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EA-00-27
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E-01-322
Dorena Lake

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

DECISION RECORD and FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Dorena Lake Timber Sale
Environmental Assessment No. OR090-EA-00-27
Sale Tract No. E-01-322

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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 Alternative will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed 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," (NSO ROD, April 1994) and the "Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan," (RMP, 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

It is the decision of the Bureau of Land Management to select the Proposed Action described in the Dorena Lake EA No. OR090-EA-00-27. This EA and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) analyzed the selected alternative and found no significant impacts.

This alternative was designed to provide forest products and accelerate tree diameter growth. Implementation of this decision will result in forest management activities including: road construction; density management of Matrix Land Use Allocation; and decommissioning of roads used during logging operations. All design features identified in the EA (pp. 3-4) will be implemented.

The selected alternative is in conformance with the following documents:

"Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl," (NSO ROD, April 1994).

"Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan," (RMP, June 1995).

ALTERNATIVES

In addition to the selected alternative, the EA considered one other alternative in detail (EA, p. 4). Alternative A is the "no action" alternative and would involve no management activities.

RATIONALE FOR SELECTION

The purpose of this action is to provide forest products while reducing stand density to optimize volume growth in the Matrix Land Use Allocation.

The Proposed Action best meets the purpose of the action. It provides forest products by density management. It would accelerate diameter growth of retention trees in the Matrix while maintaining the health of the forest ecosystem by the retention, reserve, and rehabilitation measures consistent with the standards and guidelines for the Matrix Land Use Allocation. As discussed in the EA (pp. 6-8), the two alternatives would have similar effects on most Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objectives. The Proposed Action would have more positive long-term effects on spotted owl critical habitat than Alternative A because the Proposed Action would accelerate the development of late-successional characteristics within the habitat unit, while Alternative A would not. However, Alternative A would have no immediate effects on wildlife habitat.

Alternative A (no action) would provide no timber and therefore does not meet the purpose of providing forest products. The Proposed Action and Alternative A would have similar effects on survey and manage/protection buffer species.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A public notice advertising the availability of the EA and FONSI appeared in the Eugene Register-Guard on June 28, 2000. Additionally, the EA and FONSI were mailed to interested individuals and organizations (EA, p. 11). A 30-day public comment period closed on July 28, 2000. Two comments were received and are addressed in the EA.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, consultation was completed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which found that the action "...[is] not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the . . . spotted owl because the potential impacts will be sufficiently dispersed over time and space and these actions are not likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of spotted owl critical habitat."

Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service is not required for this Proposed Action or Alternative.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been notified of this proposal and has determined, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(b), that the proposed undertaking would have no effect on cultural resources.

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde were notified of this project during the scoping process, requesting information regarding tribal issues or concerns relative to the project. No response was received.

IMPLEMENTATION

A timber sale contract will implement the road construction, timber harvest, and decommissioning of roads used for timber harvest operations described in the Proposed Action (EA, pp. 3-4).

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

The decision to implement this project may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies. In accordance with 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this project will not be subject to protest until the notice of sale is first published in the Eugene Register-Guard on August 30, 2000. This published notice of sale will constitute the decision document for the purpose of protests of the timber sale portion of this project. 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.

Signed by: *Steven Calish*
Field Manager, South Valley Resource Area

Date: August 23, 2000