

AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISHMENT REPORT
COQUILLE FALLS RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

POWERS RANGER DISTRICT

SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Order Revising the Boundary of the Coquille Falls
Research Natural Area

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Secretary of Agriculture under regulation 7 CFR 2.60(a) and 36 CFR 251.23, I hereby designate that changes in the boundary of the Coquille Falls Research Natural Area located on the Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon be made as described in the following Amendment to Establishment Report by J. T. King and John D. Berry dated 8 November 1983. The 470 acres within the revised boundary shall hereafter be administered under regulations governing research natural areas.

7/16/84
Date

RMp Seton
Chief

KRS

Amendment to the Establishment Report

of the
Coquille Falls Research Natural Area

on the
Powers Ranger District

of the
Siskiyou National Forest
Coos County, Oregon

5-24-84

date

John D. Berry

John D. Berry, District Ranger

5-29-84

date

Ronald J. McCormick

Ronald J. McCormick, Forest Supervisor

6/5/84

date

Jeff M. Sirmon

Jeff M. Sirmon, Regional Forester, R-6

6/7/84

date

Robert L. Ethington

Robert L. Ethington, Director, PNW Station

PROPOSAL FOR MOVING BOUNDARY
OF THE COQUILLE FALLS RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

The Coquille Falls Research Natural Area was set aside to exemplify the Westside conditions for Port-Orford-cedar, Douglas-fir ecotype. Derived from Tyee Sandstone, the soils in the area are deep and productive. Much wildlife utilize the area including elk, deer, bear, and old growth dependent species such as the spotted owl and the pileated woodpecker. The South Fork Coquille River transects the natural area and supports valuable runs of anadromous fish.

Forest road 3348.000 is the southern boundary of the Natural Area. It is a main travel route from approximately 60,000 acres of commercial forest land. Recreation traffic is heavy during fishing, camping, and hunting seasons. Logging traffic is heavy during operating season. The road is managed as a visual corridor. Numerous snags within 100 feet of road 3348.000 lean over the public road and endanger public safety. These snags are Port-Orford-cedar that have died from *phytophthora* spp., a root rot disease.

Moving the boundary of the Research Natural Area 100 feet back from road 3348.000 will accomplish several items. First, public safety along road 3348.000 would be assured. Second, the Natural Area would be buffered from road 3348.000. Last of all, the valuable Port-Orford-cedar snags would be sold within fifty feet of the road and would add to the local and national economy.

I. Description

The present Coquille Falls Research Natural Area is entirely within Sections 16, 17, 18, 20, and 21 T. 32S., R. 13 W., W.M., Coos County, Oregon.

This proposal decreases the unit size by approximately 30 acres by moving the southern unit boundary 100 feet away from existing road 3348.000. The area will then be 470 acres. Existing snags within the road corridor presently endanger public travel. Moving the boundary would allow falling of the danger trees. Only existing snags within road corridor that endanger public travel will be harvested.

Road 3348.000 is a major haul route for Powers Ranger District and a major recreation route into Eden Valley.

The proposed area has restricted mineral entry. There are no known mining claims, special use permits, or withdrawals in the area of concern.

II. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Adverse Environmental Effects

There will be no unfavorable environmental effects from this proposal. A small amount of commercial forest land will be added to the timber base. A small amount of land would be removed from the Research Natural Area.

Favorable effects of the proposal are:

1. Provide safe transportation for public travel along road 3348.000.
2. Provide posted boundaries for Research Natural Area.

III. Alternative to the Proposed Action

The alternative to the proposed action would be to leave the boundaries as they are at present. This alternative does not protect the general public from numerous snag hazards along road 3348.000.

IV. Other Agencies Consulted

The Pacific Northwest Research Natural Area Committee has approved the proposal.

V. Significant Environmental Impacts

There is one irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources involved. The area removed from Natural Area status would not fit criteria for the natural area after snag hazard removal.

The proposal is expected to be long-term, as the need for Natural Areas has been well established and their purpose is to provide a benchmark area against which to assess management effects and results.

It has been determined that significant environmental impact does not exist. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

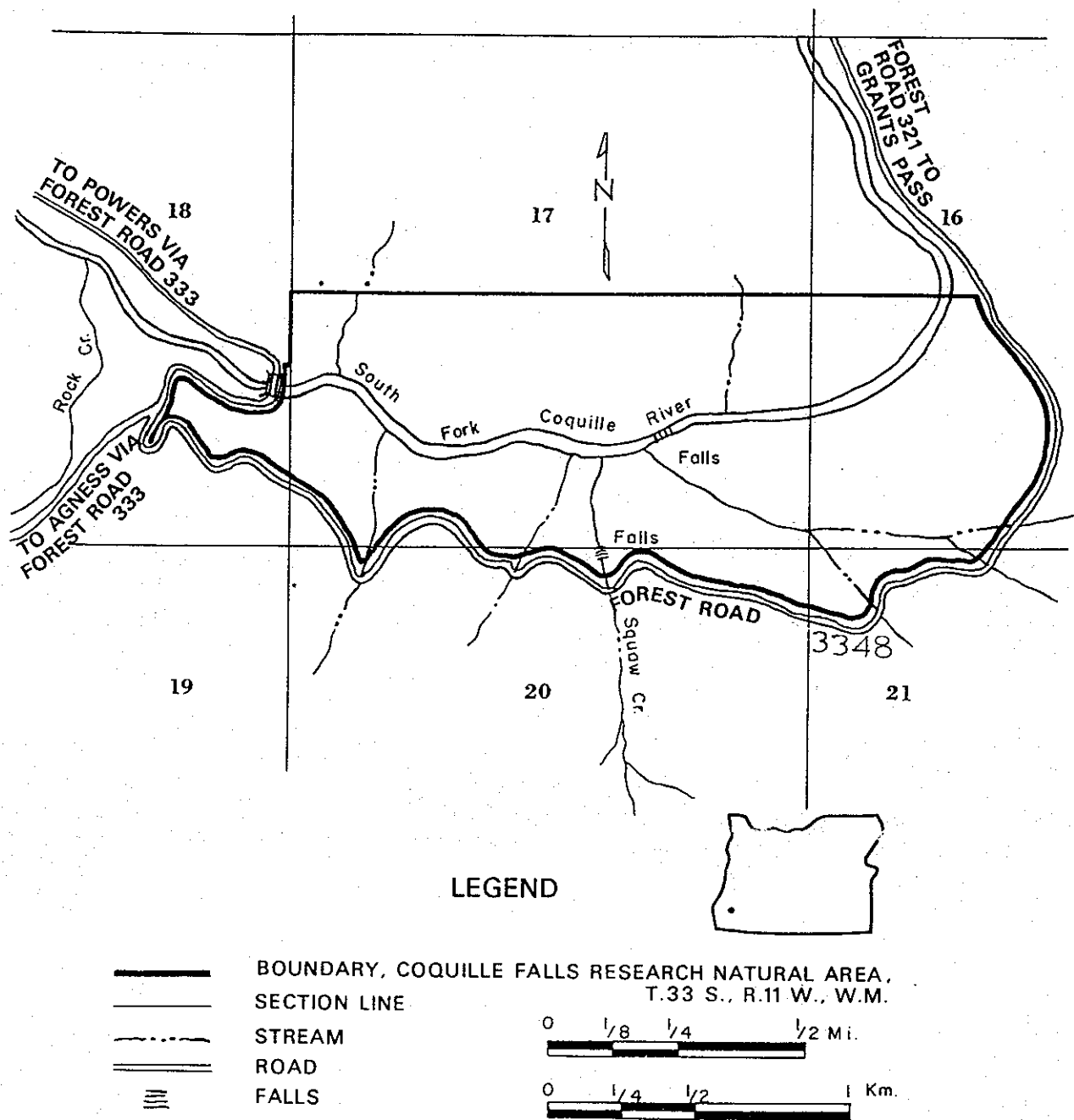


Figure CO-1.- Coquille River Falls Research Natural Area,
Coos County, Oregon.

DECISION MEMO
COQUILLE RIVER FALLS TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION
Powers Ranger District
Coos County, Oregon
USDA-Forest Service
Siskiyou National Forest

The Federal action proposed is the approval by the District Ranger, Powers Ranger District for the reconstruction of a portion of the Coquille River Falls Trail No. 1257, that was obliterated by windfall old growth timber during a 1993 winter storm. The proposed project is located within the Coquille River Falls Research Natural Area (RNA), at T.33S., R.11W., Sections 17 and 20.

The purpose of this action is to relocate approximately 800 feet of the trail around a series of switchbacks obliterated by uprooted trees and slides and construct small retaining walls using pressure treated posts and steel wire and compacted dirt from the site. A retaining wall approximately 1-3' in width and 20 feet in length will be constructed along with 3 other sections approximately 1' high and 6' to 8' long on the lower series of switchbacks to reduce erosion. The existing grade of the trail will not be altered. The project will be consistent with the Siskiyou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of March 1989 (Forest Plan).

The trail system is located within the Coquille River Falls RNA, which is a 501 acre tract located at T.33S., R.11W., Sections 16, 17, 18, 20 and 21. RNA'S are part of a national network of field ecological areas designated for research and/or to maintain biological diversity on National Forest System lands. The Coquille River Falls RNA was established in 1945 to protect this example of a significant natural ecosystem, which features includes old-growth Port-Orford-cedar and Douglas-fir stands growing in a rugged mountain canyon with waterfalls, plunge pools and rock cliffs.

Based on the analysis and evaluation process carried out, I have determined that this proposal is limited in context and intensity, and will produce no significant effects on the quality of the human environment and, therefore, may be categorically excluded from documentation in the environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA) FSH 1909.15 Chapter 26.2 Item 5. Scoping letters were sent to the Pacific Northwest Research Station and to District Resource Specialists. A concern that was raised by Sarah Greene, PNW RNA Coordinator, was potential for the increase of the spread of Phytophthora lateralis (Port-Orford-cedar root disease) in the RNA with increased visitor use. It is not anticipated that visitor use will increase with this action. Currently visitor use is monitored using a trail register at the trail head. This monitoring will continue. It is not anticipated that visitor use will increase the spread of the disease. The area has already been infected for many years. The entire length of the original Coquille River Falls Trail and the bordering streams contain a significant amount of Port-Orford-cedar infected by Phytophthora lateralis. The proposed trail relocation is in an area already infected. It has been determined in the attached Port-Orford-cedar Root Disease Assessment and Control Strategy that the limited nature of this project is not expected to increase the amount of infection within the RNA. Reconstruction of the trail will take place only in the areas

how will this measure POC root rot?

where it was obliterated by the windfall. There will be no cutting or removal of down or standing trees with the exception that the top (10-12" diameter) of one down tree that is laying across the existing trail will be cut through. The trail width will be kept as narrow as possible.

Past experience indicates that with normal administration, this action will have an insignificant effect on the biological, physical and social components of the human environment. Specifically:

1. There are no anticipated impacts on cultural resources.
2. No known threatened or endangered plants or animals are affected.
3. No floodplains or wetlands are affected.
4. No prime farmlands, rangelands, or forest lands are adversely affected.
5. No consumers, civil rights, minority groups, or women are adversely affected.

Implementation and Request for Review

This project decision will not be implemented until seven days following the publication of the legal notice in the Coos Bay, Oregon, World Newspaper.

This decision is subject to appeal by the general public pursuant to 36 CFR 217. A written notice of appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9, "Content of a notice of appeal". The appeal must be filed with Mike Lunn, Forest Supervisor, PO Box 440, Grants Pass, OR. 97526, within 45 days of the legal notice of this decision in the Coos Bay, Oregon, World newspaper.

For further information contact Bob Thomas, at the Powers Ranger District, (503) 439-3011.

APPROVED BY: Cindy Chapman Enstrom DATE: 8-6-93

CINDY CHAPMAN ENSTROM
District Ranger
Powers Ranger District
Powers, Oregon 97466
(503) 439-3011

Attached: Port-Orford-cedar Root Disease Control Strategy Coquille River Falls Project

PORT-ORFORD-CEDAR ROOT DISEASE CONTROL STRATEGY

COQUILLE RIVER FALLS PROJECT

POWERS RANGER DISTRICT

SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

JULY 29, 1993

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MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR PORT-ORFORD-CEDAR

Of special significance to the support of management of Port-Orford-cedar is the USDA Forest Service Region Five-Region Six Port-Orford-cedar Root Disease Action Plan dated June 29, 1988. This is a formal commitment by both Regional Foresters for (1) Inventory and Monitoring, (2) Research, (3) Public Involvement and Education, and (4) Management Policy. In short, this commitment provides the support to insure the viability and continued presence of Port-Orford-cedar in the ecosystem throughout its native range on Forest Service managed lands.

Strategies for Port-Orford-cedar management shall be integrated into environmental analyses and project planning for all areas that support Port-Orford-cedar.

Port-Orford-cedar should be managed as a major component of the appropriate plant association in areas of low to moderate risk of infection.

Appropriate practices identified from experience and research should be applied on a site or drainage - specific basis to prevent or reduce the spread and severity of Port-Orford-cedar root disease.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

A portion of the Coquille River Falls trail was destroyed during the winter of 1992 by slides and uprooted trees. The proposed project will relocate approximately 800 feet of the existing trail and reconstruct portions of the existing trail.

This project is being accomplished by Boy Scout Troop 99 as part of an Eagle Scout requirement for one of its members.

DISEASE SITUATION

The entire length of the original Coquille River Falls Trail is located within the Coquille River Falls Research Natural Area. A survey by Goheen, Cobb, and Forry (1986) stated that Port-Orford-cedar root disease was confirmed to be present in the Coquille River Falls RNA since 1964 and it was likely to have been there since 1958. The disease has continued to spread over the Natural Area since 1964 along and down from existing roads and trails. The proposed trail and reconstruction area is located in an area already infected with the *Phytophthora lateralis* disease (Refer to attached Map).

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE:

OBJECTIVE C: Minimize the on-site movement of spores along already infected Coquille River Falls Trail.

RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

PROXIMITY OF POC TO ROADS (HAZARD)

		LOW >500 feet below >50 feet above	MODERATE 100-500 feet below >50 feet above	HIGH <100 feet below <50 feet above
PERCENT POC (IMPACT)	LOW (1-5%)	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK
	MODERATE (5-20%)	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK	HIGH RISK
	HIGH (>20%)	MODERATE RISK	HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK

NARRATIVE ASSESSMENT OF RISK:

Coquille River Falls Trail is infected both above and below the original trail and the section of the trail to be relocated. Port-Orford-cedar is located within 50 feet of the trail and represent approximately 25% of total stand basal area in the vicinity. Considering the amount of POC in the area and its location adjacent to the trail this subunit has a high risk. The area, however, ~~is already infected so the risk of new introduction does not exist.~~ Trail work will be limited in nature and unlikely to significantly increase the spread of *P.lateralis* over the existing conditions due to:

- A Challenge Cost-Share Agreement stated all work shall be completed no later than September 30, 1993. This is considered the drier months when the risk of on site movement of *P.lateralis* is low.
- The trail has been open to all season use by the public in the past. The proposed trail work will not significantly change trail characteristics thus no increased public participation along the trail is expected.

how do
you
know
this

- c. Road 3348 along the upper boundary of the Research Natural Area has been infected since at least 1964.
- d. As a worst case scenario, any possible increase of infections as a result of this project will cause no more than one acre of the Research Natural Area to be effected. This is based on observations of infection movement in comparable terrain.

DISEASE CONTROL MEASURES

Within the Challenge Cost-Share Agreement, the completion date for this project is no later than September 30, 1993. Trail work will occur and be completed during the drier months when the risk of on site movement of P.lateralis is lower. Considering the timing of the project and the fact that the area is already infected no additional disease control measures are prescribed.

POTENTIAL IMPACT

With normal administration and the timing of the project, this action will have an insignificant (low risk) effect on movement of the disease. No Disease Control Prescription is recommended for this project.

MONITORING

Based on the fact that the trail is open year round and it is already infected, it would be difficult to determine the source of any new infections. No monitoring is recommended for this project other than normal project administration. *hmm*

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The project was advertised in the Myrtle Point Herald on 6/30/93.

Control Strategy Prepared By:

Eric Martz
ERIC MARTZ
Forester

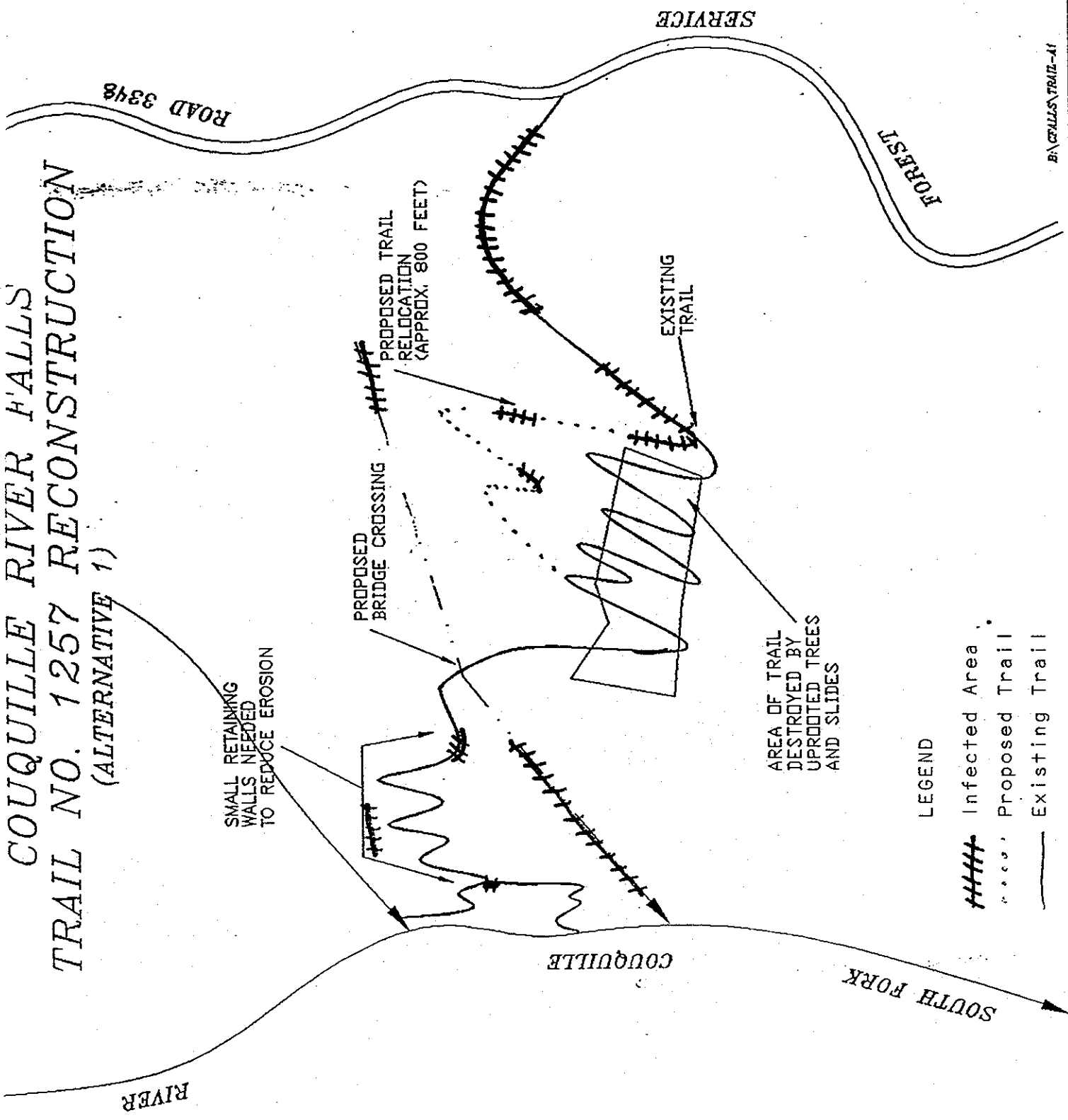
Reviewed By:

James E. Nielsen
JAMES E. NIELSEN
District Silviculturist

Approved By:

Cindy Chapman Enstrom
CINDY CHAPMAN ENSTROM
District Ranger

COUQUILLE RIVER FALLS TRAIL NO. 1257 RECONSTRUCTION (ALTERNATIVE 1)



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