehicle	Design Speed
Local	1	Shot rock	14'	10	Lowboy	Logging Truck	10 mph

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 or Planned Initial Condition)	Objective Maintenance Level (Desired Future Condition)	Traffic Service Level	Alaska Forest Practices Act
0.00		2	1	C	Active during haul Inactive while stored

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. Storage category "A" assigned.

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: USFS National Forest System Land

Travel Management Strategies

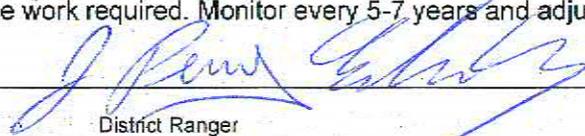
Accept: Non-motorized use after road storage

Eliminate: Motor Vehicles

Travel Management Narrative

After timber harvest, road will be assigned maintenance level 1 and motor vehicle use will be eliminated. Storage category "A" to be implemented at storage. Road is stable, with very little or no resources affected. Road will have minimal closure devices, typically have drivable waterbars, rolling dips, and nearly all existing drainage structures are retained. Roads can be opened by permit, contract or for administrative use with very little work required. Monitor every 5-7 years and adjust maintenance as needed.

Approved


District Ranger

2/19/13
Date

Road Management Objectives Site Specific Design Criteria Road 2060133

ROAD LOCATION: Road traverses gentle terrain with no streams crossed. Route runs slightly adverse, maximum adverse to 12%. Several hundred feet of side slopes to 45% are traversed prior to entering unit. On the remainder of the route side slopes are less than 25%. Road located to provide access for ground based logging system and maximize efficient yarding distance. During construction follow R10 BMPs 14.6, 14.7, 14.12, 14.19 and National BMPs Road-2, Road-3, Road-7 and Min-5.

WETLANDS: Road avoids wetlands (R10 BMP 12.5).

EROSION CONTROL: An erosion control plan will be developed by the contractor and subject to approval by the Contracting Officer (R10 BMP 14.5 and National BMPs Road-3 and Veg-2). All areas of organic or mineral soil exposed during construction shall be grass seeded and fertilized (R10 BMPs 12.17, 14.8, 14.11, 14.12 and National BMP Road-3). After timber harvest, road storage will implement measures to intercept, collect, and remove water from the road surface and surrounding slopes in a manner that reduces concentrated flow in ditches, culverts, and over fill slopes and road surfaces without frequent maintenance (R10 BMP 14.20).

ROCK PITS: During periods of high rainfall (as defined by regional specifications), blasting operations will be suspended at quarries near potentially unstable sites where ground vibrations may induce mass movement (R10 BMP 14.6). Also during these periods, road construction that requires rock supplied from quarries shall be suspended in high risk areas on roads where rock hauling would increase the risk of mass failure (R10 BMP 14.7 and National BMP Min-5). Potential rock source located at milepost 0.65 on road 2060130.

OTHER RESOURCE INFORMATION (if applicable)

TIMBER/LOGGING SYSTEMS: no concern

WILDLIFE: no concern

BOTANY: no concern

INVASIVE SPECIES: In the event that sediment control is necessary, use of silt fence or coconut fiber matting is recommended instead of straw bales (since straw bales have been known to introduce invasive species). If reseeding is required, utilized contract specifications that specify weed free material, and that the seed contain no more than 0.01% other seed, whether identified or not. Native seed may or may not be available, check with the POW Ecologist otherwise, typical weed-free mixes tend to include: 40% Annual ryegrass, 40% boreal red fescue, 20% Arctared fescue.

Ground-based equipment (road building equipment, yarders, shovels, skidders, forwarders, harvesters, processors or feller bunchers, etc.) must be cleaned prior to implementation and mobilization, if the equipment is imported to Prince of Wales Island from another location. Only Forest Service approved rock sources will be used. Any new introductions of high-priority invasive plants found in the project area will be treated according to Forest Service Manual supplement (TNF 2000-2007-1), and the Region 10 and Tongass Invasive Plant Management Plan as part of the District's program of work for invasive species management.

VISUAL/RECREATION: no concern

CULTURAL: no concern

Dargon Point Commercial Thinning - Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

LANDS/MINERALS/GEOLOGY/KARST: Road avoids high vulnerability karst features (R10 BMP 14.2). Road sidecast, construction slash and excess excavation will not be placed near karst features (R10 BMPs 14.10, 14.12 and 14.19).

SOILS/WATER: The proposed route traverses gentle slopes. Apply R10 BMPs 14.2 and 14.7 and National BMPs Min-5 and Road-2). All exposed areas of mineral soil exposed during construction shall be grass seeded and fertilized (R10 BMPs 12.17 and 14.8 and National BMPs Road-3, Road-6, and Veg-2). Storage activities would involve culvert removal, water bar placement, and revegetating road bed and potential erosion sources (R10 BMPs 14.8 and 14.22 and National BMPs Road-1 and Road-3).

FISHERIES: no concern

Road Management Objectives

Project Dargon Point		System Prince of Wales		Land Use Designation TM	
Route No. 2060134	Route Name	Begin Terminus MP 0.21 Road 2060133		End Terminus MP 0.13	
Begin MP 0.00	Length 0.13	Status Proposed	Managing Organization 100554		

General Design Criteria and Elements

Functional Class	Service Life	Surface	Width	Design Speed	Critical Vehicle	Design Vehicle	Design Speed
Local	1	Shot rock	14'	10	Lowboy	Logging Truck	10 mph

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 or Planned Initial Condition)	Objective Maintenance Level (Desired Future Condition)	Traffic Service Level	Alaska Forest Practices Act
0.00		2	1	C	Active during haul Inactive while stored

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. Storage category "A" assigned.

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: USFS National Forest Ownership

Travel Management Strategies

Accept: Non-motorized use after road storage

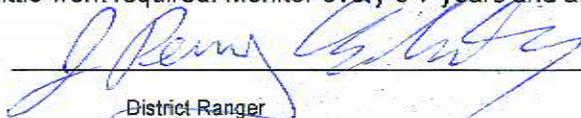
Eliminate: Motor Vehicles

Travel Management Narrative

After timber harvest, road will be assigned maintenance level 1 and motor vehicle use will be eliminated. Storage category "A" to be implemented at storage. Road is stable, with very little or no resources affected.

Road will have minimal closure devices, typically have drivable waterbars, rolling dips, and nearly all existing drainage structures are retained. Roads can be opened by permit, contract or for administrative use with very little work required. Monitor every 5-7 years and adjust maintenance as needed.

Approved


District Ranger

2/19/13
Date

Road Management Objectives Site Specific Design Criteria Road 2060134

ROAD LOCATION: Road traverses gentle terrain with no streams crossed. Route runs slightly adverse to 8% along gently rolling ground. Sideslopes are less than 20%. Road located to provide access for ground based logging system and maximize efficient yarding distance. Road entirely within harvest unit. During construction follow R10 BMPs 14.6, 14.7, 14.12, 14.19 and National BMPs Road-2, Road-3, Road-7 and Min-5.

WETLANDS: Road avoids wetlands (R10 BMP 12.5).

EROSION CONTROL: An erosion control plan will be developed by the contractor and subject to approval by the Contracting Officer (R10 BMP 14.5 and National BMPs Road 3 and Veg-2). All areas of organic or mineral soil exposed during construction shall be grass seeded and fertilized (R10 BMPs 12.17, 14.8, 14.11, 14.12 and National BMP Road-3). After timber harvest, road storage will implement measures to intercept, collect, and remove water from the road surface and surrounding slopes in a manner that reduces concentrated flow in ditches, culverts, and over fill slopes and road surfaces without frequent maintenance (R10 BMP 14.20).

ROCK PITS: During periods of high rainfall (as defined by regional specifications), blasting operations will be suspended at quarries near potentially unstable sites where ground vibrations may induce mass movement (R10 BMP 14.6). Also during these periods, road construction that requires rock supplied from quarries shall be suspended in high risk areas on roads where rock hauling would increase the risk of mass failure (R10 BMP 14.7 and National BMP Min-5). Potential rock source located at milepost 0.65 on road 2060130.

OTHER RESOURCE INFORMATION (if applicable)

TIMBER/LOGGING SYSTEMS: no concern

WILDLIFE: no concern

BOTANY: no concern

INVASIVE SPECIES:

In the event that sediment control is necessary, use of silt fence or coconut fiber matting is recommended instead of straw bales (since straw bales have been known to introduce invasive species). If reseeding is required, utilized contract specifications that specify weed free material, and that the seed contain no more than 0.01% other seed, whether identified or not. Native seed may or may not be available, check with the POW Ecologist otherwise, typical weed-free mixes tend to include: 40% Annual ryegrass, 40% boreal red fescue, 20% Arctared fescue

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VISUAL/RECREATION: no concern

CULTURAL: no concern

Dargon Point Commercial Thinning - Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

LANDS/MINERALS/GEOLOGY/KARST: Road avoids high vulnerability karst features (R10 BMP 14.2). Road sidecast, construction slash and excess excavation will not be placed near karst features (R10 BMPs 14.10, 14.12 and 14.19).

SOILS/WATER: The proposed route traverses gentle slopes. Apply R10 BMPs 14.2 and 14.7 and National BMPs Min-5 and Road-2). All exposed areas of mineral soil exposed during construction shall be grass seeded and fertilized (R10 BMPs 12.17 and 14.8 and National BMPs Road-3, Road-6, and Veg-2). Storage activities would involve culvert removal, water bar placement, and revegetating road bed and potential erosion sources (R10 BMPs 14.8 and 14.22 and National BMPs Road-1 and Road-3).

FISHERIES: no concern

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