

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
And
DECISION RECORD

CAMP RUN TIMBER SALE
EA-OR090-07-06**

Background:

Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Camp Run Project (EA-OR090-07-06) was prepared by the Upper Willamette Resource Area, Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This timber sale was analyzed as part of that project, and would occur on approximately 402 acres located in sections 25 and 35, T 16 S., R. 1 W and sections 31, T. 16 S., R. 1 E. Actions may include thinning in upland and Riparian Reserves, creation of snags and coarse wood debris, stream channel enhancements, road improvements, culvert replacements, temporary road construction and road decommissioning.

Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of the action in Matrix is to provide a sustainable supply of timber while maintaining valuable structural components (e.g., snags and down wood) and to provide habitat for a variety of organisms associated with both late-successional and younger forests. Specific objectives of the proposed thinning are to: 1) increase the proportion of merchantable volume in the stand, 2) produce larger more valuable logs, 3) accelerate the development of trees that can later provide large-diameter snags and down logs, 4) manage species composition, and 5) promote development of desired understory vegetation (RMP, p.200). The need for action in the Matrix is established in the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP)*, which directs that timber be harvested from Matrix lands to provide a sustainable supply of timber (RMP, p.34). The need is also established from stand examinations that indicate that some of the stands would benefit from thinning; and that the non-native and invasive tree species Black locust is currently populating portions of the project area, hindering conifer stand development.

The purpose for action in Riparian Reserves is to enhance or maintain late-successional forest conditions, acquire or maintain characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives, and provide habitat for Special Status Species (RMP, p.18, 23). Specific objectives are to: 1) manage Riparian Reserves to control stocking and species composition, 2) reduce road related sediment sources to stream habitat by replacing /adding culverts and maintaining or upgrading road infrastructure, and 3) enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat conditions by creating snags and down wood, and placing large woody debris into stream channels. The need for the action in Riparian Reserve is established by stand examinations, which show that portions of the Riparian Reserves are overstocked and deficient in late-successional structural components.

Public Comment:

The Camp Run EA was advertised in July of 2007, in the Eugene Register Guard, as available for a 30-day public review period. One comment letter was received during the review period. Comments from these letters were mainly subjective and did not ask for clarification on any issue regarding this timber sale.

Decision:

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment No. 0R090-EA-07-06 and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), it is my decision to implement Alternative 2, the Proposed Action, and all associated Project Design Features (PDFs). This alternative proposes to thin approximately 402 acres of Matrix and Riparian Reserve. Thinning would reduce the number of trees from approximately 60-100 trees per acre to approximately 50 trees per acre, with a variable spacing of 25 feet. Thinning would be designed to increase tree size through time, extend the culmination of mean annual increment and capture anticipated mortality. The stands would be thinned from below; i.e., trees selected for harvest would be the suppressed, intermediate, and co-dominant conifer trees, leaving the larger trees greater than or equal to 26 inches in diameter. Preference for cut trees would be Douglas-fir except where necessary to accommodate safety and logging systems.

Where needed, silvicultural treatments would occur in the outer edges of the Riparian Reserve and would be treated the same as the upland. Depending on channel stability, effective shade zone needed, and current stand conditions, the no-harvest buffers adjacent to the streams would vary between 75 and 440 feet. Seeps and springs would have no-harvest buffers ranging between 25 to 50 feet. The buffers for wetlands would vary from the hydric soil boundary to 220 feet. Camp Creek would have a 440 foot no-harvest buffer due to the presence of fish.

In section 25, approximately 15 acres would be treated to eradicate the invasive tree species, Black Locust. Treatment would include excavator and hand pulling.

Snags and down logs would be created within some of the terrestrial portions of thinned and unthinned Riparian Reserves. Approximately three snags per acre and two down logs per acre would be created after harvest. Live trees selected for snag and down log creation would vary in size and tree species.

Under this alternative and within this sale, approximately 1310 feet of temporary road would be constructed. Approximately 8290 feet of permanent road would be constructed. Approximately 4360 feet of existing road would be decommissioned.

Decision Rationale:

My decision to authorize the proposed action is in compliance with the *Eugene District RMP* and the *Northwest Forest Plan*. Alternative 2 was selected because it best meets the purpose and need described in the EA (p. 1). Treatments would provide and help to create a sustainable supply of timber in the uplands while manage stocking and species composition in the Riparian Reserves; the proposed action would maintain and create valuable structural components such as snags and down wood, and improve water quality through road-related actions.

I did not select the No Action alternative because it did not meet the Purpose and Need for the project.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

On the basis of the information contained in the attached Environmental Assessment, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the proposed action will not have significant environmental impacts not already addressed in the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994)* and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (June 1995)*, Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objectives listed on page B-11 of the *Northwest Forest Plan*, with which this EA is in

conformance, and does not, in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, a new environmental impact statement or supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Furthermore, on July 25, 2007, the Under Secretary of the Department of the Interior signed a new Survey and Manage Record of Decision that removed the survey and manage requirements from all of the BLM RMPs within the range of the northern spotted owl. In any case, this project falls within at least one of the exceptions listed in the modified October 11, 2006 injunction.

Administrative Review Opportunities:

The decision to implement this project may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies. In accordance with 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this project will not be subject to protest until the notice of sale is first published in the Eugene Register-Guard. This published notice of sale will constitute the decision document for the purpose of protests of this project (43 CFR 5003.2b). Protests of this decision must be filed with this office within fifteen (15) days after first publication of the notice of sale.

As interpreted by BLM, the regulations do not authorize the acceptance of protests in any form other than a signed, written hard copy that is delivered to the physical address of the BLM Eugene District Office.

Approved by:

/s/ William O. Sullivan

William O'Sullivan,
Upper Willamette Resource Area Manager

Date: June 18, 2008