

**Decision Record for
Steven's Creek Maintenance/Release
EA #OR-110-01-031**

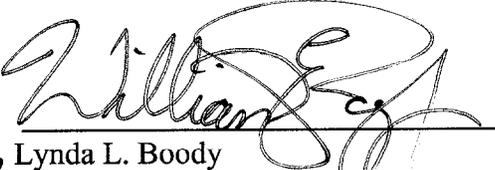
I. Decision: It is my decision to approve and implement the Steven's Creek Maintenance Release action as described in Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) and project design features of environmental assessment #OR- 11 O-O 1-03 1, dated July 12,200 1.

Specifically, the action entails removing competing shrubs, hardwoods and less desired conifers from the Rattledell #2 plantation, and roadside brushing along road 33-7-2.2 and primitive roads A, B and C. A tracked carriage vehicle mounted with a mechanical rotary grinding head will be used on slopes of 35% or less and chainsaws on steeper slopes. Approximately 46 acres of the Rattledell #2 unit and 3 1.3 acres of roadside (4.6 miles, 30 feet each side of the road) will be treated. The easement on road 33-7-2.2 will be treated 4 feet on either side of the road prism. Conifers greater than 7 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) and hardwoods greater than 12" DBH will not be cut. Approximately 222 conifers and 27 hardwoods per acre will remain within the Rattledell #2 unit after treatment with an approximate 14x14 foot spacing. Conifers and hardwoods will also be pruned along the roads. In areas not treated by the rotary grinding head, slash within 30 feet of the roads would either be hand piled or mechanically chipped.

Comments were requested from the public for two weeks through the Umpqua Free Press (July 19, 2001) and the Grants Pass Daily Courier (July 21, 2001) and was available on the BLM Medford District web site starting July 16, 2001. No comments were received from the public.

II. Rationale: This action meets the purpose and need of the proposal to reduce competition for light and moisture for desired conifers and to reduce hazardous fuels in the project area. The Project Design Features adequately protect environmental resources and minimize the risk of adverse effects which might result from implementing the project. Alternatives 2, 3 and 4 were more limited in scope and would not fully address the purpose and need to reduce competition for light and moisture, treat current and existing slash, and reduce the amount of hazardous fuel.

This decision is consistent with the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (1994) the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP), April 14, 1995, the ROD for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (2001)*. The decision record will appear in the Grants Pass Daily Courier and Umpqua Free Press. The first date of publication of the legal notice will constitute the decision date for purposes of protests and appeals under 43 CFR 5003. Protests must be filed in writing to the authorized officer within 15 days of publication of the decision.


for Lynda L. Boody
Field Manager, Glendale Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

8-17-01
Date