

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

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

**Schaffer Road Thinning Project
DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2012-0008-DNA**

A. Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to implement the Schaffer Road Thinning Project by thinning approximately 140 acres of Matrix (General Forest Management Area lands) and conducting density management thinning on approximately 40 acres of Riparian Reserve lands totaling approximately 180 acres within the Long Tom Landscape Plan EA and Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA planning areas. Approximately 65 acres lie in the Long Tom EA planning area and approximately 115 acres lie in the Upper Siuslaw EA planning area. The proposed action (including silvicultural prescriptions; logging systems; Riparian Reserve treatments; road construction and renovation; road decommissioning prescription; wildlife, botany, and fuels mitigation measures) is described in the attached "Implementation Prescription."

Location T. 19S, R. 5W, Section 27. Willamette Meridian, Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.

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

The Eugene District initiated planning and design for this project to conform and be consistent with the Eugene District's 1995 Resource Management Plan (RMP).

- Eugene District Resource Management Plan, June 1995, as amended.
- Long Tom Landscape Plan Environmental Assessment, July 2011.
- Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan Environmental Assessment, July 2009.

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

"Design silvicultural systems on General Forest Management Areas to meet a high level of timber production within a framework of mitigating measures and project design features which protect environmental quality and habitat for wildlife, fish and botanical species (1995 RMP p. 86)."

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

The proposed action is covered by the Long Tom Landscape Plan Environmental Assessment and the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA.

Other NEPA documents and related documents that are relevant to the proposed action include:

- Eugene District RMP/Environmental Impact Statement -November 1994 and Record of Decision –June 1995.
- Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, January 2001.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion for the Long Tom Landscape Plan FY 2011.
- Late-Successional Reserve Assessment for the Oregon Coast Province - Southern Portion – RO267, RO268. 1997
- Siuslaw Watershed Analysis, 1996.
- Schaffer Road project analysis file.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

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

The proposed action for thinning approximately 180 acres is part of the proposed action analyzed in the Long Tom Landscape Plan Environmental Assessment and the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA and is contained within the EAs analysis area. The current proposed action implements the following specific actions in the selected alternative:

Forest stands between 30 and 79 years of age would be thinned using the traditional silvicultural technique of thin from below to relative densities in the mid-thirties, generally ranging from 32 to 38 . . . Spotted owl dispersal habitat would be maintained to USFWS standards (Long Tom EA, p. 11).

Trees identified for harvest would generally be from the smaller diameter classes, varying spacing to reserve the larger, more vigorous trees to a specified basal area. Thinning would be to a Relative Density (RD) in the mid-30s which is expected to result in a residual canopy closure of 45 to 60 percent. (Upper Siuslaw EA, p.15).

Schaffer Road consists of approximately 180 acres that range from about 44 to 47 years of age. The Schaffer Road thinning project will thin trees to a relative density of 34 within two units. Unit 1 and 2 will have 135 square feet basal area reserved, averaging 105 trees per acre (conifers), maintaining an average canopy closure of 40 percent canopy closure. This will maintain northern spotted owl dispersal habitat. All streams will receive a 75 foot no-treatment buffer.

Roads would be constructed or renovated/improved as needed. Approximately 30 to 35 miles of construction and approximately 195 to 200 miles of renovation/improvement would occur (Long Tom EA, p. 13).

Roads would be constructed or renovated/improved as needed. Approximately 20 to 30 miles of construction and approximately 170 to 190 miles of renovation/improvement would occur (Upper Siuslaw EA p.16).

Approximately 1,470 feet of new road will be constructed and approximately 1,170 feet of road will be renovated/improved.

Decommissioning strategy for Matrix lands: Newly constructed and renovated/improved natural surface roads; Newly constructed and renovated/improved roads within late successional stands that are natural surface or have been rocked to facilitate harvest activities but are not needed for future management (will be decommissioned using the design features listed in the Long Tom EA p. 8 and Upper Siuslaw EA p. 8)

Approximately 1,470 feet of road (including newly constructed roads) would be decommissioned (see the implementation prescription for design features).

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?

The Long Tom Landscape Plan Environmental Assessment analyzed four alternatives in addition to the no action alternative. The alternatives analyzed a variety of thinning prescriptions and include a range of alternatives that considered limited road construction in LSR lands, creating complexity and structural diversity in LSR lands, thinning within spotted owl nest patches, and variable density thinning LSR lands to open conditions. The types of roads to be decommissioned varied between alternatives and a variety of decommissioning measures were proposed. Effects on carbon release and storage for all action alternatives and the no action alternative were analyzed at an appropriate temporal scale encompassing the duration of the effect of the action on carbon release and storage. Comments received were taken into consideration both before and after the alternatives were

analyzed. No new environmental concerns, interests, resource values, or circumstances have been revealed since the EA was published that would indicate a need for additional alternatives.

The Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan Environmental Assessment analyzed four alternatives in addition to the no action alternative. The alternatives analyzed a variety of thinning prescriptions and include a range of alternatives from considering limited road construction in LSR lands and spotted owl critical habitat units to building new roads as needed. The types of roads to be decommissioned varied between alternatives to reflect the variety of decommissioning opportunities that may exist. Comments received were taken into consideration both before and after the alternatives were analyzed. No new environmental concerns, interests, resource values, or circumstances have been revealed since the EA was published 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? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

There is no significant new information or circumstance relative to the analyses in the Long Tom Landscape Plan EA and the current proposed action. The affected environment and environmental effects were considered in the EA; there is no new information or circumstances relative to these analyses. The project is not located in either the 1992 or 2008 northern spotted owl critical habitat designations, nor is it located in marbled murrelet critical habitat. The existing analysis is consistent with the Revised Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl (USDI-FWS 2011) and the Survey and Manage Settlement Agreement. The Schaffer Road timber sale is not located within the 2012 proposed Northern Spotted Owl critical habitat unit. The thinning will maintain 40% canopy cover and improve stand conditions by maintaining large Douglas fir trees, hardwoods, pacific yew trees, western red cedars and Port Orford cedars that are present in the thinning area. Existing snags and coarse woody debris will also be maintained.

A Biological Opinion was issued by the USFWS which is consistent with the 2008 northern spotted owl recovery plan and the draft 2010 northern spotted owl recovery plan. Consultation has been initiated to amend the Long Tom Biological Opinion to address the 2012 proposed Northern Spotted Owl critical habitat units. Additional details are provided in the Schaffer Road Project Analysis File.

There is no significant new information or circumstance relative to the analyses in the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA (USLP EA) and the current proposed action. The affected environment and environmental effects were considered in the EA; there is no new information or circumstances relative to these analyses. The project does not lie within the 2008 northern spotted owl critical habitat designations nor does it lie in the 2012 proposed critical habitat units. Thinning will not occur within marbled murrelet critical habitat designations. Marbled murrelet surveys were completed in 2011 and did not result in occupancy.

We received one comment about the consideration of carbon sequestration during the public comment period for the USLP EA. The appropriate scale at which carbon storage estimates should occur are at the Resource Management Plan or larger. Since the USLP EA tiered to the 1995 RMP, the analysis has been completed in the EIS that accompanied the 1995 RMP. The 1995 RMP did consider increases in carbon dioxide release from forest management activities. The two forest management activities that were considered as having a measureable impact (based on research available at that time) included large scale clear cutting of old growth (age class 200+) and prescribed burning after harvest of those acres. The total increase in atmospheric carbon would not exceed 0.01 percent due to those actions under the 1995 Proposed Resource Management Plan (pages 4-9; 4-10 1995 FEIS). All other forest management actions were considered to have much less of an impact and therefore were not considered. In comparison, the current proposed action under the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan Environmental Assessment is a thinning project and does not include clear cut harvest of old growth and associated prescribed burning. The proposed action includes piling of slash within 25 feet of certain roads. Slash from these piles would be used to scatter over decommissioned roads, and the remaining material would be covered and burned to increase safety in the event of wildfire occurrences. The carbon released from these slash piles is not expected to have measurable impacts to increases in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere due to the small quantity and short duration when burning is to occur. The

conclusions in the 1995 RMP/EIS analysis of carbon release support that thinning as described in this proposed action would have a negligible effect on the global carbon pool, in addition, carbon sequestration due to thinning would provide beneficial consequences due to carbon uptake by increased growth of conifers after thinning. New information or circumstances about carbon release with regards to the proposed action is considered to be insignificant.

The USLP EA has been issued a Biological Opinion by the USFWS which is consistent with the 2008 northern spotted owl recovery plan. Additional details are provided in the Schaffer Road Project Analysis File.

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

The Long Tom Landscape Plan EA analyzed the effects of thinning on suitable and potentially-suitable habitat for spotted owls (pp. 29-32) and marbled murrelet habitat (p. 31), and the effects of thinning on spotted owl nest patches (pp. 32-33). The effects of road use and improvements on ACS objectives were analyzed (pp. 24-29). The effects of management activities on the release or storage of carbon were analyzed (pp. 39-41). The methodology and analytical approach used in the Long Tom EA are appropriate for the current proposed action.

The Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan analyzed the effects of thinning on spotted owl suitable habitat and the functionality of the South Willamette-North Umpqua Area of Concern (AOC) (USLP EA, p. 35) and on Northern Spotted Owl 2008 Critical Habitat designations. The effect of management activities on the conservation of marbled murrelet habitat in late successional reserves was analyzed (pp.38, 39). The effects of road use, construction, improvement, culvert replacements on ACS objectives were analyzed (pp. 28-35). The effect of management actions on *Eucephalus vialis* within botanical reserves was also analyzed (pp. 42, 43). The methodology and analytical approach used in the Upper Siuslaw EA are appropriate for the current proposed action.

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?

There is no new information or circumstance that would alter the effects analysis in the Long Tom Landscape Plan EA.

The Long Tom Landscape Plan EA analyzed direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action; the current project consists of treatments that were described in the proposed action for the EA. The EA concluded that thinning the stands would improve growing conditions and improve the quality of habitat for spotted owls. The EA analysis concluded that dispersal habitat within known owl current owl home ranges would be thinned but would not be downgraded and will maintain the ability of the stand to function as dispersal habitat or not limit the ability of an owl to disperse through the landscape. Thinning and associated activities would result in slash creation in the short-term, increasing fire risk, followed by a long-term reduction in the risk of severe fire, relative to leaving stands unthinned (EA, p. 38). Road renovation, new road construction, and log haul would produce negligible, if any, sediment delivery to streams, while road improvements such as replacement of culverts and upgrading surfacing would reduce long-term sediment delivery (EA, p. 26). Stream buffers will protect streams from sediment that may be generated from logging operations (EA, p. 26). Reduction in canopy closure from thinning, road renovation and new road construction could result in some further establishment and spread of noxious weeds; however, weed levels will decrease as the canopy recovers and shade is restored to these sites. Weed introductions will be minimized by cleaning of vehicles prior to entry into the stand (EA, p. 36). The EA analyzed both the short term and long term effects of carbon emissions and carbon storage. The analysis indicated that long term cumulative carbon emissions levels were less than the long term carbon sequestration levels 30 years after thinning.

The site specific effects of the current proposed action are consistent with the effects analysis in the Long Tom Landscape Plan EA. The stand conditions in the project area for the current proposed action are consistent with those anticipated in the Long Tom Landscape Plan (EA, pp. 14-16). Dispersal habitat thinned would continue to function as owl dispersal habitat since the silvicultural

prescriptions for these units maintain at least a 40% canopy cover. Critical Habitat for spotted owls and marbled murrelets is not being thinned. Marbled murrelet protocol surveys were completed in 2011; occupancy was determined. Design features will protect marbled murrelet nesting habitat and prevent disruption of nesting individuals during the critical breeding season.

Site visits and surveys did not identify any unique conditions (such as special habitats or special status species), and there are no specially designated areas (such as ACECs or RNAs) in the project area. Additional details are provided in the Long Tom Landscape Plan EA project analysis file.

There is no new information or circumstance that would alter the effects analysis in the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA.

The Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA analyzed direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action; the current project consists of treatments that were described in the proposed action for the EA. The EA concluded that thinning the stands would improve growing conditions and improve the quality of habitat for spotted owls and marbled murrelets. The EA analysis concluded that dispersal habitat within known owl current owl home ranges would be thinned but would not be downgraded and will maintain the ability of the stand to function as dispersal habitat or not limit the ability of an owl to disperse through the landscape. Current levels of dispersal habitat within known owl home ranges in the Area of Concern (AOC) will be maintained and non-dispersal habitat within those owl home ranges will be thinned (EA pp. 34). The current proposed action is located in the AOC. Thinning and associated activities would result in slash creation in the short-term increasing fire risk, followed by a long-term reduction in the risk of severe fire, relative to leaving stands unthinned (EA pp. 42). Road renovation, new road construction, and log haul would produce negligible, if any, sediment delivery to streams, because of road improvements such as replacement of stream crossing culverts and cross drains (EA pp. 29). Stream buffers will protect streams from sediment that may be generated from logging operations (EA pp. 30). Reduction in canopy closure from thinning, road renovation and new road construction could result in some further establishment and spread of noxious weeds; however, weed levels will decrease as the canopy recovers and shade is restored to these sites. Weed introductions will be minimized by cleaning of vehicles prior to entry into the stand (EA pp. 38).

The site specific effects of the current proposed action are consistent with the effects analysis in the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA. The stand conditions in the project area for the current proposed action are consistent with those anticipated in the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan (EA p. 33-37). Dispersal habitat thinned would continue to function as owl dispersal habitat since the silvicultural prescriptions for these units maintain at least a 40% canopy cover and no suitable habitat will be thinned. Critical Habitat for spotted owls and marbled murrelets is not being thinned. There are no timing restrictions for this project. Marbled murrelet protocol surveys were completed in 2011 without detections.

Site visits and surveys did not identify any unique conditions (such as special habitats or special status species), and there are no specially designated areas (such as ACECs or RNAs) in the project area. Additional details are provided in the Schaffer Road project analysis file and the Upper Siuslaw Landscape EA analysis file.

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)?

The Long Tom Landscape Plan EA analyzed the cumulative impacts of the proposed action within the watershed. The EA concluded that thinning would benefit wildlife species on LSR lands and would maintain spotted owl dispersal habitat on Matrix lands. Road improvements will be implemented to accommodate haul during the wet season. Thinning and associated road construction (such as the current proposed action) would not contribute to any cumulative impacts to fish and aquatic resources (EA, pp. 24-29).

The Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA analyzed the cumulative impacts of the proposed action within the watershed. The EA concluded that thinning would benefit wildlife species on LSR lands and would maintain spotted dispersal habitat on Matrix lands. Heavy thinning on approximately 325

acres in the LSR would improve the quality of habitat for spotted owls and murrelets in the long term, however there is no heavy thinning included in the current proposed action (EA pp. 36). Road improvements will be implemented to accommodate haul during the wet season. Thinning and associated road construction (such as the current proposed action) would not contribute to any cumulative impacts to fish and aquatic resources (EA pp. 29-30). Road decommissioning would occur where wildlife and fish habitat may benefit from it

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

Public involvement for the Long Tom Landscape Plan EA has been adequate. Scoping was completed before the analysis for the EA began. An information sheet describing the proposed project and project area was included in the Long Tom Watershed Council newsletter in March of 2009. A letter was mailed to interested parties on March 15, 2009. Representatives of the BLM attended a Long Tom Watershed Council meeting on March 29, 2011. The EA and preliminary FONSI were made available for a 30 day public review on March 15, 2011; twelve comments were received. One comment suggested a wider range of alternatives and mentioned that thinning to 60% canopy cover be analyzed as a separate alternative. One comment requested a more open, inclusive and collaborative process of review and analysis. The EA process included an adequate scoping and public comment period which began approximately three years ago. One comment suggested that county commissioners should be allowed to make recommendations for road decommissioning but not allowed decision making authority. The EA incorrectly stated that county commissioner "approval" will be obtained before road decommissioning measures are implemented. That statement in the EA has been changed to state county commissioners will "review" decommissioning measures before implementation. Two comments questioned if surveys for survey and manage species will be performed in stands greater than 80 years of age. All survey and manage requirements will be met at the time of implementation.

BLM received one protest following the publication of the Decision Record, filed August 8, 2011. The protest was denied on January 10, 2012. The appeal period ended on February 21, 2012.

Public involvement for the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA has been adequate. Scoping was completed before the analysis for the EA began with a letter, describing the proposed project and project area and was mailed to interested parties on March 20, 2007. The EA and preliminary FONSI were made available for a 30 day public review on December 10, 2008; three comments were received. One comment suggested a "hybrid" alternative combining Matrix thinning as described in Alternative B and LSR heavy thinning as described for Alternative D. The EA analyzed thinning in the Matrix and heavy thinning on LSR lands; the proposed action includes both treatments. One other comment indicated the inadequate analysis of hardwood conversions included in the proposed action. Hardwood conversions will be analyzed in a separate NEPA document and are not part of the proposed action in the EA. The third comment requested the consideration of the consequences of thinning on carbon sequestration; this has been addressed in the third category of the NEPA adequacy criteria. BLM did not receive any protests following the publication of the Decision Record.

BLM notified the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians; the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz; and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde of the Long Tom Landscape Plan EA during the scoping process, requesting information regarding tribal issues or concerns relative to the project. BLM also sent the tribes copies of the EA and no responses were received.

BLM has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). BLM completed formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act with the USFWS on effects of the Schaffer Road project on the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet. The current proposed action is consistent with the description of the action in the Long Tom Landscape Plan Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS in 2011 and the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS in 2010. The proposed action is not likely to adversely affect northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets or their critical habitat. Because the current proposed action would have no effect on coho salmon and its designated critical habitat, as well as no adverse effect on Essential Fish Habitat, consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service is not required.

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

NAME	SPECIALTY
Teague Mercer	Hydrologist
Karin Baitis	Soil Scientist/ Road Decommissioning
Peter Huppi	Engineer/ Road Decommissioning
Dan Crannell	Wildlife Biologist
Sharmila Premdas	Landscape Planner/NEPA
Leo Poole	Fish Biologist
Ricardo Rodriguez	Silviculturist
Eric Johnson	Fuels Specialist
Doug Goldenberg	Botanist
Crystal Perez-Gonzalez	Logging Systems
Janet Zentner	Planning Forester/Team Lead
Tom Jackson	GIS

PREPARED BY

/s/ Sharmila Premdas
NEPA Coordinator

5/25/2012
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/ Alan D. Corbin
Alan Corbin
Field Manager
Siuslaw Resource Area

5/25/2012
Date

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

DECISION RECORD
Determination of NEPA Adequacy
Schaffer Road Thinning Project
DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2012-0008-DNA

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the Schaffer Road Thinning Project as described in the Determination of NEPA Adequacy **DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2012-0008-DNA** and in the attached implementation prescription.

The proposed action has been reviewed by Resource Area staff, and appropriate project Design Features specified in the Long Tom Landscape Plan EA, which analyzed these actions, will be incorporated into the proposal. As documented in the Determination of NEPA Adequacy, the proposed action is a feature of the selected alternative analyzed in the Long Tom Landscape Plan EA. As documented in the Finding of No Significant Impact for the Long Tom Landscape Plan, the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

The Eugene District initiated planning and design for this project to conform and be consistent with the Eugene District's 1995 Resource Management Plan (RMP).

BLM issued a record of decision in July, 2007 to amend the plans within the Northwest Forest Plan area to remove the survey and manage mitigation measure.

In January, 2008 a lawsuit was filed, and in December, 2009 the presiding judge issued an Order granting Plaintiffs motion for partial summary judgment.

A settlement agreement between the parties was approved by the court on July 6, 2011. The agreement stipulates that projects within the range of the northern spotted owl are subject to the survey and manage standards and guidelines in the 2001 ROD without subsequent 2001-2003 Annual Species Reviews as modified by the 2011 Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement modifies the 2001 Survey and Manage species list; establishes a transition period for application of the species lists; acknowledges existing exemption categories (2006 Pechman Exemptions); and establishes exemptions from surveys for certain activities. The settlement agreement is in effect until the BLM conducts further analysis and decision making pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and issues a Record of Decision to supersede the Survey and Manage mitigation measure.

On December 17, 2009, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington issued an order in *Conservation Northwest, et al. v. Rey, et al.*, No. 08-1067 (W.D. Wash.) (Coughenour, J.), granting Plaintiffs' motion for partial summary judgment and finding a variety of NEPA violations in the BLM and USFS 2007 Record of Decision eliminating the Survey and Manage mitigation measure. Previously, in 2006, the District Court (Judge Pechman) had invalidated the agencies 2004 RODs eliminating Survey and Manage due to NEPA violations. Following the District Court's 2006 ruling, parties to the litigation had entered into a stipulation exempting certain categories of activities from the Survey and Manage standard (hereinafter "Pechman exemptions").

Judge Pechman's Order from October 11, 2006, directs: "Defendants shall not authorize, allow, or permit to continue any logging or other ground-disturbing activities on projects to which the 2004 ROD applied unless such activities are in compliance with the 2001 ROD (as the 2001 ROD was amended or modified as of March 21, 2004), except that this order will not apply to:

- A. *Thinning projects in stands younger than 80 years old (emphasis added):*
- B. *Replacing culverts on roads that are in use and part of the road system, and removing culverts if the road is temporary or to be decommissioned;*

C. Riparian and stream improvement projects where the riparian work is riparian planting, obtaining material for placing in-stream, and road or trail decommissioning; and where the stream improvement work is the placement of large wood, channel and floodplain reconstruction, or removal of channel diversions; and

D. The portions of the project involving hazardous fuel treatments where prescribed fire is applied. Any portion of a hazardous fuel treatment project involving commercial logging will remain subject to the survey and management requirements except for thinning of stands younger than 80 years old under subparagraph a. of this paragraph.”

Following the Court’s December 17, 2009 ruling, the Pechman exemptions are still in place. Judge Coughenour deferred issuing a remedy in his December 17, 2009 order until further proceedings, and did not enjoin the BLM from proceeding with projects. Nevertheless, I have reviewed the Schaffer Road Thinning Project in consideration of both the December 17, 2009 and October 11, 2006 order. Because the Schaffer Road Thinning Project entails no regeneration harvest and entails thinning only in stands less than 80 years old, I have made the determination that this project meets Exemption A of the Pechman Exemptions (October 11, 2006 Order), and therefore may still proceed to be offered for sale even if the District Court sets aside or otherwise enjoins use of the 2007 Survey and Manage Record of Decision since the Pechman exemptions would remain valid in such case. The first notice for sale will appear in the newspaper on May 30, 2012.

Administrative Remedies:

The forest management decision to be made on the action described in the Determination of NEPA Adequacy is subject to protest under 43 CFR subpart 5003. Under 43 CFR 5003.2 subsection (b), the decision will be published in local newspaper(s) and this notice shall constitute the decision document. Under 43 CFR 5003.3 subsection (a), protests may be filed with the authorized officer within 15 days of the publication date of this decision. Under 43 CFR 5003.3 (b), protest(s) filed with the authorized officer shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision. A decision on this protest would be subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, although, under 43 CFR 5003.1 subsection (a), filing a notice of appeal under 43 CFR part 4 does not automatically suspend the effect of a decision governing or relating to forest management under 43 CFR 5003.2 or 5003.3.

Authorizing Official:

/s/ Alan D. Corbin
Alan Corbin
Field Manager
Siuslaw Resource Area

5/25/2012
Date

**Upper Siuslaw Landscape EA
 Long Tom Landscape EA
 Project Implementation Prescription
 Schaffer Road Tract #12-501
 T. 19 S., R. 5 W., Section 27**

SUMMARY

Schaffer Road is located in both the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan (approximately 115 acres) and the Long Tom Landscape Plan (approximately 65 acres) planning areas. Approximately 40 acres of Riparian Reserve would receive a density management treatment, and approximately 140 acres of upland Matrix (Connectivity) would receive a density management treatment. Estimated harvest volume is approximately 2.1 MMBF.

SILVICULTURE

- Vary the leave tree spacing as needed to generally reserve the larger diameter, more vigorous trees using basal area marking/thinning from below.
- Select species for retention using the following hierarchy: Douglas-fir, incense-cedar, and western hemlock.
- Reserve Pacific yew and hardwoods. Reserve existing snags, and coarse woody debris of decay classes 3, 4, and 5. Retain in the stand any Pacific yew, hardwoods, or snags felled for safety or operational reasons.
- Retain approximately 105 conifer trees per acre.
- Retain conifers at approximately 135 square feet basal area per acre.
- Thin to a stand Relative Density (RD-Curtis) of approximately 34.
- Maintain 40% post-harvest canopy closure in existing dispersal habitat (stands greater than 40 years old).

QMD	TPA	BA/Acre	Curtis RD
15.4	105	135	34

- Treat approximately 2.5 acres for the release of 77 white oak or black oak trees. Do not retain conifers within the buffers ranging from approximately 1/8 to 1/4 acre, located around oak trees identified for release; the exception would be any conifer trees blazed to show the property line.

LOGGING DESIGN FEATURES TO MINIMIZE EFFECTS TO SOIL PRODUCTIVITY

Cable Yarding Design Features – approximately 60 acres

- Cable yard to designated or approved landings.
- Space cable corridors 150 feet apart at one end whenever possible, and limit to 12 feet in width (use a cable system capable of 75 foot lateral yarding).
- Require minimum one-end suspension, using intermediate supports when necessary to achieve the required suspension.
- Require full suspension when yarding over streams.
- Make cable yarding corridors erosion resistant if needed where severe gouging has occurred.
- Locate cable corridors over streams and on concave slopes above stream channel initiation points (headwalls) so that they are within 45 degrees of perpendicular to the stream, where possible. This is to provide a sharp channel junction to dissipate the energy of any potential debris flows or torrents.

Ground Based Yarding Design Features – approximately 120 acres

- Require that operations occur when soil moisture content provides the most resistance to compaction (during the dry season, typically July 1 to October 31), as approved by the Authorized Officer in consultation with the soil scientist.
- Use existing skid trails wherever possible.
- Limit 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 limit 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.
- Require felling of trees to lead to the skid trails and maximize winching distances.
- Skid logs to designated or approved landings.

- Decompact all skid trails and landings and place slash and brush on trails with an excavator. Decompaction should shatter but not mix or displace the soil profile and minimize damage to roots. Decompaction would immediately follow logging operations and take place prior to the onset of the fall rainy season (generally October 15). If decompaction cannot be accomplished the same operating season, leave all trails in an erosion resistant condition and block.
- Within 210 feet of streams, prohibit skidding equipment within 75 feet of posted boundaries.

OHV MITIGATION TO MINIMIZE EFFECTS TO SOIL PRODUCTIVITY

Decommission OHV trails used as skid trails to reduce sedimentation and water quality degradation caused by OHV use.

ENGINEERING

Roads with wet weather haul allowed:

New construction:

Name/Number	Length (feet)	Rock
Spur B	160	Required for wet weather haul
Spur C	130	Required for wet weather haul
Spur D	250	Required for wet weather haul
Spur E	120	Required for wet weather haul
Spur F	110	Purchaser option to rock; tractor assist
19-5-34.71	700	Required for wet weather haul

- Approximately 14.70 stations new construction
- Subgrade to a 14' width, outsloped where possible
- Surfacing gradation 3" minus; compacted depth 8"

Renovation:

Name/Number	Comments
19-5-22.2	Renovation will only occur at three stream crossings where culverts will be replaced

Special provisions (Wet Weather Haul):

Wet weather haul is allowed on Road Nos. 19-5-27.1, 19-5-27.2, and 19-5-27.6 with no additional mitigations.

Roads with dry season haul required:

Renovation:

Name/Number	Length (feet)	Comments
Spur A	1170	No wet weather haul due to drainage issues

- Approximately 11.70 stations renovation
- Do not grade the ditch line
- Brush, scarify or grade and/or widen existing subgrade to a 14' width

Summary:

- Approximately 14.70 stations new construction.
- Approximately 11.70 stations renovation.
- Logger’s choice landings/spurs requested by Purchaser are subject to approval by the Authorized Officer.
- Green trees are available for guylines at all roads, except Spur B.
- Short distances of +/-18% grades may be needed to access necessary landing sites.

ROAD DECOMMISSIONING

All decommissioning shall be completed during the dry season.

- (aa) Decompact natural surfaced roads and landings with decompaction equipment, such as a track mounted excavator with a thumb that is capable of moving logging slash.
- (bb) Construct drainage dips, waterbars and/or lead-off ditches.
- (cc) Place logging slash, where available, on the entire road prism of decompacted natural-surfaced roads.
- (dd) Block roads at entry points, using stumps, slash, and/or cull logs or earthen barricades.

		If Not Rocked				If Rocked		
		(aa)	(bb)	(cc)	(dd)	(bb)	(cc)	(dd)
Road Number	Road Rocking	Decompact	Drainage	Logging Slash	Blocking	Drainage	Logging Slash	Blocking
Spur A*	no	X	X	X*	X			
Spur B	yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spur C	yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spur D	yes	X	X	X		X	X	
Spur E	yes	X	X	X		X	X	
Spur F	option	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
19-5-34.71	yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
19-5-27.2								X
19-5-27.6						X		X

* No slash on the last 300 feet of Spur A so that contractors can access false brome.

HYDROLOGY

Maintain minimum no-harvest buffers of 75 feet from all streams. No cutting would occur within the primary shade zone, except for limited cutting for yarding corridors.

Culverts will be replaced on Road No. 19-5-22.2 at Streams 27-7, 27-8, and 27-10.

FISHERIES

Threatened and Endangered Species

The Oregon Coastal Coho Salmon evolutionarily significant unit is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Coho have been identified approximately 4 miles downstream from the proposed harvest area. A natural barrier prevents all fish migration into the proposed harvest area.

WILDLIFE

Threatened and Endangered Species

Northern Spotted Owl:

The treatment areas are composed of dispersal habitat for the northern spotted owl. Suitable nesting/roosting/foraging habitat (suitable habitat) is located outside the boundaries of the proposed harvest areas as depicted on the project map. No suitable habitat would be modified by this action.

Spotted Owl Activity Centers: Two predicted sites overlap the partial harvest area, as does the 300-meter nest patch for one of them. Surveys for spotted owls have been conducted within these home

ranges; no occupancy has been established for the predicted site with the nest patch overlapping the thinning units. Occupancy has not been established for one site however occupancy will not change the proposed action and no timing restrictions will be required because the nest patches are located well away from the thinning areas.

Spotted Owl Critical Habitat: None under the current 2008 delineation; none under the 2012 proposed critical habitat units.

Marbled Murrelets:

Marbled Murrelet Habitat: There is no suitable habitat located within the proposed harvest areas, but suitable habitat does occur outside of the treatment areas. Trees with potential nesting structure and associated protective trees are shown on the project map.

Marbled Murrelet Activity Centers: There are no MAMU activity centers. Surveys were completed in 2011 with no detections. Results of these surveys will remain valid through the 2016 nesting season.

Critical Habitat: The proposed harvest areas are not located within critical habitat for the marbled murrelet.

Special Status Species

No Special Status Species or other species of special interest were located during field reviews of the project area.

BOTANY

Threatened and Endangered Species

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

Sensitive Species

Eucephalus vialis, wayside aster, was located during surveys. Reserve the area around the populations, and erect a construction fence to discourage felling of trees and vehicular intrusion into the reserve area.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive Non-native species:

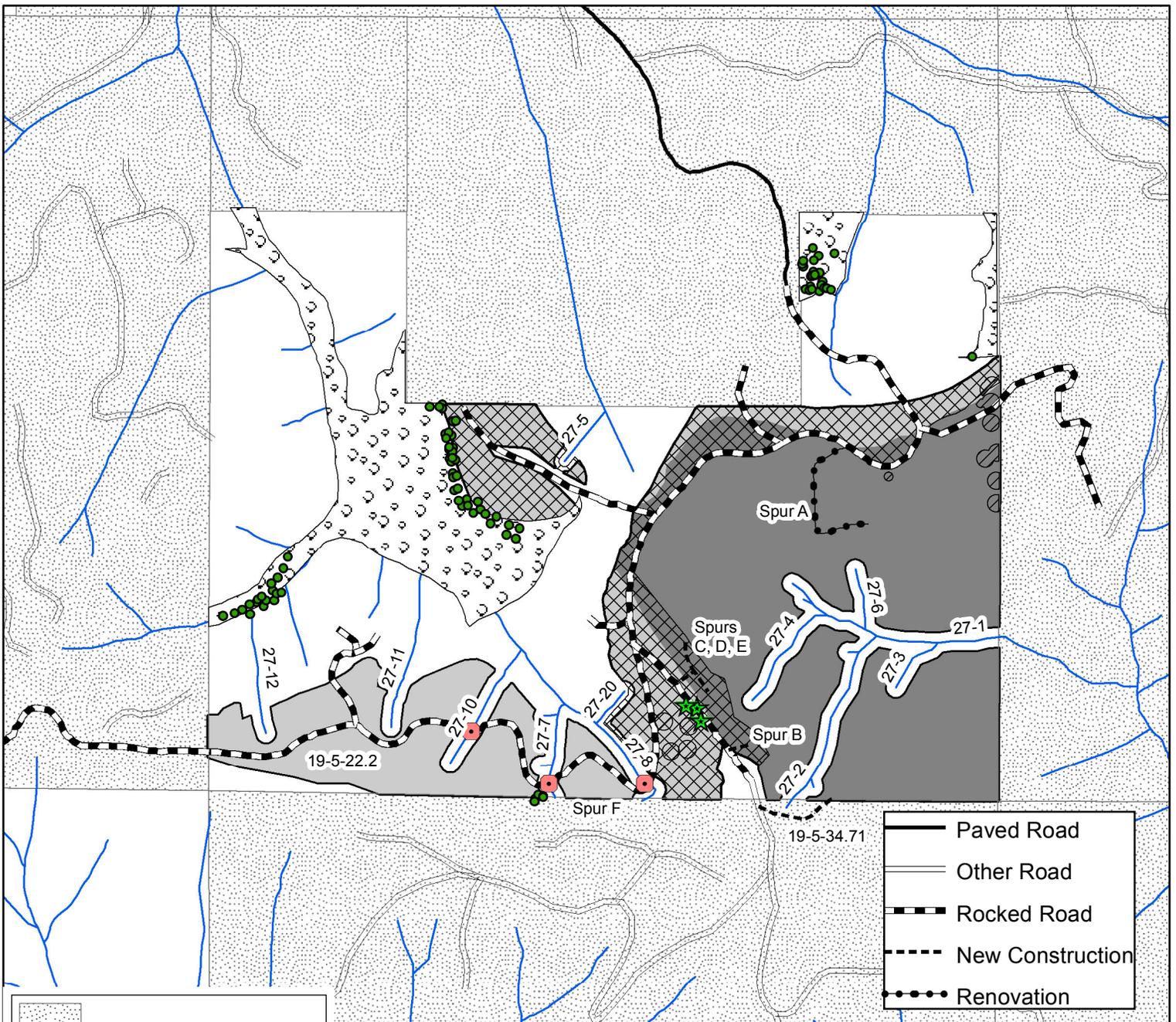
- Clean all yarding and road construction equipment prior to arrival on BLM-managed lands to lessen the spread of noxious weed seed.
- Seed decommissioned roads with native grass species. Prescribe these actions based on on-site evaluation after logging has been completed.
- Control existing false brome and shining geranium infestations prior to project activity, monitor for at least 5 years after timber sale implementation, and control infestations discovered through monitoring, as appropriate.
- Do not place slash on the final 300 feet of Spur A in order to allow monitoring and treatment of false brome in the area.

Oak Tree Release

Employ single tree release around oak trees, except where openings coalesce into areas larger than 1/2 acre, where more than 0.2 mile outside of the Long Tom Watershed, or within 210 feet of a conifer with potential marbled murrelet habitat structure. All conifers within the openings around released oaks are to be felled, with gaps totaling about 2.5 acres.

FUELS

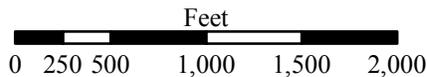
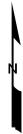
- Whole tree yard approximately 38 acres as shown on project map.
- Grapple pile approximately 4 acres along Road No. 19-5-22.2 from the crossing of Stream 27-8 west to the section line.
- Cover and burn all piles, or otherwise remove from the site. Burn piles in the late fall when favorable smoke dispersion conditions are most common and risk of fire spread away from piles is low.



-  Private Ownership
-  Long Tom EA
-  Upper Siuslaw EA
-  Suitable Habitat
-  Whole Tree Yard
-  Released Oak Trees
-  Culvert Replacement
-  *Eucephalis vialis*
-  Potential MAMU Trees

Schaffer Road DNA

T.19 S., R.5 W., Sec. 27



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 Zone 10, North American Datum 1983

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