

## **Fisheries Response to Bass Stewardship Thinning Sale Waiver Request for Operations into Wet Season (10/29/13):**

After reviewing the proposal for extension of Bass Thin Stewardship Sale for the Units 6, 8, 10, and 37 and hauling on the 6311 Road to the 6310 Road to Road 46, I would support this extension of operations into the normal wet season for an additional three weeks until November 22, 2013.

In making this decision I reviewed aerial photos, topographic maps, Environmental Assessment planning maps of the unit areas and projected weather forecasts into November. I am also familiar with the areas planned for harvest and haul. Weather is the predominant determination from my perspective for potential impacts to water quality and in-stream habitat and organisms. Current 10-day weather forecasts indicate about three days of predicted rain and/or snow with greater than 50% chance. All the other days show a 30 to 40 % chance of precipitation and a couple days down to 0% chance. Long term weather forecasts indicated a level of uncertainty going into November.

Keeping the above weather forecast limitations in mind, I recommend the following:

- 1) If precipitation in the proposed unit area of the 6311 Road is less than ½ of rain for any one day (24 hour period) and is not immediately followed by additional days of rain and ground conditions do not indicate runoff or soil conditions are becoming detrimental then work can continue. This above determination would be made by the Sale Administrator in conjunction with Forest Service specialists.
- 2) Since the portion of the haul route on the 6310 Road down to the paved 63 Road is gravel and within 500 feet of Listed Fish Habitat (LFH) at its lower end, the small settling basins in the road ditch for the 6310 Road where it junctions with the 63 Road, would need to be cleaned out. These small (approx.. 6' x 4') settling basins may have filled in since last maintained. This could probably be done with either hand tools or mechanized equipment.
- 3) If higher levels of rain occur in the first three weeks of November, shut-downs may occur until and if drier conditions return.

Recommendations by,

Tom Horning, District Supervisory Fish Biologist