

The following section supplements the analysis found in the Chapter Three, [Section 3.12 - Timber Management and Wood Products](#) of the Draft EIS on page 3.222, “Impacts Related to Oil and Gas Development”.

### **DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS**

The additional surface disturbance associated with roads, well pads, pipelines and ancillary facilities resulting from development of the GSGP would take more timber lands out of production, slightly decreasing the potential timber outputs from the Forest. Since little or no commercial timber will be affected on BLM lands by GSGP development, this analysis primarily applies to USFS Lands.

The scale of potential timber production loss would be negligible, around 1% or less, and the disturbance varies little by alternative. The potential development area is largely within the ponderosa pine type on the west side of the Forest, an area that has been managed for timber production for a century. Most of these lands are currently roaded, limiting the need for new roads. However, the new roads associated with the GSGP could enhance future opportunities for timber management. Road improvements and shared maintenance responsibilities with oil and gas industry would help make timber sales more economical to operate and may extend the operating system due to all weather roads. Further short-term increases in timber production may occur due to the removal of commercial timber from land clearing associated with gas development.

**Alternatives Comparison:** The impact to timber management from the GSGP would be the same among Alternatives A through D, because the projected well pads only varies by 15 on unleased lands between alternatives (see Table S-3.0.1 in the Introduction to Chapter Three). Development of new leases would not occur under the No Lease Alternative; therefore the amount of timber available for harvest would remain the same as pre- GSGP development.

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

When projected gas wells on future leases are added to projected wells on existing leases, there will be an increase in disturbed acres, roughly doubling the area taken out of production from a timber standpoint. When added to the existing wells, the effect of all the potential gas development approaches 1.5% of the lands suitable for timber production, again with little difference between alternatives. Since the limiting factor for timber production is generally budget driven, the timber sale program quantity and allowable sale quantity would not change due to the addition of the GSGP leases.