

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

for

How Perfect EA No. OR-110-03-010

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Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

The How Perfect Environmental Assessment (attached) is a refinement of the actions authorized under the 1997 How Brushy Environmental Assessment (EA) and Decision Record. This How Perfect Project would complete the implementation of prescriptions designed for the Brush Cut and How Brushy projects to ensure that the desired forest health objectives in the original How Brushy EA # 97-03 are met. This project meets the purpose and need of the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP), the project objectives outlined in the Jenny Creek Watershed Analysis (pages 86-112) and incorporates the best management practices outlined in the RMP (pages 149-177). The objective of this project is to reduce stand mortality and promote healthy tree growth while maintaining canopy and stocking levels in white fir and mixed conifer forest communities.

The proposed action and project design features are further described in the attached EA. This FONSI and attached EA are tiered to the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (USDI, USDA 2001) and the *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP)* (USDI 1995b). These Resource Management Plans incorporate the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (NFP) (USDA and USDI 1994). These documents are available at the Medford BLM office and the Medford BLM web site at <<http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford/>>.

Through the EA process, the interdisciplinary team reviewed the following critical elements of the human environment as they relate to this project: air quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), cultural resources, environmental justice, farmlands, floodplains, Native American religious concerns, invasive nonnative species, threatened and endangered species, hazardous/solid wastes, water quality, wetlands/riparian zones, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and wilderness. No substantive site specific environmental changes would result from implementing the proposed action or alternatives as discussed in the associated EA. Should threatened or endangered plants or cultural or paleontological resources be discovered, they would be protected.

The How Perfect EA was advertised for a 30-day public review period beginning on February 1, 2003. Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KSWC) submitted written comments to the EA. The appropriate BLM Interdisciplinary Team members reviewed KSWC comments and did not find any substantive information not already taken into consideration during the analysis of the How Perfect project. This review provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the BLM's determination that there are no significant impacts associated with the proposed action.

Formal consultation for the northern spotted owl was completed for timber sales in the project area (BO 1-7-01-F-032). A no effect determination was made by BLM regarding the federally listed *Fritillaria gentneri* and the Southern Oregon/Northern California coho salmon

On the basis of the information contained in the attached EA and all other information available to me as summarized above, it is my determination that the proposed action alternative does not constitute a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment as defined by 40 CFR § 1508.27 beyond those described in the Medford District RMP. For this reason, a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

  
Ashland Field Manager

03-18-03  
Date

Decision Record  
for the  
How Perfect EA No. OR-110-03-010

Decision Record & Rationale

My decision is to proceed with the proposed action as described in the attached EA. The How Perfect project refines the actions authorized under the 1997 How Brushy Environmental Assessment (EA) and Decision Record. How Perfect Project will complete the implementation of prescriptions designed for the Brush Cut and How Brushy projects to ensure that the desired forest health objectives in the original How Brushy Environmental Assessment (EA) # 97-03 are met.

Mitigation Measure #1 (EA Chapter 4, p. 13) would eliminate Unit 2 from the Proposed Action. This measure would mitigate the effects of the proposed action on the Lower Horse spotted owl site by maintaining the quantity and quality of the spotted owl roosting and foraging habitat. This measure is not accepted because; 1) the vigor of old-growth sugar pine, Douglas-fir, and incense cedar trees need to be increased. This will make these scarce old-growth trees less susceptible to insect and disease attack. 2) the disease (Annosus root rot) susceptible white fir needs to reduce its dominance in this forest site while creating microenvironments for seedling regeneration for Douglas-fir, sugar pine and incense cedar trees.

Mitigation Measure #2 (EA Chapter 4, p. 13) would eliminate Unit 3 from the Proposed Action. This measure would mitigate the effects of the proposed action on the Keno Road and Jenny Springs spotted owl sites by maintaining the quantity and quality of the spotted owl roosting and foraging habitat. This measure is not accepted because; 1) this unit is mostly a pine site which is not conducive for spotted owls because pine stands require a more open condition for survival. Pine stands in this area are a minority and BLM has a need to be maintained ecological diversity. Retaining green trees of various sizes, ages, and species, in well-distributed patches as well as dispersed individuals, will promote species diversity (Jenny Creek Watershed Assessment, p. 100). 2) the northern portion of Unit 3 (5 to 7 acres) is overstocked with conifer trees. Mortality is occurring in this unthinned area because of tree stress from overstocking. The proposed thinning will reduce the basal area to 160 square foot and decrease tree mortality.

Upon careful review of all the information available to me, it is my decision to implement the How Perfect project.

  
Ashland Field Manager

03-18-03  
Date