

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

for

Cedar Creek Subwatershed Environmental Assessment

EA OR125-99-19

The Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) for the Umpqua Field Office of the Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management has analyzed a proposal to implement Regeneration Harvest and Commercial Thinning activities in the Cedar Creek Subwatershed. The analysis area is approximately 26 miles southeast of Coos Bay, Oregon. It includes the Arrow Creek, Lower Cedar Creek, Upper Cedar Creek, Middle Williams River, and Goose Gulch drainages that are tributary to South Fork Coos River. The total analysis area is 34,773 acres in size. The BLM manages 3,437 acres (10%) of the analysis area. The remaining lands are privately owned. The proposed harvest activities are located in Douglas County, T25S-R08W, T26S-R08W, T26S-R09W, T27S-R09W, Willamette Meridian.

After searching for stands available for harvest in the databases and field checking them, six project areas are being proposed. From the six project areas, 189 acres would be offered for regeneration harvest and 906 acres would be commercially thinned.

The proposal and associated design features are described in the attached Environmental Assessment EA OR125-99-19.

The attached EA and this FONSI are tiered to the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP)* and its Record of Decision (USDI BLM 1995); which is in conformance with the *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 (Northwest Forest Plan)* and its Record of Decision (Interagency 1994).

A biological assessment of the proposed action was reviewed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) through the consultation process provided under Section 7(A)(4) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 [16 U.S.C. 1536(A)(2) and (A)(4) as amended]. The Letter of Concurrence is available for review at the Coos Bay District Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

A biological assessment of the proposed actions will be reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through the consultation process provided under Section 7(A)(4) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 [16 U.S.C. 1536(A)(2) and (A)(4) as amended]. The Biological Opinion(s) will be available for review upon completion at the Coos Bay District Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

The Environmental Consequences (EA, Chapter 4) were based on research, professional judgement, and the experience of the Interdisciplinary Team. There will be no significant impacts on (1) Threatened or Endangered Species, including Special Status Species, Protection Buffer Species, and Survey and Manage Species, (2) Flood Plains, (3) Wetlands or Riparian Zones, (4) Wilderness Values, (5) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, (6) Cultural Resources, (7) Prime or Unique Farmlands, (8) Wild and Scenic Rivers, (9) Air Quality, (10) Native American Religious Concerns, (11) Hazardous or Solid Waste, (12) Water Quality (13) Noxious Weed Spread, (14) Port-Orford-cedar Management, and (15) Environmental Justice. Analysis of other resource values present on site, (e.g. soils, silviculture, etc.) shows no impacts of concern.

Determination

On the basis of information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that the Cedar Creek Subwatershed Project Areas identified in the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared for this project.

Steven D. Fowler Date

Acting Umpqua Field Manager