

2024 Wildfire Impacts Response #67305

1. Use Categorical Exclusions wherever possible to speed up the process of making post-fire salvage sales available.
2. The current market for ponderosa pine logs is weak as demand for western pine lumber is quite low. There is very little interest in blue-stained post fire pine. Because we have no demand for biomass in our region other than as firewood and very little interest in pine firewood when produced as a commercial commodity, the USFS should consider a stewardship approach to post fire sales that are predominantly pine; with low to zero stumpage. If funding is available, consider subsidized stewardship sales or sales that exchange work tasks for stumpage such as site prep.
3. Use a triage approach when prioritizing salvage sales. Areas that contain timber volume that, if harvested soon, will produce merch saw logs should be the top priority for sale prep and offering. Areas heavy to volume of low merchantability should be graded as to their desirability for sale and dealt with in that order.