

DECISION RECORD
for the Environmental Assessment for the
Mr. Wilson Project Area POC Risk Key Analysis

EA# OR-118-04-007
(Supplement to EA# OR-110-01-030)

Decision

The Mr. Wilson Project Area POC Risk Key Analysis EA amended the existing analysis of the Mr. Wilson EA in order to add an evaluation of whether there is a need for site-specific POC mitigation measures through application of the proposed Risk Key in the 2004 POC FSEIS to the Mr. Wilson timber sale.

It is my decision to make no modifications to the original decision on the Mr. Wilson timber sale. The risks to Port-Orford-cedar from actions within Mr. Wilson Timber Sale area have been analyzed through the use of the Port-Orford-cedar Risk Key present in Table 2-1 of the FEIS for the Management of Port-Orford-cedar (p.2-18, 1/2004). See Attachment 1.

The Risk Key analysis identifies no effect to Port-Orford-cedar and consequently no additional site-specific POC mitigation measures are needed.

Rationale

The issue of concern throughout the additional analysis was the Port-Orford-cedar in the West Fork Cow Creek Watershed. The decision to not implement any additional mitigation measures meets the purpose and need identified in the EA and furthers the intent established in the Northwest Forest Plan and the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) to manage the matrix lands with commercial forest products as a major objective.

The Risk Key was used to analyze actions associated with the individual timber sale units and included activities such as harvest, site preparations, ripping of skid trails, and reforestation, as well as actions associated with roads/road systems for transport. Operations analyzed included roadside brushing, renovation, drainage improvement, log hauling, and decommissioning. The analysis also included other project-associated actions such as helipad development and use, planting of areas adjacent to units and restoration actions. Activity area (action) was defined as the area where something physical was to take place such as the cutting and falling of a tree, broadcast burning was to be done, or that roads were to be used for log hauling. All questions to the Risk Analysis were found to have no effect to Port-Orford-cedar.

One letter was received from the public during the 30 day comment period. The commenter wrote that the Mr. Wilson POC EA is a “post-hoc rationalization” and

compares the Supplemental Environmental Assessment to a Forest Service Supplemental Information Report. Neither characterization is accurate. The 2004 POC FSEIS was released after the Mr. Wilson EA Decision Record was signed and had bearing on the action. As described in 43 CFR 1502.9, it was appropriate for me to consider this new information when it became available. As the decision maker I have the discretion to consider this new information to help me determine whether to modify the original decision on the Mr. Wilson timber sale. Doing so on the basis of this new information is not a "post-hoc" rationalization but a valid exercise of continuing discretion to consider new information.

To describe this supplemental environmental analysis (SEA) as a supplemental information report (SIR) is completely erroneous. This SEA is a document prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A SIR is not a NEPA document. The Mr. Wilson POC SEA was made available for 30 days for the public to comment on. The comments have been considered in the preparation of this decision. This decision is subject to a 15 day appeal period (43 CFR 1500) unlike a SIR. A SIR is not subject to administrative protest or appeal, as is any decision resulting from an environmental assessment.

With new information, the focus was whether additional mitigation measures to protect POC would be required, as described in the FSEIS. I am confident that the SEA represents a thorough analysis of the site-specific impacts to Port-Orford-cedar and addresses the concern for possible need of mitigation measures. The SEA is in compliance with NEPA which calls for concise and focused descriptions of the proposals and their effects.

In accordance with the BLM Forest Management Regulations (43 CFR 5003), this decision is open to protest for 15 days from the time of notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands affected by the decision are located.



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



Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for the Environmental Assessment for the
Mr. Wilson Project Area POC Risk Key Analysis
EA # OR118-04-007

The proposed action for the Mr. Wilson Project Area POC Risk Key Analysis Is described in the environmental assessment (EA) and can be obtained at the Medford District or on the Medford BLM internet site: <http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford>

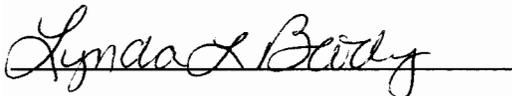
The proposed action is located in:

Analytical Watershed (fifth field): West Fork Cow Creek
Project Area (sixth field watersheds): Wilson and Walker Creeks
County: Douglas
T 32S, R 9W, sections 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 18.

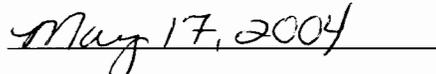
Port-Orford-cedar Risk Key was used to thoroughly analyzed the project area for impacts to Port-Orford-cedar and the threat of spreading *Phytophthora lateralis*. The estimation of impacts was based on research, professional judgment and experience of the interdisciplinary team. This method of estimating effects to the environment reduces the uncertainties to a level which does not involve highly unknown or unique risks.

FONSI DETERMINATION

I have reviewed the environmental assessment, which includes a POC Risk Key Analysis along with the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts not previously identified. I have also reviewed the comments received from the public concerning this proposal. I have determined that the Mr. Wilson Project Area POC Risk Key Analysis will not have any significant impacts on the human environment beyond those already described 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*, approved April 13, 1994; the *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* for the Medford District, approved June 1995; and the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*, approved January 2001. Therefore a supplemental EIS is not required.



Lynda L. Boody
Glendale Resource Area Field Manager
Medford District, BLM



Date