

1792A  
EA-00-29  
B-Happy TS

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

DECISION RECORD and FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
B-Happy Commercial Thinning  
Environmental Assessment No. OR090-EA-00-29  
Sale Tract No. E-00-127

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the proposed action or alternatives will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those 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), with which this EA is in conformance, and does 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**

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) OR090-00-29 and the Finding Of No Significant Impact it is my decision to select the proposed action, Alternative 1. The B-Happy Commercial Thinning is located in T. 18 S., R. 6 W., Section 33 Willamette Meridian. Implementation of this action will result in the commercial thinning harvest of approximately 407 acres (including road right-of-ways) within the General Forest Management Area (GFMA) and Riparian Reserve of the Matrix land use allocation. Approximately 73 acres of the Riparian Reserve will be thinned to accelerate the attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) objectives. A cruised volume of 5.2 million board feet of timber will be harvested. The timber harvest method will be cable yarding with purchaser's option to use tractor yarding on slopes less than 35 percent. The Proposed Action includes forest management activities, temporary spur construction, road renovation and improvement, and road decommissioning. All the project design features identified in the EA (pages 5-7) will be implemented to mitigate any impacts to existing habitat and resources.

**RATIONALE**

The proposed Action was selected because it best meets the goals and objectives of the GFMA and Riparian Reserve of the Wolf Creek Watershed as discussed in the EA. The proposed action is tiered to and is in compliance 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, April 1994, and the Eugene District Record of Decision (ROD)/Resource Management Plan (RMP), June 1995.*

Watershed analysis has been completed for the Wolf Creek Watershed. The proposed action would maintain or restore riparian conditions by protecting present structural features of the riparian currently present. The treatment is consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objectives.

Plan maintenance documentation postponing surveys for 7 Component 2 and Protection Buffer species was recently completed ("*Plan Maintenance Documentation, USDI Bureau of Land Management, To Change the Implementation Schedule for Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer Species,*" approved March 13,

2000). This plan maintenance delays the survey requirements because these seven fungi species may require five or more years of surveys to have a high likelihood of locating sites occupied by the species, and therefore have feasibility problems for completion of pre-project surveys. In lieu of these multi-year surveys, "single season" survey protocols have been developed for these seven species; such surveys have been conducted for this project. Thus, the Proposed Action and alternatives are in conformance with the direction provided in the Plan Maintenance Documentation. The implementation of the plan maintenance is provided for by BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-4).

The effect of the plan maintenance action was analyzed in an environmental assessment (EA), "To Change the Implementation Schedule for Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer Species," issued October 7, 1998 ("Schedule Change EA"). The analysis contained in the Schedule Change EA is incorporated into the Environmental Assessment (EA) OR090-00-29 for this proposed project by reference.

## **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, formal consultation was completed with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on this proposed action, along with other actions proposed in the Eugene District for Fiscal Year 2000. The Fish and Wildlife Service issued its Biological Opinion on October 26, 1999, completing consultation. According to Eugene District's Biological Assessment for habitat modifying projects for fiscal year 2000, the B-Happy commercial thinning would "*May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect*" the Northern spotted owl due to modification of dispersal habitat within the unit and potential noise disturbance associated with the project to unsurveyed suitable habitat within 0.25 mile of the project area from July 1st through September 30th. The proposed action "*May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect*" the marbled murrelet due to potential noise disturbance associated with the project to unsurveyed suitable habitat within 0.25 mile of the project area from August 6th through September 15<sup>th</sup>. There would be "*No effect*" to other federally listed/proposed terrestrial species

This proposed action was determined by the Level 1 Coast Range Province Team to be a "*May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect*" for the coastal coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). The Biological Assessment was submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for concurrence of the "*May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect*" determination on June 16, 1999. A letter of concurrence from NMFS was issued on June 24, 1999 and received on June 30, 1999 completing consultation.

The Bureau of Land Management, Coast Range Resource Area consulted with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians as part of the cultural inventory to be conducted in conjunction with the environmental analyzes process for the Fiscal Year 1998 and 1999 proposed timber sale program. A letter was sent on September 24, 1997. No response was received.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Both the EA and preliminary FONSI were advertised on July 19, 2000, as available for a 30-day public review period in the Eugene Register-Guard. Copies of the EA and preliminary FONSI were mailed to interested individuals on our mailing list. One public comment letter was received. Their comments were considered and were responded to in a letter on August 24, 2000. A copy of the ROD and FONSI was mailed to that organization.

Signed by Diana Bus, Acting Field Manager Coast Range Resource Area on August 24, 2000