



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

1300 AIRPORT LANE, NORTH BEND, OR 97459

Home page: [www.or.blm.gov/coosbay](http://www.or.blm.gov/coosbay) E-mail: [coos\\_bay@or.blm.gov](mailto:coos_bay@or.blm.gov)  
Telephone: (541) 756-0100 Toll Free: (888) 809-0839 Fax: (541) 751-4303



## **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) For Myers Creek Salvage Environmental Assessment EA OR-128-03-03**

### **I. Introduction**

An interdisciplinary team for the Myers Creek Salvage EA within the Myrtlewood Field Office, Coos Bay District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has analyzed two alternatives: a No Action Alternative and a Proposed Action Alternative. The Proposed Action proposes to salvage up to 18 acres of blowdown timber that could yield an estimated one million board feet (mmbf) of salvage timber. The No Action would defer action on the forest stand proposed for salvage treatment.

The intention is to salvage the blowdown as expeditiously as possible by the autumn of 2004 to forego significant depreciation of market value. Salvage could be accomplished using a skyline cable yarding system, and would include construction of 300 feet of dirt road with a landing located just southwest of a 40 acre BLM parcel on private land. The project area is south of, and adjacent to, an east-west flowing tributary of the North Fork of Myers Creek, which lies within the Cape Ferrelo Frontal 5<sup>th</sup> field watershed in Curry County. The proposed salvage is within a General Forest Management Area (GFMA) under the Matrix Land Use Allocation, and is located within a 40 acre BLM parcel in T.38S., R.14W., SW1/4 NE1/4, Sec.5, Willamette Meridian.

### **II. Background**

The Coos Bay District of the BLM is under the direction of the Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and its Record of Decision (ROD) (BLM, 1995). The RMP and its ROD are 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 ROD (Northwest Forest Plan [NFP]) (Interagency, 1994). Through these documents, the BLM is directed to provide for salvage harvest of timber killed or damaged by windstorms or other events such as wildfire, and insect or disease infestation consistent with management objectives for other resources.

As stated in the ROD for the NFP, the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) was developed to maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems on public lands within the range of Pacific Ocean anadromy. Actions described in this EA are in conformance with the

ACS objectives, and a detailed analysis of the consistency of the action alternative with the ACS is contained in Appendix B.

All Federal agencies are charged with managing programs to enhance the recovery of federally listed endangered and threatened species and their habitats (Section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act).

### **III. Finding of No Significant Impact**

A careful review of the EA indicates that there would not be a significant impact on the quality of the human environment from the implementation of any of the alternatives. I agree with this conclusion and determine that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This determination is based on consideration of the following factors:

1. The proposed activities are not national or regional in scope.
2. The proposed activities would not significantly affect public health and safety. Best Management Practices and other provisions are incorporated in the EA that require spill prevention, control and countermeasures (SPCC) and where applicable, the presence of spill containment kits and operators trained in their use on work sites, would minimize the risk. In addition, notifications in the event of a release threatening waterways are to be made in accordance with the BLM Coos Bay District Riparian Spill Plan, and Oregon DEQ Administrative Rule (OAR) 340-108, *Oil and Hazardous Materials Spills and Releases*.
3. The proposed activities would not have an impact on unique characteristics of the geographic area such as historical or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, Port-Orford Cedar, wild and scenic rivers, ecological critical areas, or energy development.
4. The effects on the quality of the human environment of the proposed activities are not highly controversial.
5. The possible effects of the proposed activities on the quality of the human environment are not highly uncertain and do not involve unique or unknown risk.
6. The proposed projects do not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant effects.
7. There are no significant cumulative effects identified by this assessment.
8. The proposed activities would not affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, nor would the activities cause a loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. The proposed projects would fully comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended.

- Based on analysis by the Fisheries Biologist, it has been concluded that the proposed actions constitute a “No Effect” to listed fisheries species and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Therefore, consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service is not warranted.
- The project has been designed to prevent disturbance effects on federally listed threatened and endangered wildlife species by incorporating the appropriate Project Design Criteria from the Coos Bay District FY2003-2008 Biological Assessment C02-02 and its resultant US Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion (#1-15-03-I-006).

10. There are no irreversible or irretrievable resource commitments identified by this assessment, except for a minor consumption of fossil fuels for routine operations.

11. The proposed activities would not violate Federal, State, or local laws imposed for the protection of the environment.

***Signed Richard Conrad*** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: ***02/25/2004***

Richard Conrad  
Myrtlewood Field Manager  
Coos Bay District, Bureau of Land Management