

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

DECISION RECORD  
Lost Guiley Timber Harvest  
Environmental Assessment No. OR090-EA-03-08

This Decision Record is the first of two Decision Records that will authorize work to begin on actions proposed and analyzed with the Lost Guiley Timber Harvest EA No. OR-090-03-08. This Decision Record addresses only a portion of the project area and proposals presented and analyzed in the EA. Decisions regarding the proposed treatments in the remainder of the project area will be made in the future and documented in a separate Decision Record.

**Background:**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Lost Guiley Timber Sale were prepared by the Upper Willamette Resource Area, Eugene District Office. Timber harvest, road construction, road improvement and road decommissioning would occur on Matrix lands as identified in the Northwest Forest Plan. Density management would occur on Riparian Reserves to acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Objectives. This Lost Guiley Timber Sale consists of harvest areas A and B in the EA 03-08. These are located in Sections 27 of T. 20 S., R. 1 W., Will. Mer.

Management objectives are to:

- ! Fulfill the BLM's mission and policy of providing wood products and jobs in the Matrix Land Use Allocations for Fiscal Year 2003.
- ! Manage Matrix lands by commercial thinning to capture mortality, reduce stocking density and redistribute growth and yield to the remaining stand.
- ! Improve the Riparian Reserve stand complexity; develop late seral characteristics and large woody debris for recruitment into the stream channel.
- ! Manage the existing road network through improvement and/or road decommissioning.

**Consultation:**

Consultation with NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) on fisheries for effects to listed fish species was initiated in December 2002 and finalized in January 2003. The alternatives were determined to be "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" actions upon Endangered Species Act listed species.

Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was accomplished in the "*Programmatic Biological Assessment for Projects with the Potential to Modify the Habitats of Northern Spotted Owls and/or Bald Eagles or Modify the Critical Habitat of the Northern Spotted Owl - Willamette Province FY 2003-2004*" and will conform to the guidance in this document. Based on this document, the project is determined to be a "no effect" action for bald eagles and a "may affect but not likely to adversely affect" action for spotted owls. This action has been determined to be a "no effect" to spotted owl critical habitat.

**Public Comment:**

Comments on the project proposal were solicited from affected tribal governments, adjacent landowners, and from the general public by the inclusion of this project in the Eugene District Planning Update "Eye to the Future," December 2002.

This EA and FONSI were advertised on February 26, 2003 in the Eugene Register Guard. The EA were also available on the internet at <http://www.edo.or.blm.gov/nepa>. Copies of the EA and FONSI were also mailed to interested individuals. The public comment period ended on March 28, 2003.

One comment letter was received. The comments from this letter supported and provided suggestions on how to improve this timber sale proposal. A separate response letter was sent with a copy in the EA file.

**Finding of No Significant Impact:**

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment (OR090-EA-03-08), and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the Proposed Action or Alternative will not have significant environmental impacts not already addressed in the *Record of Decision (ROD) 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) as amended by the Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, January 2001*. Environmental Assessment OR 090-EA-03-08 is in conformance with the above documents and does not, in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a supplement to the existing EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

**Decision:**

Based on site-specific analysis in the Environmental Assessment, the supporting record, management recommendations contained in the Lost Creek Watershed Analysis as well as management direction contained in the RMP (Eugene District Resource Management Plan) dated June 1995; I have decided to implement the Proposed Action in the Lost Guiley Timber Harvest Environmental Assessment for harvest areas "A" & "B" as analyzed in EA OR090-03-08. This Alternative will thin an estimated 349 acres in the Matrix land use allocation, density management on approximately 100 acres in Riparian Reserves, improve 1.55 miles of existing rock road, and block approximately 1.05 miles of existing rock road. An estimated 9.3 MMBF would be harvested. The mitigation measures, design features and management requirements, logging methods, and road decommissioning goals as described in the EA, are hereby adopted.

I will be making further decisions on the remaining components (harvest area "C") of the proposed action including thinning, density management, and construction of temporary road spurs in the future.

The following changes or clarifications are included in the decision:

Harvest Area	Land Use Allocation	Harvest System & Acres In The Environmental Assessment Document	Corrected Harvest System & Acres
A	Matrix	Cable – 59 Helo – 154	<b>Cable – 61</b> <b>Helo – 154</b>
A	Riparian Reserve	Cable – 23 Helo – 56	<b>Cable – 22</b> <b>Helo – 54</b>
B	Matrix	Cable – 154 Grnd. Base – 30	<b>Cable – 134</b>
B	Riparian Reserve	Cable – 24 Grnd. Base – 17	<b>Cable – 24</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		Cable – 260 Helo – 210 Grnd. Base – 47	<b>Cable – 241</b> <b>Helo – 208</b>

\*Equipment would not be entering Riparian Reserve. Helo. = Helicopter Yarding.  
Grnd. Base = Ground Base Yarding. Cable = Cable Yarding

**Rationale for the Decision:**

This proposed action best meets the purpose and needs as described in the EA. This action will:

1. Contribute to meeting the need for a sustainable supply of timber by making more than 9.3 MMBF of timber available for harvest.
2. Reduce stocking, increase vigor, increase growth rates, and capture mortality on an estimated 349 acres.
3. Assist in the attainment of the ACS objectives by 1) Density management on an estimated 100 acres in the Riparian Reserves, and 2) block approximately 1.05 miles of existing roads.

The “No Action” Alternative, and Alternative III, were not selected because they would provide less timber for harvest, treat fewer acres, and contribute less to the attainment of the ACS objectives.

**Administrative Remedies:**

This Decision Record cannot be protested at this time. The purpose of this Decision Record is to let the public know that a decision has been made to select Alternative II (Proposed Action). In accordance with 43 CFR 5003, a notice of sale published in the newspaper, rather than this Decision Record, will constitute the decision document for the purpose of protests. The decision to conduct a sale will be subject to protest for 15 days following first publication of the notice of sale. The tentative date for publishing the notice of sale is July 2003, although this date is subject to change without notice.

Approved by: Emily Rice  
Field Manager, Upper Willamette Resource Area

Date: July 21, 2003