UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
GLENDALE FIELD OFFICE

DECISION RECORD
Mr. Wilson Timber Sale
OR–110–01-030

Decision

After review of Environmental Assessment (EA) #OR-110-01-030, it is my decision to implement Alternative 5 (Preferred Alternative), for the Mr. Wilson Planning Area, as described in the EA, with the addition of decommissioning primitive road 29. The analysis completed for decommissioning primitive road 29, as a part of Alternative 4 (EA, pg 27), applies equally to its decommissioning as a component of Alternative 5. Project Design Features for Alternative 5 and those common to all alternatives, and as described below, will be implemented. More detailed information on the timber harvest and subsequent treatments can be found in the silvicultural prescription in the Medford District files. I find that this action will not result in significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Specifically, the approved action includes multiple activities associated with harvesting timber and restoring or maintaining the environment in which these actions take place.

In general, the Regeneration Harvest (RH) and Overstory Removal (OR) units will entail timber harvest leaving at least 6-10 large conifers and 2 large hardwoods per acre, as well as snags and down logs. The RH units will be burned if necessary to prepare the site, and then planted. In the OR units, the existing young conifer reproduction will be retained rather than rely on planting to establish the next stand. In commercial thin (CT) units, the existing stand will be thinned to release the residual trees.

Following harvest, many of the units will receive site preparation treatments specified in Table 1 and in the silvicultural prescription. The regeneration harvest units will be reforested using planted nursery stock. Additional treatments, such as shade-carding, mulching, providing browse protection and controlling competing vegetation may be required to ensure adequate establishment of the next forest stand. The life of this action will extend through the time when stands are considered stocked and established.

Table 1. Summary of timber harvest; Total Timber Volume 6,441 MBF

Unit Number	Timber Harvest	Comments	Unit Number	Timber Harvest	Comments
1	CT - Cable 7 ac 80 MBF	BGTDs Plants 100'	20A	RH - Tractor Sl (Br), B, RDR 15 ac 1,100 MBF	2 BGTD, 1 PTD 2 Plants 2 RTVs
3A	RH - Cable SL (BR) B 5 ac 110 MBF	BGTD, PTD Plants 200'	20B	RH - Tractor Sl (Br), B, RDR 15 ac 1,100 MBF	2 BGTD, 1 PTD 2 Plants 2 RTVs
3C	OR - H Sl (Br) P 20ac 300 MBF	DNS, BGTD, PTD RTV Plants 200'	21	CT - Cable 19 ac 228 MBF	BGTD, DNS Plants -100'
5B	RH - Cable Sl (Br), B 2 ac 70 MBF	PTD Plants	22	CT - H 4 ac 50 MBF	BGTD 1 RTV tree
12	OR/CT Tractor/Cable Sl (Br), P 16 ac-OR, 7 ac-CT, 850 MBF	BGTDs, PTDs	24A	RH - Tractor Sl (Br), B, RDR 6 ac 150 MBF	Plants 200'
13	RH - Cable Sl (Br), P 3 ac 75 MBF	BGTDs, PTDs	25A	CT - H 5 ac 40 MBF	BGTDs, PTD
16	RH - Cable Sl (Br), B 5 ac 170 MBF	BGTDs	28	CT - Cable 4 ac 48 MBF	1 BGTD
17A	RH - Cable Sl(Br),B 11 ac 800 MBF	BGTD, PTD Alvi2	29A	CT - Cable 7 ac 60 MBF	DNS BGTD
18	CT/RH - Tractor Sl (Br), P, RDR 4 ac-CT, 2 ac-RH 80 MBF	BGTDs, PTDs swing logs down to main road Plants - 100'	29B	CT - Cable 25 ac 150 MBF	BGTDs, PTD RTV Plants - 100'
19	CT - H 4 ac 40 MBF	DNS	29C	CT - Cable 14 ac 140 MBF	BGTDs Plants - 100'

Unit Number	Timber Harvest	Comments	Unit Number	Timber Harvest	Comments
20	Split into 20A and 20B	2 BGTD, 1 PTD	32	RH - Cable Sl (Br), B 13 ac 800 MBF	DNS BGTDs

Legend for Table 1.

DNS	Del Norte Salamander	**OR**	Overstory Removal
BGTD	Blue-gray tail-dropper slug	**CT**	Commercial Thin
PTD	Papillose tail-dropper slug	**DM**	Density Management (non-commercial)
RTV	Red tree vole	**RH**	Regeneration Harvest (generally retains 6-8 trees per acre)
tpa	Trees per Acre	**P**	Hand pile and burn
can	Canopy Closure	**B**	Broadcast Burn
MR	Management Recommendation	**Sl(Br)**	Slash brush
RR	Riparian Reserve	**TR**	Tractor
MBF	Thousand Board Feet	**H**	Helicopter

Table 2. Summary of road construction, renovation, drainage improvement, and closure.

Road Number	Road Name	Length (mi)	Surface Type	Proposed Action	Haul Season
31-9-34	Walker Cr	3.77	PRR	Renovate	4/15-11/15
31-9-35	Walker Prairie	4.70	BST	Renovate	All Year
32-7-2.0	Cow Creek Rd	11.06	BST	None	All Year
32-8-1.1	W. Fk Cow Cr	10.23	BST	None	All Year
32-8-31	Kelsey Mule	0.10	BST	None	All Year
32-9-3	Bobby Walker	2.20	PRR	Renovate	4/15-11/15
32-9-4a	Walker Cr Spur	0.73	ABC	Drainage Imp.	4/15-11/15
32-9-4b	Walker Cr Spur	0.49	ABC	Block	4/15-11/15
32-9-4.1	Walker Cr Spur	0.56	PRR	Decommission	4/15-11/15
32-9-4.2	Walker Cr Spur	0.30	PRR	Decommission	4/15-11/15
32-9-7	Wilson Cr	1.70	ASC	Renovate	4/15-11/15
32-9-7.1	Wilson Head	0.73	ABC	Renovate	4/15-11/15
32-9-7.2	Wilson Head P	1.06	ABC	Drainage Imp.	4/15-11/15

Road Number	Road Name	Length (mi)	Surface Type	Proposed Action	Haul Season
32-9-7.3	Wilson Head	0.21	ABC	Renovate	4/15-11/15
32-9-7.4	Wilson Head Quarry	0.71	ABC	Drainage Imp.	6/1-10/1
32-9-8	Slide Cr Spur	0.34	PRR	Drainage Imp.	6/1-10/1
32-9-8.1	Slide Cr Spur 1	0.10	PRR	Barricade. Decommission south half after use	6/1-10/1
32-9-8.2	Slide Cr Spur 2	0.18	PRR	Decommission	6/1-10/1
32-9-8.3	Slide Cr Spur 3	0.06	PRR	Decommission	6/1-10/1
32-9-8.4	Kelsey Slide Ridge	0.40	ABC	Renovate	4/5-11-15
32-9-10	Middle Walker Cr	3.40	ABC	Renovate	4/15-11/15
32-9-15	Cold Springs	1.40	NAT	Drainage Imp. Surface	4/15-11/15
32-9-16.1	Wallace Cr	2.35	ABC	Renovate	4/15-11/15
32-9-16.2	Slide Cr	2.73	ABC	Renovate Gate	4/15-11/15
32-9-17	Powers Rd	0.20	NAT	Renovate	6/1-10/1
Primitive Rd 18	Primitive Rd road	0.10	Nat	Decommission portion within unit 18	6/1-10/1
Primitive Rd 29	Primitive Rd road	0.60	Nat	Drainage Imp . Decommission	6/1-10/1

Legend for Table 2.

BST Bituminous Surface Treatment
ABC Aggregate Base Course
ASC Aggregate Surface Course
GRR Grid Rolled Rock
PRR Pit Run Rock
NAT Native Surface

Project Design Features

On intermittent and non-fishery, perennial streams the reserve width will be at least one site potential tree length (170 feet) on each side of the stream. On fish streams (unit 32), the width will be 340 feet.

No timber harvest will be allowed within Riparian Reserves. Trees within one tree length of the riparian reserves will be directionally felled away from the reserve. The springs in units 3 and 5 will be protected with a 100-foot no-cut buffer. The Riparian Reserve adjacent to unit 13 will be planted to reestablish conifer riparian vegetation.

Roads # 32-9-4.1, 32-9-4.2, 32-9-8.1, 32-9-8.2, 32-9-8.3, primitive road 18 (a portion), and primitive road 29 (1.8 miles) will be fully decommissioned, including removing culverts, discontinuously ripping with a winged ripper, water-barring and mulching. Road 32-9-16.2 will be closed with a gate at the site of the proposed helicopter landing, just north of the junction with road 32-9-7. This could be accomplished by moving the nearby existing gate. The gate will remain closed year-round to prevent road damage, reduce sedimentation and reduce wildlife harassment. A total of 4.84 miles of existing roads will have drainage improvement to reduce the potential for future damage from erosion and plugged culverts. The term "drainage improvement" includes performing normal road renovation actions, but also includes installing shallow water dips, armored with rock, below cross-drain culverts and other locations as needed, and out sloping the road template where it will reduce sediment movement. Refer to Table 2 for a list of roads that will receive these treatments. All road renovation or drainage improvement that involves work in stream channels will occur only between July 1 and September 15. Activity in the Wilson Head quarry will be limited to the dry season.

The portion of the primitive road used in logging unit 18 will be decommissioned and will be barricaded following harvest. The temporary spur accessing Unit 31 will be built, used and decommissioned between May 15 and October 15 of the same year in the same season as logging occurs. Decommissioning of existing roads will be done between July 1 and October 15 of the same year. The southern half of road 32-9-8.1 will be used for continuous landings for unit 21. Following yarding, this southern portion of the road will be fully decommissioned a barricade will be installed at the southern end of the road, near road # 32-9-16. Road renovation, maintenance (except roadside brushing), drainage improvement and log hauling will be restricted to the haul seasons described in Table 2. If the roads are deemed too wet during a designated haul season (Table 2), no hauling will be allowed until approved by the Authorized Officer. If roads are sufficiently dry outside this season, hauling may be allowed if approved by the Field Manager. Helicopter landings, outside the road prism, will be ripped and planted with conifer seedlings after use. Constructed landings in RH and OR units will be ripped and planted with conifers upon completion of harvest. The gravel stock pile area near unit 25 A and B will not be used as a helicopter landing to avoid contaminating the rock with deleterious material. Excavated landings will be recontoured and seeded with native grasses, as will roads after decommissioning. The fiber optic line along roads 32-9-7, 32-9-15 and 32-9-16.2 will be protected during road work and while logging units 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24A and 32.

When replacing bottom-lay culverts (stream channels) streams will be diverted around the work site whenever reasonably feasible in order to limit movement of sediment off-site during the low flow period. The diverted stream will not be returned to the channel and allowed to flow through the project site until all in-stream work has been completed.

Heavy equipment will be washed before moving onto federal lands to remove soil and plant parts to prevent the spread of noxious weeds into the project area and to prevent the introduction of Port Orford cedar root rot.

Work activities which will remove spotted owl habitat or disturb nesting owls (e.g. tree falling, yarding, slashing, burning, road construction and renovation, or use of chain saws or other power equipment) will not take place within 1/4 mile of known spotted owl sites between March 1 and June 15. If an active spotted owl nest is located within or immediately adjacent to a unit, this restriction will be extended until September 30 or until the Glendale Resource Area biologist determines that the young have sufficiently dispersed. At this time there are no known owl sites within 1/4 mile of any proposed unit. This PDF may be waived in a particular year if nesting or reproductive success surveys conducted per U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endorsed survey guidelines reveal spotted owls are not nesting or no young present that year. Waivers would be valid only until March 1 of the following year. Previously known sites or activity centers are assumed occupied unless surveys indicate otherwise.

Provincial Interagency Executive Committee (PIEC) guidelines for down (course) woody material (CWD) for the "Douglas-fir Moist"plant grouping will apply:

Decay Class	pcs. 6-9"	pcs 10-19"	pcs 20+	Lgth/pc	Stn. Dev.
1	1 (1)	1 (2)	0 (0)	45 ft.	(11)
2	6 (20)	6 (16)	1 (4)	31 ft.	(21)
3	8 (21)	8 (19)	2 (5)	29 ft.	(17)
4	10 (21)	5 (18)	2 (7)	32 ft.	(25)
5	2 (9)	11 (22)	1 (1)	22 ft.	(32)

Course woody material for units 17b, 20, 24A, and 24B fall within the range of the guidelines adopted by the PIEC, for the plant group that is associated with this project area (Appendix E). Units 3A, 3B, 3C, 5, 7, 12, 13, 16, 17A, 31, and 32 are deficient in coarse woody material for decay class 1. An extra overstory conifer will be retained in each of these units, to provide for approximately 170 linear feet per acre of class 1 coarse woody material. All non-danger snags and the integrity of these snags present in all units will be protected to the greatest extent possible by avoiding damage by yarding, burning or other management practices. If it is necessary to fall these snags, they will be left to provide additional large down wood.

Partial suspension will be required and yarding corridors will be minimized to reduce soil compaction. In commercial thin units, corridors will be at least 150 feet apart at the bottom.
Tractors yarding will occur only between June 15 and October 15 and only on slopes of 35 percent or less to avoid compacting moist soils. These dates may be extended by the Authorized Officer in dry conditions. Cable yarding in unit 21 will occur only between June 15 and October 15 to minimize soil disturbance and compaction. In tractor units (12, 18, 20 and 24), tractors will be required to use

designated skid roads. Existing skid roads will be used as much as possible. Tractor blades will not be used in tractor yarding units. Skid roads in all tractor units will be discontinuously ripped, water barred and planted with conifers and seeded with legumes upon completion of harvest. In unit 3, and in all OR units, patches of conifer reproduction will be protected as much as possible. In OR units, yarding will be completed within one month of falling to minimize damage to conifer regeneration. In OR and CT units, trees will be felled toward the lead, log lengths will be less than 35 feet long, and cables will be re-spooled between corridors. Slashing, as described in Table 1, will occur within two months of completion of harvest. In all units where broadcast burning is to be done, slashing within 10 feet of reserve trees will not be done. In units 1, 27, 28, 29A, 29B and 29C the slash will be hand-piled within 200 feet of the road to reduce the potential of fire ignition. Broadcast burning will be done under spring-like conditions to minimize the loss of soil organic material and better maintain control of the fire. Units 5B, 16 and 32 will be hand-piled and the piles burned prior to broadcast burning to reduce fire intensity. During falling and yarding, warning signs will be placed along the bicycle area routes to warn log truck drivers and recreationists of potential danger. During falling and yarding in units 1, 27, 28, 29A, 29B and 29C, a flagger will be required on road 31-9-35 to warn drivers and avoid potential accidents. No weekend hauling will occur between June 1 and September 10 to minimize conflicts with recreationists.

At least 60-80 percent canopy closure will be retained over talus occupied by Del Norte salamanders. Cable and tractor yarding will be allowed, but disturbance will be limited to no more than 15 percent of the talus patch. Areas adjacent to occupied talus will be managed to maintain suitable microclimate conditions in the talus by retaining approximately 40 percent canopy closure within 170 feet (1 tree length) from the occupied talus. Fire will be excluded from occupied or unsurveyed talus as much as possible to retain the surface moss and duff layer. Hand piles will be placed to avoid occupied or unsurveyed talus where possible to avoid intense burns in these areas. If necessary, these piles will be burned in January and February to reduce fire intensity.

Confirmed red tree vole nests and nests assumed to be active will be protected with an approximate ten-acre no-cut buffer, which may include existing reserves (e. g. Riparian Reserves, spotted owl core areas, etc.), in all harvest units. Populations of special status plants, including survey and manage species, will be protected with 100-foot no-cut buffers in commercial thin units and 200-foot no-cut buffers in regeneration harvest and overstory removal units. Prescribed fire will not be planned for these buffers.

Background

The Mr. Wilson Planning Area was identified in Douglas County, T 32 S, R 9 W, Sections 3,4,5,7,8,9,10,16,18, and a timber sale within the area was proposed. Environmental effects of six alternatives were analyzed, including the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative, in EA #OR-110-01-030, dated July 30, 2001. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Medford District, consulted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over impacts to federally listed species and received

Biological Opinion (B.O.) #1-7-01-F-032, October 12, 2001.

Two comment letters were received from the public. I have reviewed the comments in detail with my staff specialists and have considered them carefully in reference to the analysis provided in the EA. Some comments contained items beyond the scope of this environmental assessment and are not addressed here. An erroneous statement was included in Alternative 5 indicating that there would be 113 acres of late-successional forest cut. Alternative 5 actually provides for cut of 213 acres, 113 acres via regeneration harvest and overstory removal, and 100 acres via commercial thinning. In addition, to clarify red tree vole impacts on page 33, commercial thin units of Alternative 4 would have short term degradation of habitat of known red tree vole sites; regeneration harvest and overstory removal units of Alternative 5 would remove 113 acres of potentially suitable habitat with no known red tree vole sites. Under Alternative 5, all known sites will be given cores for protection. The sites were surveyed under BLM approved protocol.

One commentor asked for an environmental impact statement (EIS) relative to significant impacts to northern spotted owl critical habitat. B.O.#1-7-01-F-032 identifies spotted owl incidental take, but concludes that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the existence of the spotted owl, nor likely to destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat for the spotted owl (pg. 48-49). An EIS, therefore, is not required and will not be prepared.

Some comments were in disagreement with management practices for late-successional associates, especially Survey and Manage species. The *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan) and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Survey and Manage, Protection Buffers and other Mitigating Measures in the Northwest Forest Plan*, analyze these issues. This EA tiers to analysis this analysis. Further site-specific surveys and analysis were completed as part of development of this EA, and protection measures were added to the PDFs. I am confident that this EA represents a thorough analysis of the site-specific impacts to affected habitats and species, in light of the more comprehensive analysis done in the two EIS documents to which the EA is tiered.. This action complies with the Standards and Guidelines established in the Records of Decision for these EISs and with the survey methods and protocols currently required.

Comments contended that analysis of effects on water quality and hydrologic functions was insufficient. The Bureau of Land Management consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on this action since the Oregon Coast Coho salmon was considered a federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act when the EA was developed. NMFS concurred with BLM's assessment that this timber sale included adequate project design features and that the harvest units are appropriately located topographically relative to listed fish and critical habits, so as to preclude measurable adverse impacts to riparian or aquatic habitats.

One comment was a request for analysis of logging in a connectivity block. The RMP makes it clear that connectivity/diversity blocks are not reserves, but a portion of the Matrix land use allocation, and available for intensive timber management, including regeneration harvest (RMP p. 48, p. 74, 75)

I find that the action is consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan and the Northwest Forest Plan, including the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. This project is also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, the Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations.

Pursuant to BLM Forest Management Regulations (43 CFR 5003.2(1)) the decision for this timber sale will become effective and open to protest when the first Notice of Sale appears in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands affected by the decision are located.

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Lynda L. Boody Date
Field Manager, Glendale Resource Area,
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

Lynda L. Boody

10/26/01

Lynda L. Boody
Field Manager, Glendale Resource Area,
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

Date