

Roseburg District
Plan Conformance/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Compliance Record
Date prepared: October 23, 1998

BLM Office: Roseburg District, South River Resource Area, (OR-105)

5400

Proposed Action Title/Type: Louis Weaver Unit #3 Substitution

Location of Proposed Action: Sections 19, 20, 29 and 30 of T. 28 S., R. 3 W., W.M.

Description of Proposed Action: The proposal is to remove approximately 26 acres from the currently configured Unit #3 of the Louis Weaver timber sale, and substitute approximately 22 acres of timber located to the WNW, and on the opposite side of the ridge. The purpose is to protect a nesting grove inhabited by a pair of northern spotted owls, that nested on the site in the spring of 1998. The proposed replacement unit would utilize the same haul route as the remainder of the sale, harvest of the replacement acres would be seasonally restricted to the period of May 15 to October 15, Riparian Reserve widths of 160 feet would be placed on either side of a non-fish bearing stream, 9 green trees per acre would be marked for retention, and planting spots would be hand cleared.

Part I - Plan Conformance Review: This proposed action is subject to the following record of decision and land use plan: Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) (BLM/OR/WA/PL-95/020+1792), prepared by the Roseburg District Office, approved June 1995, and Roseburg District Proposed Resource and Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS) (BLM/OR/WA/ES-94/34+1792), approved October 1994. Copies of the subject PRMP/EIS and its ROD are available for review, at Roseburg BLM District Office, the BLM Oregon State Office, Lands Office (Portland, Oregon) and the Roseburg Public Library.

Remarks: The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the ROD/RMP, and meets the objectives for Matrix lands as stated on page 33.


Preparer _____ Date 10-21-98

Part II - NEPA Review:

The actions proposed above are consistent with those addressed and analyzed in the following BLM Environmental Assessment (EA):

Louis Weaver Timber Sale Plan (EA # 105-96-04), approved on August 2, 1996

1. The action is a feature of , or essentially the same as the alternative selected and analyzed in the existing EA.

Remarks The project design features, mitigation, and site preparation measures selected are identical to those analyzed in the EA. Wildlife and botanical clearances have been conducted in compliance with the EA. Soils issues are consistent with those identified in the EA, the project area lies within the provincial ranges of the five northern spotted owl master sites analyzed in the EA, and the site is within the same fifth field watershed for which cumulative effects and impacts were analyzed for fisheries and hydrology.

2. A reasonable range of alternatives were analyzed in the existing document.

Remarks There were two alternatives analyzed in the EA, 1) a No Action alternative, and 2) the Preferred Alternative. A third alternative was considered but eliminated from further consideration and

analysis. The Preferred Alternative was developed in response to specific issues identified during scoping.

3. There have been no significant changes in circumstances or significant new information germane to the ongoing action.

Remarks The nesting of the owls in unit #3 is new information, but is not significant because it would not alter the conclusions of effects described in the EA. The EA analyzed for the effects of the action on suitable habitat within the provincial home range of five northern spotted owl sites that overlapped the area for which the harvest plan was being developed. No significant adverse impacts to the spotted owl or other special status species were identified, as defined by CEQ (Section 1508.27(b)(9)). The owls in unit #3 were previously identified, and known to habituate the grove where they have been found nesting. A new EA is not required as a result of this new information. However, this new information does provide the opportunity to refine the existing decision to further reduce effects on the northern spotted owl by protecting a known nest site, and reducing the amount of Type I habitat lost (See attached biological report).

4. The methodology and analytical approach previously used is appropriate for the proposed action.

Remarks None

5. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are not significantly different from those identified and analyzed in the subject EA.

Remarks The direct and indirect impacts of the action are within the scope of the analysis of the impacts to the five spotted owl sites, and fifth field watershed analysis for impacts to hydrology and fisheries (See attached fisheries, hydrology and biological reports).

6. The proposed action would not change the previous analysis of cumulative impacts.

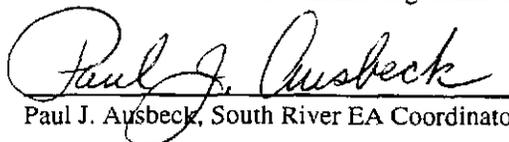
Remarks The action would not measurably change the cumulative impacts described in the EA. Any minor changes that occur would be anticipated to be favorable resulting from shifting some activity associated impacts from the Louis Creek drainage into the Slide Creek drainage (See attached fisheries and hydrology reports).

7. The cumulative scope of the proposed action is within the parameters of the original decision documents.

Remarks The cumulative scope of the action would remain within the parameters of the original decision. Fewer acres would be harvested. Overall impacts to owl habitat would be lessened, and even though some activities would be shifted into an area adjacent to the area analyzed, those activities would occur in the same fifth field watershed analyzed in the EA. The EA concluded that the harvest of the number of acres proposed would not increase or adversely affect cumulative impacts to hydrology or fisheries.

8. Public involvement in the previous analysis and the notification of land owners adjacent to, or in close proximity to the sale area has provided appropriate coverage for the proposed action.

Remarks The subject EA and its Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) were advertised and made available for public comment. Direct mailings announcing the availability of the EA and FONSI were sent to select Oregon state agencies, tribal governments, individuals, and groups that included environmental organizations.


Paul J. Ausbeck, South River EA Coordinator

10-21-98
Date

Part III - Decision:

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the proposed action as described, with those design features and mitigation identified in the summary of the proposed action.

Steve D. Niles 10-21-98
Steve Niles, Area Manager Date
South River Resource Area