FINAL DECISION DOCUMENTATION and DECISION RATIONALE

Hide & Seek Timber Sale Harvest and Reforestation Plan

USDI - Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office, Salem District, Cascades Resource Area

Sections 15 and 27, Township 2 South, Range 6 East;
Willamette Meridian

Clackamas County, Oregon

I. BACKGROUND

In 1999 and 2000, an IDT (interdisciplinary team) analyzed approximately 75 acres managed by the Cascades Resource Area, Salem District, BLM (Bureau of Land Management) for a regeneration harvest. The areas analyzed was located within Sections 15 and 27, Township 2 South, Range 6 East, Willamette Meridian; within the Matrix land use allocation of the Middle Sandy (45 acres) and Bull Run (30 acres) Watersheds.

The development of this project was in accordance with the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP, May, 1995) and the Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS, Sept., 1994).* The *FEIS* analyzed broad scope issues and impacts within the President's direction to meet the need for forest habitat and forest products (p. 1). The *RMP* provides a comprehensive ecosystem management strategy for BLM managed lands in the Salem District in strict conformance with the Northwest Forest Plan 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* (April 1994).

In accordance with the above two documents, surveys were conducted for Survey and Manage fungi species. As a result of these surveys, one species (*Ramaria araiospora)* was found at ten separate locations on the upper slopes of the project area in Section 27. The silvucultural prescription for this area also called for not reducing the stocking below 100 trees per acre from the current 145 to provide protection to residual trees from high winds.

Congressmen Blumenauer, DeFazio and Wu introduced legislation (H. R. 427) on February 6, 2001 to include those BLM lands within the Little Sandy Watershed in the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit. The portion of the Hide & Seek proposal in Section 15 lies within the Little Sandy Watershed. The purpose of H. R. 427 is to provide further protection for the watershed of

the Little Sandy River. One of the provisions of the legislation is that the planned harvesting of timber is prohibited.

II DECISION RATIONALE

I have decided to halt all further activity on this proposal and drop it from the 2002 timber sale plans for the following reasons:

Section 27

– Due to the location of the fungi sights, the area could not be harvested in such a was as to provide for the retention of this important ecological component of the forest management area. Retaining these components is one of the purposes and needs common to all timber sale environmental assessments following the direction of the Northwest Forest Plan and RMP.

– The fungi sightings were located at critical topographic sites, which would prevent the placement of landings and yarding corridors where needed to harvest the area while providing protection to riparian buffers and preventing soil disturbance and its resulting sedimentation.

– Removal of such little volume (approx. 10 MBF/acre) would not justify the expense of bringing in a cable yarder and improving an existing haul road to get the trees out. This method of logging was determined necessary to harvest the area in an environmentally acceptable manner.

Section 15

– H. R. 427 was signed into law on August 20, 2001. It is know as Public Law 107-30.

Richard C. Prather, Cascades Field Manager

14 SEP 2001
Date