



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

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1792(OR-128)

EA # OR128-03-24

Brummit Creek Density Management and Restoration EA

### DECISION RECORD

For the

**Brummit Creek Density Management and Restoration EA**

**EA # OR128-03-24**

#### Summary:

Implementation of Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) best meets the Purpose and Need as identified in the Brummit Creek Density Management and Restoration EA OR128-03-24. This alternative also meets the management guidelines in the Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan and the South Coast - Northern Klamath Late-Successional Reserve Assessment, and will be implemented as described below. Publication of this Decision Record completes the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for non-timber sale projects analyzed in the Environmental Assessment. Separate timber sale notices will be advertised for timber sale projects to be implemented from this Environmental Assessment.

#### Decision:

It is my decision to implement Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) as described in the Brummit Creek Density Management and Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA # OR128-03-24) and as outlined below under "Specific Actions to be Implemented".

#### Background:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coos Bay District prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA# OR128-03-24) to evaluate the effects of various kinds of restorative actions in Late-Successional and Riparian Reserves in the Brummit Creek vicinity in:

Sections 13-16, 20-35 of T. 27 S., R.10 W.

Sections 1-12 of T. 28 S., R.10 W.

Sections 19-21, 29-31, 33 of T. 27 S., R. 9 W.

Sections 4-9 of T. 28S., R. 9 W. (Willamette Meridian).

The Environmental Assessment concluded with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated 1/26/2005. A variety of restoration projects were assessed in the Environmental Assessment including silvicultural treatments, road decommissioning, habitat tree and down log creation, instream wood placement, road fill pullback, and forage seeding. Two alternatives were analyzed in the Environmental Assessment, a No Action and a Proposed Action alternative.

The general public was informed of the Environmental Assessment and FONSI through a letter (1/26/2005), through a published Legal Notice in The World newspaper (1/28/2005), and through the District's Internet site. Four public responses were received. All public comments were taken into consideration during the decision, but did not substantially alter the action proposal.

### **Alternatives and Rationale for Decision:**

#### Alternative 1 - No Action

Alternative 1 is rejected because it does not meet the purpose and need for action or the management objectives identified in the Environmental Assessment, nor would it meet the management objectives for Late-Successional and Riparian Reserves identified in the Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan (RMP). It delays attainment of Late-Successional and Riparian Reserve Objectives on thousands of acres, increases the risk to stands of catastrophic loss from wind and fire disturbance and insect infestation, maintains forest and aquatic habitats in degraded conditions, and maintains a higher risk of culvert and road failures and the resultant stream damage.

#### Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

Alternative 2 best meets the purpose and need for action and the management objectives described in the Environmental Assessment. It reflects a balance between meeting project objectives while minimizing adverse impacts to other resources. It promotes attainment of Late-Successional and Riparian Reserve objectives, restores key forest and aquatic habitat components, and reduces risk of road and culvert failures. The Proposed Action incorporates Design Features to reduce incidental adverse impacts. The Best Management Practices identified in the RMP served as the foundation for the Design Features. All Design Features identified in the Environmental Assessment are hereby adopted.

### **Specific Actions to be Implemented:**

The specific actions to be implemented under this Decision Record are listed below. Note that the Environmental Assessment also proposed density management and hardwood conversion stand treatments to be implemented via commercial timber harvest contracts. Pursuant to Forest Management Regulations 43 CFR 5003.2, the decisions for timber sale actions from this Environmental Assessment will be declared through separate timber sale notices.

- Density management thinning (e.g. cut-and-leave treatments or cut trees moved to streams);
- Hardwood conversion (e.g. cut-and-leave treatments);
- Road decommissioning;
- Road fill pullback;
- Instream wood placement;
- Habitat tree creation;
- Forage seeding.

**Endangered Species Act and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Compliance:**

The proposed action is consistent with the National Marine Fisheries Service's March 18, 1997 Biological Opinion and Conference Opinion on activities covered in the Coos Bay District's RMP and the Programmatic Biological and Conference Opinion issued on August 8, 2001. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred that the proposed action was not likely to adversely affect wildlife species or critical habitat listed under the Endangered Species Act (Concurrence Letter No. 1-15-05-I-0065). Project design criteria identified during consultation have been incorporated into the proposed action. Except for actions in China Creek, the proposed action will have no effect on Essential Fish Habitat, as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Restoration activities in China Creek may have short-term adverse effects on essential fish habitat. These activities have been addressed in consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the appropriate reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions have been incorporated into the Proposed Action Design Features.

**Special Status Species:**

Most of the projects are specifically designed to benefit special status species. Impacts to special status plant and animal species were addressed in the EA, and inventories for some species are being conducted prior to project implementation.

**Decision Recommended by:**

Dennis Turowski  
Dennis Turowski  
Natural Resource  
Specialist Administrator

7/21/2005  
Date

Teresa A. Collier  
Teresa Collier  
Natural Resource  
Specialist Administrator

7/21/2005  
Date

**Decision Approved by:**

Pat Ryan  
Thomas (Pat) Ryan  
Myrtlewood Field Manager

7/21/2005  
Date