

**Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact
For Huckleberry Mountains Forest Management Programmatic
Environmental Assessment OR135-FY04-007**

Decision

It is my decision to implement Alternative 1 - Proposed Action (Commercial Harvest and Restoration), including management actions, as described in Programmatic EA#OR135-FY04-007 for forest management in the Huckleberry Mountains area. This decision provides for management direction on 10,000 acres of public lands. This Alternative involves commercial harvesting to improve forest health and fuels (fire hazard) reduction. This alternative also provides for the construction of temporary roads to facilitate log hauling. All temporary roads will be closed after projects are completed.

Rationale for Decision

Implementation of Alternative 1 will improve the forest health and reduce the potential for catastrophic wildland fires. Removal of unhealthy trees and creation of a mature forest stand structure will allow commercial tree species to be more competitive and survive to merchantable size and quality. Removal of fuel ladders into the overstory will reduce the likelihood of fire reaching the crowns and causing catastrophic damage to the resource. The harvesting and processing of timber will provide some economic support for the region.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Considering the Management Actions to be implemented, the analysis of the potential environmental impacts as described in Environmental Assessment #OR135-FY04-007, and other information available to me, including a Biological Assessment, I have determined that impacts associated with timber harvest, forest health improvement, and fuels reduction are not expected to be significant. The protective measures include actions to reduce impacts to forest resources and minimize disturbance to wildlife. 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.

Signature on file
Kevin R. Devitt, Field Manager
Border Resource Area

7/22/05
Date