

1792A  
EA-03-09  
Millican

February 25, 2003

Concerned Citizen,

The Upper Willamette Resource Area of the Eugene District Bureau of Land Management has completed the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant (FONSI) for a request from Millican Ranch & Timber Company to provide access to their property adjacent to BLM land in Section 15, T. 17 S., R. 1 W., Will. Mer.

You have expressed an interest in receiving copies of Environmental Assessments for district projects. Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment for your review and any comments. Public notice of this proposed action will be published in the Eugene Register Guard on February 26, 2003. The EA will also be available on the internet at <http://www.edo.or.blm.gov/nepa>. The public comment period will end on March 28, 2003. Please submit comments to me at the district office, by mail or by e-mail at [OR090mb@or.blm.gov](mailto:OR090mb@or.blm.gov) by close of business (4:15 p.m.) on or prior to March 28, 2003. If you have any questions concerning this proposal, please feel free to call Don Wilbur at 683-6994.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the district office, 2890 Chad Drive, Eugene, Oregon during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA or other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,

Emily Rice, Field Manager  
Upper Willamette Resource Area

Enclosure

**1792A  
EA-03-09**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**A PROPOSAL TO ISSUE A FEDERAL LAND POLICY MANAGEMENT ACT GRANT  
AND AN OREGON & CALIFORNIA ACT LOGGING ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT  
TO MILLICAN RANCH & TIMBER Co.**

**No. OR 090-EA-03-09**

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received two requests from Millican Ranch & Timber Co. The first is to obtain access across BLM lands located in T. 17 S., R. 1 W., Section 15: E 1/2 of the E1/2, of the Willamette Meridian over road 17-1-22. This proposal would provide permanent legal vehicle access for ingress and egress to the Millican Ranch & Timber Co. property adjacent to BLM land. The authority for the grant of right-of-way is Title 5 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA).

The second request is to obtain an O & C Right-of-Way Grant to facilitate the haul of timber from Millican Ranch and Timber lands over the same BLM lands. This permit would be granted under the authority of P.L. 94-579 (90 Stat. 2743) and 43 CFR Subpart 2812, and would be issued for a period of three years.

The analysis area is approximately 6 miles east of Springfield, Oregon in the Vida-McKenzie watershed analysis area. Federal ownership in this watershed is 11% BLM (14,935 acres) and 4% United States Forest Service (USFS). Large private forest land ownership is 65% of the area, while small private ownership is 19% of the area, and 1% of the area is State and City ownership.

The proposed action would be to authorize both the FLMPA Grant (allowing ingress and egress) and the O & C Right-of-Way Permit, which would allow the haul of timber for a period of three years. Both the grant and permit would use the same haul route of approximately 1.5 miles (see map in Appendix A). Construction of approximately 300 feet of new road would be required.

### **Objectives of this action would:**

1. Control and prevent road-related runoff and sediment production.
2. Provide Millican Ranch & Timber Co. road access to their private land located in T. 17 S., R. 1 W., Section 14.
3. Allow the haul of forest products, for a period of three years, through an O & C Right-of-Way permit.

### **1.1 Conformance**

This environmental assessment (EA) is tiered to 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 (RMP)*, June 1995 as amended by the Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, January 2001. Actions described in this EA are in conformance with

the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objectives listed on page B-11 of the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP). These documents are available for review at the Eugene District Office of the BLM, Eugene, Oregon, or on the internet at <http://www.or.blm.gov/nwfp.htm>.

The Analysis File contains additional information used by the interdisciplinary team (IDT) to analyze impacts and alternatives and is hereby incorporated by reference.

### **1.3 Scoping**

This was an externally initiated request. The general public was informed of the planned EA in the December 2002 "Eugene District Planning Update." A copy of the mailing list is in the Analysis File. There were no public responses.

### **1.4 Issue to Be Analyzed**

Scoping by the IDT identified the following issue:

- \$ Road Construction Impacts on Threatened & Endangered Species  
What are the impacts to threatened and endangered species from road construction and road use?

## **2.0 ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **Alternative No. I: No Action**

Under this alternative no new road construction would take place and the Millican Ranch & Timber Co. would not have access to their private land. Road No. 17-1-22 would remain impassible.

### **Alternative No. II: Proposed Action**

The proposed action would be to authorize both a FLMPA Grant (allowing ingress and egress) and an O & C Right-of-Way Permit that would allow the haul of timber for a period of three years. Both the grant and permit would use the same haul route of approximately 1.5 miles. Construction of approximately 300 feet of new road would be required to allow Millican Ranch and Timber Co. access to their private land. The new construction would connect the 17-1-22 road with the BPA Power line road (as shown on Map in Appendix A). Prior to constructing the road, 3 trees (15 to 40 years in age) would need to be cut from the road right-of-way. This proposed road is located in the General Forest Management Land Use Allocation. None of the new construction would occur in any Riparian Reserve areas.

#### **Project Design Features:**

- Road width of new construction would 14 feet and clearing width would be 16 feet.

- The new road would have an all weather road surface to prevent sedimentation problems (crushed aggregate, 9 inches deep.)

- The new road would be constructed to direct water flow away from the road subgrade, and the rock surfacing would be crowned to drain water off the road.
- Specified use and maintenance operations will be discontinued upon receipt of written notice from the authorized officer that Threatened or Endangered plants or animals, or any BLM Special Status Species would be adversely affected.
- In all authorizations implemented under this assessment the BLM would retain discretion to exercise its existing authorities to evaluate, manage and protect federally listed species.

### **Alternative Considered But Eliminated**

Reopen the western segment of 17-1-22 road that was decommissioned. This alternative was dropped because this route was constructed with a through-cut and surface drainage was problematic. As a result, water ran down the road during storm events and delivered sediment to the ditchline of Road 17-1-15.4. This was the main reason for closing this road.

## **3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

### **3.1 Vegetation**

Project area is a second growth forest approximately 40 years old. Under story vegetation consists mainly of sword fern and vine maple. The lichens and bryophytes in the stand were common species typical of a 40 year old Douglas fir stand.

No special habitats would be affected by the proposed action.

### **3.2 Wildlife**

Stands of this conifer type and age class are used by many animal species for feeding and/or reproduction. No unique or limiting special wildlife habitats would be affected by the proposed action.

### **3.3 Threatened and Endangered Species**

#### **Northern Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)**

Suitable nesting habitat for bald eagles is mature forest that is typically within one mile of a lake, river or major tributary, although nest trees can be further than a mile from a body of water. There is usually an unobstructed view of the associated water body from the nest. There is currently no suitable nesting habitat within 0.5 miles of the proposed project area. Long term, the BLM stands on the south end of Section 15 could become suitable nesting and possibly roosting habitat for bald eagles. It would be more likely that this could occur within Riparian Reserves, due to anticipated harvest activities and rotation age on Matrix lands.

The private land that would be accessed via the proposed project is twenty five years old and it has no known remnant trees. This land is currently not suitable for bald eagle nesting or

roosting. It is not anticipated that this land would ever attain the stand characteristics required for bald eagle nesting and winter roosting.

#### **Northern Spotted Owl** (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)

Suitable nesting habitat for this species is mature forest (generally greater than 80 years old) with high canopy cover, an open understory, large down logs and large snags. There is no suitable nesting habitat currently within or adjacent to the proposed project area. Long term, the Riparian Reserve areas would be expected to become suitable habitat for spotted owls.

Dispersal habitat for spotted owls is generally defined as stands ranging from 40 to 79 years of age. Juvenile spotted owls use dispersal habitat to roost and forage in as they disperse from their natal areas. Adults forage in dispersal habitat to support themselves and their young. The BLM land that would be covered under the proposed permits is currently dispersal habitat for spotted owls.

The nearest known spotted owl activity center is 1.5 miles northwest of the proposed project area and the nearest owl core on BLM land is over 2.5 miles southwest of the project area. There is no designated Critical Habitat Unit within or adjacent to the proposed project area.

The Millican land that would be accessed by the proposed permits currently ranges from clearcuts to stands that are twenty five years old. This property is too young to qualify as either suitable or dispersal habitat for spotted owls. It is not anticipated that this land would ever attain the late seral stage that is suitable spotted owl nesting habitat.

#### **Botany**

No currently known T&E plant species occur in the area of the proposed action, in adjacent areas, nor along the road system that accesses the site. Surveys for S&M vascular plants would be done in the spring of 2003.

### **3.4 Survey and Manage Species**

#### **Red Tree Vole** (*Arborimus longicaudus*)

The portion of the stand where construction is proposed does not meet the three criteria that would require red tree vole surveys. No surveys were conducted and effects to this species will not be analyzed in this document.

#### **Bryophytes and Lichens**

Site was surveyed on December 2, 2002 for bryophytes and lichens, no Survey and Manage or special status species were found. Bryophytes and lichens present were typical of a young second growth forest.

#### **Vascular plants**

This was out of season for vascular plants, no likely habitat was seen. In-season surveys for

vascular plants would be done in the spring of 2003.

### **3.5 Soils and Hydrology**

The Nekia series is the dominant soil along the existing roadway and the proposed route. This moderately deep, well drained soil formed from basalt on foothills adjacent to the Willamette Valley. Road construction through this soil usually necessitates rocking due to the low strength properties when wet. Road generated sediment is fine textured and easily suspended in runoff water. Cutbank stability is moderate for slopes less than 35%.

There are no water features (wetlands, seeps, and springs) in the project area.

### **3.6 Fisheries**

The project area is included as part of the greater McKenzie River Watershed. Specifically, the project site contributes water as part of an ephemeral face-drainage network which flows to the E.W.E.B. Canal before reaching the McKenzie River approximately 5 miles downstream. No direct hydrologic connection exists between the proposed project site and the canal.

## **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES- ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES**

### **4.1 Unaffected Resources**

The following either are not present or would not be affected by any of the alternatives: Areas of Critical Environmental Concerns, prime or unique farm lands, flood plains, Native American religious concerns, solid or hazardous wastes, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, Minority populations, and low-income populations.

### **4.2 Threatened and Endangered Fisheries**

No direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to T & E fisheries would occur. Drainage networks within the project area are ephemeral in nature and do not directly connect to stream systems. Distance to flowing streams (approximately 1 mile) and the resultant filtering ability of forest vegetation and soils would preclude road related sediment or other materials from reaching fish bearing waters. Thus, all alternatives were determined to have “no affect” on ESA listed fish species.

### **4.3 Threatened and Endangered Wildlife**

#### **Northern Spotted Owl**

There would be no negative short term effect from either the proposed new road construction or

the proposed permits. No suitable habitat would be modified or disturbed. No seasonal restrictions would be required because suitable habitat would not be affected. The three trees that would be removed from dispersal habitat to create the road would not substantially affect the quality or quantity of existing habitat. Short term this project would have no effect on spotted owls. There would be no negative long term effect from granting perpetual access for ingress and egress to the private property. This access is the same as the public use of these same roads, and is considered No Effect under programmatic consultation, regardless of future suitability of the habitat.

Currently the habitat on the private land qualifies as neither suitable nor dispersal habitat. Thinning this 25 year old stand would have No Effect on spotted owls. Future harvest could affect owls, but it is doubtful that these private lands would attain the late seral stage characteristics that provide nesting habitat for these species. Future Interrelated and Interdependent effects of the proposed project from activities on private lands would likely be confined to effects on dispersal habitat.

### **Bald Eagle**

Short term this project would have no effect on bald eagles. There would be no negative long term effect from granting perpetual access for ingress and egress to the private property. This access is the same as the public use of these same roads, and is considered No Effect under programmatic consultation, regardless of future suitability of the habitat.

Currently the habitat on private land is not suitable for nesting or roosting bald eagles. This land is not expected to ever provide suitable habitat for this species, so there would be no expected Interrelated or Independent effects from the proposed action.

### **4.4 Wetlands**

There would be no impacts to wetlands because none are located in the project area.

### **4.5 Cultural Resources**

No cultural resources are known to exist in the proposed project area.

### **4.6 American Indian Rights**

No impacts on American Indian social, economic, or subsistence rights are anticipated. No impacts are anticipated on the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

## 5.0 LIST OF AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONSULTED

This Environmental Analysis is being mailed to the following members of the public or organizations that have requested to be on the mailing list:

John Bianco	Roseburg Forest Products Co.
Oregon DEQ	Sierra Club - Many Rivers Group
Jim Goodpasture	Swanson Superior Forest Products Inc.
Pam Hewitt	Craig Tupper
Charles & Reida Kimmel	Jan Wroncy
Lane County Land Management	American Lands Alliance
Carol Logan, Kalapooya Sacred Circle Alliance	Kris and John Ward
Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife	Robert P Davison
Oregon Dept of Forestry	Tom Stave, U of O Library
Oregon Natural Resources Council	John Muir Project
The Pacific Rivers Council	James Johnston
John Poynter	Neva Millican
Leroy Pruitt	Ellen Adler
Peter Saraceno	

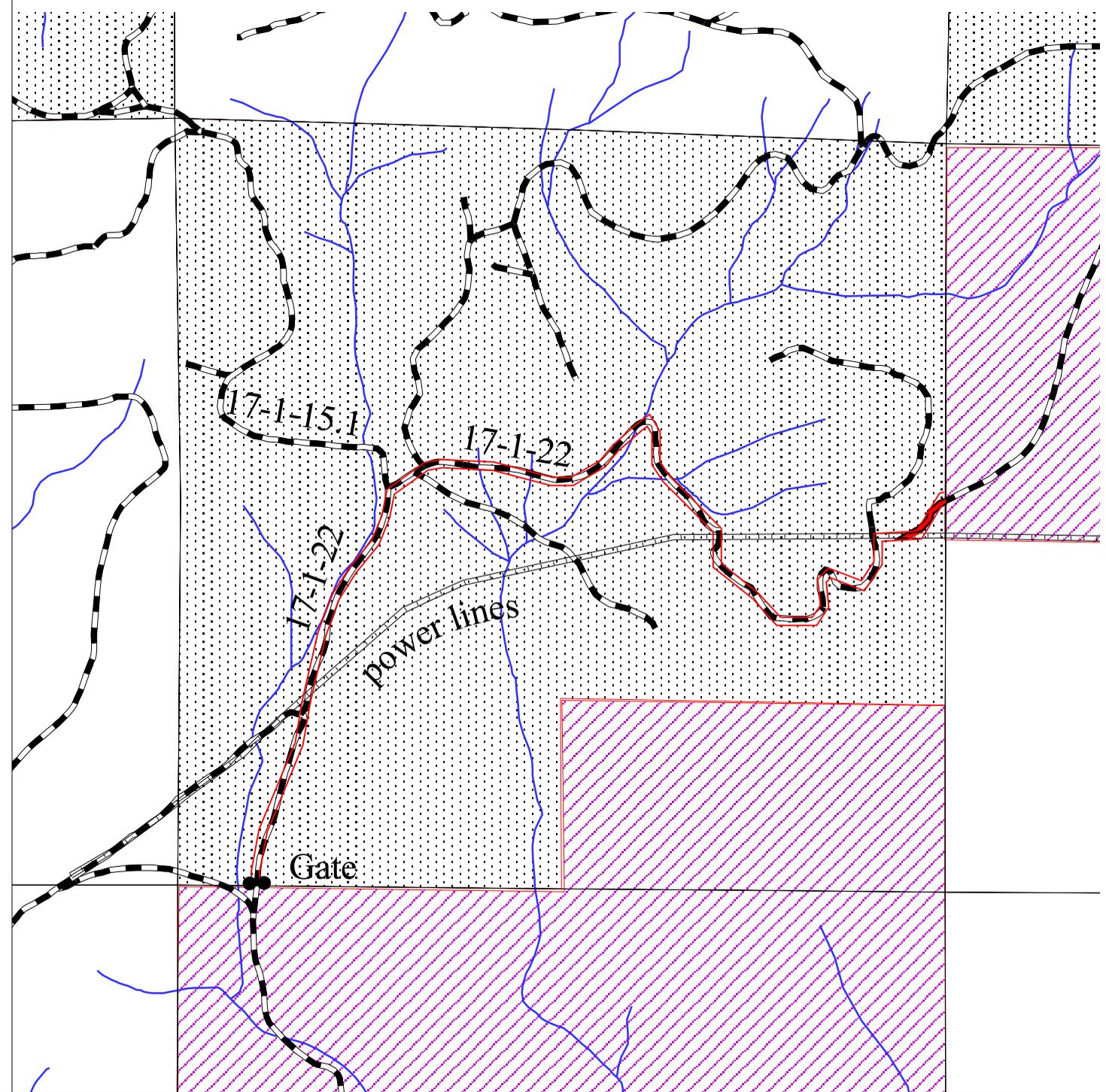
A summary was sent to those receiving the "Eugene BLM Planning and Project Focus," December 2002 (approximately 250 mailings; a complete listing is available at the Eugene District Office).

## 6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

### THE INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

Each member has reviewed this EA and concurs with its contents.

Name	Title	Resource/Discipline
Kris Ward	Hydrologist	Water Quality
Paula Larson	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Dave Mattson	Engineer	Roads/Transportation
Michael Southard	Archeologist	Cultural Resources
Cheshire Mayrsohn	Botanist	Botany
Mark D'Aversa	Fish Biologist	Fisheries
Don Wilbur	Natural Resource Specialist	Team Lead/ EA Writer
Christie Hardenbrook	Planner	EA Writer



-  Proposed Hall Route
-  Proposed Rock Road
-  Powerlines
-  Sections
-  Township
-  Roads
-  Streams
- Ownership**
-  BLM
-  Millican property

# MILLICAN RIGHT-OF-WAY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## T.17 S., R.01 W., Sec. 15

500 0 500 1000 Feet



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

**Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Millican Ranch & Timber FLPMA & O&C Permits**

Determination:

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, (OR-090-EA-03-09) 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-03-09 is in conformance with the above documents and does not, in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, a new environmental impact statement (EIS) or supplement to the existing EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

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Field Manager, Upper Willamette Resource Area

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Date