

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for
CEDAR HOUSE TIMBER SALE: EA OR125-97-15

An Interdisciplinary Team for the Cedar House Timber Sale project within the Umpqua Resource Area, Coos Bay District, Bureau of Land Management has analyzed the action alternative and a no action alternative to harvest approximately 90 acres of Federal forest in T. 21 S., R. 08 W., Section 33, Willamette Meridian. The proposed timber sale is located in the Paradise and Lower Middle Umpqua subwatersheds. A watershed analysis has been prepared for both watersheds. The proposal is a regeneration harvest that would remove timber from the General Forest Management (GFMA). In compliance with the Standards and Guidelines of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Northwest Forest Plan, there would be no entry into Riparian Reserves or Late Successional Reserves. Some green trees, snags, and down logs would be retained for biodiversity to meet or exceed the requirements in the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan). The proposal would provide jobs and supply society with wood products.

This EA is tiered to the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan* and its *Record of Decision* (RMP) (BLM, May 1995) and conforms with the Northwest Forest Plan and its *Record of Decision* (Interagency, 1994).

The No Action Alternative and Action Alternative with their design features, are described in the attached EA entitled Cedar House Timber Sale (EA OR125-97-15).

Surveys for Marbled Murrelets were completed in 1995 and 1996 and covered the proposed Cedar House sale. Surveys for Spotted Owls were completed in 1991 and 1993. The proposed project areas have been reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through the consultation process provided under section 7(A)(4) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 [16 U.S.C. 1563 (a)(2) and (a)(4) as amended]. The Biological Opinion received from USFWS (Memorandum 1-7-96-F-411) authorizes incidental take for these species.

Project level conferencing on BLM management actions affecting Oregon coast steelhead trout and consultation on Umpqua River cutthroat trout was included in the August 1997 District Biological Assessment submission to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). A Biological Opinion was received from NMFS on October 1, 1997 addressing these species that stated that this sale is "not likely to jeopardize continued existence" and authorizes incidental take.

The estimation of the effects was based on research, professional judgement, and experience of the Interdisciplinary Team. There are no known negative effects on (1) Water Quality, (2) Flood plains or Wetlands/Riparian zones, (3) Wilderness Values, (4) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, (5) Cultural Resources, (6) Prime or Unique Farmland, (7) Wild and Scenic Rivers, (8) Air Quality, (9) Native American Religious Concerns, (10) Hazardous or Solid Waste.

The proposed Action is consistent with the objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy because the aquatic resources would be provided with riparian reserves at the initial widths recommended in the ROD, and the protection of the riparian reserves would allow natural in-stream functions to occur.

DETERMINATION

On the basis of information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitutes a major Federal action affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

/s/ Mark A. Buckbee
Mark A. Buckbee
Umpqua Area Manager

October 30, 1997
Date