

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 second of two Decision Records that will authorize work to begin on actions proposed and analyzed with the Lost Guiley Timber Sale EA No. OR-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 were made in a previous Decision Record signed July 21, 2003.

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 North Half Timber Sale is located in Section 35 of T. 20 S., R. 1 W., Will. Mer. and is referred to as harvest area C in the Lost Guiley EA.

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 2004.
- ! 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.
- ! Construct temporary roads for timber harvest.
- ! 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 and FONSI 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 available to the public.

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.

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
North Half	Matrix	Cable – 98 Helo – 1	Cable – 92 Helo – 1 Grnd. Base - 26
North Half	Riparian Reserve	Cable – 55 Helo – 7	Cable – 56 Helo – 7 *Grnd. Base - 18
TOTAL		Cable – 153 Helo – 8	Cable – 148 Helo – 8 Grnd. Base - 44

*Equipment would not be entering Riparian Reserve.
Grnd. Base = Ground Base Yarding.

Helo. = Helicopter Yarding.
Cable = Cable Yarding

Clarifications:

1. The EA in Appendix C shows all new construction as native surface spurs. Lost Creek Timber in the Terms and Conditions for the License Agreement requested that the portion of Spur B on their land be rocked and left as a permanent rocked road. Since the first 4+28 stations to the section line is a new permanent rocked road, the whole road is assigned the road No. of 20-1-35.3 instead of Spur B. Also the EA states that all natural surface roads constructed would be decommissioned. It should have stated that all natural surface roads on BLM land would be decommissioned. This reduces road decommission miles to approximately 1 mile.

2. The EA on page 18, states that distances between skid trails would up to 200 feet apart where feasible, but should state 150 feet. BLM commonly uses 150 feet between skid trails due to the typical equipment used for ground based skidding having between 50-75 feet of cable spooled on the winch.
3. The EA states on page 18 that ground based yarding would be allowed when soil moisture is 25 to 30%, tilling would be allowed when soil moisture is 25 to 32% and mechanized cutting would be the same as ground based yarding. The EA should have stated that all ground based activities would be allowed when soil moisture is 32% or less.
4. The EA states that all cedars would be retained in the Matrix and RR's except where necessary to accommodate safety and logging systems. The few cedars being harvested are located in the new construction right-of-way.

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 area "C" (North Half) as analyzed in EA OR090-EA-03-08. This Alternative will thin an estimated 134 acres in the Matrix land use allocation, density management on approximately 53 acres in Riparian Reserves, construct approximately 1.0 mile of native surface temporary road (5 acres right-of-way clearcut) on BLM land (to be decommissioned after completion of harvesting). An estimated 4.4 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.

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 4.4 MMBF of timber available for harvest.
2. Reduce stocking, increase vigor, increase growth rates, and capture mortality on an estimated 134 acres.
3. Assist in the attainment of the ACS objectives by 1) Density management on an estimated 53 acres in the Riparian Reserves, 2) Decommissioning approximately 1.0 mile of temporary road. 3) Installation of 3 new cross drains, 1 new culvert and 4 replacement culverts. 4) Improvement of 0.4 mile of existing permanent road.

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:

The decision to implement the timber sale may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies. In accordance with 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for the timber sale will not be subject to protest until the notice of sale is first published in the Eugene Register-Guard on October 22, 2003. This published notice of sale will constitute the decision document for the purpose of protests of the timber sale (43 CFR 5003.2(b)). Protests of this decision must be filed with this office within fifteen (15) days after first publication of the notice of sale.

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

Date: 10-16-03