

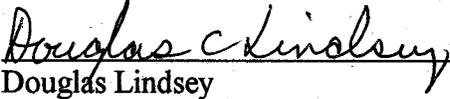
**DECISION RECORD/RATIONALE/FONSI**  
**GP ENTERPRISES ROAD USE PERMIT AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION**  
**(EA# OR-110-00-24)**

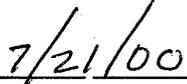
I. **DECISION:** Implement the proposed action as described in the subject Environmental Assessment: granting permission to use existing BLM roads for access and hauling of forest products from private land and for the construction of approximately 117 feet of new minimum standard road across BLM administered land. The project will implement the pertinent USFWS's Biological Opinion's (1-7-00-F-465) Reasonable and Prudent Measures, Terms and Conditions, and will impose a restriction of commercial hauling on the BLM roads to outside the period of March 1 to June 15 in support of conservation measure #1.

II. **RATIONALE:** Granting of the permit to use existing BLM roads and to construct approximately 117 feet of new road on BLM land will allow the applicant to access private forest land and to haul commercial forest products from that land with negligible environmental affects occurring on BLM administered lands. Anticipated environmental effects have been minimized through project design features.

This decision is consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan and the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. This decision is also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, The Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations.

III. **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:** On the basis of the information contained in the environmental assessment for the subject project, it is my determination that the decision stated above does not constitute significant effects to the quality of the human environment. In addition this project does not exceed the range of effects discussed in the EIS documents that the project EA is tiered. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

  
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Douglas Lindsey  
Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area  
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

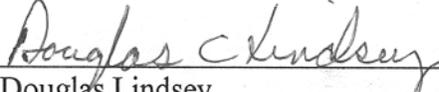
  
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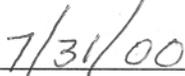
**Supplement to the  
DECISION RECORD**  
GP ENTERPRISES ROAD USE PERMIT AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION  
(EA# OR-110-00-24)

I. DECISION: The EA notes that a 15 public comment period will be held for the environmental assessment for this project. I neglected to note in my 7/21/00 decision record that I had decided that a formal review period would not be held and that public notification of my decision and of the EA/FONSI would take place through a Decision Notice published in the Grants Pass Courier and by posting the EA/DR/FONSI on the Medford District's web page.

II. RATIONALE: Based upon a consideration of the environmental consequences as outlined in the EA, granting of the permit to use existing BLM roads and to construct approximately 117 feet of new road on BLM land is not of sufficient scope or intensity as to necessitate a formal public review period for the Environmental Assessment. The applicant has also indicated that he is very anxious to begin work this season but that some, if not all of it, is contingent upon his first receiving the road use and right-of-way permit.

Granting of this type of permit is not something that normally requires the preparation of an EIS nor is it in any way precedent setting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas Lindsey  
Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area  
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)**

for

**GP Enterprises  
Road Use Permit Application and Road Construction**

*Dixie Gulch Road System*

**EA# OR-110-00-24**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT  
GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA**

**June 2000**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT

EA COVER SHEET

RESOURCE AREA: Grants Pass

EA Number OR-110-00-

ACTION/TITLE: GP Enterprises Road Use Permit Application and Road Construction

LOCATION: T.34 S., R. 4 W., Section 31, NENW1/4, Josephine Co., Oregon, Willamette Meridian

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doug Lindsey  
BLM District Office  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, Oregon 97504  
(541) 618-2303

Interdisciplinary Title	Title	Resource values Assigned	Initial & Date
Dale Johnson	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries	<i>DJ</i> 7/7/00
Dave Maurer	Soil Scientist	Floodplains and Wetlands, Soils, and Water	<i>DKM</i> 7/10/00
Kip Wright	Wildlife Biologist	Prime or Unique Lands, Wildlife, and Grazing	<i>KW</i> 7/10/00
Matt Craddock	Realty Specialist	Minerals and Lands	<i>MC</i> 7-10-00
Jeanne Klein	Recreation Specialist	Cultural	<i>JLK</i> 7-17-00
Linda Mazzu	Botanist	Special Status Plants	<i>LM</i> 7/13/00
Jim Roper	Engineer	Roads	<i>JRR</i> 7-12-00
Dave Allen	ROW Specialist	EA Writer	<i>DA</i> 7/7/00

Reviewing Officials

*Douglas C Lindsey*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Grants Pass Field Manager

*James E. M...*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Butte Falls Field Manager

**GRANTS PASS FIELD OFFICE  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

*GP Enterprises Road Use Permit Application  
For Road Construction and Timber Haul*

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**Attachments**

- (1) Township Map
- (2) Formal USFWS Consultation (1-7-00-F-465)

**Chapter 1**  
**Purpose and Need for Action and Alternatives**

**A. Introduction**

This environmental assessment (EA) tiers to the following documents: a) the Record of Decision for the Medford District Resource Management Plan/EIS dated April, 1995 and b) the EIS and the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl dated April, 1994 and the Standard and Guidelines for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. These documents are available for review in the Medford District Office.

The purpose of this EA is to assist in the decision making process by assessing the environmental and human effects resulting from implementing the proposed action. The EA will also assist in determining if an EIS needs to be prepared or if a finding of no significant impact beyond those addressed in the above noted EISs/RODs is appropriate.

**B. Need for the Proposal**

Dave Routan, representing GP Enterprises has requested a permit for hauling approximately 50 MBF of forest products using existing BLM roads and to construct a road on an existing skid road across BLM administered land to access private land. This will allow GP Enterprises to access and manage their lands through harvesting timber and other forest management projects. (See location map - Attachment A).

**C. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives**

**1. Alternative 1: No Action**

Deny the permit application thereby denying GP Enterprises permission to construct and to use certain BLM roads to haul timber from their lands.

**2. Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to grant the permit to allow GP Enterprises to:

- a) construct 117 feet across BLM lands over an existing skid road at the bottom of a BLM harvest unit and
- b) to use the following existing roads for the purpose of managing and hauling forest products from their lands:

<u>Road #</u>	<u>Surface Type</u>	<u>Length</u>
34-4-31.3	ABC	0.43
35-4-5.0A	BST	0.50
35-4-5.0B,C	ABC	3.32

**a. Project Design Features for the proposed action**

Project design features (PDFs) are included for the purpose of reducing anticipated adverse environmental impacts which might stem from the implementation of the proposed action. The following PDF's are included:

Construction and hauling activities would be seasonally restricted to allow use on natural road surfaces only between May 15th and October 15th and/or when weather and road surface permits. This is to preclude wet season hauling when road damage and sedimentation damage could otherwise occur. The BLM's Authorized Officer will make the final determination on appropriate weather conditions outside of the dates noted above.

Construction activities would be to minimal standards (12' running surface, 5' clearing limits on each side of road, natural surface). It would be gated at the property line between sections 30 and 31 of T 34 S, R 4 W after use. The road would be constructed over an existing skid road on the East side of an existing BLM harvested unit.

## Chapter 2 Environmental Consequences

### A. Introduction

Only substantive site specific environmental changes caused by implementing the proposed action or alternatives are discussed in this chapter. If an ecological component is not discussed, it should be assumed that the resource specialist has considered affects to that component and found the proposed action or alternatives would have minimal or no effects. In addition, unless addressed specifically the following were found not to be affected by the proposed action or alternatives: air quality, areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC), cultural, historical resources, Native American religious sites, prime or unique farmlands, floodplains, endangered, threatened or sensitive plant, animal or fish species, water quality, wetlands/riparian zones, wild and scenic rivers and wilderness areas.

General affects from "typical" actions of this nature have been previously described in the Medford District Resources Management Plan or the Final Supplemental EIS on the Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

### B. Site Specific and Cumulative Beneficial or Adverse Effects of the Alternatives

#### 1. Alternative 1: No Action

Denial of the permit application would result in the applicant finding an alternate access route. No adverse impacts would occur to the public lands involved in the present proposal.

#### 2. Alternative 2: Proposed Action

An interdisciplinary team review of the permit application and proposal has not identified any significant or substantive environmental impacts that would result on BLM lands from granting of the haul permit.

Based upon the information provided by the applicant, granting the requested permit may result in an adverse effect on the northern spotted owl, a federally listed species by the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service. The effects are outlined in the Biological Opinion submitted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (7/3/00).

## **Chapter 3**

### **Agencies and Persons Consulted**

#### **A. Public Involvement**

A formal 15 day public comment period will be held.

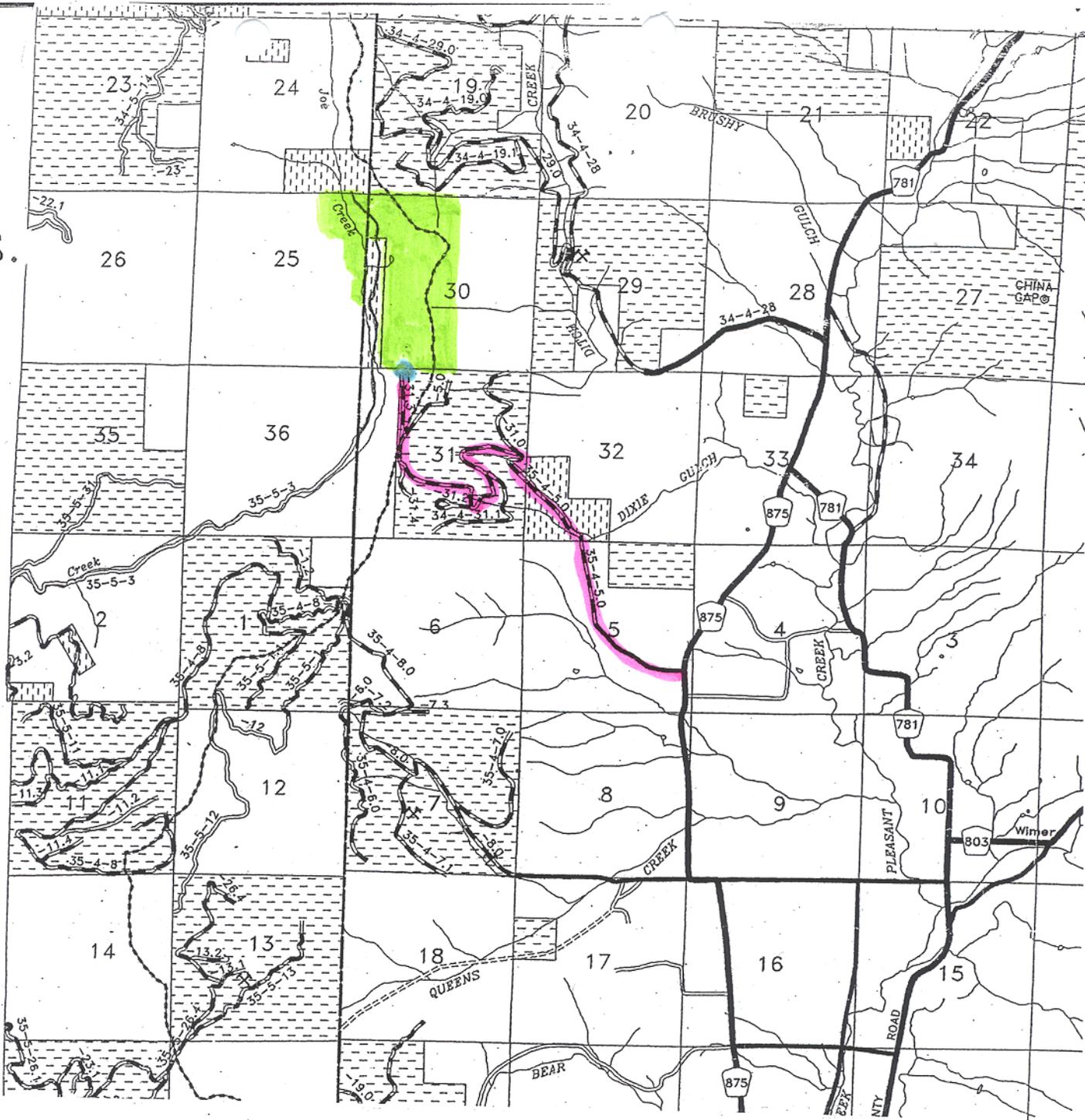
#### **B. Availability of Document and Comment Procedures**

Copies of the EA document will be available to the public at the Medford District Office.

#### **C. Agencies Consulted**

This project proposal has been submitted for formal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service because granting of the requested permit could result in adverse impacts to the northern spotted owl due to the actions on GP Enterprises lands having interrelated and interdependent effects.

T.34S.



T.35S.

### LEGEND

-  Project Area
-  New Construction
-  Haul Route

