

## Portneuf Project

### Wetlands/Riparian Zones

#### Alternative 1 – No Action

With the No Action Alternative there would be no treatment effects to the riparian areas found within the project area. The existing levels of grazing, wildlife use and recreational use would not change. The effects of a possible wildfire in the riparian vegetation of any of the live streams are hard to estimate because of the variables involved. A typical wildfire would be expected to kill some vegetation and remove the aboveground portions of the majority of vegetation followed by a large surge of resprouting common in moister soils. An increase in erosion along the banks of the streams could be anticipated until the vegetation recovered.

#### Alternative 2 – Proposed Action Alternative

There are three major creeks in the project area and only one of them, Papoose Creek, is scheduled for treatment. The treatment design criteria for a 200 foot buffer on either side of the stream would effectively eliminate any direct treatment of any significant amount of riparian vegetation. Juniper and/or Douglas-fir encroaching into the riparian area are targeted for cutting and felling as single trees that would be left where they fell. To encourage aspen suckers to sprout there might also be occasion to fell a dying aspen that would also be left in place. Large trees could alternatively be girdled and standing as snags.

#### Cumulative effects of Alternative 2

Cumulative effects of a riparian treatment in Papoose Creek are difficult to estimate. There are no other riparian treatments scheduled so the thinning of individual trees in the riparian zone is a single event. Treatment areas along the creek would be so small that any cumulative effects would be almost immeasurable.