

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

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Templeton Road Salvage
Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2009-0004-EA**

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Land Management prepared an Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2009-0004-EA) which analyzed the effects of salvage harvest within approximately 15.5 acres of General Forest Management Area and 1.5 acres of Riparian Reserves in the Long Tom Watershed in Section 1, Township 16 South, Range 6 West, Willamette Meridian, Lane County, Oregon. The EA considered two alternatives, a no action and the proposed action. The EA and Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were made available for a 30-day public review on March 18, 2009. One comment was received.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the information contained in the EA (OR090-EA-2009-04), and all other information available to me, it is my determination that the implementation of the proposed action is consistent with the objectives, land use allocations and management direction of the 1995 ROD/RMP. This EA is in conformance with the Eugene District's 2008 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (2008 ROD/RMP). The analysis supporting this decision tiers to the 2008 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of the Resource Management Plan of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management (2008 Final EIS).

Revision of a resource management plan necessarily involves a transition from the application of the old resource management plan to the application of the new resource management plan. A transition from the old resource management plan to the new resource management plan avoids disruption of the management of BLM-administered lands and allows the BLM to utilize work already begun on the planning and analysis of projects.

The 2008 ROD allowed for such projects to be implemented consistent with the management direction of either the 1995 resource management plan, as amended (1995 RMP), or the 2008 RMP, at the discretion of the decisionmaker.

This project is in compliance with the 1995 RMP, and meets the requirements designated in the 2008 ROD for such transition projects:

1. A decision was not signed prior to the effective date of the 2008 ROD.
2. Preparation of National Environmental Policy Act documentation began prior to the effective date of the 2008 ROD; the project was described in the district planning newsletter "The Eye to the Future" in June 2008.
3. A decision on the project will be signed within two years of the effective date of the 2008 ROD.
4. There would be no destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat designated for species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The implementation of this project will not have significant environmental effects beyond those already identified in the 2008 Final EIS/Proposed RMP. The proposed action does not constitute a major federal action having significant effects on the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA.

Context

The Proposed Action would occur in the General Forest Management Area (GFMA) and Riparian Reserve (RR) Land Use Allocations (LUA) as designated by the 1995 Eugene District Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP anticipated that salvage harvest would occur in the GFMA and RR LUAs, and that salvage harvest would occur in Riparian Reserves when present and future woody debris needs for riparian areas as well as stream channels were met and the proposed action has no adverse impacts to objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The Proposed Action is in compliance with the 1995 Eugene District RMP. The project is also in conformance with the 2008 ROD/RMP since the new RMP directs us to salvage trees in a timely manner after natural disturbances to recover volume and economic value, and to minimize commercial loss or deterioration of damaged trees (2008 RMP, page 41).

Under the Proposed Action salvage harvest would occur on two three-acre patches of blown down timber. The 1995 RMP recommends the retention of coarse woody debris in stands that lack downed wood; the proposed action will retain 240 linear feet of coarse wood per acre. To meet ACS objectives no wood will be salvaged from the stream channel and all wood within 75 feet of the stream would be retained at the site.

Intensity

I have considered the potential intensity/severity of the impacts anticipated from the Templeton Road Salvage decision relative to each of the ten areas suggested for consideration by the CEQ. With regard to each:

1. **Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.** The EA considered both potential beneficial and adverse effects especially for relevant resources such as fuels, wildlife and ACS objectives. None of the effects are beyond the range of effects analyzed in the 2008 Final EIS.
2. **The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety.** No aspect of the Proposed Action would have an effect on public health and safety.

Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity of historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. There are no known historic or cultural resource sites that would be affected by the Proposed Action. Past pre-project cultural resource surveys conducted in conjunction with surface-disturbing actions in the Coast Range physiographic province have not resulted in the discovery of significant cultural properties. The Oregon BLM and the Oregon Historic Preservation Office developed a protocol agreement recognizing the paucity of discoverable historic properties in the Coast Range. Under this protocol, pre-project cultural resource surveys are not needed in the Coast Range. There are no parks, prime farmlands, or wild and scenic rivers in the project area.

3. **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** The effects of actions planned under the Proposed Action are similar to many other salvage projects implemented within the scope of the 1995 Eugene RMP and the 2008 RMP. No unique or appreciable scientific controversy has been identified regarding the effects of the Proposed Action.

Public comments received during the review of the EA suggest concern regarding effects to oaks in the area, the retention of adequate coarse wood, ACS objectives analysis, surveys for special status species and red tree voles, road building through suitable owl habitat, and a more detailed analysis of the 'no action' alternative specifically with regards to wildlife, but no scientific controversy was identified.

4. **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The analysis has not shown that there would be any unique or unknown risks to the human environment not previously considered and analyzed in EISs to which this decision is tied. Salvage harvest treatments have been pursued and accomplished for many years in the vegetation types typical of the project area.
5. **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** This project neither establishes a precedent nor represents a decision in principle about future actions. The Proposed Action is consistent with actions appropriate for the GFMA and Riparian Reserve land use

allocations, as designated by the 1995 Eugene District ROD/RMP and for TMA lands designated under the 2008 RMP.

6. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.** The environmental analysis did not reveal any cumulative effects beyond those already analyzed in the 2008 Final EIS.
7. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.** There are no features within the planning area that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Public comment and tribal consultation did not reveal any significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources in the project area.
8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This salvage project is not located in critical habitat for any listed species.** The road construction will temporarily reduce the canopy closure within the road prism, consisting of approximately one acre, below thresholds for suitable habitat (60% canopy closure) and some downed wood and understory vegetation maybe damaged or removed during operations, therefore resulting in a “may affect, likely to adversely affect” determination for spotted owls due to habitat modification. The project is not located within a currently occupied owl home range, the historic High Pass Road owl site is located approximately 0.5 mile away, and has not been occupied since 1997. There is no ‘Take’ of spotted owls associated with this proposed action. The canopy above the road prism will recover over a few years and the stand will continue to function as suitable habitat after the canopy cover and other habitat components are re-established. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have issued a Biological Opinion for this action (USFWS 2009). None of the effects to listed species would be beyond the range of effects analyzed in the 2008 Final EIS.
9. **Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.** The Proposed Action does not threaten to violate any law. The Proposed Action is in compliance with the 1995 Eugene RMP and the 2008 RMP, which provide direction for the protection of the environment on public lands.

/s/ Dan Howells, Acting
Field Manager
Siuslaw Resource Area

June 1, 2009
Date

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**DECISION RECORD
Templeton Road Salvage
Environmental Assessment
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DECISION

It is my decision to implement the proposed action as described in the Templeton Road Salvage EA (DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2009-0004-EA). Consultation with the USFWS has been completed. The EA and the FONSI analyzed the selected alternative and found no significant impacts. Implementation of this decision will result in forest management activities including salvage harvest, road construction and decommissioning.

This decision is in conformance with the Eugene District's 2008 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (2008 ROD/RMP) and is also consistent with the objectives, land use allocations, and management direction of the 1995 ROD/RMP. The analysis supporting this decision tiers to the 2008 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of the Resource Management Plan of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management (2008 Final EIS).

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Public Scoping and Review

The project was included in the June 2008 publication of the Eugene District planning newsletter "Eye to the Future". The project was released for a 30 day public comment period on March 18, 2009 for public review; the document was mailed to 38 individuals, agencies and groups. One comment letter was received. Additional information was incorporated into the Environmental Assessment (dated June 3, 2009), but the proposed action did not change. A letter responding to comments, an Environmental Assessment, and copies of the Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record will be mailed to the commenter.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, consultation was completed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which concurred that the action "may affect, and is likely to adversely affect" northern spotted owls due to habitat modification and "may affect, and is not likely to adversely affect" marbled murrelets due to disturbance. A biological opinion and letter of concurrence has been received from the USFWS (USFWS 2009).

National Marine Fisheries Service

There are no listed fish species in the project area or the watershed. No consultation is necessary.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) requires Federal agencies to consult with the Secretary of Commerce regarding any action or proposed action authorized, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) under the Act. There is no Essential Fish Habitat identified in the project area or watershed therefore no consultation is necessary.

Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, Siletz, Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians

The Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, Siletz, Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians were notified of this project both during scoping and comment periods, requesting information regarding tribal issues or concerns relative to the project. No response was received.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

This forest management decision may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 – Administrative Remedies. In accordance with 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this project will not be subject to protest until the notice of forest management decision is first published in the Eugene Register-Guard on June 3, 2009. Protests of the decision must be filed with this office within 15 days after first publication of the notice of decision. As interpreted by BLM, the regulations do not authorize acceptance of protests in any form other than a signed, paper document that is delivered to the physical address of the BLM office. Therefore, e-mail or facsimile protests will not be accepted. If no protest is received by the close of business (4:15 pm) on June 18, 2009, this decision will become final. If a timely protest is received, this decision will be reconsidered in light of the protest and other pertinent information available in accordance with 43 CFR 5003.3.

William E. Hatton
Field Manager
Siuslaw Resource Area

June 1, 2009
Date