

**DETACH AND USE FOR A
BOOKMARK**



HOW TO READ THIS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Lolo National Forest has prepared this Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the potential effects of post burn management activities in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

This FEIS discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources that would result from the proposed action and alternatives. It is designed and written to: (1) **provide** the Lolo National Forest, Forest Supervisor with sufficient information to make an informed, reasoned decision concerning the proposed management activities; and (2) **inform** members of the affected and interested public so that they may express their opinions to the Forest Supervisor.

This FEIS follows the organization and content established by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508).

FEIS Content

- 1.0 Purpose of and Need for Action
- 2.0 Alternatives, Including the Proposed Action
- 3.0 Affected Environment
- 4.0 Environmental Consequences
- 5.0 List of Preparers
- 6.0 List of Agencies and Persons Consulted
- 7.0 Appendix

Chapters 1 and 2 together serve as an Executive Summary. These chapters are written so that non-technical readers can understand the potential environmental, technical, and economic consequences of taking or not taking action.

Chapter 1 introduces the Lolo National Forest Post Burn project. It describes the Proposed Action and explains several key things about the project including: (1) the purpose and need for the project, (2) preliminary issues, (3) the decisions that the Forest Supervisor must make concerning the project, and (4) the relevant laws, regulations, and consultation with which the Lolo National Forest must comply.

Chapter 2 is the *heart* of the FEIS. This chapter describes: (1) the public involvement process, (2) the issues that drive alternatives, and (3) the alternatives. Most important, this chapter summarizes the comparison of predicted effects of the alternatives on the human environment. This information provides a clear basis of choice between the alternatives for the Forest Supervisor and the public.

Chapters 3 and 4 contain a summary of detailed scientific information to alert technical specialists to potential problems, opportunities, and solutions. These two chapters serve as the scientific and analytic basis for the comparison of the predicted effects presented in Chapter 2.

Chapter 3 describes the past and current conditions of the relevant resources (determined by the key issues). It establishes, in part, the baseline used for the comparison of predicted effects of the alternatives.

Chapter 4 presents detailed, analytic predictions of the consequences of implementing the alternatives. These predictions include the direct, indirect, short term, long term, irreversible, irretrievable, and cumulative effects of implementing the alternatives.

For additional information contact the Lolo National Forest Web Site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/index.html>