

**U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg District, Oregon**

Environmental Assessment for the Swiftwater Field Office

**Rone Access
EA #OR – 104 – 07 – 09**

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	ii
Chapter 1. Purpose and Need for Action	1
A. Background	1
B. Conformance	1
C. Objective	1
D. Decision Factors.....	2
Chapter 2. Discussion of Alternatives	3
A. The No Action Alternative.....	3
B. The Proposed Action Alternative.....	3
C. Project Design Features as part of the Action Alternative.....	4
D. Resources that Would be Unaffected by Either Alternative.....	6
Chapter 3. Affected Environment & Consequences by Resource	7
A. Forest Vegetation.....	7
B. Wildlife.....	7
C. Hydrology.....	9
D. Soils.....	11
E. Aquatic Habitat & Fisheries	11
F. Botany.....	13
Chapter 4. Contacts, Consultations, and Preparers	16
A. Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Consulted.....	16
B. Public Notification	16
C. List of Preparers	17
D. References Cited	18
Appendix A. Project Vicinity Map	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix B. Project Adjacent Landowners Map	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix C. Critical Elements of the Human Environment	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix D. Northern Spotted Owl Habitat.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix E. Bureau Sensitive and Bureau Strategic Wildlife Species.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix F. Wildlife Summary.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix G. Fisheries	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix H. Aquatic Conservation Strategy Assessment.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix I. Botany Summary	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Table of Contents.....	ii
Chapter 1. Purpose and Need for Action	1
A. Background	1
B. Conformance	1
C. Objective	1
D. Decision Factors.....	2
Chapter 2. Discussion of Alternatives	3
A. The No Action Alternative.....	3
B. The Proposed Action Alternative.....	3
1. Road-use Agreement.....	3
2. Road Construction	4
3. Timber within the Right-of-Way	4
4. Maintenance.....	4
5. Decommissioning	4
C. Project Design Features as part of the Action Alternative.....	4

1. Specifications for Road Construction:	4
2. To over-winter natural-surfaced roads:.....	5
3. To protect air quality:.....	5
4. To prevent and/or control the spread of noxious weeds:	5
5. To protect cultural resources:.....	5
6. To protect Special Status, and SEIS Special Attention Plants and Animals:	5
7. To prevent and report accidental spills of petroleum products or other hazardous material and provide for work site cleanup:	5
D. Resources that Would be Unaffected by Either Alternative	6
1. Resources Not in Project Area.....	6
2. Cultural Resources	6
3. Critical Elements of the Human Environment.....	6
4. Fire and Fuels Management.....	6
Chapter 3. Affected Environment & Consequences by Resource	7
A. Forest Vegetation	7
1. Affected Environment.....	7
2. No Action Alternative.....	7
3. Proposed Action Alternative.....	7
4. Cumulative Effects.....	7
B. Wildlife.....	7
1. Federally Threatened & Endangered Wildlife Species.....	7
2. Wildlife Bureau Sensitive and Bureau Strategic Species	9
3. Wildlife Cumulative Effects	9
C. Hydrology.....	9
D. Soils.....	11
1. Soil Productivity	11
2. Cumulative Effects.....	11
E. Aquatic Habitat & Fisheries	11
1. Aquatic Habitat	11
2. Fish Populations.....	12
3. Essential Fish Habitat	13
4. Aquatic Conservation Strategy	13
F. Botany.....	13
1. Botanical Special Status Species	13
2. Botanical Survey & Manage Species.....	14
3. Noxious Weeds	14
Chapter 4. Contacts, Consultations, and Preparers.....	16
A. Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Consulted.....	16
B. Public Notification	16
C. List of Preparers	17
D. References Cited	18
Appendix A. Project Vicinity Map	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix B. Project Adjacent Landowners Map	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix C. Critical Elements of the Human Environment	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix D. Northern Spotted Owl Habitat.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix E. Bureau Sensitive and Bureau Strategic Wildlife Species.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix F. Wildlife Summary.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix G. Fisheries	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix H. Aquatic Conservation Strategy Assessment.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Appendix I. Botany Summary**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Chapter 1. Purpose and Need for Action

This chapter provides a brief description of the purpose and need for the proposed action being analyzed in this environmental assessment (EA).

A. Background

On April 26, 2007, Barnes & Associates, Inc., in behalf of a private land owner, submitted a request to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a road-use agreement (as described in Chapter 2) to provide access for the removal of timber from lands in private, non-industrial ownership that were not covered under an existing agreement. The request included provisions for a three-year unilateral road-use permit and construction of approximately 40 feet of new road in Section 31 of T. 24 S., R. 03 W. Willamette Meridian. On September 12, 2007, ownership transferred from the private, non-industrial landowner to Roseburg Resources Company. Roseburg Resources Company requested the BLM continue to process the unilateral permit.

B. Conformance

This environmental assessment (EA) analyzes the environmental consequences of both the proposed action alternative and the No Action alternative, to explain the environmental effects of each in the decision-making process. In addition to the ROD/RMP, this analysis is tiered to and incorporates by reference the assumptions and analysis of consequences provided by the following NEPA analyses:

- *The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (USDA and USDI 1994);*
- *The Final Supplement to the 2004 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standard and Guidelines (USDA and USDI 2007);*

Implementation of the actions proposed in this analysis would conform to the requirements of the ROD/RMP, incorporating the standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan as amended.

C. Objective

The objective of the proposed action is accommodation of a request for a new reciprocal right-of-way agreement with Roseburg Resources Co. The reciprocal right-of-way agreement would give Roseburg Resources Co. legal access across BLM lands for three years to access their land, for timber management purposes.

D. Decision Factors

Factors to be considered when selecting among alternatives will include:

- The degree to which the objective previously described would be achieved;
- The nature and intensity of environmental impacts that would result from implementing the Proposed Action Alternative and the nature and effectiveness of measures to mitigate impacts to resources including, but not limited to, wildlife and wildlife habitat, soil productivity, water quality, air quality, and the spread of noxious weeds;
- Compliance with: management direction from the ROD/RMP; terms of consultation on species listed and habitat designated under the Endangered Species Act; the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, O&C Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Special Status Species program.

Chapter 2. Discussion of Alternatives

This chapter describes the basic features of the alternatives being analyzed.

A. The No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative provides a baseline for the comparison of the alternatives. This alternative describes the existing condition and continuing trends anticipated in the absence of the proposal but with the implementation of other reasonably foreseeable federal and private projects.

If the No Action Alternative were selected then the Swiftwater Field office would deny the requested road use permit and deny the 40 feet of new road construction on BLM administered lands. Roseburg Resources Co. would not have legal access across BLM-administered land. Roseburg Resources Co. would need to seek other means to access their lands.

BLM road maintenance of roads number 24-3-31.0 (aka, Jeffers Creek Road, 0.8 miles), 24-3-30.0 road (1.4 miles), and 24-4-25.2 road (0.08 miles) would be on a sporadic “as needed” basis and for the primary purpose of keeping roads open to traffic. Cross drains would not be replaced or upgraded along the 24-4-25.2 road under the No Action Alternative.

B. The Proposed Action Alternative

The Swiftwater Field Office proposes to grant Roseburg Resources Co.’s request for a three-year road-use permit and to authorize the construction of approximately 40 feet of new road in Section 31 of T. 24 S., R. 03 W. Willamette Meridian. Construction would entail clearing approximately 40 feet (0.8 acres) of a 22 year old, second-growth conifer stand.

Project Design Features for the Rone Access would be consistent with Best Management Practices for construction described in the *Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP, pgs. 134-138). This project is within the General Forest Management Area Land Use Allocation and the proposed road construction would occur within a forest stand approximately 22 years old.

1. Unilateral Permit

A three-year unilateral road use permit for the hauling of approximately 500 thousand board feet (MBF) of timber on the proposed new road and on the following, existing roads: Jeffers Creek Road (road number 24-3-31.0)(0.8 miles), road number 24-3-30.0 (1.4 miles), and road number 24-4-25.2 (0.08 miles) would be issued.

Hauling on naturally surfaced roads would be limited to the dry season, which is normally May 15th to October 15th. Operations during the dry season would be suspended during periods of heavy precipitation. This season could be adjusted if unseasonable conditions occur (e.g. an extended dry season beyond October 15 or wet season beyond May 15).

2. Road Construction

New construction of approximately 40 feet of road in NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 31 of T. 24 S., R. 03 W. Willamette Meridian (W.M.). The requested new construction begins 200 feet west of the junction of the 24-3-30.0 road and the 24-4-25.2 road. The newly constructed road would be natural surfaced and would not be rocked. Additional design specifications for the proposed road are included below in the Project Design Features.

3. Timber within the Right-of-Way

New construction would include the removal of approximately 11 merchantable trees between 8 to 20 inches diameter breast height (approximately 380 board feet of timber) that would fall within the proposed right-of-way.

4. Maintenance

Approximately 2.28 miles of existing road (Jeffers Creek Road [24-3-31.0 road, 0.8 miles], the 24-3-30.0 road [1.4 miles], and the 24-4-25.2 road [0.08 miles]) would be maintained. Road maintenance would consist of maintaining drainage structures (cross drains and drainage ditches), reshaping the road surface, surfacing with rock where needed, and brushing road shoulders.

5. Decommissioning

At the conclusion of the three-year road-use permit, the newly constructed road would be decommissioned by subsoiling, water-barring, mulching with logging slash where available or with straw if logging slash is not available, and blocking with a trench barrier.

C. Project Design Features as part of the Action Alternative

1. Specifications for Road Construction:

- a) Restricting road work (including construction and decommissioning) and log hauling on naturally surfaced roads to the dry season which is normally May 15th to October 15th. Operations during the dry season would be suspended during periods of heavy precipitation. This season could be adjusted if unseasonable conditions occur (e.g. an extended dry season beyond October 15 or wet season beyond May 15).
- b) Road would not exceed adverse ten percent grade.
- c) Clearing debris and slash would be scattered on adjacent Roseburg Resources Company lands.
- d) Subgrade width would be 16 feet plus curve widening, not to exceed not to exceed 20 feet.
- e) One (1) temporary cross drain would be installed at the junction of the proposed new road construction and along the 24-4-25.2 road.

- f) For all construction, new cut and fill slopes would be mulched with weed-free straw, or equivalent, and seeded with a native or sterile hybrid mix.

2. To over-winter natural-surfaced roads:

Over-wintering natural surface spur roads in a condition that is resistant to erosion and sedimentation. This would be done by building, using, and winterizing natural surface roads prior to the end of the operating season. Winterization would include: installation of waterbars, mulching the running surface with weed-free straw, seeding and mulching bare cut and fill surfaces with native species (or a sterile hybrid mix if native seed is unavailable), and blocking. Implementation of over-wintering measures would be restricted to the dry season (normally May 15th to October 15th).

3. To protect air quality:

All prescribed burning (i.e. slash piles) would have an approved “Burn Plan” and be conducted under the requirements of the Oregon Smoke Management Plan and done in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act (ODEQ & ODF, 1992).

4. To prevent and/or control the spread of noxious weeds:

Logging and construction equipment would be required to be clean and free of weed seed prior to entry on to BLM lands (BLM Manual 9015-Integrated Weed Management).

5. To protect cultural resources:

If any objects of cultural value (e.g. historic or prehistoric ruins, graves, fossils or artifacts) are found during the implementation of the proposed action that were not found during pre-disturbance surveys, operations would be suspended until the site has been evaluated for implementation of appropriate mitigation.

6. To protect Special Status, and SEIS Special Attention Plants and Animals:

a. Special Status (Threatened or Endangered, proposed Threatened or Endangered, Candidate Threatened or Endangered, State listed, Bureau Sensitive, Bureau Strategic, or Special Provision) and Special Attention plant and animal sites would be protected where needed to avoid listing of species and conserve candidate species, according to established management recommendations (RMP, pg. 40).

b. If during implementation of the proposed action, any Special Status Species are found that were not discovered during pre-disturbance surveys; operations would be suspended and appropriate protective measures would be implemented before operations would be resumed.

7. To prevent and report accidental spills of petroleum products or other hazardous material and provide for work site cleanup:

The operator would be required to comply with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations concerning the storage, use and disposal of industrial chemicals and other hazardous materials. All equipment planned for in-stream work (e.g. culvert replacement) would be inspected beforehand for leaks. Accidental spills or discovery of the dumping of any hazardous materials would be reported to the Authorized Officer and the procedures outlined in the “Roseburg District Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Emergency Response Contingency Plan” would be followed. Hazardous materials (particularly petroleum

products) would be stored in appropriate and compliant UL-Listed containers and located so that any accidental spill would be fully contained and would not escape to ground surfaces or drain into watercourses. Other hazardous materials such as corrosives and/or those incompatible with flammable storage shall be kept in appropriate separated containment. All construction materials and waste would be removed from the project area.

D. Resources that Would be Unaffected by Either Alternative

1. Resources Not in Project Area

The following resources or concerns are not present and would not be affected by either of the alternatives: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Research Natural Areas (RNAs), minority populations or low income populations, prime or unique farm lands, floodplains/wetlands, solid or hazardous waste, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness.

The proposed action is consistent with Executive Order 12898 which addresses Environmental Justice in minority and low-income populations. The BLM has not identified any potential impacts to low-income or minority populations, either internally or through the public involvement process. No Native American religious concerns were identified by the team or through correspondence with local tribal governments.

There are currently no energy transmission or transport facilities, and/or utility rights-of-way in proximity to the area proposed for the road use permit or the new construction.

2. Cultural Resources

The project area was inventoried for cultural resources and none were discovered (March 2008). It was determined that there would be no effect to any cultural resources. Cultural resources will not be discussed further.

3. Critical Elements of the Human Environment

“Critical Elements of the Human Environment” is a list of elements specified in BLM Handbook H-1790-1 that must be considered in all EA's. These are elements of the human environment subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, or Executive Order. Consideration of “Critical Elements of the Human Environment” is given in Appendix C of this EA.

4. Fire and Fuels Management

The project area is outside the wildland urban interface boundary as identified in the Roseburg District Fire Management Plan. Roseburg Resources Company (RRC) would dispose of downed fuels on RRC owned lands.

Chapter 3. Affected Environment & Consequences by Resource

This chapter discusses the specific resources potentially affected by the alternatives and the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental effects^a of the alternatives over time. This discussion is organized by individual resource, and provides the basis for comparison of the effects between alternatives. The cumulative effects of the BLM timber management program in western Oregon have been described and analyzed in the PRMP/EIS and FSEIS, incorporated herein by reference.

A. Forest Vegetation

1. Affected Environment

The dominant conifer species is Douglas-fir with one incense-cedar. Other vegetation includes hazel, oceanspray, and snowberry. This area is part of the nearby stand that has a birthdate of 1986. This area was never pre-commercial thinned with the rest of the stand.

2. No Action Alternative

The trees would continue to develop and be possibly proposed for commercial thinning within the next 20 years and/or regeneration harvest in the next 30 to 70 years.

3. Proposed Action Alternative

After the road was constructed and used, it would be decommissioned. The disturbed area would be re-planted with Douglas-fir seedlings.

4. Cumulative Effects

The proposed road construction area would move from a mid-seral to early-seral vegetation stage. There would be no net increase of non-forested areas. The proposed action is such a small scale, it would not incrementally add to the cumulative effects of age distribution at the watershed scale.

B. Wildlife

1. Federally Threatened & Endangered Wildlife Species

a) Marbled Murrelet

(1) Affected Environment

The proposed project area is located outside of the range of the marbled murrelet and does not occur within Critical Habitat designated for the marbled murrelet. Therefore, there are *no concerns* for the marbled murrelet or designated Critical Habitat for the marbled murrelet.

^a Cumulative effects are the impacts of an action when considered with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. (40 CFR 1508.7)

b) Northern Spotted Owl

(1) Affected Environment

The 0.8 acres of the proposed right-of-way road construction and access would occur in the southeast corner of a 19.5 acre early seral forest stand (dk = 1986, forest operations inventory), and is currently not considered nesting, roosting, foraging, or dispersal habitat for the spotted owl. Therefore, there are no habitat concerns for the spotted owl.

The proposed right-of-way road construction and access project is within 1.2 miles (provincial home range) of one spotted owl site (Jeffers Creek, IDNO 40210). The Jeffers Creek owl site includes an established 90.4 acres Known Owl Activity Center (KOAC, designated to minimize impacts and protect nest sites found before 1994) (USDI, 2005). The southwestern boundary of the KOAC is approximately 112 meters from the proposed road construction. There are no known activity centers or nest sites within 65 yards of the proposed action. Therefore, there are no disturbance concerns for the spotted owl.

This project occurs within spotted owl designated Critical Habitat Unit OR-24 (a specific geographical area designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as containing habitat essential for the conservation of a Threatened and Endangered species). The proposed action would not remove or modify suitable or dispersal habitat for the spotted owl within Critical Habitat. Approximately 0.8 acres of Critical Habitat would be impacted by the proposed road construction. To the east of the early seral stand, there are an additional 37 acres of early seral habitat with a birth date of 1972, also currently not considered nesting, roosting, foraging, or dispersal habitat. These two stands are separated by the 24-4-25.2 road. The proposed road right-of-way would take off from the 24-4-25.2 road, south of the 1972 stand, and continue approximately 40 feet to the land ownership boundary to the south. The proposed action is also located within approximately 40 feet of the southwest boundary of the Critical Habitat Unit. The proposed action would not remove primary constituent elements, change the nature of the stand, or take the 0.8 acres out of forest production. Therefore, there is *no effect* to Critical Habitat for the northern spotted owl.

(2) No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, approximately 0.8 acres of early seral habitat would remain in its current condition for the foreseeable future, including high tree density, closed canopy, lack of structural and vegetative diversity, lack of large trees, snags, and down wood. The stand associated with the 0.8 acres of the proposed road access does not currently support dispersal activities for the spotted owl, but is expected to reach dispersal capability in approximately twenty years as the stand continues to develop.

There would be no temporary removal of early seral habitat within spotted owl Critical Habitat. The development of the 0.8 acres would not be delayed and would be expected to reach dispersal capability in approximately twenty years.

(3) Proposed Action Alternative

Based on current survey data, there are no spotted owl nest sites or activity centers within 65 yards of the proposed road right-of-way. Therefore, seasonal restrictions would not be applied to the proposed project. However, if future surveys locate a spotted owl activity

center or nest within 65 yards (60 meters) of the proposed unit, seasonal restrictions from March 1st through June 30th would be applied to mitigate disturbance impacts to nesting spotted owls and pre-dispersal fledglings. These seasonal restrictions would be implemented unless current calendar year surveys indicate: 1) spotted owls not detected; 2) spotted owls present, but not attempting to nest; or 3) spotted owls present, but nesting attempt has failed. Waiver of seasonal restrictions is valid until March 1st of the following year.

The proposed project would delay the development of 0.8 acres early forest habitat into dispersal habitat for the spotted owl. After harvest activities are completed, the road would be decommissioned and replanted with conifer species. Thus, the development of 0.8 acres of forest habitat would be delayed by 40-45 years once the area is replanted post-harvest.

The proposed action would not remove or modify suitable or dispersal habitat for the spotted owl within Critical Habitat. Based on the location of the proposed temporary road right-of-way, as well as its proximity to surrounding habitat, existing roads, and the land ownership boundary, the temporary removal of the 0.8 acres would not affect the functionality of the forest habitat in the area. Therefore, because the proposed project would not remove primary constituent elements, change the nature of the stand, or take the 0.8 acres permanently out of forest habitat production, there would be *no effect* to Critical Habitat for the northern spotted owl.

2. Wildlife Bureau Sensitive and Bureau Strategic Species

There is no known Bureau Sensitive or Bureau Strategic Species (e.g. nest site) that would be impacted by the proposed action. The temporary loss of 0.8 acres of early seral forest habitat would cause immeasurable effects to Special Status Species. Those Bureau Sensitive and Bureau Strategic Species that are suspected to occur within the project area and may be affected by the proposed action are discussed briefly in Appendices E & F.

3. Wildlife Cumulative Effects

The proposed project would not permanently contribute additional road miles within the Calapooya Fifth-Field Watershed. Nor would this project cause a significant loss (approximately 0.02 percent of 3,251 acres) of early-seral habitat within the watershed.

C. Hydrology

a) Affected Environment

The requested road use permit and construction is located in the Buzzard Roost Creek Drainage (7th Field) of the Calapooya Watershed (5th Field). The proposed project is in the portion of the Buzzard Roost Creek Drainage that drains into Jeffers Creek (3rd order stream). Calapooya Creek is approximately 600 feet from the nearest portion of the requested road use and has been placed on the Oregon 303(d) list for excessive temperature, insufficient dissolved oxygen, and excessive Iron year round (ODEQ 2006).

The beneficial uses of water near the proposed project area are: resident fish and aquatic life, and salmonid fish spawning and rearing. Beneficial uses of water downstream of the proposed project area consist primarily of: resident fish and aquatic life, salmonid fish spawning and rearing, livestock watering, domestic water supply, and irrigation.

The proposed project site is located within the drinking water protection area for the city of Sutherlin and is approximately 5 miles upstream of the nearest water intake. No surface water rights for domestic use exist within one mile downstream of the proposed road construction and road use. No effect to domestic water users is expected as a result of the project and water rights will not be discussed further in this document.

The 24-3-31 and 24-3-30 rocked roads cross Jeffers Creek or its tributaries in five (5) places. Sediment contribution to Jeffers Creek from these roads is within the natural range of variability due to the rocked surface, vegetated ditch line, and adequate cross drain spacing minimizing the extension of the drainage network.

b) No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the 24-3-31 and 24-3-30 rocked roads would continue to contribute a negligible amount of sediment when compared to the amount of sediment contributed along the entire length of stream from all natural sources. Stream shading would not be affected by the proposed project under this alternative. Therefore, there would be no change to stream temperature, water quality, or Beneficial Uses of Water under the No Action Alternative.

c) Proposed Action Alternative

Under this alternative there would be approximately 40 ft of newly constructed road and a road use established for timber hauling on the 24-3-31 and 24-3-30 roads. The newly constructed road is on a ridge-top and would have no impact to the streams shading or sediment load (the nearest stream is approximately 1000 feet away). The hauling of timber on the 24-3-31 and 24-3-30 rocked roads would temporarily increase the amount of fine sediment available for erosion from the road by water. However, because of the vegetated ditch line and adequate cross drain spacing mentioned in the Affected Environment section, only a portion of this sediment would be transported to the streams. The amount of sediment contributed to the streams from the road would be negligible when compared to the amount of sediment contributed along the entire length of stream from all natural sources. Therefore, there would be no change to stream temperature, water quality, or Beneficial Uses of Water under the No Action Alternative.

d) Cumulative Effects

Reasonably foreseeable future actions within the Calapooya Watershed (Fifth-Field HUC) include continued private and Federal forest management. At both the drainage and fifth-field watershed scales, the scope of the proposed project is too small to substantively alter current watershed functions. Because the proposed action would not alter water quality or beneficial uses of water at the project level, it would not incrementally add to the cumulative effects beyond the project area or at any watershed scale beyond.

D. Soils

1. Soil Productivity

a) Affected Environment

The proposed road construction site is located in a gently sloping ridge top saddle where the soil is mapped in the NRCS Douglas County Survey as Dixonville, a moderately deep (20 to 40 inches), well drained soil to soft basalt bedrock. It has silty clay loam surfaces and silty clay or clay subsoils. Surface erosion is essentially none. There are no signs of instability at the site.

b) No Action Alternative

The affected environment would remain unchanged.

c) Proposed Action Alternative

There would be about 0.02 acres of new soil disturbance. there is no FGR or other fragile soil TPCC classification acres in the project area. Erosion would be minor and temporary. There would be no risk of the new road segment causing a landslide.

2. Cumulative Effects

There would no cumulative impacts to soil productivity at watershed scales.

E. Aquatic Habitat & Fisheries

1. Aquatic Habitat

a) Affected Environment

Jeffers Creek (3rd order stream) is the nearest fish bearing stream to the project. Jeffers Creek contains a small population of cutthroat trout. The nearest coho salmon population is 0.9 miles downstream in Calapooya Creek.

b) No Action Alternative

Fish species and populations would remain unaffected. Stream shading would not be affected and sediment delivery to streams would not increase at the drainage level (EA, pg. 10). Stream temperatures and sediment delivery would continue current trends, and there would be no change to the current stream habitat conditions. Occasional pulses of increased sediment and woody material would enter the aquatic system as a result of natural events (e.g. large wind and/or rain events).

c) Proposed Action Alternative

Under this alternative the newly constructed ridge-top road would have no impact to stream shading or sediment load (EA, pg. 10). The nearest fish bearing stream is over 1000 feet away from the new road construction (Jeffers Creek).

The proposed project also involves timber hauling on the 24-3-31 and 24-3-30 roads. These are rocked roads with well vegetated ditch lines and adequate cross drain spacing. Timber hauling on these roads contributes a negligible amount of sediment to the stream. There is sufficient woody material in Jeffers Creek to filter the negligible amount of sediment before

it reaches Calapooya Creek. There would be no changes to stream temperature, stream flow, or water quality as a result of this project (EA, pg. 10). Large wood recruitment and delivery would also be unaffected by this project.

Without any discernable changes in sediment delivery, stream temperature, stream flow, or large woody debris (LWD) delivery, there would be no direct or indirect effects to fish populations or aquatic habitat as a result of this project.

2. Fish Populations

a) Affected Environment

(1) Federally Threatened Species

On February 4, 2008 NOAA Fisheries Service announced that it is listing the Oregon coast coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) salmon evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) as *threatened* under the Endangered Species Act. This action includes designation of critical habitat. The BLM is required to consult with NOAA Fisheries on any action that the BLM determines “may affect” the Oregon Coast coho salmon. The Oregon Coast coho salmon is also considered a Bureau Sensitive species.

The Swiftwater fisheries staff has determined that this project would have no mechanism for an effect on Oregon Coast coho salmon. The proposed action and its interrelated and interdependent actions would have no direct effects on the Oregon Coast coho salmon and would not destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. In addition, project design features would ensure that no indirect effects to Oregon Coast coho salmon or their habitat would occur. Therefore it has been determined that the proposed action would have "no effect" on the proposed species.

(2) Bureau Sensitive & Strategic Species

Bureau Sensitive fish species and their habitats are managed by the BLM so as not to contribute to the need to list under the Endangered Species Act, and to recover the species (ROD/RMP, pg. 41). Bureau Sensitive fish species in the Calapooya Creek Watershed include the Oregon Coast coho salmon (discussed above), Umpqua chub (*Oregonichthys kalawatseti*), Oregon Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and Chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*). These Bureau Sensitive species have been documented in the watershed, but not in the project area.

b) No Action Alternative

Fish species and populations would remain unaffected. Stream shading would not be affected and sediment delivery to streams would not increase at the drainage level (EA, pg. 10). Stream temperatures and sediment delivery would continue current trends, and there would be no change to the current stream habitat conditions. Occasional pulses of increased sediment and woody material would enter the aquatic system as a result of natural events (e.g. large wind and/or rain events).

c) Proposed Action Alternative

Without any discernable changes in sediment delivery, stream temperature, stream flow, or LWD delivery, there would be no direct or indirect effects to fish populations or aquatic habitat as a result of this project.

3. Essential Fish Habitat

a) Affected Environment

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is designated for fish species of commercial importance by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (Federal Register 2002, Vol. 67/No. 12). Streams and habitat that are currently or were historically accessible to Chinook and coho salmon are considered EFH. Portions of the Calapooya Creek Watershed are designated EFH for coho and Chinook salmon.

b) No Action Alternative

As discussed previously under effects to aquatic habitat (EA, pg. 12), EFH would remain unaffected.

c) Proposed Action Alternative

The following components were analyzed to assess the effects of the proposed project on EFH. Where the resource is discussed more fully elsewhere in the EA is referenced.

- *Water quality/Water quantity* – There would be no affect to water quality and/or quantity as a result of proposed project (EA, pg. 10).
- *Substrate characteristics* – There would no discernable increase in stream sediment or flow as a result of this project, (EA, pg. 10).
- *Large woody debris (LWD) within the channel and LWD source areas* – This project would not affect LWD recruitment or delivery to the stream (EA, pg. 12).
- *Fish passage* – There would be no effect on fish passage. The 40 feet of new road construction does not cross any fish bearing streams.

Because the proposed action would not affect the components of EFH, the action “*Will Not Adversely Affect*” EFH for coho or Chinook salmon in the Elk Creek Watershed. Without any mechanisms for an adverse effect to EFH, no mitigation measures are proposed.

4. Aquatic Conservation Strategy

The BLM assessed the proposed project at both the site and watershed scale (assessment included in Appendix H). The proposed project would not retard or prevent attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) objectives at the site or watershed scales. Therefore, this action is consistent with the ACS, and its objectives at the site and watershed scales.

F. Botany

1. Botanical Special Status Species

a) Affected Environment

The following analysis considers Special Status Plants whose known range is within the project area, are documented or suspected to occur in the project area, and whose habitat is documented or suspected to occur within the project area. The project area is within the known range of

Kincaid’s Lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus* ssp. *kincaidii*), a federally Threatened plant. There is habitat present for this species in the project area.

The project area is also within the known range of the popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys hirtus*), a federally Endangered plant. However, there is no habitat present for this species in the project area.

Field surveys were conducted in the spring, summer, and fall of 2007 to comply with Departmental Manual 6840 directives and the Special Status Plant program (ROD/RMP, pg. 40). There were no Special Status Plants detected, including Kincaid’s lupine and the popcorn flower, within the project area. Therefore, Special Status Plants will not be discussed further.

2. Botanical Survey & Manage Species

a) Affected Environment

Rone Access Right-of-Way meets exemption (a) from the U.S. District Court Order on October 11, 2006 regarding Northwest Ecosystem Alliance et al. v. Rey et al, amending paragraph three of the January 9, 2006 injunction. Therefore, the Survey and Manage program is not in effect for botanical resources on the Rone Access Right-of-Way project.

3. Noxious Weeds

a) Affected Environment

There are infestations of noxious weeds scattered throughout the project area. The severity of infestation is high, and is mostly located within the road prism.

Table 1. Noxious Weed Infestations.

24-3-25.2	High	Low

* Infestation level is based on canopy cover class per acre: Low = 1-5%; Moderate = 6-25%; High => 25%.

There is no record of past treatment in the project area. The project area was treated in 2006-2007 under the Roseburg District Integrated Weed Control Plan (USDI, 1995a). Treatments have been and would continue to be performed by manual removal and/or application of an approved herbicide.

b) No Action Alternative

Noxious weeds currently located in the project area would be controlled with either the application of approved herbicides, or by manual removal (USDI Roseburg District Integrated Weed Control Plan, as amended. 1995; EA #OR-100-94-11). Over time, the distribution and abundance of noxious weeds in the project area would decline due to continued and repeated treatments in accordance with the Roseburg District Integrated Weed Control Plan.

c) Proposed Action Alternative

There would be a short-term increase in the distribution and abundance of noxious weeds in the project area. Soil disturbance related to the Proposed Action would create areas of exposed mineral soil, which could serve as habitat for noxious weeds. New infestations on exposed mineral soils would be expected to be short lived (less than 10 years), as the conifer canopy closes and native species would eventually overtop and out-compete weeds for sunlight, soil moisture, and soil nutrients.

In addition, logging and construction equipment would be cleaned and free of weed seed prior to entry on to BLM lands to help control or prevent the spread of noxious weeds in the project area following the project design features. The project area would be monitored following implementation of the Proposed Action, and new weed infestations would be treated in accordance with the Roseburg District Integrated Weed Control Plan.

Chapter 4. Contacts, Consultations, and Preparers

A. Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Consulted

The Agency is required by law to consult with certain federal and state agencies (40 CFR 1502.25).

1. Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Section 7 Consultation - The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) requires consultation to ensure that any action that an Agency authorizes, funds or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the existence of any listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

a. A Letter of Concurrence was received from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (*Reinitiation of consultation on Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management FY 2005-2008 Management Activities* [Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511]) dated June 24, 2005 which concurred with the Roseburg District's conclusion that the proposed Rone Access Right-of-Way Project is not likely to adversely affect Northern spotted owls and is not likely to adversely affect the Northern spotted owl as a result of disturbance (pgs. 19-20, Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511).

b. The Swiftwater fisheries staff has determined that this project would have no mechanism for an effect on Oregon Coast coho salmon. The proposed action and its interrelated and interdependent actions would have no direct effects on the Oregon Coast coho salmon and will not destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. In addition, project design features would ensure that no indirect effects to Oregon Coast coho salmon or their habitat would occur. Therefore it has been determined that the proposed action would have "no effect" on the proposed species. In addition the Swiftwater fisheries staff has determined that the proposed action "*Will Not Adversely Effect*" EFH for coho or Chinook salmon in Buzzard Roost Creek, Jeffers Creek, Calapooya Creek or their tributaries (EA, pg 13).

2. Cultural Resources Section 106 Compliance – Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act under the guidance of the 1997 National Programmatic Agreement and the 1998 Oregon Protocol has been documented with a Project Tracking Form dated March 6, 2008. A "No Effect" determination was made. It has been determined that there would be no effect to scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

B. Public Notification

1. A letter was sent (November 6, 2007) to four **adjacent landowners**. No comments were received.

2. Notification was provided (November 6, 2007) to affected **Tribal Governments** (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians). No comments were received.

3. The **general public** was notified via the *Roseburg District Planning Update* (Fall 2007) which was sent to approximately 150 addressees. These addressees consist of members of the public that have expressed interest in Roseburg District BLM projects. Comments were received from one local organization requesting additional information about the project.

4. This EA, and its associated documents, would be provided to certain **State, County and local government** offices including: USFWS, NMFS, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. If the decision is made to implement this project, it will be sent to the aforementioned State, County, and local government offices.

5. A 15-day **public comment period** would be established for review of this EA. A Notice of Availability would be published in *The News-Review*. The public comment period will begin with publication of the notice published in *The News-Review* on March 11, 2008 and end close of business March 25, 2008. Comments must be received during this period to be considered for the subsequent decision. This EA and its associated documents will be sent to all parties who request them. If the decision is made to implement this project, a notice will be published in *The News-Review* and notification sent to all parties who request them.

C. List of Preparers

Core Team

Charles White	Project Lead / Roads and Rights-of-Way
A.C. Clough	Management Representative
Jeff McEnroe	Fisheries
Dan Cressy	Soils
Brooke Shakespeare	Hydrology
Krisann Kosel	Fuels Management
Elizabeth Gayner	Wildlife
Rex McGraw	Planning & Environmental Coordinator / EA Preparer
Jeffrey Wall	Planning & Environmental Coordinator / EA Preparer
Trixy Moser	Silviculture
Julie Knurowski	Botany

Expanded Team (Consulted)

Isaac Barner	Cultural Resources
Erik Taylor	Recreation / Visual Resources Management

D. References Cited

Geyer, Nancy A. 2003. Calapooya Creek Watershed Assessment and Action Plan. July, 2003. Prepared for the Umpqua Basin Watershed Council, Roseburg, Oregon.

Northwest Ecosystems Alliance, et.al., v. Mark E. Rey, et.al. United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle. Oct. 2006.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. 2006. Water Quality Assessment - Oregon's 2004/2006 Section Integrated Report Database, Portland Oregon [http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/assessment/rpt0406/search.asp].

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Forestry. Nov. 1992. Oregon state smoke management plan, Salem, Oregon.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. Feb. 1994a. Final supplemental environmental impact statement on management of habitat for late-successional and old growth forest related species within the range of the Northern spotted owl (FSEIS).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. April 13, 1994b. Record of decision for amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management planning documents within the range of the Northern spotted owl (ROD) and standards and guidelines for management of habitat for late-successional and old growth related species within the range of the Northern spotted owl (S&G).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 2001. Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. October 1994. Roseburg District: Final - Roseburg District Proposed Resources Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS).

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. March 1995a. Roseburg District Integrated Weed Control Plan Environmental Assessment (EA #OR-100-94-11).

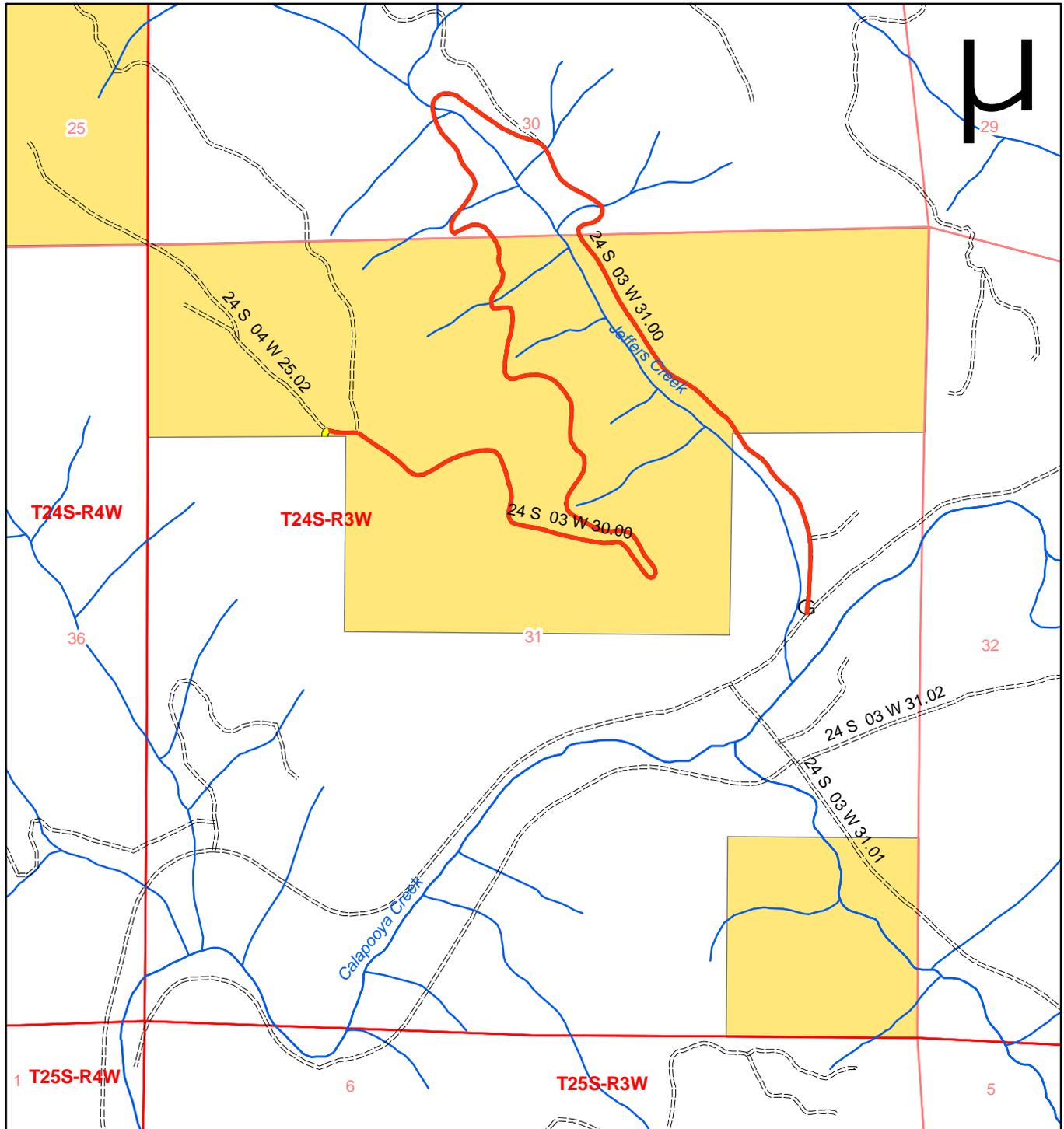
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. June 2, 1995b. Roseburg District: Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. October 1999. Roseburg District: Calapooya Creek Watershed Analysis. 155 pgs.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. June 24, 2005. Reinitiation of consultation on Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management FY2005-2008 Management Activities (Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511).

Rone Access Vicinity Map

Map Date: October 31, 2007
Created By: R. McGraw



0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

1 inch equals 1,000 feet

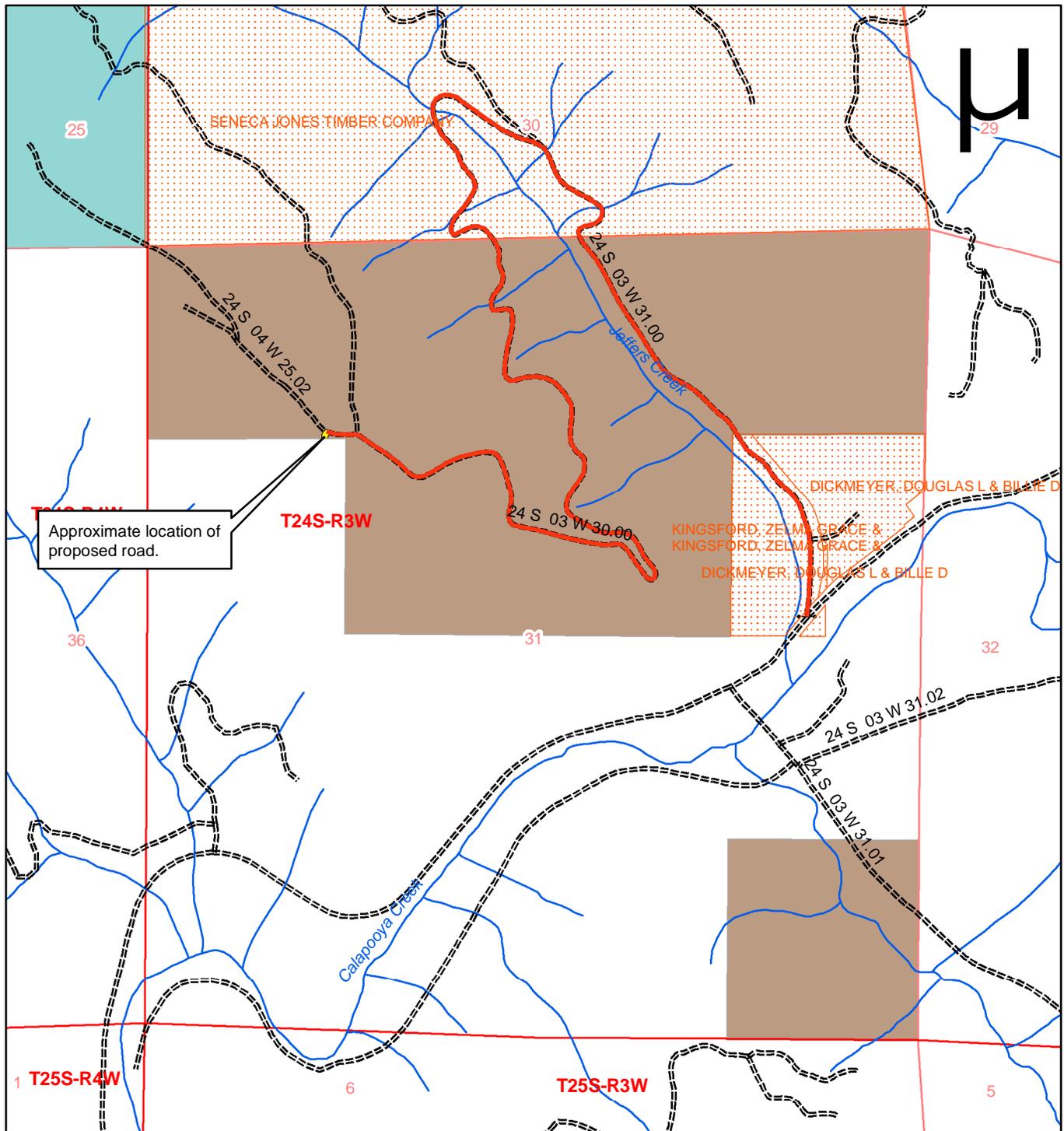
1:12,000

Legend	
	New Construction
	Existing Road (included in proposed agreement)
	Existing Road (not in proposed agreement)
	Stream
	Gate
	BLM
	Township
	Section

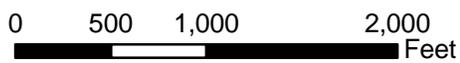
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

Rone Access: Adjacent Landowners

Map Date: October 30, 2007
Created By: R.McGraw



Approximate location of proposed road.



1 inch equals 1,000 feet

1:12,000

Legend			
	Proposed New Road		Township
	Existing Road (in ROW)		Section
	Existing Road (not in ROW)		BLM Land Use Allocation
	Stream		General Forest Management Area
	Adjacent Landowner		Connectivity/Diversity Block

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