

**OPTIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT, and DECISION RECORD FORM¹**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: OR-080-03-16

BLM Office: Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306

Proposed Action Title: Salt Ridge – Short-term O&C Road Permit

Type of Project: Construction of a long term road across BLM land to access private lands for timber management activities.

Location of Proposed Action: The project area is located approximately 5 air miles northwest of Dallas, Oregon in Polk County. The lands are administered by the Marys Peak Resource Area within the Salem District of the BLM. The project would occur within the Salt Creek Watershed in lands designated as Adaptive Management Area in the NENW of Section 22, T. 7S., R. 6 W., Willamette Meridian.

Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan: The proposed action is in conformance with the following documents: RMP (*Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*), dated May 1995 (pp. 57, 62-64, Appendix C-Section II Roads); *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (S&M ROD, January 2001); *Implementation of 2002 Survey and Manage Annual Species Review IM#2003-050*; and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, dated April 1994 (pp. B-9 to B-10, C-32 to C-33).

¹ Pursuant to BLM Handbook 1790-1, Rel. 1-1547, 10/25/88, page IV-11, it is appropriate to use this optional form when all the following conditions are met: 1/ Only a few elements of the human environment are affected by the proposed action; 2/ Only a few simple and straightforward mitigation measures, if any, are needed to avoid or reduce impacts; 3/ There are no program-specific documentation requirements associated with the action under consideration; 4/ The proposed action does not involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources and, therefore, alternatives do not need to be considered; 5/ The environmental assessment is not likely to generate wide public interest and is not being distributed for public review and comment; and 6/ The proposed action is located in an area covered by an existing land use plan and conforms with that plan.

Purpose of and Need for Action: The applicant, Weyerhaeuser, has requested to construct approximately 425 feet of new road and improve 305 feet of existing road to provide long term access to a portion of Weyerhaeuser lands for forest management activities. This action will be covered by a short term O & C Road Permit. Upon completion of right of way agreement mergers between the former land holder, Willamette Industries, and the new land owner, Weyerhaeuser, the lands described and the new construction right-of-way would be included in Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement S-805.

Description of the Proposed Action: The applicant proposes to construct approximately 425-foot of road across BLM land. The road is near ridge top and traverses through 1960 type Douglas-fir timber. An additional 305 feet of Rd. No 7-6-22 would be improved by reestablishing ditchlines, crowning the roadway and installing cross drains to facilitate improving drainage. Road surfacing material would be applied.

No live streams are located on or near the new construction or existing roadway designated for improvement. The proposed action is expected to occur during fiscal year 2003.

Design Features: Approximately 425 feet of new road, located on or near ridgetop locations, would be constructed. Approximately 305 feet of existing road would be improved by reconstructing ditchlines and installing cross drains and ditchouts.

In order to limit soil erosion, road construction would be restricted to periods of low precipitation (generally between May to October).

All proposed new construction and improvement would be rocked with 4-6 inches of pitrun rock in order to allow for all season hauling.

All exposed mineral soil areas (roads to be constructed) would be grass seeded with Oregon Certified (Blue tag) red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) as a rate equal to 40 pounds per acre.

Consultation and Public Involvement: This action has been determined to have “no effect” to bald eagles, spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and coho salmon. No consultation for these federally listed species is necessary under the Endangered Species Act.

Affected Environment: The project area is within the Matrix and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocations, as identified in the RMP. Refer to Appendix 1 of this EA for a discussion of the environmental elements potentially affected.

The proposed spur road passes through a 40-year old conifer stand on BLM lands. This stand is not considered suitable habitat for bald eagles, marbled murrelets, or spotted owls; but may provide dispersal habitat for spotted owls. The nearest active spotted owl site is beyond 1.5 miles to the west in the Mill Creek Drainage. There are no known occupied marbled murrelet sites in the vicinity. The nearest unsurveyed suitable habitat for marbled murrelets is over 0.5 miles southwest of the action area. The action area is not within critical habitat that has been

designated for spotted owls and marbled murrelets. The proposed road alignment across BLM lands would not affect suitable habitat for any Survey and Manage (S&M) wildlife species that may occur within this watershed, therefore no surveys for S&M wildlife species are necessary.

The project area is located in an Adaptive Management area (as identified in the Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, pg. 19). It is not located within any allocated Riparian Reserve lands.

Environmental Impacts: For a full discussion of the physical, biological, and social resources of the Salem District refer to the Salem District FEIS. For a site-specific discussion of the environmental impacts of the proposed action, which supplements the discussion in the FEIS, refer to Appendix 1 of this EA.

EA Prepared By: Russell P. Buswell Date: 6/3/03

EA Reviewed By: Carolyn Danks Date: 6/5/03
NEPA / Plans

Interdisciplinary Team:

NAME	TITLE	RESOURCE ASSIGNED	INITIAL	DATE
Tom Tomczyk	Soils Scientist	Soils Impacts	TST	6/3/03
Scott Hopkins	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife	SH	6/3/03
Ashley La Forge	Hydrologist	Hydrological Functions	ad.	6/3/03
Tom Vanderhoof	Biological Resource	Cultural Resources	TMU	6/4/03
Steve Liebhardt	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries/Aquatic Resources	SL	6/3/03
Ron Exeter	Botanist	Botany, Noxious Weeds	RE	June 5, 2003

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND DECISION RECORD

Based upon my review of the Salt Ridge – Short-term O&C Road Permit EA (Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-03-16), I have determined that the proposed action is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. I have also determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the proposed action, as described in the EA.

Right to Appeal: This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4 and the [attached Form 1842-1](#). If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) or 43 CFR 2804.1 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Board and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay: Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Implementation Date: Implementation of this decision may begin 30 calendar days after the public notice of the Decision Record appears in the Dallas Itemizer.

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this decision or the appeal process, contact Russ Buswell at (503) 315-5989, Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District, 1717 Fabry Road, Salem, Oregon 97306.

Authorized Official: Cindy Enstrom
Cindy Enstrom, Field Manager
Marys Peak Resource Area

Date: 6/5/03

APPENDIX 1 - ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

In accordance with law, regulation, executive order and policy, an interdisciplinary team reviewed the elements of the environment below to determine if they would be affected by the proposed action described in Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-03-08. The following three tables summarize the results of that review.

Table 1. Critical Elements of the Environment. This table lists the critical elements of the environment, which are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order and the interdisciplinary team's predicted environmental impact per element if the proposed action was implemented.		
CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Air Quality	None	The creation of any airborne particulates other than minor dust is not expected.
ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern)	None	No ACEC is located within the proximity of this proposed action.
Cultural, Historic, and Paleontological	None	No pre-project survey required as outlined in the <i>Protocol for Managing Cultural Resources on Land Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon; Appendix D - "Coast Range Inventory Plan.</i>
Native American Religious Concerns	None	There are no known Native American Religious Concerns.
Threatened or Endangered Plant Species or Habitat	None	There are no known T&E plant species or habitats that occur within the project area. Surveyed May 5, 2003.
Threatened or Endangered Wildlife Species or Habitat	None	No active sites and no suitable habitat for listed species will be affected. No interrelated impacts or future impacts expected.
Threatened or Endangered Fish Species or Habitat	None	There is no effect on the aquatic environments, essential fish habitat, or on listed fish.
Prime or Unique Farm Lands	None	There are no prime or unique farmlands associated with the right-of-way actions.
Flood Plains	None	No floodplains located in or affected by the actions.
Hazardous or Solid Wastes	None	No hazardous or solid waste found or produced by this proposal.
Water Quality (Surface and Ground)	Minimal effect on water quality.	Ridgetop road location. Low potential for sediment delivery.
Wetlands/Riparian Zones (Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 5/24/77)	None	No wetlands present in project location.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	None	No Wild and Scenic Rivers present.

Table 1. Critical Elements of the Environment. This table lists the critical elements of the environment, which are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order and the interdisciplinary team's predicted environmental impact per element if the proposed action was implemented.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Wilderness	None	There is no wilderness located within the project area.
Invasive, Nonnative Species (includes Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species, 2/3/99)	None	Date of survey: (05/05/03)
Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations, 2/11/94)	None	The proposed action is not anticipated to have adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.

Table 2. Other Elements of the Environment. This table lists other elements of the environment, which are subject to requirements specified in law, regulation, policy, or management direction and the predicted environmental impact per element if the proposed action was implemented.

ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Land Uses (including mining claims, mineral leases, etc.)	None	There are no known mining claims or mineral leases located within the project area.
Minerals	None	See above.
Recreation	None	
Soils	Minimal	The proposed action would occur upon or near ridge top. Because of that, the disturbance to soils would be confined to a relatively narrow strip of land. Implementation of Best Management Practices would further reduce impacts.
Visual Resources	None	The project area is located within the Class IV Visual Resource Management category which allows for major modifications of the existing character of the landscape. The proposed action is consistent with this classification.
Water Resources (including Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives, beneficial uses, etc.)	None	The proposed action would not retard or prevent the attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives (see Table 3). The proposed action would have no effect on the following beneficial uses: Public Water Supply, Private Domestic Water Supply, Irrigation, Maintenance of Aesthetic Quality, and Recreation, Wildlife, and Fisheries.
Coarse Woody Debris	None	
Bureau Sensitive and Special Attention Plant Species/Habitat (including Survey and Manage, and protection buffer species)	None	There are no known Bureau sensitive and special attention plant species/habitat located within the project area.
Bureau Sensitive and Special Attention Wildlife Species/Habitat (including mammal Survey and Manage and mollusks)	None	There are no known Bureau sensitive and special attention wildlife species/habitat located within the project area, therefore no requirement to perform pre-project surveys.
Fish Species with Bureau Status and Essential Fish Habitat	None	There are no known Bureau sensitive and special attention fish species/habitat located within the project area. Project would have "no effect" on <i>Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat</i> .
Rural Interface Areas	None	None present

Table 2. Other Elements of the Environment. This table lists other elements of the environment, which are subject to requirements specified in law, regulation, policy, or management direction and the predicted environmental impact per element if the proposed action was implemented.		
ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT	INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM'S COMMENTS
Coastal Zone (affect on “any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone.” The determination of effects should include “direct, indirect, cumulative, secondary, and reasonably foreseeable effects”)	None	The proposed action is not within the coastal zone as defined by the Oregon Coastal Management Program.

Table 3. Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objective Review Summary. This table documents the predicted effects on the nine ACS (Aquatic Conservation Strategy) Objectives identified on pages 5-6 of the Salem District Resource Management Plan, dated May 1995, if the proposed action was implemented.		
Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives	Does the project retard or prevent attainment of this ACS objective?	Remarks / References
1) Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of aquatic systems to which species, populations and communities are uniquely adapted.	Yes ___ No ___ N/A <u>X</u>	The proposed action does not affect any watershed or landscape features. The proposed project has low potential for sediment delivery to any stream channel during ridge top roadway construction.
2) Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds.	Yes ___ No ___ N/A <u>X</u>	The proposed project would maintain the existing spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. No culverts are planned and therefore no aquatic connectivity would be affected.
3) Maintain and restore physical integrity of the aquatic system including shorelines, banks and bottom configurations.	Yes ___ No ___ N/A <u>X</u>	The proposed construction is located on or near ridge at a significant distance from the nearest stream. No streams will be physically impacted by the project construction.

Table 3. Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objective Review Summary. This table documents the predicted effects on the nine ACS (Aquatic Conservation Strategy) Objectives identified on pages 5-6 of the Salem District Resource Management Plan, dated May 1995, if the proposed action was implemented.

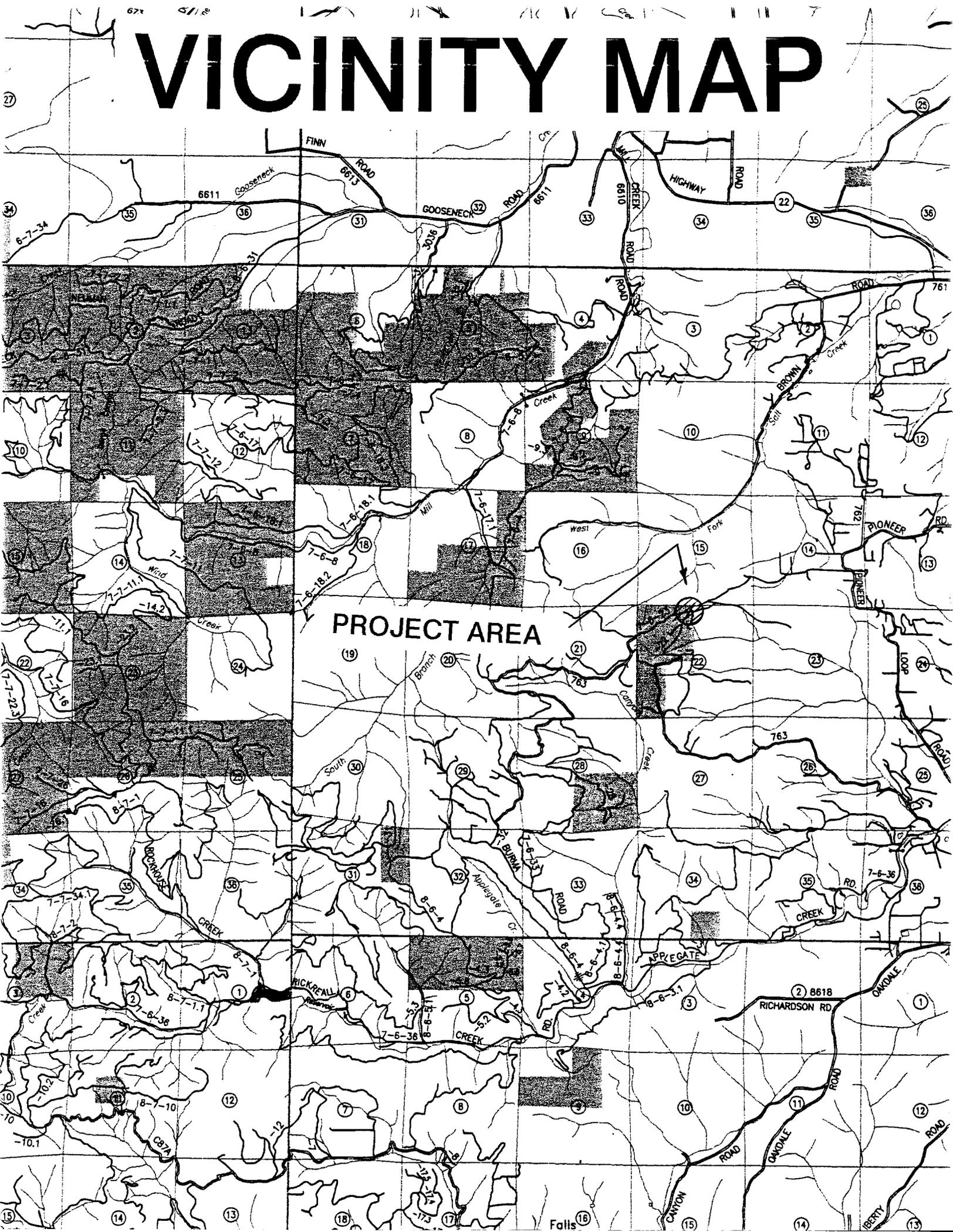
Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives	Does the project retard or prevent attainment of this ACS objective?	Remarks / References
4) Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems.	Yes ____ No <u>X</u> N/A	Activities such as road construction may result in pulses of sediment delivery and turbidity if rain events occur during or shortly after work is done. However, the proposed project is located a significant distance from the nearest stream, and the hillside between the project and the stream consists of a dense Douglas-fir plantation and thick ground cover. Therefore, it is unlikely that significant sediment would reach the stream. Log haul on the existing road will occur on an access road which is well rocked and maintained. Drainage improvements will be implemented on the existing haul roads across government lands.
5) Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved.	Yes ____ No <u>X</u> N/A	Activities such as road construction may result in pulses of sediment delivery and turbidity if rain events occur during or shortly after work is done. However, the proposed project is located a significant distance from the nearest stream, and the hillside between the project and the stream consists of a Douglas-fir plantation with thick ground cover. Therefore it is unlikely that significant sediment would reach the stream. Log haul on the existing road will occur on an access road which is well rocked and maintained. Drainage improvements will be implemented on the existing haul roads across government lands.
6) Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing.	Yes ____ No N/A <u>X</u>	Road construction activities and log haul on or near ridge top would have no effect on base flows. The proposed project would maintain existing patterns of sediment, nutrient and wood routing.
7) Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.	Yes ____ No N/A <u>X</u>	The proposed project would have no effect on the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands because there are no wetlands or meadows in the project area.

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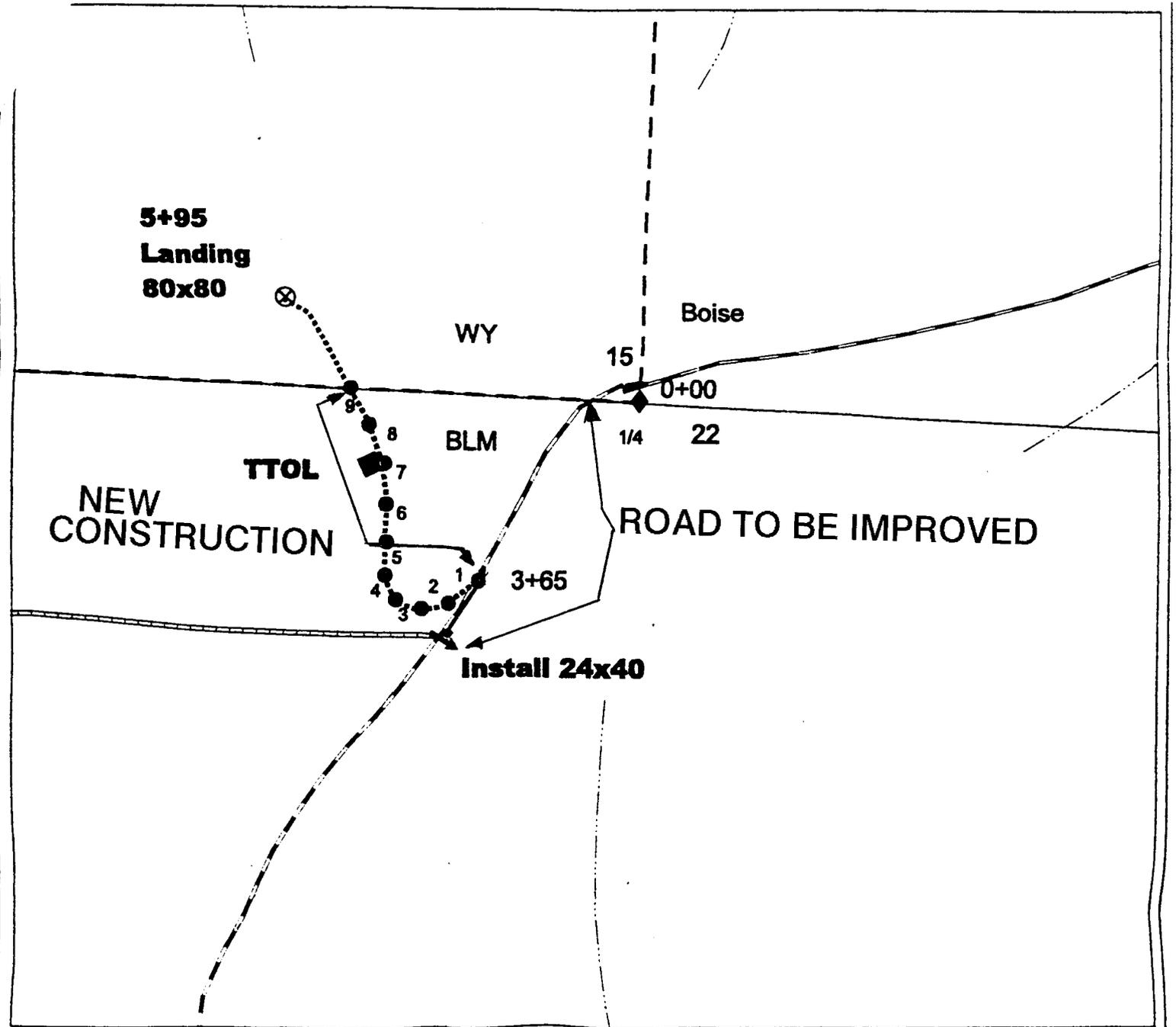
Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives	Does the project retard or prevent attainment of this ACS objective?	Remarks / References
<p>8) Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands to provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, and appropriate rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration, and to supply amounts and distributions of coarse woody debris sufficient to sustain physical complexity and stability.</p>	<p>Yes ___ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X N/A ___</p>	<p>The proposed construction is located a significant distance from the nearest stream and outside the Riparian Reserve. There are no wetlands or riparian zones located within the project area, or that would be affected by the proposed action. Therefore existing species composition and structural diversity would be maintained.</p>
<p>9) Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian dependent species.</p>	<p>Yes ___ No ___ N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X</p>	<p>The proposed construction is located a significant distance from the nearest stream and outside the Riparian Reserve, therefore no riparian dependent species or their habitat would be affected.</p>

APPENDIX 2
Vicinity Map and Project Map

VICINITY MAP



PROJECT MAP



Legend:

- Paved
- Gravel
- Dirt
- Gate
- Quarry/Rock Pit
- WII Ownership
- PLS Line
- PLS Corner
- Fence Line

- Stream
- Landings
- Truck Turn Around
- Turn out
- Culvert

Segment	Bearing	Dist.
1	S53W	55'
2	S80W	35'
3	N68W	35'
4	N24W	35'
5	N	55'
6	N5E	45'
7	N6W	55'
8	N18W	60'
9	N32W	50'

Unit/Construction Summary

5 Stations of new construction

3.7 Stations of Reconst.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION ON TAKING APPEALS TO THE BOARD OF LAND APPEALS

- DO NOT APPEAL UNLESS
1. This decision is adverse to you.
- AND**
2. You believe it is incorrect.

IF YOU APPEAL, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED:

1. **NOTICE OF APPEAL** Within 30 days file a *Notice of Appeal* in the office which issued this decision (see 43 CFR Sections 4.411 and 4.413). You may state your reasons for appealing, if you desire.

**2. WHERE TO FILE
NOTICE OF APPEAL-**

Responsible Official
Bureau of Land Management
1717 Fabry Road S.E.
Salem, OR 97306

**SOLICITOR
ALSO COPY TO-**

Regional Solicitor
Pacific Northwest Region
500 N.E Multnomah St., Suite 607
Portland, OR 97232

3. **STATEMENT OF REASONS** . Within 30 days after filing the *Notice of Appeal*, file a complete statement of the reasons why you are appealing. This must be filed with the **Interior Board of Land Appeal, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U. S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St. Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203.** (see 43 CFR Sec. 4.412 and 4.413). If you fully stated your reasons for appealing when filing the Notice of Appeal, no additional statement is necessary.

**SOLICITOR
ALSO COPY TO-**

SAME AS 2B

4. **ADVERSE PARTIES** Within 15 days after each document is filed, each adverse party named in the decision and the Regional Solicitor or Field Solicitor having jurisdiction over the State in which the appeal arose must be served with a copy of: (a) the *Notice of Appeal*, (b) the Statement of Reasons, and (c) any other documents filed (see 43 CFR Sec. 4.413). Service will be made upon the Associate Solicitor, Division of Energy and Resources, Washington, D.C. 20240, instead of the Field or Regional Solicitor when appeals are taken from decisions of the Director (WO-100).

5. **PROOF OF SERVICE** Within 15 days after any document is served on an adverse party, file proof of that service with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Board of Land Appeals, 4015 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. 22203. This may consist of a certified or registered mail "Return Receipt Card" signed by the adverse party (see 43 CFR Section 4.401(c)(2)). Unless these procedures are followed your appeal will be subject to dismissal (see 43 CFR Sec. 4.402). Be certain that all communications are identified by serial number of the case being appealed.

Unless these procedures are followed your appeal will be subject to dismissal (see 43 CFR Sec. 4.402). Be certain that all communications are identified by serial number of the case being appealed.

NOTE: A document is not filed until it is actually received in the proper office (see 43 CFR Sec. 4.401(a)).

SUBPART 1821.2 - - OFFICE HOURS; TIME AND PLACE FOR FILING

Sec. 1821.2-1 *Office hours of State Offices.* State Offices and the Washington Office of the Bureau of Land Management are open to the public for the filing of documents and inspection of records during the hours specified in this paragraph on Monday through Friday of each week, with the exception of those days where the office may be closed because of a national holiday or Presidential or other administrative order. The hours during which the State Offices and the Washington Office are open to the public for filing of documents and inspection of records are for 10 am to 4 pm, standard time or daylight saving time, whichever is in effect at the city in which each office is located.

Sec. 1821.2-2(d). Any document required or permitted to be filed under the regulations of this chapter, which is received in the Winnemucca Field Office, either in the mail or by personal delivery, when the office is not open to the public shall be deemed to be filed as of the day and hour the office next opens to the public.

Sec. 1821.2-2(e). Any document required by law, regulation, or decision to be filed within a stated period, the last day of which falls on a day the Winnemucca Field Office is officially closed, shall be deemed to be timely filed if it is received in the appropriate office on the next day the office is open to the public.