

Document No. EA OR128- 03-09

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**EA Number:** OR128-03-09

BLM Coos Bay District Office

**Lease/Serial/Case file No.:** N/A

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Seneca Jones Timber Company Tailhold Request

**Location of Proposed Action:** T. 31 S., R. 14 W., Sec. 22 & 26

**Applicant:** Seneca Jones Timber Company

**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); hereby incorporated by reference.

**Need for Proposed Action:** Seneca Jones has requested permission to tailhold on BLM trees adjacent to two units they are harvesting. As an adjacent landowner, BLM must either approve or deny their request. Appropriate mitigation measures may be a condition of their use.

**Description of Proposed Action:** Seneca Jones Timber Company is planning to clear cut harvest private timber in the southeast corner of Sec.22 and the west half of the northeast corner of Sec. 26 of T. 31 S., R. 14 W. (see attached map). They plan to leave lift trees of their own to hang on. But if their own lift trees aren't available, they propose to hang, if required, at the base of trees growing on BLM lands in those same sections. This would facilitate yarding of their logs by providing enough lift to partly suspend the logs over their ground. They plan to start yarding operations in the beginning of February, 2003.

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

<u>Critical Element</u>	<u>Affected</u>		<u>Critical Element</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	—	<u>X</u>
Floodplains	—	<u>X</u>	Wild & Scenic Rivers	—	<u>X</u>
Nat. Amer. Rel. Concerns	—	<u>X</u>	Wilderness	—	<u>X</u>

**Description of Impacts to Specific Elements of the Human Environment:** The proposed tailholds are located in the Northern General Forest Management Area Land Use Allocation. The use of tailholds on BLM will allow the operator to achieve better log suspension thereby reducing impacts to soil and watershed resources on the private lands. Two of the trees which might be hung on are considered suitable Red Tree Vole and Marbled Murrelet habitat. There will be no measurable impacts to soil or water resources on BLM lands through the use of these tailholds.

**Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts:** No BLM trees will need to be cut. The use of straps and/or shims will prevent BLM trees from being girdled. Selected tail trees should be as close to the stand edge as possible. It is recommended that the use of selected tail trees in Sec. 26 be concluded as close to April 1 as possible to avoid disturbance to nesting Murrelets.

**Persons/Agencies Consulted:**

**Preparers/reviewers:** Don Nunan, Forester  
Steve Langenstein, Wildlife Biologist

**Date:** January 30, 2003

\*\*\*\*\*

**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:**
1. No BLM trees to be felled
  2. BLM tailhold trees to be shimmed to prevent girdling
  3. Use suitable edge trees
  4. Conclude use of trees by April 1, 03 (in Sec. 26)

**Decision recommended by:**

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

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

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

**Decision Approved by:**

Field Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_