

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

DECISION RECORD  
Calapooya Timber Sale  
Environmental Assessment No. OR090-EA-02-03

**Background:**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Calapooya Timber Sale were prepared by the McKenzie 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. The Calapooya Timber Sale is located in Sections 31, 33, T. 14 S., R. 1W.; Section 28, 33, 34, T. 14 S., R. 2 W., and Sections 1, 5 and 9, T. 15 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 2002.
- Manage Matrix lands by commercial thinning to capture mortality, reduce stocking density and redistribute growth and yield to the remaining stand.
- Improve the Riparian Reserves 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 closure.

**Consultation:**

Consultation for wildlife was accomplished in "Programmatic Biological Assessment of Fiscal Year 2002 Projects in the Willamette Province that Would Modify the Habitats of Bald Eagles or Northern Spotted Owls, or Modify the Critical Habitat of the Northern Spotted Owl." The project is considered a "Not likely to adversely affect" action on listed species.

Consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service for listed fish was conducted in January 2002. This Action was determined to be a "May affect not likely to adversely affect" listed species.

**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" (April 1999, February 2001, and June 2001). Two public scoping letters were received. They contained several issues and concerns, including a request to develop an alternative that had no new road construction. Alternative III was developed in response to this request. Some of the other issues and concerns are listed on page 3 (section 1.6.3) of the EA, Issues Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.

This EA and FONSI was advertised on March 6, 2002 in the Eugene Register Guard. The EA was 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 April 5, 2002. Seven comment letters were received. Most of the letters stated a preference for a specific alternative but did not provide new information or request clarification of an issue.

The comments that provided new information or needed clarification are discussed below:

**1) Comment:** *Proposed new roading will retard that attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objective. The only specific reason given is the potential to increase sediment delivery.*

**Response:** The effects of the Proposed Action and their relationship to the ACS objectives are described on pages 16-20 in the EA. It states that one new temporary stream crossing would be constructed with river gravel. It would be used to access Harvest Area #7A, and then removed after harvest activities. River gravel will be used specifically to ensure that ACS Objectives would be met. By constructing the fill with river gravel, it will not be necessary that all fill material be removed and hauled away. Instead, one or two cubic yards of gravel could be left in the channel and on the adjacent banks after the culvert is removed, so that the native fine soils will be protected by the coarser gravels from erosion. Additionally, this gravel could be transported down the channel by stream flow, essentially mimicking natural conditions. Any fine sediment entering the stream from the river gravels is not expected to be detectable either in this stream or at the watershed level. The addition of river gravel to streams is often a design of some restoration projects, and this prescription will have no adverse effects on the hydrology or biology of this stream. Also, erosion control by mulching with straw and native seed will protect exposed soils until native vegetation is established on the area.

**2) Comment:** *Lack of information regarding yarding in the Riparian Reserves.*

**Response:** The table on page 5 of the EA did not show what type of yarding would take place in the riparian reserves. The maps did show that only cable yarding would take place in the riparian reserves. The maps are correct, all yarding in the riparian reserves will be cable yarded. Tailholds may be located in the reserves, but trees used as tailholds will be protected from damage by the use of straps, tree plates, or other devices.

**3) Comment:** *Lack of information regarding red tree vole buffers.*

**Response:** Files containing the red tree vole survey lines, the nest site locations, as well as the habitat areas delineated for each site are available for review at the Eugene District Office. Of the 203 nest trees found, sixty were determined to be active, 91 were determined to be inactive. The remaining nests were not determined to be active or inactive because they are located within areas dropped from harvest consideration. These unconfirmed nests are being managed using the same criteria as that used for active nests.

**4) Comment:** *Absence of an analysis of the effects of new logging roads on NSO dispersal and foraging habitat.*

**Response:** The EA did not specifically address the effects of new logging roads on NSO dispersal and foraging habitat because it was not an issue. Consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service was conducted for this project in a programmatic biological assessment (BA). Under the standards of this programmatic BA, thinning of dispersal habitat while maintaining at least 40% canopy closure results in a "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination. Timber harvest and the canopy gaps resulting from road construction would maintain more than 40% canopy closure overall immediately after harvest.

The programmatic BA covers all actions required to prepare and complete timber sales. Construction of temporary roads for timber harvest in this project is included in the programmatic consultation. The programmatic consultation for this project in its entirety resulted in a determination of "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" listed species.

**Finding of No Significant Impact:**

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment (OR090-EA-02-03), 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-02-03 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 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 Watershed Analysis (Calapooya WA, 1999) 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 Calapooya Project Environmental Assessment as analyzed in EA OR090-EA-02-03. This Alternative will thin an estimated of 277 acres in the Matrix land use allocation, thin approximately 26 acres in Riparian Reserves, construct approximately 1.7 miles of native surface temporary road (to be decommissioned after completion of harvesting), improve approximately 0.7 miles of road, and decommission an estimated 5.5 miles of existing road. An estimated 3 MMBF of timber will be harvested. The mitigation measures, design features and management requirements, logging methods, and road decommissioning goals as described in the EA, are hereby adopted.

The following changes or clarification are included in the decision:

- All thinning in the Riparian Reserves will be cable yarded.
- The west portion of Harvest Area 4 will be harvested with cable yarding system instead of ground based equipment.
- The proposed temporary road, spur 5B, will not be constructed and Harvest Area 5 B will be harvested with ground based equipment instead of a cable yarder.
- Harvest Area 9A - Due to a regional wind event that occurred February 7, 2002 a small patch of trees, less than one acre (150 trees), were windthrown. The trees that were windthrown will be removed to reduce the risk of insect and pathogen outbreaks.

**Rationale for the Decision:**

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

1. Contribute to meeting the need for a sustainable supply of timber by making over 3 MMBF of timber available for harvest.
2. Reduce stocking and capture mortality on an estimated 277 acres.
3. Assist in the attainment of the ACS objectives by 1) thinning an estimated 25 acres in the Riparian Reserves, 2) decommissioning approximately 3.8 miles of existing road and approximately 1.7 miles of temporary roads, 3) removing 11 poorly functioning culverts.

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 can not 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 31, 2002, although this date is subject to change without notice.

Approved by: Emily Rice  
Field Manager, McKenzie Resource Area

Date: July 17, 2002