

Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Eugene District, Oregon

East Chinkapin Thin OR090-DNA-08-01

A. Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is to implement the East Chinkapin Thin by commercially thinning approximately 140 acres within the North Lake Creek planning area. The proposed action, including silvicultural prescriptions, logging systems, Riparian Reserve treatments, road decommissioning prescriptions, and wildlife mitigation measures is described in the attached "Project Implementation Prescription."

Location: T.15 S. R.6 W. Sec.19 and T.15 S. R.7 W. Sec. 24, Will. Mer.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name: Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP), as amended

Date Approved: June 1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

The Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan calls for providing a sustainable supply of timber from the Matrix Land Use Allocation (LUA) (p. 84). The Proposed Action is within the Matrix LUA. The RMP also calls for applying silvicultural practices in Riparian Reserves to control stocking, reestablish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives (p. 24).

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action.

- EA OR090-04-07, North Lake Creek Thinning Project; June, 2005.
- Biological Assessment of the North Lake Creek Thinning Project, January 25, 2005, Eugene District, Siuslaw Resource Area.
- Biological Opinion – US Fish and Wildlife Service, March 17, 2005.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Yes. The North Lake Creek EA considered commercial thinning on 5,500 acres of Matrix and Riparian Reserve LUAs. The Proposed Action is included in that analysis area (see Map 5 in the EA).

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

Yes. The EA analyzed an appropriate range of alternatives given the purpose and need for the project. Five alternatives were analyzed: (1) Alternative A, No Action; (2) Alternative B, designed to contribute to the Eugene District's Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) as well as provide for forest health and productivity; (3) Alternative C, designed to contribute to ASQ, but included additional objectives to protect and enhance northern spotted owl habitat and mushroom productivity; (4) Alternative D, designed to contribute to ASQ, but included objectives to emphasize stand structure development in a portion of the Riparian Reserves and minimize short-term impacts to aquatic habitat; and (5) Alternative E, which would contribute to ASQ, but also enhance aquatic habitat complexity. See EA, pp. 5-11. The selected alternative is Alternative E as described in the North Lake Creek Thinning Project EA, modified to include the heavy thinning in 20% of the Riparian Reserves as described under Alternative D. East Chinkapin Thin includes 302 acres of moderate

thinning as described in Alternative E. No new environmental concerns, interests, resource values, or circumstances have been revealed since the EA was published in 2004 that would indicate a need for additional alternatives.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances.

Yes. No new information or circumstances have arisen since the EA was published in 2004 that could affect the adequacy of the analysis. The effects analysis regarding road-related sediment was extensive and appropriate for the type of landscape comprising the East Chinkapin Thin timber sale, in that the type and amount of road construction and renovation needed to implement the East Chinkapin Thin project is consistent with what was anticipated in the EA (pp. 5, 8, 9-11). Effects analysis in the EA regarding dispersal habitat for spotted owls and mushroom production remains adequate. The East Chinkapin Thin project is not located within a northern spotted owl home range; the EA specified that thinning dispersal habitat would degrade but not remove dispersal habitat (pp. 31-32). This conclusion is consistent with the findings of the original Biological Opinion from the USFWS and the amendment due to the designation of critical habitat. Analysis of mushroom productivity assumed that productivity would be reduced on a nearly 1:1 ratio between the number of trees removed and loss of mushrooms, when averaged over a large area and multiple years (EA, p. 34). The EA estimated that productivity would be reduced overall to 38% within thinned areas (EA, p.36) for the Proposed Action under a moderate thinning regime (EA, p. 8) with a relative density in the mid-30's. The silvicultural prescription for East Chinkapin Thin would result in a relative density of approximately 32 which is within the range anticipated in the EA.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Yes. A new recovery plan for the northern spotted owl was released in August of 2008, resulting in portions of the North Lake Creek area being designated as critical habitat. Formal consultation was reinitiated for the North Lake Creek EA resulting in an amendment to the original Biological Opinion. The East Chinkapin Thin project is consistent with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's biological opinion and its amendment for the North Lake Creek EA. There are no changes in resource conditions from when the EA was published in 2004. There are no changes in resource-related plans, policies or programs of other government agencies, Indian tribes. There are no changes in statute, case law, or regulation that would affect the implementation of the East Chinkapin Thin project.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Yes. The EA describes impacts to the aquatic ecosystem, northern spotted owl foraging habitat and dispersal habitat, mushroom productivity, noxious weeds, and implementation costs. Impacts from implementing the East Chinkapin Thin timber sale would fall within those analyzed in the EA, and were anticipated in the EA. The models used in the EA to predict road-related sediment remain current and appropriate at the landscape scale. The analysis of effects to northern spotted owls is consistent with that contained in the original and amended Biological Opinion from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. No new research has come to light regarding effects of commercial thinning on mushroom productivity. The EA analysis included typical effects that would be expected at the site-specific level, and identified BMPs that would be implemented as needed depending on site-specific conditions. There are no known wildlife special status species in the project area. Two bureau tracking botanical species were found during surveys, these species do not require mitigation. There is no indication that implementing the East Chinkapin Thin would result in different environmental effects than those anticipated in the EA.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes. Cumulative effects considered in the EA included those from past and future timber sales on public and private land, recreation management activities through implementation of the Upper Lake Creek Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP), and road paving (EA, p. 19). No

unanticipated actions or events have occurred in the North Lake Creek planning area that would have additional cumulative effects with the East Chinkapin Thin project.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. The East Chinkapin Thin project area is within the North Lake Creek planning area, which went through extensive public scoping prior to development of the EA. In August, 2003, a scoping letter was mailed to over 300 groups, businesses, local government agencies, and individuals, announcing that BLM was seeking help identifying issues and concerns regarding timber harvest in the North Lake Creek area. An open house was held at the Triangle Grange on September 4, 2003, and BLM staff was available during the Blachly Fair, September 7-8, 2003. In May, 2004, the North Lake Creek EA was released for a 30-day public review and was sent to 12 groups or businesses, 9 state or local government agencies, and 15 individuals. In addition, a notice announcing the availability of the EA was sent to approximately 90 individuals who had received commercial mushroom harvesting permits for this area since October 2003.

Formal consultation as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act was initiated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The FWS issued its biological opinion on March 17, 2005. After a new spotted owl recovery plan was released by the USFW in August of 2008 formal consultation was reinitiated with the services and an amendment to the original Biological Opinion was issued on September 15, 2008.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Scott Richards	Engineer
Karin Baitis	Soils Scientist
Sharmila Premdas	Landscape Planner/Team Lead
Dan Crannell	Wildlife Biologist
Cheryl Bright	Logging Systems Forester
Doug Goldenberg	Botanist
Mark Stephen	Planning Forester
Christi Oliver	Recreation
Leo Poole	Fisheries Biologist
Dave Reed	Fuels Specialist
Steve Steiner	Hydrologist

F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures.

(see attached implementation prescription)

REVIEWED BY

Sharmila Premdas

NEPA Coordinator

10/21/2008

Date

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/Sharmila Premdas

ACTING Field Manager
Siuslaw Resource Area

10/21/2008

Date

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PRESCRIPTION

East Chinkapin Timber Sale

North Lake Creek

T.15 S. R.6 W. Sec.19 and T.15 S. R.7 W. Sec. 24

Silviculture:

Includes both Matrix and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocations:

- Vary the leave tree spacing as needed to generally reserve the larger diameter, more vigorous trees.
- Select conifer leave trees to reserve 120 ft² basal area /acre.
- Retention of target basal area will average 115 conifer trees/acre, stand RD = 32
- Selected leave trees shall be of good form and relatively free of defect.
- Hardwoods, yew trees and snags shall be reserved
- All trees marked with yellow paint are MAMU habitat leave trees. Three MAMU trees with 17 adjacent trees have been painted.
- Riparian Reserves: thin same as adjacent Matrix.

Est. Yield

Thin 5.0 MBF/ac from **140 acres** = **0.7 MMBf** (includes Matrix and Riparian Reserve)

(Upland Matrix 82 ac = 0.410 MMBF) (Treated Riparian Reserve 58 ac = 0.290 MMBF)

Stream Buffers: Maintain 75 foot minimum width buffers on all streams.

Logging Systems

Cable Yarding Design Features

- All cable yarding should be to designated or approved landings.
- To minimize impacts, spacing of cable corridors should be kept to 150 feet apart and limited to 12 feet in width (a cable system capable of 75 foot lateral yarding would be used).
- Minimum one-end suspension is required. Intermediate supports may be necessary to achieve the required suspension.
- Make cable yarding corridors erosion resistant if needed where severe gouging has occurred.

Ground Based Yarding Design Features

- Operations would occur when soil moisture content provides the most resistance to compaction (generally less than 25%--during the dry season, typically, July 1 to October 15), as approved by the Authorized Officer in consultation with the Soil Scientist.
- Use existing skid trails wherever possible.
- Limit new skid trails to slopes less than 35%.
- Pre-designate skid trails.
- Limit skid trails to <10% of the harvest area by requiring a minimum 150 foot spacing between skid trails, and limiting the width of skid trails to 12 feet.
- Limit low ground pressure (<6 psi) ground-based yarding equipment to one round trip when operating outside designated primary skid trails, utilizing downed slash to minimize soil disturbance.
- Skid logs to designated or approved landings.
- Till all skid trails and landings and place slash and brush on trails with an excavator. Tilling would immediately follow logging operations and take place prior to the onset of the fall rainy season. If tillage cannot be accomplished the same operating season, all trails would be left in an erosion resistant condition and blocked.

Engineering - Road construction and Renovation

Construction and road improvement may be needed to facilitate winter logging. Hauling on dirt roads shall not be allowed during periods of wet weather.

a) Construct Spurs as follows (all lengths approximate):

Spur A = 310' (origin @ sta 7+70 15-7-24.1)

Spur B = 365' (origin @ sta 2+90 15-6-19.4)

Spur C = 560'

Spur D = 296'

Logger's choice landings/spurs to be constructed subject to approval by the Authorized Officer.

- b) Improve BLM roads as follows:
 15-6-19.4 = 290'
 15-7-24.74 = 1200'
 15-7-24.1 = 2110'
 15-7-24.75 = 515'
 15-6-19.2 = 360'
 15-6-19.71 = 330'

Improvement work will consist of brushing, scarifying or grading and/or widening the existing subgrade to a 14' width.

- c) Haul route: The recommended haul route is via Road No. 15-7-26 which is paved and suitable for winter haul.

Road Decommissioning

- Decommission all newly constructed spurs and improved roads
- Decommission all newly constructed spurs and improved roads using the following measures:
 - (aa) Till natural surface roads used during logging operations and skid trails accessed by them with decompaction equipment, such as a track mounted excavator, during the dry season.
 - (bb) Construct drainage dips, waterbars and/or lead-off ditches, as directed by the Authorized Officer.
 - (cc) Slash:
 - (X1) Where available place logging slash on rocked road surfaces that are visible from Road No. 15-7-26.
 - (X2) Where available, place logging slash on the entire road prism of tilled, natural surfaced roads.
 - (dd) Block roads using stumps, slash, and/or cull logs, as directed by the Authorized Officer.
- Remove all cross drains and stream crossing culverts.

Road Number	Road Rocking	(aa)	(bb)	(cc)	(dd)
		Tilling	Drainage	Logging Slash	Blocking
All skid trails	Not allowed	X	X	X2	X
Spurs A,B	If Rocked		X		
	If Not Rocked	X		X2	
Spurs C,D	If Rocked		X	X1	X
	If Not Rocked	X		X2	
15-6-19.2	If Rocked		X	X1	X
	If Not Rocked	X		X2	
15-6-19.4	Allowed		X	X1	X
15-6-19.71	If Rocked		X	X1	X
	If Not Rocked	X		X2	
15-7-24.1	If Rocked		X	X1	X
	If Not Rocked	X		X2	
15-7-24.74	If Rocked		X	X1	X
	If Not Rocked	X		X2	
15-7-24.75	If Rocked		X	X1	X
	If Not Rocked	X		X2	

Survey and Manage Species

The Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) is consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan, including all plan amendments in effect on the date of the decision. The East Chinkapin Timber sale project conforms with the 2007 Record of Decision *To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*. The DNA complies with the analysis in the North Lake Creek Environmental Assessment which tiers to

that of the Northwest Forest Plan and supporting environmental impact statements in effect on the date of the decision.

Wildlife

Threatened and Endangered Species

- Seasonal restrictions for northern spotted owls as follows: None needed.
- Seasonal restrictions for marbled murrelets as follows: No seasonal restriction needed. Three trees providing nesting structure for MAMU and seventeen adjacent trees are marked with yellow paint and shall be reserved from harvest or damage from falling/yarding activity.
- Seasonal restrictions for bald eagles: None needed.

Special Status Species

No Special Status Species or unique habitats were located during field reviews of the sale area.

Survey and Manage Species

There are no vertebrate or invertebrate species in the sale area for which S&M species surveys are required.

Botany

Threatened and Endangered Species

No federally listed Threatened or Endangered plant species were located during surveys.

Special Status Species

Lichens and Bryophytes:

Chaenotheca furfuracea, Bureau Tracking

Fissidens pauperculus, Bureau Tracking

No mitigation measures are required for Bureau Tracking species.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive Non-native species

- Clean all yarding and road construction equipment prior to arrival on BLM-managed lands to lessen the spread of noxious weed seed.

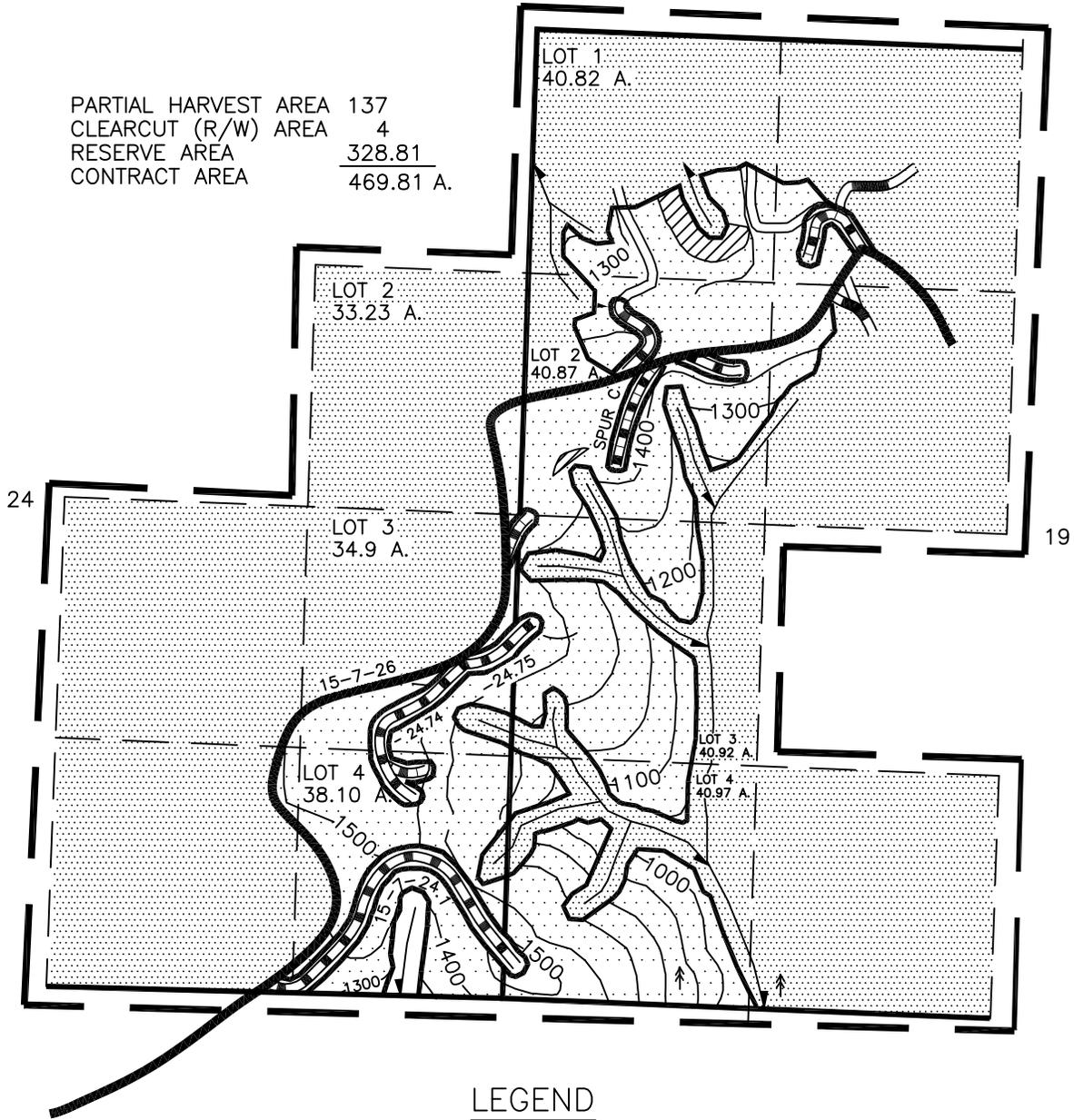
Fuels

- Eliminate approximately 90% of all roadside piles
- Scatter roadside and landing piles across the first 200 feet of decommissioned roads. Cover and burn remaining roadside piles.
- Hand or excavator pile, cover and burn slash within 25 feet of Road No. 15-7-26.
- Burn piles in the late fall when favorable smoke dispersion conditions are common.

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

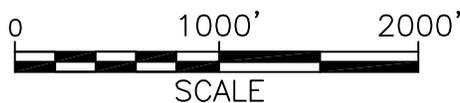
PROJECT AREA MAP: EAST CHINKAPIN
 T. 15S, R. 6W, SEC. 19 AND T. 15S, R. 7W, SEC. 24, WILL. MER., EUGENE DISTRICT

PARTIAL HARVEST AREA	137
CLEARCUT (R/W) AREA	4
RESERVE AREA	<u>328.81</u>
CONTRACT AREA	469.81 A.



LEGEND

- | | | | |
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| | PARTIAL HARVEST AREA | | BOUNDARY - CONTRACT AREA |
| | CLEARCUT (R/W) AREA | | BOUNDARY - CUTTING AREA (BLAZED, PAINTED & POSTED) |
| | RESERVE AREA | | ROCK SURFACED ROAD |
| | SPECIAL SKIDDING AREA | | DIRT ROAD |
| | APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF SPECIAL HABITAT TREES (2 GROUPS) | | PAVED ROAD |
| | | | STREAM |
| | | | ROADS TO BE CONSTRUCTED |
| | | | ROADS TO BE IMPROVED |



DATE: 10/17/08