

BLM Coos Bay District Office

**Proposed Action Title:** Fire Line Construction

**Location of Proposed Action:**

T. 21 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 9, Lot 15, Lot 16,	Will. Mer., Oregon	GFMA
T. 21 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 16, Lot 1,	Will. Mer., Oregon	GFMA
T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 21, SW¼, SW¼,	Will. Mer., Oregon	LSR
T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 29, NE¼, NE¼,	Will. Mer., Oregon	LSR
T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 13, S½, SW¼,	Will. Mer., Oregon	GFMA
T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 13, SW¼, SE¼,	Will. Mer., Oregon	GFMA
T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 27, S½, SW¼,	Will. Mer., Oregon	LSR
T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 33, E½, NE¼,	Will. Mer., Oregon	LSR
T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 33, NE¼, SE¼,	Will. Mer., Oregon	GFMA
T. 22 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 28, Lot 3,	Will. Mer., Oregon	GFMA

**Applicant:** Roseburg Resources 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) (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:** Roseburg Resources Company (R.R.C.) has requested authorization to construct fire trails on BLM lands adjacent to five R.R.C. harvest units in support of prescribed fire operations. As an adjacent owner, BLM must either approve or deny their request. Appropriate mitigation measures may be a condition of use. R.R.C. prescribed fire operations do not depend on the approval of the request. R.R.C. will conduct prescribed fire operations regardless of approval or denial of authority to construct fire lines on BLM. Denial of authority would result in fire lines being constructed only on R.R.C. lands.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The proposed action would occur in stands of merchantable size mixed conifer that range in age from 17 to 80 years located in General Forest Management Area, Late Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve land use allocations. The applicant is scheduled to conduct prescribed broadcast burning on Roseburg Resources Company lands utilizing hand and aerial ignition methods during spring of 2004. R.R.C. proposes to hand construct fire lines around the harvest units to prepare them for burning. Most fire line construction would take place on R.R.C. land and would only cross onto BLM land where topography and vegetative cover would give prescribed fire managers the best opportunity to minimize the potential for fire to escape and/or spread.

Fire lines would be cleared of vegetation to a width of eight (8) feet. Within the fire line the fire trail would be cleared to mineral soil to a width of three (3) feet. Water bars would be constructed across all fire trails following the slope guidelines below. Water bars would consist of a six inch deep trench oriented at a 30- to 45-degree angle with respect to the fire line. Water bars would extend approximately six inches beyond the width of the fire trail.

Trail Slope:	0% to 9%	1 water bar every 300 feet
	10% to 29%	1 water bar every 200 feet
	30 % to 100 %	1 water bar every 100 feet

To minimize potential of sediment delivery where fire lines cross active stream channels (with water flow), fire trail construction would stop approximately ten feet (slope distance) before and resume approximately ten feet (slope distance) beyond the active stream crossing. Removal of vegetation at the stream crossing within the clearing limits described above would still be permitted. Water bars would be placed at the ends of trail construction on either side of the active stream crossing to direct flow away from surface waters and stream buffers and onto vegetated forest floors. In locations where the fire trail intersects ephemeral and intermittent streams that are inactive (absent of flow), fire trails would be permitted through the channel and water bars would be placed within three to ten feet on either side of the crossing and oriented in such a manner to direct flow away from the channel onto vegetated forest floor.

Wherever possible the cutting of snags and green trees during the course of constructing fire lines would be avoided. Exceptions to this restriction would occur only when the safety of personnel and fire proofing of the fire lines would be compromised if such snags or trees were left uncut. Cutting of any trees along stream banks should be avoided.

**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 Impacts to Specific Elements of the Human Environment:** There would be no measurable impacts to soil or water resources. Cut shrub and brush vegetation within the fire line clearing limit would quickly regenerate. Cutting of trees or snags within the clearing limits would not be permitted except when the safety of personnel and fire proofing of the fire lines would be compromised. Any trees or snags that are cut would be left on site and could help fulfill RMP goals for coarse woody debris. There are no known threatened or endangered species sites or survey and manage wildlife species within the vicinity of the proposed action locations. Prescribed fire operations on adjoining private lands are expected to begin and conclude in the spring of 2004 (March- June).

**Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts:** Some or all of the following mitigation activities would occur at conclusion of the proposed activity:

Rehabilitate fire trails after the burned units are declared out. Rehabilitation could include re-construction of water bars, replacement of bucked out log sections and pulling litter and cut vegetation back into and over the exposed soil portions of the fire trails. Residual impacts (if any) to BLM land would consist of short term loss of vegetative cover and possibly some snag habitat.

<b>Preparer(s):</b> Bill Elam_____ Fuels Specialist	John Colby_____ Hydrologist
John Chatt_____ Wildlife Biologist	Jennifer Sperling_____ Botanist
Timothy Barnes___ Geologist	Stephan Samuels___ Archeologist
Pat Olmstead____ Fisheries Biologist	Terry Evans_____ Forester
Scott Knowles____ Noxious Weed Coordinator	Tim Votaw_____ Haz-Mat

**Date:** March 3, 2004

**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:** Re-construct water bars in the fire trails after the burned units are declared out.

**Decision recommended by:** NRSA: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Decision Approved by:** FM: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_