

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Big Rush Coop 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Progeny Site Fence Protection. A proposal to remove standing trees that endanger the progeny site and its fence.

**Location of Proposed Action:** T.21 S., R. 9 W., Section 13, NE1/4, NE1/4 W. M. GFMA

**Applicant** (if any): N/A

**Conformance With Applicable Land Use Plan:** This proposed action is subject to the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement* and its Record of Decision (BLM, 1995); which is in conformance with 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* and its Record of Decision (Interagency, 1994). This plan has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan's terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1601.5.

Remarks: The Proposed Action is in compliance with the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement* and its Record of Decision (BLM, 1995)(RMP); hereby incorporated by reference. The RMP has been determined to be consistent with the standards and guidelines for healthy lands at the land use plan scale and associated timelines.

**Need for Proposed Action:** To eliminate the potential for blow down to damage the progeny site trees and fence surrounding the Big Rush Progeny Test Site. Winter storms from the southwest have the potential to blow down and damage the progeny study area and its fence. Damage to fence would allow browse damage to occur to study trees. Progeny trees inside the fence are irreplaceable and are a part of a multi-year study.

**No Action:** Windfalls could crush the study trees inside the fenced area as well as damage the fence. Progeny trees inside the fence are irreplaceable and are a part of a multi-year study.

**Description of Proposed Action:** The proposed project area is about 150 feet by 500 feet or about 1.75 acres (see the attached map). The project area was analyzed as part of the Scare Ridge Thinning EA OR125-93-09. No snags are present in the project area. The project area will be cleared utilizing chain saws, a rubber tired skidder, and loader. Merchantable trees removed will be sold to the contractor performing the clearing operation. All operations will be conducted from existing roads; no new roads will be needed. Remaining debris will be piled, covered, and burned under spring-like conditions. Following site preparation, the cleared area will be re-planted with Douglas-fir seedlings. The contract will be negotiated with a small operator and should take less than a month to complete. The project is expected to be completed before April 30, 2003.

**Environmental Impacts to Critical Elements of the Human Environment:**

<u>Critical Elements</u>	<u>Affected</u>		<u>Critical Elements</u>	<u>Affected</u>	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality	—	<u>X</u>	T & E Species	—	<u>X</u>
ACECs	—	<u>X</u>	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid	—	<u>X</u>
Cultural Resources	—	<u>X</u>	Water Quality	—	<u>X</u>
Farmlands, Prime/Unique	—	<u>X</u>	Wetlands/Riparian Zones/ACS	—	<u>X</u>
Floodplains	—	<u>X</u>	Wild & Scenic Rivers	—	<u>X</u>
Unresolved conflicts	—	<u>X</u>	Wilderness	—	<u>X</u>
Noxious Weed Management	—	<u>X</u>	Port Orford Cedar Management	—	<u>X</u>
Environmental Justice Concerns	—	<u>X</u>	Energy production, transmission	—	<u>X</u>
Native American religious concerns and/or Indian trust resources	—	<u>X</u>			

**Description of Additional Impacts to Specific Elements of the Human Environment under the Proposed Action Alternative :**

Wildlife, Including T&E: There are no known nest sites for northern spotted owls, occupied sites for marbled murrelets, or bald eagle nests or roosts within 2 miles of the project site. There is no suitable habitat for the northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet within 1.5 miles of the site. For the reasons stated above, the project would be a "No Effect" for the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and bald eagle.

Fisheries, Including T&E: There are no direct effects anticipated from this project. The area is located on a stable ridge-top approximately 0.75 miles above fish presence. The project area is only 1.75 acres in size; project activities will not have a measurable impact on the landscape. The amount of truck hauling would be consistent with the amount of ambient traffic in this area; there will be no effects to stream crossings or water quality from the hauling traffic associated with this project. For the reasons stated above, the project would be a "No Effect" to listed fish species and Essential Fish Habitat.

Vegetation, Including T&E and S&M Species: The project would not impact T&E or S&M botany species as the area was surveyed and no special status or S&M plant species were located. The site contains no sustainable habitat for special status or S&M plant species. The project would have no effect on Port-Orford cedar (POC) as it is outside the natural range of POC, and no POC is known to be present within the project area or along the haul routes.

**Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts:**

Leave 120 lineal feet coarse woody debris (CWD) per acre inside the project boundary. Mark and retain 14 green trees and create three snags along the west project area boundary. The marked trees would be in addition to the amounts to be left in the adjacent unit at the time of future harvest. Tracking of marked retained trees will be done in Micro-storms database, attached to OI unit 230873, which is the adjacent unit in Section 13. No residual impacts have been identified.

Persons/Agencies Consulted:	None	
Preparer(s):	Tom Cunningham	Small Sales Forester, Team Lead
	John Chatt	Wildlife Biologist
	Scott Knowles	Noxious Weed, POC, and Environmental Justice Coordinator
	Stephen Samuels	Cultural Coordinator, Native American Coordinator
	Tim Votaw	Hazardous Materials Coordinator
	Aimee Hoefs	Fisheries Biologist, Aquatic Conservation Strategy
	Jennifer Sperling	Botanist
	Tim Barnes	Geologist, Energy Production, Transmission, and Conservation

Date: March 4, 2003

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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD.**

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the project as described in the Description of the Proposed Action section with the mitigation measures identified below.

Mitigation Measures: Retain 120 lineal feet per acre of CWD in the project area. In addition, reserve 14 green trees and create three snags along the west boundary of the project area.

Decision recommended by:

NRSA: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NRSA: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NRSA: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Decision Approved by: Umpqua Field Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_