

KOLA'S RIDGE COMMERCIAL THINNING
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

South River Field Office
EA# OR-105-98-12

Date Prepared: March, 24, 2000

Finding of No Significant Impact

The South River Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has completed the environmental analysis for the Kola's Ridge Commercial Thinning located in T. 30 S., R. 9 W., Section 27, W.M. Two alternatives were analyzed consisting of Alternative 1, "no action", and Alternative 2, the "proposed action". The Alternatives are described in Chapter 2 of the Environmental Assessment, pages 3 through 6.

The following Critical Elements of the Human Environment would not be affected by the proposed action: Air Quality; Environmental Justice; Non-Native, Invasive Species; and Wastes, Hazardous or Solid.

The commercial thinning and quarry areas are not located in proximity to wetlands, park lands, prime farmlands, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. No unique characteristics would be impacted, as described in Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, section 1508.27 (b)(3).

No Native American religious concerns were identified in the issue identification process. No cultural resources were identified in the project area. Concurrence has been received from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. There would be no impacts to scientific, cultural, or historical resources (CEQ Regulations 1508.27 (b)(8)).

The commercial thinning and quarry areas are located outside of any known northern spotted owl territory or designated critical habitat unit. The thinning would have no direct impact to the northern spotted owl, no impact on the functionality of the stands as dispersal habitat, and is considered a "no effect" action. The project area is outside of known territories, habitat zones, or suitable habitat for the bald eagle and Columbian white-tailed deer. Potential suitable habitat for the Federally-threatened marbled murrelet is present within ¼ mile of the project areas, but not within any of the proposed units, or on the site of the proposed quarry. Consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the marbled murrelet has been completed. Appropriate Terms and Conditions contained in the subsequent Biological Opinion of June 28, 1999 will be implemented in order to minimize impacts on the marbled murrelet. Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service is complete for effects on the Federally-threatened Oregon Coast coho salmon. The Biological Opinion received from the National Marine Fisheries Service on June 4, 1999, concurs with the BLM findings that the commercial thinning is "not likely to adversely affect" for coho salmon. This Biological Opinion also

assesses potential affects on the Oregon Coast steelhead trout and searun cutthroat trout, candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended and finds potential affects consistent with those for the Oregon Coast coho salmon. The quarry development is considered to be a “no affect”. As a consequence, there would be no significant adverse impacts to any special status species (CEQ Regulations, section 1508.27 (b)(9)), and any impacts would be within the range and scope of those analyzed in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

Port-Orford-cedar occurs in the proposed thinning area, and along the designated access route. No Port-Orford-cedar is present at the proposed quarry site. All management activities would conform to the Port-Orford Cedar Management Guidelines. Field surveys for Special Status, Survey and Manage, and Protection Buffer plant species are continuing. Species located in past surveys, or which may be identified in ongoing surveys will be protected in accordance with current management guidelines. The mitigation insures that the proposed action does not violate of Federal, State, or local law (CEQ, section 1508.27(b)(10)).

As a result of the analysis, of the ten points listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b), the following were considered and were found not to apply to the proposed action: significant beneficial or adverse effects; significant effects on public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; anticipated cumulatively significant impacts; highly uncertain or unknown risks; and no precedents for future actions with significant effects.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I have determined that the proposed action will not have significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) for the Roseburg District, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995.

E. Dwight Fielder
Field Manager
South River Field Office

Date