

**Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact
For Huckleberry Forest Management Project
EA#OR135-EA-04-02**

Decision

It is my decision to Implement Alternative 1 (Proposed Action), including management actions, as described in EA#OR135-EA-04-02 for the Huckleberry Forest Management Project. This decision provides for harvest of approximately 1.2 million board feet of timber from 175 acres, through thinning of the understory and overstory trees. The project also provides for harvest of trees infested with root rot and mistletoe to improve the resiliency of commercial tree species. About 3,900 feet of temporary roads would be constructed to facilitate yarding, and then closed after harvest is completed according to standard measures for doing so.

Rationale for Decision

This project will improve the health of the forested lands in the project area. Removing dwarf mistletoe, root rot, bark beetles, and competing shrubs will provide an environment that will allow commercial tree species to be more competitive and survive to merchantable size and quality. Improving the health of this stand will also prevent the spread of the aforementioned diseases to adjacent stands, including some private lands. The timber harvest will provide some economic support for the region, in the form of employment as well as timber products.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Considering the Management Actions/Project Design Features to be implemented, the analysis of the potential environmental impacts as described in Environmental Assessment #OR135-EA-04-02, and other information available to me, including a Biological Assessment, I have determined that impacts associated with the timber harvest and forest health improvement are not expected to be significant. The protective measures include actions to reduce soil impacts and to minimize disturbance to wildlife in the project area. Among the measures are time restrictions for harvest to avoid soil damage and to avoid activities during critical habitat times such as for nesting. No critical elements will be adversely affected. Considering this information, an environmental impact statement is not required and will not be prepared.

/s/ Kevin R. Devitt

August 23, 2004

Kevin R. Devitt, Field Manager
Border Resource Area

Date