

BLM Coos Bay District Office

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

Proposed Action Title/Type: Lone Surprise Tailhold Request

Location of Proposed Action: T. 23 S., R. 10 W., Sec. 35

Applicant: Oregon Department of Forestry

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.

Need for Proposed Action: The Oregon Department of Forestry has requested permission to tailhold on BLM stumps adjacent to a harvest unit on state lands to facilitate harvest operations. As an adjacent owner, BLM must either approve or deny their request. Appropriate mitigation measures may be a condition of their use.

Description of Proposed Action: Oregon Department of Forestry is planning a clear cut harvest of approximately 42 acres of State timberland in the SE ¼ of Sec. 25 and the SW ¼ of Sec. 26, T. 23 S., R. 10 W. (see attached map). They propose to use and stumps on BLM land in the NW ¼ rest of Sec. 35 for tailholds. The BLM unit adjacent to the State operations was harvested in the Final Surprise timber sale OR 125-TS95-06. The area has been site prepped and planted with Douglas fir seedlings.

Environmental Impacts to Critical Elements of the Human Environment:

Critical Elements	Affected		Critical Elements	Affected	
	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>
Native American Religious Concerns	—	<u>X</u>	Wilderness	—	<u>X</u>
Noxious Weed Management	—	<u>X</u>	Port Orford Cedar Management	—	<u>X</u>

Description of Impacts to Specific Elements of the Human Environment: The proposed tailholds are located in the Matrix Land Use Allocation. Use of tailholds on BLM will allow the operator to achieve better log suspension thereby reducing impacts to soil and watershed resources on State lands. There will be no significant impacts to either soil or water resources on BLM lands through the use of tailholds. Several seedlings may be damaged by raising and lowering the cable during logging operations. Residual trees located on the south side of Surprise Creek may be also be line whipped; however, due to the wide spacing of corridors, the impacts will be hardly noticeable. If these line whipped trees would subsequently die they would not currently be a loss of value to the government as they are located within the Riparian Reserve. If not sold and removed they would help meet RMP goals to provide snag habitat for cavity nesting species.

The Department of Forestry surveyed the area for the marbled murrelet in years 2001 and 2002. Surveys for the northern spotted owl were also conducted in year 2003. There was no presence found of either species within the project area and the Department has received an incidental take permit for the removal of suitable habitat from the

United States Fish and Wildlife Service. There are no known direct disturbance effects to any threatened or endangered species associated with this action. The timber stand on adjacent BLM land is either young conifer plantation, alder dominated streamside zone along Surprise Creek or mature and old-growth mixed conifer and hardwood upland habitat. The proposed harvest unit on private land is mature and old-growth mixed conifer and hardwood upland habitat.

The main stem of Surprise Creek, a fish-bearing stream, runs along the property line between BLM and State land. The stream is disconnected from Lake Creek, the 5th order main drainage above Loon Lake. There is no anadromous fish habitat above Loon Lake falls.

Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts: Avoid raising and lowering the skyline to reduce damage to the residual trees and regeneration on BLM lands. Slash damaged conifer seedlings within the BLM plantation to reduce the possibility of black stain infection of wounded trees. If trees are damaged within the Riparian Reserves, they will contribute to future wildlife habitat for cavity nesting species. Residual impacts on BLM land would consist of possible reduction in stocking in the BLM reproduction unit. This reduction would be consistent with conifer spacing treatments that would occur within 5 to 10 years following harvest operations.

Persons/Agencies Consulted: This harvest action was consulted on with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Preparer(s):	Jon Menten,	Forest Management Specialist Wildlife Biologist Fisheries Biologist
	Dave Sherman	Silviculturist

Date: 10-24-03

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:

Operator will cut any damaged reproduction in the adjacent BLM plantation.

Avoid raising and lowering the skyline to reduce damage to the residual trees and regeneration on BLM lands.

Umpqua Field Manager

Date

Robert E. Fields
Oregon Department of Forestry
63612 Fifth Rd.
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420-3899

Dear Mr. Fields,

This letter is in response to your letter dated October 9, 2003, requesting permission to use and stumps for tailholds on BLM land in Section 35 of T. 23 S., R. 10 W., Lone Surprise harvest unit. Use of government timber for tailholds is authorized as stated in your request. If it becomes necessary to fell government timber to conduct safe harvest operations, or if trees belonging to the government are damaged beyond recovery in the course of yarding operations, we request that you contact Jon Menten at 541-751-4232 concerning disposition of this timber. We also request that you take efforts to minimize damage to standing trees and young conifer reproduction by limiting the raising and lowering of the skyline during operations. If conifer regeneration is damaged in the adjacent BLM plantation, we also request that you sever the damaged tree below the lowest green limb.

Sincerely

Umpqua Field Manager

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, Oregon 97459-2000

5400

Project Inspection Report

Project Name: Lone Surprise Tailhold Request
Project Location: Section 35, T. 23 S., R. 10 W.
Applicant: Oregon Department of Forestry
63612 Fifth Rd
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420-3899

Date:

Remarks: