

Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)

Johnson Cleghorn Thinning

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District
NEPA #: DOI-BLM-OR-R040-2011-011-EA

September 18, 2012

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Swiftwater Field Office will offer the Johnson Cleghorn Thinning project for sale at auction. Johnson Cleghorn Thinning will occur on six units (approximately 244.3 acres of harvest) of second-growth forest approximately 42-51 years old located in the Upper Smith River Watershed in Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 18 of T. 21 S., R. 07 W. Willamette Meridian. In addition, approximately 1.4 acres will be removed for the development of spur roads and rights-of-ways (Johnson Cleghorn Decision Document [Decision], pg. 1).

Johnson Cleghorn is within General Forest Management Area (GFMA) and Riparian Reserve lands administered by the Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District Office and Late Successional Reserve (LSR) lands administered by the Umpqua Field Office, Coos Bay District BLM. Johnson Cleghorn will provide approximately 5.613 million board feet (5.613 MMBF) of timber available for auction (Decision, pg. 1). The Johnson Cleghorn Thinning units are located on Revested Oregon and California Railroad Lands (O&C Lands).

Test for Significant Impacts.

1. Has significant impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (1))?

Yes No

Remarks: Any impacts will be consistent with the range and scope of effects of timber management described and analyzed in the 1994 *Final - Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* (1994 PRMP/EIS).

2. Has significant adverse impacts on public health or safety (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (2))?

Yes No

Remarks: The additional amount of down woody debris (i.e. four to nine tons per acre) would not dramatically increase the fire risk to the area. The fine fuels less than one inch in diameter are the primary carrier of fire. These fine fuels generated in the harvest process would mostly degrade within two years after harvest. Therefore, there would be an increase in fire risk in the area for approximately two years before these additional fine fuels degrade (EA, pgs. 103-104).

Treatment of logging slash by prescribed fire has the potential to affect air quality locally. Burning would be accomplished under guidelines established by the Oregon Smoke Management Plan and in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act (EA, pg. 14).

3. Adversely effects such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (3))?

Yes No

Remarks: Unique geographic characteristics (such as those listed above) are absent from the project area and would not be affected.

Inventories within the proposed units and in the locations of proposed road construction for Johnson Cleghorn were completed and no cultural or historical resources were discovered. Therefore, there would be no effect to any cultural or historic resources since none would be included within the proposed Johnson Cleghorn units or road construction.

4. Has highly controversial effects on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (4))?

Yes No

Remarks: The BLM conducts thinning regularly across western Oregon. There is also a wide body of literature describing the environmental effects of such forest management activity. As such, the BLM has concluded that effects would not be highly controversial. The public was afforded several opportunities to comment on the current proposal, and none of the comments received indicated controversy over the nature of the effects on the human environment.

5. Has highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks to the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (5))?

Yes No

Remarks: The BLM conducts thinning regularly across western Oregon. There is also a wide body of literature describing the environmental effects of such forest management activity. As such, the BLM has concluded that effects would not result in unique or unknown risks to the human environment. The public was afforded several opportunities to comment on the current proposal, and none of the comments received indicated unknown risks to the human environment.

6. Establishes a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (6))?

Yes No

Remarks: The advertisement, auction, and award of a timber sale contract allowing the harvest of trees is a well-established practice and would not establish a precedent for future actions. This project does not represent any decision in principle about future considerations, as any new proposals for commercial thinning will be subject to site-specific evaluation and analysis.

7. Is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (7))?

Yes No

Remarks: The cumulative impacts to forest vegetation (pgs. 28-42), wildlife (pgs. 43-68), soils (pgs. 69-74), hydrology, aquatic habitat and fisheries (pgs. 80-88), botany (pgs. 102-103), and carbon storage (pgs. 93-98) were analyzed in the *Johnson Cleghorn Thinning EA* and were found to not be significant.

8. Has adverse effects on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (8))?

Yes No

Remarks: The BLM has completed Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act under the guidance of the 1997 National Programmatic Agreement and the 1998 Oregon Protocol (EA, pg. 104). Inventories for cultural resources were completed and Johnson Cleghorn does not contain cultural or historical resources.

9. May adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (9))?

Botanical Species Yes No

Fish Species Yes No

Wildlife Species Yes No

Remarks: Surveys did not identify the presence of any federally threatened or endangered botanical species; therefore the proposed thinning would have no effect on listed botanical species (EA, pg. 102).

The Swiftwater fisheries staff has determined that any impacts to water temperature, substrate/sediment quality, large wood, pool quality, or habitat access within the project area would be non-existent or immeasurable above background levels. There are no anticipated direct effects to aquatic habitat from any of the alternatives. Therefore, no direct effects on fish populations are anticipated. Aquatic habitat in Smith River, Johnson Creek, Lower Johnson Creek and their tributaries within the project area would be unaffected, except for short-term reductions in the amount of large and small functional wood available to the stream. While there would be a small reduction in the amount of standing small functional wood in the outer Riparian Reserve, it is not likely that this would translate into a measureable impact to aquatic habitat (q.v., pgs. 87-88). As a result, no impacts to fish populations would be anticipated. Therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on Oregon Coast coho salmon or its habitat and further consultation with the NOAA Fisheries Service is not required.

Consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) has been completed for the northern spotted owl, the marbled murrelet, and their designated critical habitats. A Letter of Concurrence (LOC) was received from the USFWS (*Informal consultation on the proposed Roseburg District BLM fiscal year 2012 Johnson-Cleghorn and Holy Water timber sale projects which are Not Likely to Adversely Affect listed species or their designated critical habitats* [Reference Number 01EOFW00-2012-I-0041]) dated January 11, 2012.

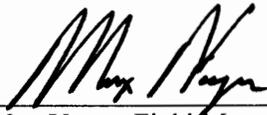
The Service concurred (LOC, pg. 18) with the District's determination that implementation of the Johnson Cleghorn Thinning will be insignificant and *may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect* (NLAA) spotted owls, marbled murrelets or their designated critical habitats. The Service concurs with the NLAA determination because of the limited scope and spatial juxtaposition of the activities comprising the action and because of project design features which will effectively minimize impacts to affected species and critical habitats

10. Threatens to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (10))?

() Yes (✓) No

Remarks: The measures described above ensure that the Johnson Cleghorn Thinning project would be consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of the silvicultural treatment on the human environment would not exceed those anticipated by the 1994 PRMP/EIS.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I would determine that Johnson Cleghorn Thinning would not have a significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an environmental impact statement would not be required. I would determine that the effects of the silvicultural treatment would be within those anticipated and already analyzed in the 1994 PRMP/EIS. Therefore, Johnson Cleghorn Thinning would be in conformance with the 1995 ROD/RMP approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995.



Max Yager, Field Manager
Swiftwater Field Office
Roseburg District BLM

SEPT. 20th, 2012
Date



A. Dennis Turowski, Field Manager
Umpqua Field Office
Coos Bay District BLM

Sept. 19, 2012
Date