

Lower Conley Regeneration Harvest
EA# OR-104-95-12
Decision Documentation

An interdisciplinary team of the Mt. Scott Resource Area, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management has analyzed the proposed Lower Conley Regeneration Harvest. This analysis and the "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) was documented in Environmental Assessment (EA) No. OR-104-95-12. The thirty day public review and comment period was completed on March 27th, 1996. No comments were received as a result of public review.

The proposed action involves the regeneration harvest of mature timber in the Rock Creek watershed located on matrix (GFMA) lands in Section 19 and 29, T25S R2W, W.M. Harvest activities would occur on 135 acres of regeneration and 2 acres of temporary road right-of-way clearcut and harvest approximately 4.4 MMBF of timber. Approximately 0.5 miles of temporary roads will be constructed as well as approximately 2.0 miles of road will be renovated to remove the timber. Harvest will utilize cable logging techniques.

The following objectives will be met by this proposal:

1. Practice ecosystem management as outlined in the ROD.
2. Provide for community economic stability.
3. Meet District PSQ goals.

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the implementation of the Preferred Alternative as outlined above. Unit number 19A and 29B will be used for replacement volume for the Lost Sock Timber Sale unit number 4, pursuant to Section 2001(k)(3) of Public Law 104-19. Unit 29A will be sold as a single unit sale called the Lower Conley II Timber sale. The sale date will be in the first quarter of FY97 (October - December 1996) and the expected implementation of the project would begin in the summer of 1997. The contract duration will be 24 months. The project design features for this alternative are listed on pages 4-6 of the EA. These features will be developed into contract stipulations and implemented during the timber sale contract.

Sale layout includes the following design features:

- 1). A 180' no harvest Riparian Reserve will be maintained along each side of all perennial and intermittent nonfish bearing streams.
- 2). Three wet areas less than one acre will be reserved from harvest.
- 3). Approximately 219 snags greater than 20" in diameter breast height (DBH) and 20' in height and 1195 retention (green) trees greater than 20" DBH will be maintained, pre-harvest. This equates to 1.6 snags/acre and 8.8 green trees/acre. The RMP calls for 1.2 snags and 6-8 green trees/acre. Retention trees are reserved in a scattered arrangement of individual trees as well as occasional clumps of two or more trees. The average retention tree diameter is 38" DBH with 67% being Douglas firs. A total of 716 conifers less than 20" DBH and a total of 53 hardwoods greater than 20" were reserved.
- 4). Approximately 6930 linear feet of existing class #1 and #2 down logs (down woody debris) will be maintained in the regeneration harvest units, pre-harvest. This equates to 50 linear feet/acre. The RMP guideline is for 120 linear/acre. As specified in the RMP, extra green trees were left to meet this deficit. In this case an additional 0.8 green trees/acre were left beyond RMP requirements.

5). Approximately 135 acres will be skyline cable logged. Two acres will be tractor logged (road right-of-ways).

Decision Rationale

The Preferred Alternative meets the objectives for Matrix lands and follows the principles set forth in the ROD, dated April 13, 1994 and the RMP, dated June 1995.

Cultural clearance with the State Historical Preservation Office was completed and resulted in a "No Effect" determination. Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for this project has been completed. The consultation package is summarized as saying, ". . . the proposed action and the associated incidental take is not expected to jeopardize the continued existence of the spotted owl or adversely modify spotted owl critical habitat."

This decision is based on the fact that the Preferred Alternative implements the Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) as stated in the ROD and RMP. The project design features as stated in the EA would protect the Riparian Reserves, minimize soil compaction, limit erosion, protect slope stability, wildlife, air, water quality, and fish habitat, as well as protect other identified resource values. Impacts to these resource values would not exceed those identified in the ROD or in the RMP. Although the No Action Alternative would have the least impacts on the environment the Preferred Alternative provides timber commodities with impacts to the environment at a level within the bounds of the ROD and the RMP.

Compliance and Monitoring

Compliance with project design features will be accomplished via contract stipulations and contract administration. Monitoring will be conducted as per the guidance given in the ROD and the RMP.

Protest and Appeal Procedures

For Lower Conley (Units 19A and 29B - replacement volume):

As outlined in 43 CFR 5003.3, "Protests of ... advertised timber sales may be made within 15 days of the publication of a ... notice of sale in a newspaper of general circulation." The News Review will carry this notice of Forest Management Decision on July 2, 1996. "Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer (Gail Schaefer) and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision. Protests received more than 15 days after publication of ... the notice of sale are not timely filed and shall not be considered. Upon timely filing of a protest, the authorized officer shall reconsider the decision to be implemented in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available to the protesting party. Upon denial of a protest ... the authorized officer may proceed with implementation of the decision."

For Lower Conley II (Unit 29A):

The Lower Conley II Timber Sale will be offered for sale in the first quarter. A "Notice of Decision" for this sale will be published in the Roseburg News Review 30 days prior to sale offering. The sale notice should be published in the first quarter of FY 1997. On July 27, 1995, Public Law 104-19 was signed by the President. This bill states that salvage timber sales and timber sales covered by Option 9 "shall not be subject to administrative review". This bill supersedes 43 CFR Subpart 5003 - Administrative Remedies. Challenges to this action must be filed in the appropriate U.S. district court within 15 days after the first publication of the sale.

Gail Schaefer, Area Manager
Mount Scott Resource Area

Date