



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 E-mail: 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
Tioga Creek Subwatershed Density Management Environmental Assessment
OR125-99-05

I. Introduction

An Interdisciplinary Team for the Tioga Creek Subwatershed Density Management EA within the Umpqua Resource Area, Coos Bay District, Bureau of Land Management has analyzed two alternatives: a no action alternative and an action alternative. Alternative 1 would defer action on these forest stands. Alternative 2 proposes to manage tree densities on about 2,536 acres, convert about 321 acres of alder, construct 3.5 miles of new road, renovate or improve 35 miles of road, decommission 15 miles of road, 2.25 miles of in-stream restoration, and create 4,500 snags and coarse woody debris logs. The project areas are located in Sections 17, 18, 19, 21, 31, 32, and 33 of T. 26 S., R. 9 W., Sections 13, 14, 23, 24 of T. 26 S., R. 10 W., Sections 4, 5, 6, 9, 17, 18, 20, and 21 of T. 27 S., R. 9 W., and Sections 1, 13, and 14 of T. 27 S., R 10 W., Willamette Meridian.

II. Background

The Coos Bay District (CBD) of the Bureau of Land Management (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, in conjunction with other Federal land agencies, is directed to conduct watershed analysis (WA), and to implement restoration projects to aid in the recovery of water quality and aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial habitats.

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. The Environmental Consequences section of the EA describes the consistency of the proposed alternative with the ACS.

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). Implementing the proposed actions are expected to benefit numerous Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate species.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

A careful review of the EA, which I herein adopt, 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 determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This determination is based on consideration of the following factors:

1. The Tioga Creek Subwatershed Density Management comprises 2,857 project acres, of which 2787 acres are within the USGS defined 5th field watershed No. 170030401, the South Fork Coos Watershed, and are within the Tioga Creek Subwatershed that is a Tier I Key Watershed. The remaining 70 project acres are within the Brummit Creek Drainage, a subwatershed within USGS defined 5th field watershed No. 170030504, and are not located in a Tier I or Tier 2 Key Watershed as defined by the NFP, ROD. 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 incorporating spill kits and containment plans as described in the EA 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. The project areas are located at previously disturbed sites, and the silvicultural prescriptions would restore the natural physical environment.
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. Although there would be removal of vegetation within the Riparian Reserves, the potential impacts are eliminated by the implementation of no-harvest buffers.
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 they cause a loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
9. The proposed projects will fully comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended.

