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E-04-508  
Get Ready

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE**

**DECISION RECORD and FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
Get Ready  
Environmental Assessment No. OR090-EA-03-16  
Sale Tract No. E-04-508**

**BACKGROUND**

The Bureau of Land Management prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) which analyzed the effects of this Proposed Action and alternatives. The EA and a preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were made available for public comment in September, 2003. One public comment was received.

During field work in preparation for this timber sale, subsequent to release of the EA in September 2003, it was discovered that a portion of the proposed Spur G lies within the Riparian Reserve of Stream 3. The beginning of the existing skid trail upon which Spur G would be constructed lies within the Riparian Reserve, approximately 80 feet from Stream 3.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

On the basis of the information contained in the EA (OR090-EA-03-16), and all other information available to me, it is my determination that: (1) the implementation of the Proposed Action or alternatives will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the "Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl," (April 1994) and the "Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan," (June 1995); (2) the Proposed Action and alternatives are in conformance with the Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan; and (3) the Proposed Action and alternatives do not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

**DECISION**

It is my decision to select the Proposed Action (Alternative 3) as described in the Get Ready EA. This EA analyzed the selected alternative and the FONSI found no significant impacts.

Implementation of this decision will result in forest management activities including thinning of Matrix and Riparian Reserve by commercial timber harvest; road construction within Matrix; road renovation and decommissioning within the Matrix and Riparian Reserves; and decommissioning of existing off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails that would not be used in timber sale operations. All design features identified in the EA (pp. 3-6) will be implemented.

The selected alternative is in conformance with the "Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern

Spotted Owl," (NSO ROD, April 1994), and the "Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan," (RMP, June 1995), as amended.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

In addition to the selected alternative, the EA considered three other alternatives in detail (EA, pp. 3-6). Alternative 1 would differ from the Proposed Action in that fewer acres would be thinned, there would be no road construction, and there would be no OHV mitigation other than that related to decommissioning of existing roads used in the timber sale. Alternative 2 would differ from the Proposed Action in that there would be no OHV mitigation except for decommissioning of existing and newly constructed roads used in the timber sale. Alternative 4 is the "no action" alternative and would involve no management activities.

## **RATIONALE FOR SELECTION**

The purpose of the action in the Matrix is to provide forest products while maintaining or improving forest health and productivity. The Proposed Action and Alternatives 1 and 2 would meet this purpose. The purpose of the action in the Riparian Reserves is to contribute to the attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) objectives. The Proposed Action and Alternatives 1 and 2 would meet this purpose. An additional purpose is to assure that OHV activities do not degrade forest health and productivity or slow attainment of ACS objectives. The Proposed Action and Alternatives 1 and 2 would meet this purpose.

The Proposed Action would most effectively meet the purpose of the action. It would provide forest products by commercial thinning. It would enhance ecosystem diversity by treating the Riparian Reserves. It would maintain long-term productivity through implementation of project design features. It would have the greatest effect on discouraging OHV activities through decommissioning and blocking of OHV trails.

The Proposed Action and Alternatives 1 and 2 would degrade dispersal habitat for spotted owls on a local, short-term basis (EA, p. 14). Alternative 1 would degrade fewer acres of dispersal habitat than the Proposed Action. Alternative 2 would degrade the same amount of owl dispersal habitat as the Proposed Action.

No suitable marbled murrelet habitat exists within the harvest area (EA, p. 8). Consequently, there would be no habitat modification effect from any alternative. There would be no noise disturbance effect on unsurveyed marbled murrelet habitat from Alternative 1 due to a seasonal restriction on operations. There would be a possibility of noise disturbance effects from Alternative 2 and the Proposed Action because there would be no seasonal restriction; however, daily timing restrictions would mitigate this effect (EA, p. 15).

Based on the analysis presented in the EA, the Proposed Action would not prevent or retard attainment of any of the ACS objectives (EA, pp. 15-17). In the long term, silvicultural practices and the Standards and Guidelines, as applied in the Proposed Action, will help accelerate acquisition of desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain ACS objectives (EA, pp. 15-17) at the 5<sup>th</sup> field watershed and larger scale.

Alternative 1 would affect soil productivity less than the Proposed Action because fewer acres would be disturbed. However, Alternative 1 would result in the most acres of compacted roadbeds and trails remaining upon completion of the project. Alternative 2 and the Proposed Action would most affect soil productivity because the most acres would be disturbed. Because of post-timber sale decommissioning and blocking of OHV trails, the Proposed Action would result in the least amount of acres of compacted roadbeds and trails remaining upon completion of the project (EA pp. 17-18).

Of all the action alternatives, Alternative 1 would have the least acres of disturbance due to thinning and therefore would have the least impact on noxious weed habitat. Alternatives 2 and 3 (the Proposed Action) would have the greatest thinned area, and therefore the greatest impact on

noxious weed habitat (EA pp. 18-19). However, with the greatest OHV mitigations, the Proposed Action would lessen the likelihood of future false brome introduction (EA p. 19).

The Proposed Action would result in the greatest protection from the adverse impacts of unauthorized OHV use. Alternative 2 would result in somewhat lower protection than the Proposed Action. Of all of the action alternatives, Alternative 1 would result in the least protection (EA, pp. 19-20).

Of the action alternatives, Alternative 1 would contribute the least toward the Eugene District RMP goal for the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ). Alternative 2 and the Proposed Action would contribute equally to the District goal (EA, p. 20).

Alternative 4 (no action) would not meet the purpose of the action within the Matrix or Riparian Reserves. It would result in slower development of late-successional forest structural characteristics than the Proposed Action, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 (EA, pp. 14-15). Alternative 4 would have no short-term effects on wildlife habitat (EA, pp. 14-15). Alternative 4 would have no short-term effect on ACS objectives but would not hasten the development of large conifers as the action alternatives would (EA pp. 16-17). It would have no effect to additional soil compaction or displacement from timber harvest, but it would have the most effect on soil productivity of all alternatives because of the potential of compaction, soil disturbance, and sedimentation from OHV use (EA, p. 17). Of all alternatives, Alternative 4 would result in the least protection from OHV use (EA, pp. 19-20). Alternative 4 would not affect weed habitat (EA, p. 18). It would provide no timber and therefore would not contribute toward the Eugene District RMP goal for ASQ (EA, p. 20).

## **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

A public notice advertising the availability of the EA and FONSI appeared in the Eugene Register-Guard on September 17, 2003. Additionally, the EA and FONSI were mailed to interested individuals and organizations. A 30-day public comment period closed on October 17, 2003. One comment letter was received via e-mail. The comment was acknowledged by e-mail on October 17, 2003. A letter responding to comments and a copy of the Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact will be mailed to the commentor.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, consultation was completed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which found that the action "May Affect but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect" the northern spotted owl and "May Affect and is Likely to Adversely Affect" the marbled murrelet.

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde were notified of this project during the scoping process, requesting information regarding tribal issues or concerns relative to the project. No response was received.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

This decision will be implemented by a timber sale contract and a service contract. A timber sale contract will implement the road construction, road renovation, timber harvest, and decommissioning of roads used for timber harvest operations described in the Proposed Action (EA, pp. 3-5). A service contract will implement the decommissioning of existing OHV roads and trails not used for timber harvest operations as described in the Proposed Action (EA, pp. 3-5).

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES**

The decision to implement the timber sale portion of this project may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies. In accordance with 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for the timber sale portion of this project will not be subject to protest until the notice of sale is first published in the Eugene Register-Guard on July 28, 2004. This published notice of sale will constitute the decision document for the purpose of protests of the timber sale portion of this project. 43 CFR

5003.2(b) Protests of the timber sale portion of this decision must be filed with this office within fifteen (15) days after first publication of the notice of sale.

The decision to implement the service contract/non-timber sale portion of this project may be appealed to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the notice of appeal must be filed in this office within thirty (30) days of the first publication of the notice of this decision in the Eugene Register-Guard on July 28, 2004, for transmittal to the Board. A copy of the notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs, must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 500 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 607, Portland, Oregon 97323, within the same time frame. In taking an appeal, there must be strict compliance with the regulations. In accordance with 43 CFR 4.21, an appellant has the right to petition the Office of Hearing and Appeals to stay the implementation of the decision; however, an appellant must show standing and present reasons for requesting a stay of the decision. The petition for stay must be filed together with a timely notice of appeal. 43 CFR 4.21(a)(2).

/s/ Steven Calish  
Steven Calish  
Field Manager

Date: 7/29/2004