

SIGNAL TREE/BURMA COMMERCIAL THINNING
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
South River Resource Area
EA# OR105-97-10

Date Prepared: September 11, 1997

Finding of No Significant Impact

The South River Resource Area, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, has completed the environmental analysis for the Signal Tree/Burma Commercial Thinning located in T29S, R9W, Section 35; T30S R8W Sections 5 & 7; and T30S R9W Section 3. Two alternatives were analyzed, the proposed action (Alternative 1) and no action (Alternative 2). Alternatives 1 and 2 are described in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA, pp. 2-3).

The project is not within the proximity of wetlands, park lands, prime farmlands, or wild and scenic rivers. No unique characteristics would be impacted (CEQ Regulations, section 1508.27(b)(3)).

There were no Native American religious concerns identified through scoping. No cultural resources were identified in the project area. There would be no adverse impacts to scientific, cultural, or historical resources (CEQ Regulations, section 1508.27(b)(8)).

The project is outside any known Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) territory. The thinning would result in minimal loss of functionality for dispersal habitat in the short term and would have a net benefit for the NSO and late seral species in the long term. The project area is outside known territories, habitat zones or suitable habitat for the bald eagle, marbled murrelet, peregrine falcon and Columbian white-tailed deer. Formal conferencing for the Oregon Coast steelhead is complete and the National Marine Fisheries Service concurs with the "may affect not likely to adversely affect" determination. The action would not appreciably reduce the survival or recovery of steelhead in this watershed, thus the species would not be jeopardized. Consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is complete. Terms and Conditions stated in the USFWS Biological Opinion, would be implemented in order to minimize take, and impacts would be within the range analyzed by the ROD/RMP. There would be no significant adverse impacts to these special status species (CEQ, section 1508.27(b)(9)).

Port-Orford Cedar occurs in the proposed project area and the Management Guidelines would be followed. Pacific yew would be tallied and reserved from harvest to meet the requirement of the 1992 Pacific Yew Act (PL 102-335 106 Stat. 859). Field surveys for Special Status Plant populations that have the potential to occur in the project area were conducted during the appropriate season. Populations of: *Bauxbaumia viridis* (Protection Buffer Species), *Sarcosoma mexicana* (Protection Buffer and Survey & Manage Species), *Bensoniella oregona* (Bureau Sensitive and Survey & Manage), and *Helvella compressa* (Survey & Manage), were found and would be protected from disturbance. Mitigation has been recommended and would be applied.

There would be no significant impacts to any special status plants. The mitigation insures that the action does not threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law (CEQ, section 1508.27(b)(10)).

Of the ten points under section 1508.27(b), the following will not be discussed further in this document, because there are no: 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 environmental impacts contained in the EA (pp. 3-8), I have determined that Alternative 1 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 an environmental impact statement is not required. The project 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. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy will be met (ROD/RMP, p. 19). The Best Management Practices (BMP's) listed in Appendix D of the ROD/RMP (p.129-143) were used to develop project design features to mitigate impacts.



AW
Alan Wood, Area Manager
South River Resource Area

9-12-97

Date