

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

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

Russell Creek Restoration Project DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2010-0003-DNA

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- A. Description of the Proposed Action:** The proposed action is to implement the Russell Creek Project by commercially thinning approximately 242 acres within the Upper Siuslaw Late-Successional Reserve Restoration Plan EIS and the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA planning areas. The proposed action (including silvicultural prescriptions, logging systems, Riparian Reserve treatments, road construction, renovation, and decommissioning prescriptions, botany and fuels mitigation measures) is described in the attached "Implementation Prescription."
Location T. 19S, R. 5W, Section 33 Will. Meridian.

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

- Eugene District Resource Management Plan (RMP), June 1995, as amended.
- Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan Environmental Assessment, July 2009.
- Record of Decision for Upper Siuslaw Late-Successional Reserve Restoration Plan: Upland Thinning Actions (Upper Siuslaw Upland Thinning Actions ROD). July 2004.

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

"Plan and implement silvicultural treatments inside Late-Successional Reserves that are beneficial to the creation of late-successional habitat.

"If needed to create and maintain late-successional forest conditions, conduct thinning operations in forest stands up to 80 years of age. This will be accomplished by pre-commercial or commercial thinning of stands regardless of origin (planted after logging or naturally regenerated after fire or blowdown)." (RMP p.30.)

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

The proposed action is covered by the Upper Siuslaw Late-Successional Reserve Restoration Plan Environmental Impact Statement (Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS) - July 2004 and the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan Environmental Assessment – July 2009.

Other NEPA documents and other 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.
- Water Quality Restoration Plan (appended to Upper Siuslaw Thinning ROD).
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion 2004 (appended to Upper Siuslaw Thinning ROD).
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion for the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan FY 2010.
- Late-Successional Reserve Assessment for the Oregon Coast Province - Southern Portion – RO267, RO268. 1997
- Siuslaw Watershed Analysis. 1996.
- Russell Creek 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 unit 1 is part of the proposed action analyzed in the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan Environmental Assessment and are contained within the EA analysis area. The current proposed action implements the following specific actions in the selected alternative:

“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 an RD in the mid-30s which is expected to result in a residual canopy closure of 45 to 60 percent.”

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 (page 16).

Unit 1 consists of approximately 128 acres that are approximately 47 to 50 years of age (at the time of the EA analysis baseline, p. 8). The proposed action would thin unit 1 to an RD of 33 and a basal area of approximately 130. 40% canopy closure will be maintained post treatment. Approximately 2770 feet of new road will be constructed and 4233 feet of road will be renovated or improved.

The proposed action for unit 2 is part of the proposed action analyzed in the Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS and lies within the EIS analysis area. The current proposed action implements the following specific actions in the selected alternative:

“Among stands aged 31 to 50 years, thin approximately ¼ of stands in uplands (i.e., >100' from streams) to a treated stand average of 60-80 Douglas-fir trees per acre, without regard to spacing.” (Upper Siuslaw Upland Thinning Actions ROD, Appendix A, p. 3).

Unit 2 consists of approximately 114 acres of stands aged approximately 47 years of age (at the time of the EIS analysis baseline, p. 61) to an average of 77 trees per acre with variable spacing (see attached implementation prescription). 40% canopy closure will be maintained post treatment.

“Renovate and improve existing roads and construct new spur roads as needed to access areas selected for thinning.” (Upper Siuslaw Upland Thinning Actions ROD, Appendix A, p. 5).

The current proposed action will renovate five sections of existing roads for approximately 6637 feet and will include new temporary road construction of four different sections each being less than 200 feet in length. The guideline from the ROD (Appendix A, p. 5) states “New spur roads will generally be less than 200' in length.” All new temporary road construction would be decommissioned the same season that logging occurs. See the engineering portion of the attached prescription for further detail.

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 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.

The LSR 267 EIS analyzed six alternatives in detail: the No Action alternative and five action alternatives. (Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS, pp. 33-42). The alternatives varied widely in their

approach to subject of thinning stands, including no action, thinning stands without commercial timber harvest, and a wide variety of thinning prescriptions (Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS, pp. 34-35). The alternatives also considered a variety of approaches to road management, ranging from no new road construction to new road construction as needed to provide access (pp. 34-35). These alternatives cover the full spectrum of available alternative approaches to the current proposed action. Comments on the Draft Upper Siuslaw EIS did not suggest development of any additional alternatives (Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS, pp. 288-312). No new environmental concerns, interests, resource values, or circumstances have been revealed since the final EIS 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? 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 Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA (USLP EA) and the Upper Siuslaw EIS (LSR 267) and the current proposed action. The affected environment and environmental effects have been considered in the EA and LSR 267 EIS; there is no new information or circumstances relative to these analyses. 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 and the LSR 267 EIS 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 and the LSR 267 EIS 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 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 of burning that 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. New information or circumstances about carbon release with regards to the proposed action is considered to be insignificant.

The USLP EA and LSR267 EIS have been issued Biological Opinions by the USFWS that are consistent with the 2008 northern spotted owl recovery plan. Additional details are provided in the Russell Creek 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 Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA analyzed the effects of thinning on Critical Habitat for Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelet habitat (pages 35-36). The Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS analyzed most of the effects of stand thinning using stand modeling results from the Landscape Management System (EIS, pp. 61-62). The EIS specifically analyzed the effect of stand thinning on the development of late-successional forest structural characteristics, marbled murrelet habitat, and northern spotted owl habitat. Analysis of these issues identified specific criteria for analysis (pp. 66-74). There is no new information that would alter the utility of the Landscape Management System for this analysis or change the criteria used for analysis.

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 circumstances that would alter the effects analysis in the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA or the Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS.

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 not 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 maybe generated from logging operations (EA pp. 30). Road renovation and new road construction could result in some further establishment and spread of noxious weeds (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). Portions of Unit 1 of the project overlap two predicted northern spotted owl home ranges however 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. 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. Approximately 2770 feet of new road will be constructed and 4233 feet of road will be renovated or improved for unit 1 which is well within the estimates analyzed in the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA; “approximately 20 to 30 miles of construction and approximately 170 to 190 miles of renovation/improvement would occur (page 16)”.

The Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS analyzed direct and indirect impacts of actions such as the current proposed action. Relevant to the current proposed action, the Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS concluded that stand thinning would speed the development of:

- late-successional forest structural characteristics (pp. 125-132);
- target habitat conditions for marbled murrelets (pp. 133);
- suitable habitat and target habitat conditions for northern spotted owls (pp. 134).

The EIS analysis concluded that thinning would downgrade some existing northern spotted owl dispersal habitat, but only outside of current owl home ranges (pp. 134). 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 (pp. 124-125). Road renovation, new road construction, and log haul would produce negligible, if any, sediment delivery to streams, because of restrictions on road locations (Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS, pp. 136; Upper Siuslaw Thinning ROD, pp. 7). Road renovation and new road construction could result in some further establishment and spread of noxious weeds (pp. 136).

The site-specific effects of the current proposed action are consistent with the effects analysis in the Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS. The stand conditions in the project area for the current proposed

action are consistent with those anticipated in the Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS (pp. 53). Portions of Unit 2 of the project are within a current northern spotted owl home range, but contain no treatments in stands older than 50 years of age. The silvicultural prescriptions for these units maintain at least a 40% canopy cover, so the stands would still function as owl dispersal habitat. 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. The current proposed action for unit 2 would include considerably less new road construction than anticipated in the Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS. The EIS estimated that there would be 15,480' of new road construction associated with 1,300 acres (12' per acre on average) of commercial timber harvest in 41-60-year-old stands over the 10 year implementation of the restoration plan (pp. 124). At this average rate of road construction, the current 242 acre project area located in the EIS area would be expected to include 2,881 feet of new road construction. The current proposed action would include only 721 feet of new construction, well below the average projection. Additional details are provided in the Russell Creek Project 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 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 but would maintain spotted dispersal habitat on matrix lands. Heavy thinning on approximately 500 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). Coarse wood and snags would be created to improve habitat for wildlife. Road decommissioning would occur where wildlife and fish habitat may benefit from it.

The Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS analyzed the cumulative impact of a wide range of management actions over time. Relevant to the current proposed action, the Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS concluded that stand thinning across the landscape would slow development of northern spotted owl dispersal habitat but always maintain the current amount (pp. 134). In addition to commercial timber harvest (such as the current proposed action), non-commercial stand thinning, snag and coarse woody debris creation and planting would contribute to the development of late-successional forest structural characteristics (pp. 67, 125-132). Stand thinning and associated road construction (such as the current proposed action) would not contribute to any cumulative impact on fish or other aquatic resources (pp. 135-136).

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

Public involvement for the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA has been adequate for the proposed action. Scoping was completed before the analysis for the EA began in the form of a letter describing the proposed project and project area which 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 inadequate analysis of the 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. 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, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde of the Upper Siuslaw 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 Russell Creek

restoration project on the northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet. The current proposed action is consistent with the description of the action in the Habitat Modification and Disturbance Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS in 2009. 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 NOAA Fisheries is not required.

Public involvement and interagency review associated with the Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS are adequate for the current proposed action. BLM conducted informal scoping for two years prior to publishing a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register beginning the formal scoping period. During the public comment period for the draft EIS, BLM received 11 comment letters and one letter after the comment period. None of the comments suggested development of additional alternatives or pointed out flaws or deficiencies in analysis (Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS, p. 288; Upper Siuslaw Upland Thinning Actions ROD, pp. 9-10). BLM did not receive any comments following publication of the final EIS, and did not receive any protests following publication of the Record of Decision.

BLM notified the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde of the Upper Siuslaw LSR Restoration Plan during the scoping process, requesting information regarding tribal issues or concerns relative to the project. BLM also sent the tribes copies of the draft and final EIS. We received no responses (Upper Siuslaw Upland Thinning Actions ROD, p. 10).

BLM engaged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a formal cooperator in the preparation of the Upper Siuslaw LSR EIS. BLM completed formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act with the USFWS on effects of the Upper Siuslaw LSR Restoration Plan on northern bald eagle, northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet (Upper Siuslaw Upland Thinning Actions ROD, pp. 8-9; Appendix C). The current proposed action is consistent with the description of the action in the Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS. 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 NOAA Fisheries is not required.

BLM prepared a Water Quality Restoration Plan (WQRP) for the Upper Siuslaw LSR Restoration Plan and provided the WQRP to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for review (Upper Siuslaw Upland Thinning Actions ROD, p. 7; Appendix B).

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

NAME	SPECIALTY
Steve Steiner	Hydrologist
Karin Baitis	Soil Scientist
Scott Richards	Engineer/Roads
Dan Crannell	Wildlife Biologist
Sharmila Premdas	Landscape Planner/NEPA
Leo Poole	Fish Biologist
Clint Foster	Silviculturist
Dave Reed	Fuels Specialist
Molly Widmer	Botanist
Janet Zentner	Logging Systems Forester
Mark Stephen	Planning Forester/Team Lead

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)

PREPARED AND REVIEWED BY

/s/ Sharmila Premdas _____
NEPA Coordinator

2/23/2010 _____
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/ Charles Fairchild (Acting) _____
Field Manager
Siuslaw Resource Area

2/23/2010 _____
Date

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

DECISION RECORD
Documentation of NEPA Adequacy
Russell Creek Thinning Project
DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2010-0003-DNA

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the Russell Creek Thinning Project as described in the Documentation of NEPA Adequacy **DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2010-0003-DNA** and in the attached implementation prescription.

The proposed action has been reviewed by Resource Area Staff and appropriate project Design Features as specified in the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA and Upper Siuslaw Late-Successional Reserve Restoration Plan EIS which analyzed these actions will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the Documentation of NEPA Adequacy, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

On July 16, 2009 the U.S. Department of the Interior, withdrew the Records of Decision (2008 ROD) for the Western Oregon Plan Revision and directed the BLM to implement actions in conformance with the resource management plans for western Oregon that were in place prior to December 30, 2008.

Since project planning and preparation of National Environmental Policy Act documentation for this project began prior to the effective date of the 2008 ROD, this project had been designed to comply with the land use allocations, management direction, and objectives of the 1995 resource management plan (1995 RMP).

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the standards and guidelines of the 1995 Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (as amended).

The Russell Creek Thinning Project is consistent with court orders relating to the Survey and Manage mitigation measure of the Northwest Forest Plan, as incorporated into the Eugene District Resource Management Plan.

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 large wood, channel and floodplain reconstruction, or removal of channel diversions; and

D. The portions of 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 Russell Creek Thinning Project in consideration of both the December 17, 2009 and October 11, 2006 order. Because the Russell Creek 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 February 24, 2010.

Administrative Remedies:

The forest management decision to be made on the action described in the Documentation 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/ Charles Fairchild (Acting)
William E. Hatton
Field Manager
Siuslaw Resource Area

2/23/2010
Date

**Project Implementation Prescription
Russell Creek Tract #10-578
T. 19 S., R. 5 W., Section 33**

Unit 1

- Dense, approximately 50 year old Douglas-fir stand; approximately 122 acres in size within the Matrix (Connectivity) and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocations of the Siuslaw Watershed.
- The thinning of this stand is designed to be consistent with the *Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan Environmental Assessment, July 2009*; and the *Eugene District Resource Management Plan (RMP), June 1995*, as amended.

Unit 2

- Dense, approximately 50 year old Douglas-fir stand; approximately 120 acres in size within the Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) and Riparian Reserve of the Siuslaw Watershed.
- The thinning of this stand is designed to be consistent with the *Upper Siuslaw Late-Successional Reserve Restoration Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement, April 2004*; and the *Eugene District Resource Management Plan (RMP), June 1995*, as amended.

The two units will be combined within the sale contract as one Partial Harvest Area.

SILVICULTURE PRESCRIPTION

The project is a density management thinning. The marking guide for upland and riparian stands is as follow:

- Vary the leave tree spacing as needed to generally reserve the larger diameter, more vigorous trees using BA marking/ thinning from below.
- Selected leave trees should generally be of good form and relatively free of defect; however, trees with unique structure such as wolf trees, forked tops, and cavities shall be reserved in sufficient numbers to maintain presence in the stands.
- Do not cut trees larger than 20 inches except for safety and operational reasons, and do not cut trees larger than 32 inches. This restriction may be waived in Unit 1.
- Reserve Pacific yew, Western redcedar, Incense Cedar, Western hemlock, and hardwoods. Retain on site any trees felled for safety or operational reasons.
- Reserve snags, and coarse woody debris of decay classes 3, 4, and 5. Retain in the stand any snags felled for safety or operational reasons.
- Retain non-merchantable tree tops and limbs where the source tree is felled.
- Upon completion of thinning operations, evaluate the project area for the need to provide additional down wood and snags.
- Number of selected leave trees should be approximately 77 trees/acre (*see unit prescriptions below*).
- Retention target basal area should be approximately 140 ft² basal area per acre (*see unit prescriptions below*).
- Resulting stand Relative Density (RD-Curtis) should be 33 (*see unit prescriptions below*)
- The silvicultural prescription is designed to maintain 40% post harvest canopy closure in existing dispersal habitat (stands greater than 40 years old).
- Underplant units with minor species and/or Douglas-fir based on site evaluation after thinning and seedling availability.
- Reserve and protect Parent Plus trees: Unit 1-Tree Numbers 3411601 and 3411606. (*Unit 1 Tree Number 3411605 would be cut for operational reasons.*) Unit 2- Tree Numbers 3411602; 3411603; and 3411604.

Retention by Unit						
Unit	BA/Acre (DF)	BA/Acre (All Species)	TPA (DF)	TPA (All Species)	RD	Type Thinning
1	130	140	66	77	33	From Below
2	130	140	66	77	33	From Below

Est. Yield

Project total: 242 acres x 13.3 MBF/ac = 3,219 MBF

LOGGING SYSTEMS

Cable Yarding Design Features – approximately 37 acres

- All cable yarding shall be to designated or approved landings.
- To minimize impacts, keep spacing of cable corridors 150 feet apart at one end whenever possible, and limit to 12 feet in width (a cable system capable of 75 foot lateral yarding should be used).
- Minimum one-end suspension is required. Intermediate supports may be necessary to achieve the required suspension.
- Cable yarding systems should be laid out to eliminate gouging (log dragging) to reduce concentration of drainage delivering to streams.
- Full suspension is required when yarding over streams.
- Full suspension is required within the buffer of Streams 33-18 and 33-19 (Streams 1 and 2 on map) of Unit 1.
- 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 205 acres

- Require that operations 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 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 would immediately follow logging operations and take place prior to the onset of the fall rainy season. If decompaction cannot be accomplished the same operating season, leave all trails in an erosion resistant condition and block.
- Prohibit skidding equipment within 75 feet of posted riparian boundaries.

ENGINEERING

Construction and Renovation:

Unit No.	Road No.	Type	Length (feet)	Notes
1	19-5-22.2	Renovation	n/a	Replace nine 18' cross drains and three stream crossing culverts.
	20-5-21.2	Renovation	3,390	
	19-5-33.71	Renovation	840	
	20-5-21.2	Construction	280	
	19-5-33.71	Construction	370	
	Spur A	Construction	880	Crosses Plum Creek Timberlands
	Spur B	Construction	380	
	Spur C	Construction	210	
2	Spur D	Construction	660	
	20-5-21. 2	Renovation	1,770	
	19-5-33	Renovation	1,140	
	19-5-33.1	Renovation	1,360	
	19-5-33.73	Renovation and Realignment	2,010	
	19-5-33.74	Renovation	390	

Unit No.	Road No.	Type	Length (feet)	Notes
	19-5-33	Construction	190	
	19-5-33.73	Construction	150	
	19-5-33.74	Construction	150	
	Spur E	Construction	190	
	Landing A			(50' x 25')

- Renovation work may consist of brushing, scarifying the subgrade to a 14-foot width, outsloping where possible, replacing old culverts, and road rocking.
- Design new construction as natural surfaced, with 14 foot wide subgrade (SN-14) and no ditches; outslope subgrades with road grades 0-12% and inslope with grades over 12%. Use drain dips and rolling dips where possible with minimal use of culverts.
- To facilitate winter hauling/logging operations, the purchaser will have the option to rock Spurs A-D, and Road Nos.19-5-33.71 and North of junction 19-5-33.71 on Road No. 20-5-21.2 at their expense.
- Logger's choice spurs in Unit 2 shall be limited to 200 feet in length and may not be rocked.

Haul Route

Unit No.	Road No.	Season of haul Classification to Reduce Sediment Delivery to Streams	Justification of Season of Haul Classification	ID Team Proposed Season of Haul for Harvest Unit	Comments
1	County Rd. 4096	summer/winter	EIS Table	summer	Simonson Road
	20-5-21.2	summer/winter	Field survey	summer	Renovation and new construction
	19-5-22.2A	summer/winter	EIS Table	summer	
	19-5-22.2	summer/winter	EIS Table	summer	
	19-5-33.71	summer	Field survey	summer	Renovation and new construction
	19-5-33.72	summer	Field survey	summer	New construction
	19-5-33.75	summer	Field survey	summer	New construction
	19-5-33.74	summer	Field survey	summer	Renovation and construction
	Spur C	summer	Field survey	summer	New construction
2	County Rd. 4096	summer/winter	EIS Table	summer	Simonson Road
	19-5-22.2	summer/winter	EIS Table	summer	
	20-5-4	Un-surveyed	n/a	summer	
	20-5-9	summer/winter	Field survey	summer	
	20-5-21.3	Un-surveyed	n/a	summer	
	20-5-21.2	summer/winter	Field survey	summer	Renovation
	19-5-33.0	summer/winter	Field survey	summer	Renovation, Realignment, and Construction
	19-5-33.1	summer	Field survey	summer	Renovation
	19-5-33.73	summer	Field survey	summer	Renovation and Construction
	19-5-33.74	summer	Field survey	summer	Renovation and construction
	Spur E	summer	Field survey	summer	Construction

Note: Due to extensive ground-based yarding available in Units 1 and 2, and the large amount of rocking that would need to occur to allow winter haul, summer haul is recommended. Units 1 and 2 have potential for some winter haul (north) if rocking occurs to improved, renovated and new constructed roads within Unit 1 and renovated roads within Unit 2. Rocking is not allowed on Roads 19-5-33.0, 19-5-33.73, 19-5-33.74, or Spur E.

ROAD DECOMMISSIONING

In Unit 2, decommission newly constructed roads in the same year of construction.

Both Units:

Place natural-surfaced renovated or newly constructed roads and landings requiring operation during more than one operating season in an erosion resistant condition and temporarily block prior to the onset of wet weather.

- (aa) Decompact all skid trails and natural surface roads 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) Place logging slash, where available, on the entire road prism of decompacted natural-surfaced roads. Place logging slash, where available, on rocked road surfaces for the distance visible from Road No.19-5-22.2, as determined by the Authorized Officer.
 - (dd) (X) Block roads at entry points, using stumps, slash, and/or cull logs, as directed by the Authorized Officer.
- (EB) Block roads with earthen barricades.

Road	Road Rocking	If not rocked				If rocked		
		(aa)	(bb)	(cc)	(dd)	(bb)	(cc)	(dd)
		Decompact	Drainage	Logging Slash	Blocking	Drainage	Logging Slash	Blocking
Spur A	Optional	X	X	X	X	X	X	X^^
Spur B	Optional	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spur C	Optional	X	X	X	N/A	X	X	N/A
Spur D	Optional	X	X	X	N/A	X	N/A	N/A
Spur E	Not Allowed	X	X	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-5-33	Not Allowed	X	X	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-5-33.1	Not Allowed	X	X	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-5-33.71	Optional	X	X	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
19-5-33.73	Not Allowed	X	X	X	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
19-5-33.74	Not allowed	X	X	X	X	N/A	N/A	N/A
20-5-21.2	Optional	X	X	X	EB^	X	X	EB^
Landing A	Not allowed	X	X	X				

^North End

^^ As required by road owner, Plum Creek Timber.

HYDROLOGY

Maintain minimum no-harvest buffers from streams: 75-100 feet in Unit 1, and 100 feet in Unit 2. No cutting would occur within the primary shade zone, except for limited cutting for yarding corridors.

FISHERIES

The Oregon Coastal Coho Salmon ESU is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

- Require full suspension where attainable when yarding over the buffer of Stream 33-8 (Stream 3 on map) and two of its tributaries: Stream 33-18 (Stream 1 on map) due to the presence of cutthroat trout, and Stream 33-19 (Stream 2 on map) due to the availability of coho salmon habitat.
- Post-harvest treatment could include 1 to 2 trees per acre for large woody debris addition to streams.

WILDLIFE

Threatened and Endangered Species

Northern Spotted Owl:

- Unit 1: No mitigations are required
- Unit 2: Restrict operations seasonally as follows:
 - Prohibit harvest activities, with the exceptions of hauling, within 65 yards of unsurveyed or occupied suitable habitat between March 1 and July 7 of each year (shown as Special Operating Area on map)

Marbled Murrelets:

There is no suitable habitat or potential structure within the harvest area, but suitable habitat is located west and adjacent it. Murrelet protocol surveys of that habitat were completed in 2008 with no detections documented.

- Do not harvest or damage trees with murrelet nesting structure in the reserve area west and adjacent to the harvest area. Consult with the area wildlife biologist prior to approving guyline or tailhold trees in this area.

Special Status Species

No Special Status Species or unique habitats 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.

Special Status Species

No Special Status plants were located during site surveys.

Noxious Weeds and Invasive Non-native species:

- Notify the Resource Area botanist prior to operations to arrange for mowing or otherwise treating roads to limit transportation of weed seeds into harvest areas.
- 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 species or plant with conifers to help shade out weeds, lessen erosion, and speed revegetation, Prescribe these actions based on on-site evaluation after logging has been completed.

FUELS

- Pile roadside slash as needed within 25 feet of Road No. 19-5-22.2 where it passes through the harvest area. Leave material greater than 9" in diameter out of piles. Ninety percent (90%) of all landing and roadside piles would be burned.
- Scatter roadside and landing piles across roads to be closed after harvest. Scatter slash in a manner that does not create a deep continuous fuel bed.
- Cover and burn remaining roadside piles and landing piles.

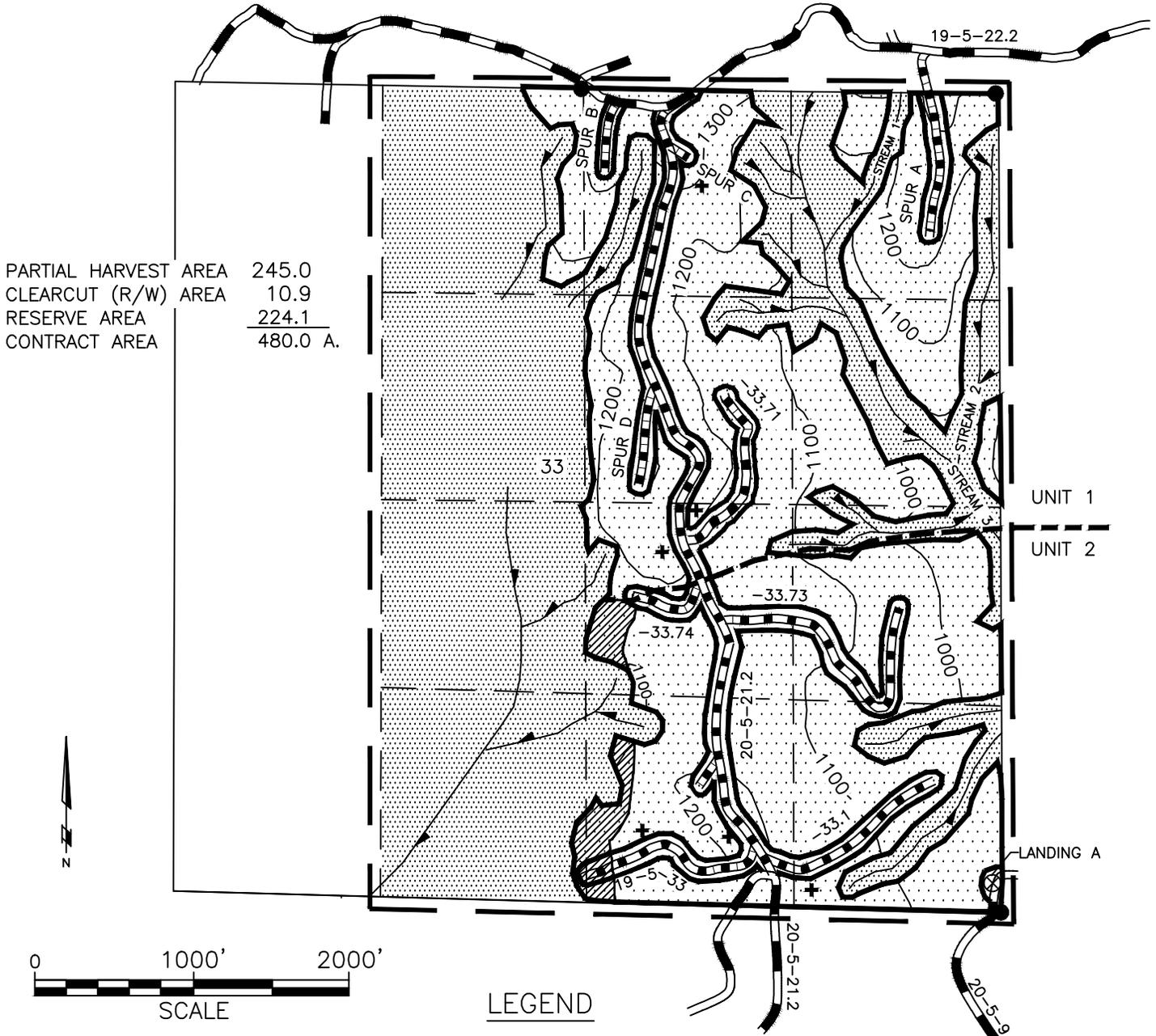
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PROJECT PLANNING MAP

RUSSELL CREEK TIMBER SALE

T. 19 S., R. 5 W., SEC. 33, WILL. MER., EUGENE DISTRICT



PARTIAL HARVEST AREA	245.0
CLEARCUT (R/W) AREA	10.9
RESERVE AREA	<u>224.1</u>
CONTRACT AREA	480.0 A.

UNIT 1
UNIT 2

LANDING A

LEGEND

-  PARTIAL HARVEST AREA
-  CLEARCUT AREA (R/W AREA)
-  RESERVE AREA
-  SPECIAL OPERATING AREA
-  APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF SUPERIOR TREES (6)
-  STREAM
-  CORNER FOUND

-  BOUNDARY - CONTRACT AREA
-  BOUNDARY - CUTTING AREA (BLAZED, PAINTED & POSTED)
-  ROAD TO BE CONSTRUCTED
-  ROAD TO BE RENOVATED OR RE-ALIGNED
-  ROCK SURFACED ROAD
-  LANDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED
-  UPPER SIUSLAW LANDSCAPE PLAN
-  UPPER SIUSLAW LSR RESTORATION PLAN