

Timothy Ridge Commercial Thinning

EA # OR-104-01-02

Decision Document

An Interdisciplinary (ID) Team of the Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management has analyzed the proposed **Timothy Ridge Commercial Thinning** project. This analysis and the "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) was documented in Environmental Assessment (EA) No. OR-104-01-02. The thirty day public review and comment period was completed on June 21st, 2001. No comments were received as a result of public review. This proposal is in conformance with the *"Final - Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS) dated October 1994 and its associated Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resources Management Plan (RMP) dated June 2, 1995.*

The EA analyzes the implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative. The proposed action involves the commercial thinning of second growth forest in the Timothy Creek drainage of the Calapooya Creek Watershed located in Section 17; T24S R3W; W.M.

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative as outlined in the EA (Section II, pg. 3).

The project design features for this alternative are listed on pages 4-7 of the EA. These features have been developed into contract stipulations and will be implemented as part of the timber sale contract.

The following specifics should be noted as the result of sale layout:

- 1). Harvest activities will occur on 46 acres and harvest approximately 1247 CCF (535 MBF) of timber.
- 2). A total of 1215 ft. (0.2 mi.) of temporary road will be constructed. A total of 1.77 mi. of existing road will be renovated (i.e. brought back its original design).

Decision Rationale

The Proposed Action Alternative meets the objectives for lands in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocations and follows the management actions/directions set forth in the *"Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resources Management Plan"* (RMP), and the Standards and Guidelines for the *"Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl"* (Feb. 1994) and the Record of Decision (ROD) for that plan dated April 13, 1994.

Section II of the EA describes two alternatives: a "No Action" alternative and a "Proposed Action" alternative. The No Action alternative was not selected because the EA did not identify any impacts of the Proposed Action that would be beyond those identified in the EIS. The No Action alternative would not meet the objective of producing a sustainable supply of timber and other forest commodities.

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 Biological Opinion (May 31, 2001) concluded that the action is ". . . not likely to adversely affect spotted owls, murrelets and their critical habitat@

A Letter of Concurrence (February 12, 2002) has been received from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which concluded that the action would result in ". . . less than a negligible likelihood of incidental take of OC coho salmon, UWR chinook salmon, or OC steelhead or adverse effects to critical habitat occurring due to these projects." NMFS was also consulted over effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS concluded that "the effects of the proposed actions . . . are not likely to adversely affect EFH in the long term.@

This decision is based on the fact that the Proposed Action Alternative implements the Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) as stated in the NFP and the Management Actions / Directions of the 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. This decision recognizes that impacts could occur to these resources, however, the impacts to resource values would not exceed those identified in the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (FSEIS) and the *Final - Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* (PRMP/EIS). The Decision provides timber commodities with impacts to the environment at a level within the bounds of the RMP/EIS.

Comments were solicited from affected tribal governments, adjacent landowners and affected State and local government agencies. No comments were received from these sources. A thirty day public review period was provided for the review of the analysis of this project to interested people or organizations. No comments were received.

Compliance and Monitoring

Monitoring will be conducted as per the guidance given in the RMP (Appendix I).

Protest Procedures

Forest Management Regulation 43 CFR 5003.2 states that A[w]hen a decision is made to conduct an advertised timber sale, the notice of such sale shall constitute the decision document.® This notice will be placed in *The News Review* and constitute the decision document with authority to proceed with the proposed action. As outlined in Federal Regulations 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." Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer (Jay K. Carlson) and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision. Protests received more than 15 days after the 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 him/her. The authorized officer shall, at the conclusion of his review, serve his decision in writing to the protesting party. Upon denial of a protest ... the authorized officer may proceed with the implementation of the decision.

For further information, contact Jay K. Carlson, Field Manager, Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd; Roseburg, OR. 97470, 541 440-4931.

Jay K. Carlson, Field Manager
Swiftwater Field Office

Date