

OLD DILLARD TIMBER SALE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
South Douglas Resource Area
EA# OR105-95-07

Date Prepared: October 16, 1995

Decision Record

Decision:

It is my decision to authorize cable harvest of approximately 4.0 MMBF of timber from approximately 140 acres (Alternative #2) in GFMA. In addition, approximately 14 ponderosa pine seed trees will have adjacent trees and brush removed from around them. There will be approximately two miles of road construction and approximately four miles of road renovation. Prior to harvest, approximately one mile of existing skid trails will be tilled and skid trails used for this harvest would be tilled after use. The method of site preparation will be determined after harvest. Techniques could include; hand or machine pile/burn, broadcast burn or handscalp. Harvest units will be planted within one year of the completion of site preparation. Fence will be constructed around the entire BLM parcel in 28-6-31.

One modification was made to the original EA prior to the signing of this decision. The new road construction (approx. 900') into unit 3 has been eliminated for the following reasons; the topography is gentle and conducive to downhill ground based yarding and shovel piling of slash. There are several areas where retention trees will be clumped and one area where timber is scattered and with little volume. This configuration is not conducive to cable yarding and ground based yarding will occur. This area was previously ground based harvested and for this harvest existing skid trails will primarily be used, thus an additional access road is not necessary for removal of timber.

Rationale for Decision:

The decision is based on the following criteria; alternative 2 meets the objectives for Matrix lands as stated in the Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) and will provide approximately 4.0 MMBF of the probable sale quantity (PSQ) for the resource area as originally proposed.

The project design features identified for the proposed action, are listed on pages 3-5 of the environmental assessment (EA) and will be formulated into contract stipulations and applied during sale layout and implementation. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives would be met by restoring and maintaining the ecological health of the watersheds and aquatic ecosystems within them on public lands.

No issues were identified by other agencies nor the public during the initial public contact. Public comments were received after the completion of the EA from; The Oregon Natural Resources Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umpqua Watersheds and Richard Chasm. There was a concern that the "meadow" in unit 2 would not receive the 100' buffer that was recommended by the Special Status Plant Coordinator. The meadow is within the 320' Riparian Reserve which was required for the draw to the east of the meadow. In Section 31 of T29 & 291/2S R7W, the proposed road into unit 3 will not be constructed (as

described above). This addresses a concern to "hold road building to an absolute minimum whenever possible". There was also concern for the 28-6-31.0 spur construction. This is a ridgetop spur and the surface will be rocked. The edges of the road will be seeded and mulched.

Another concern was expressed regarding the requirement of retaining late-successional patches where little late-successional forest (LSF) persists. Current data indicates that after harvest, the Mt Shep watershed will have 33% LSF remaining and Kent-Rice watershed 20% LSF remaining. This assessment includes all federal land allocations as described in the Standards and Guidelines (p. A-4) for the Forest Plan. Other comments were adequately addressed in the EA in accordance with the RMP and Standards and Guidelines.

Impacts are not expected to exceed those discussed in the RMP/FEIS (p. 4-7 thru 4-99). The harvest would not result in any significant environmental impacts, and is in conformance with the Standards and Guidelines and the ROD/RMP for the Roseburg District.

Compliance and Monitoring:

Monitoring would be conducted as per the guidance given in the ROD/RMP (Appendix I). The harvest area will continue to be surveyed for spotted owls.

Protest and Appeal Procedures:

Public Law 104-19 (July 27, 1995) 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. Protests must be filed in the appropriate U.S. district court within 15 days of the first publication of the sale notice. The sale notice is planned to appear in the News Review on November 28, 1995.



Alan Wood, Area Manager
South Douglas Resource Area

10-25-95
Date