



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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1792
EA OR125-99-05

August 28, 2003

Decision Documentation For Burnt Out Density Management EA OR125-99-05

Background:

The Umpqua Resource Area, Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management, using input from District resource staff and the public input, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Tioga Creek Subwatershed Density Management. Alternative 1 is the No Action Alternative and 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 16 miles of road, and do 2.25 miles of in-stream restoration. 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.

Management objectives are to:

1. Implement recommendations and management priorities contained in the *South Coast - Northern Klamath Late-Successional Reserve Assessment* to: enlarge existing interior late-successional habitat blocks, improve habitat connections between Late-Successional Reserves, and maintain and improve connectivity habitat within Late-Successional Reserves.
2. Work toward the goals established by the Draft Western Oregon Districts Transportation Management Plan for the South Fork Coos and East Fork Coquille Watershed Analyses areas.
3. Re-establish the growth trajectory of over-stocked stands for the development of late-successional characteristics, while maintaining native species diversity.
4. Maintain and/or restore structural habitat complexity typically found in late-successional or old-growth forests, such as large green trees, large down logs, and large snags.
5. Ensure consistency with Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives.
6. Protect and/or restore rare and key habitats (wetlands, cliff habitats, talus habitats, grassy balds or meadows).
7. Provide cost effective management that enables implementation of these management objectives

while providing collateral economic benefits to society.

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action as it applies to Units 15a, 15b, 15d, 15e, 15f, 15g, 16, 22b, 22c, 23, & 25 now referred to as the Burnt Out Density Management Timber Sale. The Proposed Action of EA OR125-99-05, which analyzed the environmental effects of the Tioga Creek Subwatershed Density Management and the Design Features described in the EA, is hereby adopted.

The following EA estimates have been changed to reflect field verification:

Burnt Out Density Management

EA Unit Number	Burnt Out Unit Number	Estimated Acres	Actual Acres	Estimated Miles New Road Construction	Actual Miles New Road Construction
15a	1	55	47	0	0.08
15b	2	55	58	0	0
15d	5	151	100	0.2	0.51
15e	6	23	0	0	0
15f	6	50	119	0	0
15g	6	74	0	0.1	0.03
16	7	59	50	0	0
22b	10	59	59	0.6	0
22c	9	103	60	0.5	0.20
23	8	48	46	0.2	0
25	3 & 4	48	41	0	0
Totals		725	580	1.6	0.82

The Proposed Action, to manage the densities on 725 acres, has been reduced to 580.

The Proposed Action, to construct 1.7 miles of road identified in the EA, has been decreased to 0.82 miles.

The design features will be implemented as described in the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan* and its *Record of Decision* (RMP) (BLM, May 1995) which conforms 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* (Northwest Forest Plan) and its *Record of Decision* (ROD) (Interagency, 1994).

The proposed activities that may affect listed species within the project area were submitted for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 [16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2) and as amended]. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion (BO Ref. #1-15-00-F-630) dated September 29, 2000.

The Umpqua Field Office reinitiated consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on selected units within the Tioga Creek Subwatershed Density Management Area in accordance with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 [16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2) as amended]. The purpose of reinitiating was to reduce the seasonal restrictions and daily operating restrictions on selected units, in order for the project to be operationally feasible. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a modified Biological Opinion (BO Ref. #1-15-00-F-630) dated August 12, 2003.

Based on analysis by the Fisheries Biologist, it has been concluded that the proposed actions constitute a "no effect" to listed fish species and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Therefore, consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service is not warranted.

Rationale:

The Proposed Action is the alternative that most closely meets the intent of the ROD for the Northwest Forest Plan restoring desired forest stand trajectories in the Late-Successional and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocations. This action does not prevent or retard the attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives.

The decision is consistent with the ROD for the *Northwest Forest Plan and the Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* and the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*.

Administrative Remedies:

In accordance with *Forest Management Regulations* at 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this timber sale will not become effective or be subject to formal protest until the *Notice of Sale* is published "in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands affected by the decision are located." For this project, the *Notice of Sale* will be published in *The World* newspaper on August 28, 2003.

NRSA: Kathy Wall Date: August 25, 2003
Kathy Wall

NRSA: Ralph Thomas Date: August 25, 2003
Ralph Thomas

NRSA: Steve Fowler Date: August 25, 2003
Steve Fowler

Decision Approved by:

 M. Elaine Raper Date: August 25, 2003
M. Elaine Raper
Umpqua Field Manager