

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

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND
DECISION RECORD

Giustina Land and Timber R/W Agreement
Environmental Assessment No. OR090-00-28

Background

The McKenzie Resource Area completed an environmental assessment (EA) and preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a proposal for BLM and Giustina Land and Timber (GLT) to acquire new legal access over existing roads. GLT also requested to construct a new spur road on BLM which is not covered under an existing agreement. In addition, BLM and GLT are replacing and consolidating existing road use authorizations and removing 40 acres from one agreement and adding it to another. This action does not require a NEPA document.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the information contained in the EA (OR090-00-28) 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). This EA is in conformance with the above-mentioned 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 or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Decision and Rationale

It is my decision to select Alternative 2 - Proposed Action - Legal Access and Road Construction on BLM land. In the EA, the proposal was to enter into a new reciprocal right-of-way agreement composed of O&C Logging Road Logging Road Right-of-Way Permit E-889 and Right-of-Way and Road Use Agreement E-889. Instead of entering into a new agreement, existing reciprocal right-of-way agreement E-662-B will be amended. Reciprocal right-of-way agreement E-662-B will be amended to include the following actions discussed in Alternative 2:

- Provide new legal access on BLM Road Nos. 16-3E-26.3, 16-3E-29 and 16-3E-29.2

- located in Section 29, T. 16 S., R. 3 E.
- Provide new legal access on BLM Road No. 16-3E-33 located in Section 33, T 16 S., R. 3 E.
- Construction of a spur road in Section 33, T. 16 S. R. 3 E.

All of the design features described in the EA (pp. 5&6) will be implemented. Alternative 2 was selected to provide better road location than Alternative 1, allow uphill logging and reduce impacts to soil and water. Constructing a road across BLM land would allow for a predominately ridgetop location instead of a midslope road with stream crossing on GLT lands.

The Proposed Action is consistent with the standards and guidelines 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. Based on the analysis discussed and presented in the EA, the Proposed Action is consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and the objectives for the Riparian Reserves, and would not prevent or retard attainment of any of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives.

Alternative 1 - No Action Alternative was not selected because it would require stream crossing on Mason Creek and the construction of a midslope road. Alternative 1 would not allow for the utilization of existing road instead of constructing new roads.

Consultation

Consultation with US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) for Northern Spotted Owls, Bald Eagles, and Bull Trout was completed. The project was reviewed by National Marine Fisheries for Spring Chinook and it was determined consultation was not required.

Public Comments

A public notice advertising the availability of the EA and preliminary FONSI appeared in the Eugene Register-Guard on June 28, 2000. Additionally, the EA and preliminary FONSI were mailed to interested individuals and organizations (EA, p. 19). A 30-day public comment period closed on July 28, 2000. No public comments were received.

Approved by: Emily Rice Date: 9/20/00
Field Manager, McKenzie Resource Area