



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
3040 BIDDLE ROAD
MEDFORD, OREGON 97504

DECISION RECORD/RATIONALE/FONSI

Young Stand Pruning - 2002

EA # OR110-02-33

I. **DECISION:** Implement the proposed action as described in Environmental Assessment (EA# OR 110-02-33). Implementation of this decision should include all project design features as described in the environmental assessment. Pruning will only be done in the matrix land allocation. No pruning will be done within riparian reserves.

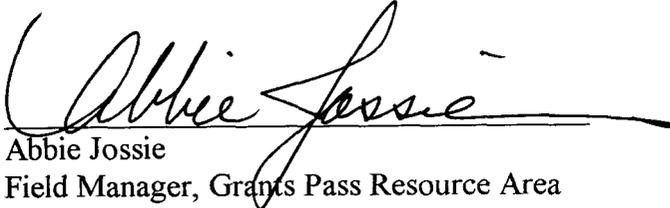
II. **RATIONALE:** Implementing the proposed action will provide for a higher grade wood product in the long term. It will contribute to meeting the demand for future quality wood products, reduce fuel hazard in the longer term and support the local and regional economy. This action incorporates several project design features which minimize short and long term adverse effects of the actions to be implemented.

The No Action Alternative was rejected because it does not meet the intended silviculture objectives for the subject stands. Relying upon natural pruning would maintain higher fuel hazard for a longer period of time by retaining fuel ladders close to the ground.

This decision is consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan and the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines. This decision is also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, The Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations. The project will not have any impact on energy production or transmission.

III. **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:** On the basis of the information contained in the environmental assessment for the subject project, it is my determination that the decision stated above does not constitute a significant effect to the quality of the human environment. In addition this project does not exceed the range of effects discussed in the EIS documents to which the project's EA is tiered. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This is a forest management decision. In accordance with the BLM Forest Management Regulation **43** CFR §5003.2 (a&c), the effective date of the decision will be the date of publication of a Notice of Decision and FONSI in The Grants Pass Daily Courier. Publication of the Notice of Decision initiates the protest period in accordance with **43** CFR 5003.3.



Abbie Jossie
Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management



July 18, 2002
Date