

**South River Commercial Thinning 2000  
Environmental Assessment  
South River Field Office  
EA # OR-105-00-08**

Prepared: June 19, 2003

**Decision Documentation**

**Decision:** It is my decision to offer **Leave It To Weaver Commercial Thinning**, continuing the implementation of Alternative 2 as described on pages 3-5 of the South River Commercial Thinning 2000 Environmental Assessment (EA). This decision authorizes thinning of seven units, identified as A, E6, F, G, H1, H2, and H3 in the EA. These units are all located in Section 19, T. 28 S., R. 8 W., W.M. (map attached).

Approximately 66 acres of General Forest Management Area will be thinned, and density management will be applied to approximately 26 acres of Riparian Reserves. An additional acre, located entirely within the units, will be cut in association with road renovation and spur road construction.

Access will be provided by existing system and non-system roads and construction of temporary spur roads. There is no permanent road construction. The following roads will be renovated, including surfacing, and retained as a part of the permanent transportation system: a portion of Segment B3 (0.17 miles) of Road No. 28-8-20.1; Segments A and B (0.26 miles) of Road No. 28-8-19.2; and Segment A (0.31 miles) of Road No. 28-8-19.3. Segment A (0.35 miles) of Road No. 28-8-19.10 will be renovated, but not surfaced.

The intent is to decommission and/or block Road No. 28-8-19.10, Spur 1 and Spur 2 in the same operating season in which they are renovated or constructed. If thinning in areas accessed by these roads cannot be completed in a single operating season because of prolonged fire closure or an early onset of autumn rains, the BLM will winterize the roads and authorize their use the following summer. Decommissioning will be accomplished by BLM road maintenance personnel after thinning operations are completed.

The thinning will yield approximately 1,127 MBF of timber, equivalent to 2,239 CCF, from the General Forest Management Area, which is chargeable toward the annual allowable sale quantity (ASQ) for the Roseburg District. The volume of timber derived from density management in Riparian Reserves is approximately 466 MBF, equivalent to 914 CCF. This volume is not chargeable toward the ASQ. It is also anticipated that there will be additional volume modified into the sale as a result of the need to cut tail, guyline, and corridor trees.

Surveys were conducted for those Special Status and Special Attention botanical species identified in the EA (pp. 16-17), in the autumn of 2000 and spring of 2001. Following amendments to the Standards and Guidelines for Survey and Manage, the *Hydnum umbilicatum* and *Buxbaumia viridis* sites no longer require protection. Initial identifications of *Craterellus tubaeformis* could not be verified by tests at Oregon State University and will not be managed as confirmed sites. A single site occupied by *Otidea leporina* was located in the northwest corner of Unit A. This site was buffered, resulting in the removal of approximately one acre from the unit.

No surveys for any Special Attention wildlife species were required.

A thorough survey of all units was conducted to determine if Port-Orford-cedar was present. Although the surveys determined that none is present within the units or along haul routes, pressure washing or steam cleaning of all logging and road building equipment will be required prior to mobilization into the sale area, or at any time when the equipment is removed from the area and later returned (EA, p. 29). This will further reduce the likelihood of the introduction of Port-Orford-cedar root disease. It will also reduce the probability that new infestations of noxious weeds may be introduced, beyond what may already exist in the project area.

**Rationale for the Decision:**

This decision is based upon the following: The Roseburg District *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP 1995) identifies the need for commercial thinning of stands under 80 years of age to assure high levels of volume productivity (p. 151). Alternative 2, the proposed alternative, achieves this objective, whereas, Alternative 1 would not.

Comments on the EA were received from three organizations, and considered in the preparation of this decision. None of the comments identified issues or concerns which were not already considered and addressed in the EA, or which constituted new information that would change the conclusions of the analysis.

The project area is located within the 35-50 mile marbled murrelet management zone. Two-year protocol surveys were conducted, during which two detections were made near the southeast corner of Section 19. No occupancy or other use of forest stands in the area could be established. The BLM has made a determination of “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” for disturbance and modification of suitable habitat. In the FY 2003-2008 Programmatic Biological Opinion (Log No. 1-15-03-F-160, pp. 2-3), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred on these determinations.

There are no fish species in the project area that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. There is no Essential Fish Habitat in the project area. The nearest Essential Fish Habitat is located between 12 and 15 miles downstream, behind natural barriers to passage by anadromous fish. There are no anticipated effects on listed fish species or Essential Fish Habitat.

**Monitoring:**

Monitoring would be done in accordance with provisions contained in Appendix I of the ROD/RMP (p. 84, 190, 193, & 195-199). Monitoring efforts would be targeted at the following resources: Riparian Reserves; Matrix; Water and Soils; Wildlife Habitat; and Special Status and SEIS Special Attention Species Habitat.

**Protest Procedures:** As outlined in 43 CFR § 5003 Administrative Remedies at § 5003.3 (a) and (b), protests may be made within 15 days of the publication date of a notice of sale. Publication of such notice in *The News-Review*, Roseburg, Oregon, constitutes the decision date from which such protests may be filed. Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer and contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision.

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E. Dwight Fielder  
Field Manager  
South River Field Office

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Date

