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Transition Management
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OR 57568

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

DECISION DOCUMENTATION and FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. OR090-08-03
Transition Management, Inc.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the information contained in Environmental Assessment No. OR090-08-03, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the proposed action or alternatives 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) as amended, with which this EA is in conformance, and does not, in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

DECISION

Based on the analysis documented in the EA No. OR090-08-03 and the Finding of No Significant Impact, it is my decision to implement the Proposed Action. The action would provide Transition Management, Inc., access to timber lands in section 30 by granting permission to re-commission (improve) two existing roads with some new construction in T16S, R7W, Sections 25 and 36. Both roads were constructed as spur roads for the BLM *Get Ready* Timber sale. Between the two spur roads, 1,570 feet of road would be re-commissioned (improved) and there would be approximately 750 feet of new construction.

ALTERNATIVES

In addition to the selected alternative, the EA considered:

1. A No Action Alternative, in which no road construction or improvement would occur on public land for access to timber owned by Transition Management, Inc., in Section 30. No log haul would occur on BLM-controlled roads. It is reasonably foreseeable that Transition Management, Inc. would access their property from existing roads in Section 30. This access would require downhill logging across steep terrain (greater than 60%), through riparian areas, and across Short Jake Creek, a main tributary to Hayes Creek. New construction (e.g. landings and spur roads) would occur on slopes greater than 60% and would be full bench construction.
2. An alternative by Transition Management was to access their timber from the north via new construction on BLM-managed land, connecting to a private road system in Section 30 and to access their timber from the south by the South Spur (via Fisk Road). The new construction for the north access would require approximately 1,520 feet of new construction on federal land while similar access in the proposed action (the North Spur) requires 300 feet of new construction and improvement of 830 feet of existing road.

DECISION RATIONALE

The Proposed Action was selected because it best meets the Right-of-Way Agreement objectives of avoiding duplicate road systems and providing long-term access to the intermingled lands of the Government and Private Land Owners. The Proposed Action provides the least impacts to the natural environment. The Proposed Action would result in the least amount of road construction and less impact to soils, streams and riparian vegetation than would the alternatives.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the "Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl," (NSO ROD, April 1994), and the "Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan," (RMP, June 1995).

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This Proposed Action "May Affect, but is Not likely to Adversely Affect" the Northern spotted owl due to the removal of dispersal habitat for the Northern spotted owl in an area where such habitat is not limited. This proposed action is addressed in the North Coast Province Right-of Way Biological Opinion, dated June 18, 2004.

There are no Threatened and Endangered Species issues as related to fish species and this action. These routes would not have an effect on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) based on the route locations and the upper limits of Upper Willamette Chinook salmon and Winter Steelhead found in this drainage of the Long Tom River basin.

The area was botanically surveyed for the BLM *Get Ready* Timber Sale and there are no known sensitive botanical resources in this area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A public notice advertising the availability of the EA and FONSI appeared in the Eugene Register-Guard on Wednesday, May 7, 2008. Additionally, the EA and FONSI were mailed to 16 groups or businesses, 9 state or local government agencies, and 14 individuals. A 30-day public comment period for the EA closed on June 6, 2008. One comment in favor of the proposed action was received.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

The decision to implement this project may be appealed to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken, the notice of appeal must be filed in this office within thirty (30) days of the publication of the notice of this decision in the Eugene Register-Guard on June 11, 2008 for transmittal to the Board. A copy of the notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs, must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 500 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 607, Portland, Oregon 97323, within the same time frame. In taking an appeal, there must be strict compliance with the regulations. In accordance with 43 CFR 4.21, an appellant has the right to petition the Office of Hearing and Appeals to stay the implementation of the decision; however, an appellant must show standing and present reasons for requesting a stay of the decision. The petition for stay must be filed together with a timely notice of appeal.

/s/ William E. Hatton

William Hatton, Field Manager
Siuslaw Resource Area

6/11/2008

Date: