

Environmental Assessment
for
Templeton Road Salvage
DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2009-0004-EA

March 2009

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eugene District Office
Siuslaw Resource Area

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2009-0004-EA**

Templeton Road Salvage

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment will address a blow down recovery project in the Siuslaw Resource Area of the Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The project area is approximately 17 acres located within the Long Tom Watershed in Section 1, Township 16 South, Range 6 West, Willamette Meridian, Lane County, Oregon, within the General Forest Management Area and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocations.

1.1 BACKGROUND

In fall of 2007, a large wind event occurred which caused timber to fall in two patches of approximately 3 acres each, as well as causing scattered timber to fall across approximately 11 additional acres surrounding the patches. The wind event also damaged standing timber, breaking tops and causing some to lean.

1.2 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE ACTION

The **purpose** of the action is to actively respond to stand disturbance caused by windthrow creating excessive amounts of blow down, and to capture the mortality volume before it loses value. The blow down may interfere with stand regeneration activities and may contribute to future disturbance of adjacent stands by increasing the risk of fire. Further, the Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (1995) direct that management “provide for salvage harvest of timber killed or damaged by events such as wildfire, windstorms, insects, or disease, consistent with management objectives for other resources” (p. 84).

The **need** for the action is to reduce the susceptibility of the stand and adjacent stands to potential future disturbances, and to reforest blow down areas to full stocking.

1.3 CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLAN

The alternatives are in conformance with the “Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl”, April 1994 (NSO ROD); and the “Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan”, June 1995 (Eugene District ROD/RMP), as amended. This EA is tiered to these Environmental Impact Statements. The attached Finding of No Significant Impact contains further conformance statements.

Additional site-specific information is available in the Templeton Road Salvage project analysis file. This file and the above referenced documents are available for review at the Eugene District Office.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A considers salvage activities on a project area of approximately 17 acres (see map). Approximately 390 thousand board feet (MBF) of blow down or wind-damaged standing timber would be removed.

2.1 ALTERNATIVE A (PROPOSED ACTION)

Roads and Yarding

Approximately 1,900 feet of temporary road would be constructed (Spur A). Approximately 500 feet of existing road would be renovated. No new stream crossings are proposed. Use of Spur A would be limited to the dry season. Upon completion of salvage activities, Spur A would be tilled, blocked, and waterbarred as needed, and limbs and logging debris would be scattered on the road prism.

Harvesting of salvage material would be accomplished with both ground-based and cable yarding systems. One-end suspension would be required during cable yarding. Ground-based yarding would be limited to the dry season. Ground-based yarding equipment would be limited to slopes less than 35% and would be allowed no closer than 150 feet from any stream. Skid trails would be located 150 feet apart, where possible.

Retention

Green trees and snags that do not present a safety hazard would be retained where possible. Those undamaged, standing trees that are not in danger of being felled by further wind events would be retained where possible. Hardwood and Pacific yew trees would be retained where possible; some may be felled for safety purposes. Approximately 240 linear feet per acre of downed woody debris greater than 20 inches diameter at breast height would be retained in the two three-acre blow down patches.

Reserves

In the Long Tom Watershed, the height of one site-potential tree has been determined to be 210 feet. Riparian Reserves 210 feet (slope distance) wide on either side of non-fishbearing streams would be managed in accordance with the standards and guidelines in the NSO ROD (Appendix C, pp. 31-38). No windblown or standing damaged timber within 75 feet of the stream would be removed. Should any damaged, standing timber within 75 feet of the stream be cut for safety purposes, it would be retained on site. Where windblown trees lie partially within 75 feet of a stream, the portion within 75 feet of the stream would be left on the ground.

Should any Special Status botanical species be found, mitigation sufficient to retain population viability would be implemented. In most cases, this mitigation would consist of avoiding disturbance to Special Status plants located in the project area.

Noxious Weeds

All yarding and road construction equipment would be cleaned prior to arrival on BLM-managed land. Native grass seed would be sown on the decommissioned temporary road upon completion of operations.

Silviculture

Upon completion of harvest, site preparation would include excavator piling on slopes up to 35%, hand piling on steeper slopes, and burning of the piles in the late fall when smoke dispersal is optimum and risk of fire spread away from piles is low. Douglas-fir seedlings would be planted at approximately 400 trees per acre (TPA).

2.2 ALTERNATIVE B (NO ACTION)

There would be no salvage activities; no management activities described under the Proposed Action would occur. No trees would be planted.

3.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The plant and animal communities in the project area do not differ significantly from those discussed in the Eugene District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP EIS) (Chapter 3). The project area is described below.

3.1 STAND DESCRIPTION

The project area is comprised of native timber stands which appear to have originated following cessation of native and/or settler burning in the late 19th century (birthdate 1900). The common stand condition is a well-stocked overstory of Douglas-fir, with minor components of madrone and white oak. A few large older trees are distributed throughout the stand.

3.2 FUELS DESCRIPTION

The dominant brush species are poison oak, salal and vine maple. Swordfern and Oregon-grape are also common. On the south aspect much of the overstory has been lost, and the current fuel model is 13 (heavy slash). The overstory of the north aspect is more intact than the south aspect. The north aspect has a mixed fuel model as there is a brush component (fuel model 5) and some patches of heavy dead fuel (fuel model 10) where windthrow and breakage were more scattered.

3.3 WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Threatened and Endangered Species

Northern Spotted Owl (Threatened)

There are no known spotted owl activity centers within the project area. The High Pass Road owl site is located approximately 0.5 mile away. This pair has not occupied the site since 1995. No other spotted owl activity centers are known to be located within 1.5 mile of the project area.

The project area is not designated Critical Habitat for this species. The patches of blow down are not suitable habitat, but the adjacent area in which the road would be constructed and in which scattered blow down would be salvaged is suitable habitat, currently considered unoccupied.

Marbled Murrelet (Threatened)

There are two trees with suitable nesting structure within the salvage area. Unsurveyed potential nesting structure exists within 100 yards of the salvage area. The closest site known to be occupied by marbled murrelets is approximately five miles to the northwest of the salvage area. The area is not designated Critical Habitat for this species.

Other Wildlife Species

No Special Status Species were located during field reviews. Appendix A lists migratory bird species that may occur in the vicinity of the project area.

Special or Unique Habitat and Features

No portion of this project area is considered suitable habitat for any other federally listed or proposed terrestrial wildlife species known to occur in this vicinity.

3.4 SOILS

The geology of the site is described as Tuffaceous siltstone and sandstone with calcareous intrusions of offshore marine sediments. Bedrock consists of silt and claystone that has weathered into the Bellpine and Peavine soil series. Bellpine soils are high in clay content and can compact easily from ground-based logging. Peavine soils are moderately deep, well drained, red, clayey soils. Peavine soils are among the most highly productive forest soils found in Oregon.

3.5 AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN RESOURCES AND FISHERIES

Aquatic and Fisheries Characterization

There is one stream located in the northwest corner of the project area. It is a 1st order tributary of Owens Creek that is intermittent in the project area but perennial further downstream. Owens Creek is a tributary of Bear Creek, which is a 4th order fishbearing tributary of the Long Tom River. The confluence of Bear Creek and the Long Tom River is about 10 miles downstream of Fern Ridge reservoir.

The portion of the stream within the project area is approximately 500 feet long, with a stream gradient of approximately 15-25%. There are few standing conifers immediately above the headwater but there are many standing conifers within the riparian area east and west of the stream on BLM land. Wetted channel width on the date of survey (October 6, 2008) was ½ foot to 1 foot; the bank full width is 1½ feet to 2½ feet. The channel substrate is fine material to medium gravel.

The haul route would be over paved county roads except for approximately 0.85 mile of gravel road and 0.6 mile of native surface forest road. The gravel surfacing appears to be in fair condition. There is one stream crossing on the gravel portion of the haul route.

The project area is within the Long Tom 5th Field watershed and Bear Creek 6th Field watershed. No listed fish species have been identified in the project area. The tributary of Owens Creek that is within and to the west of the project area was surveyed in February of 2008 and found to be fishless.

3.6 BOTANY

Special Status Species

Surveys have not been conducted for Special Status vascular plants, lichens and bryophytes, but will be conducted before operations commence. Sites of the Bureau Sensitive *Cimicifuga elata*, a vascular plant, occur about 1/3 mile north and ½ mile south of the project area. No other known sites occur in the vicinity.

Special Status fungi may also occur in the project area. Surveys are not conducted for fungi. According to BLM Information Bulletin No. OR-2004-145, pre-disturbance surveys for these fungi are not practical to conduct and should not be attempted. There are no known sites of Special Status fungi in the project area.

Noxious Weeds

Several noxious weeds listed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture occur in the vicinity of the project area, including bull thistle, Canada thistle, Scotch broom, common St. Johnswort, tansy ragwort and Himalayan blackberry.

Oak Habitat

Oregon white oak occurs as scattered individuals in the project area, some being relatively large and old. Oaks generally occur on upper south facing slopes in this area. These trees, along with scattered large Douglas-fir trees, represent the historic condition of the area. An 1854 survey describes a bearing fir tree of 36 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) and an oak at 16 inches (dbh), and "timber scattering oak and fir." Oak woodlands are "high value habitats" according to the Eugene District ROD/RMP (page 40). Oak woodlands and related habitats have been severely reduced in the Pacific Northwest due to increased conifer cover, agriculture and development. The 1995 RMP directs to "maintain, enhance, and acquire oak, oak-conifer woodlands, and pine stands" and to "manage the site within the range of known historical conditions."

3.7 RECREATION

Access to the project area is past several private residences. There are no known recreational sites or activities within the project area.

3.8 VISUAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The project area is classified as a Rural Interface Area (RIA), and thus should be managed using Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class III standards. VRM III allows moderate changes to the landscape without dominating the view of the casual observer. The surrounding landscape is forestland that is managed for timber production. The surrounding forests are different age classes ranging from newly harvested areas with no timber to forested areas with 20-year-old to greater than 45-year-old Douglas-fir.

4.0 DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

4.1 DIRECT EFFECTS

Alternative A (Proposed Action)

Timber

Salvage logging would remove standing, damaged trees along with much of the fallen timber, capturing the mortality volume. Planting the two three-acre blow down areas would hasten the initiation and development of a second conifer cohort.

Fuels

Residual slash from salvage logging would be mostly uniform and continuous throughout the salvage area, resulting in a light Fuel Model (FM) 12 condition. FM 12 under the site conditions of this project area yields active fire behavior with flame lengths of 4 to 6 feet, except under extreme weather conditions (20 foot winds over 20 mph) where flame lengths could exceed 10 feet. A lack of overstory within parts of the salvage area would make the occurrence of a crown fire within the project area under even extreme weather conditions unlikely. However, the rest of the timber adjacent to the salvage area does have a complete overstory and some ladder fuels are present, making a passive crown fire (tree torching) a possibility if an intense ground fire within the salvage area moved into the adjacent stand. The residual slash would be moved and compacted by the yarding operations, resulting in some openings in the fuel bed, buried slash, and slash concentrations; a portion of the slash would be brought to and sorted on landings as cull material. Landing piles would vary in size, depending on site-specific operational factors and resulting in varying quantities of unmerchantable material that actually would reach each landing. As the slash breaks down the live fuels would begin to dominate, with the project area moving from FM 12 to FM 5. This would occur within 7-10 years if no post-salvage fuels treatment or site prep occurs.

Wildlife

No potential spotted owl nest trees would be felled during road construction. Some primary constituent elements (down wood and understory vegetation) may be damaged or removed during road construction. Some large trees or snags within the project area may be felled for safety reasons. This Proposed Action "May Affect and is Likely to Adversely Affect" the spotted owl due to habitat modification. There would be "No Effect" to the spotted owl due to disturbance since suitable habitat in the vicinity of the project area has been determined to be unoccupied.

No suitable marbled murrelet habitat would be modified by the Proposed Action. Because trees within the unit are down, there would be "No Effect" to marbled murrelets due to habitat modification.

The Proposed Action "May Affect, and is Likely to Adversely Affect" the marbled murrelet due to disturbance to unsurveyed potential nesting structure during the critical portion of the breeding period (April 1 through August 5), and "May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect" this species due to disturbance in the latter portion of the breeding period (August 6 through September 15).

No other federally-listed or proposed terrestrial wildlife species would be affected by the Proposed Action. No effects to migratory bird habitat would occur.

Soils

New road construction and ground-based yarding would increase the area of disturbed and compacted soils and reduce long-term soil productivity. Best management practices such as tilling compacted areas would mitigate the loss of long-term soil productivity from roads and yarding. Retention of organic matter would improve long-term soil productivity.

Aquatic Resources and Fisheries

Best management practices would minimize the extent and severity of compaction from road construction and yarding and would reduce the potential for surface runoff, erosion, and sedimentation due to compaction. Tilling the road upon completion of operations and scattering organic debris on the tilled road surface would mitigate impacts.

Channel stability would be maintained by not removing any downed trees or standing trees within 75 feet of the stream channel, reducing the risk of sedimentation. Harvest of downed material would not impact stream temperature, riparian vegetation, channel stability, or high or low flows of the stream system.

An increase in erosion/sedimentation would be minimal from the short-term increase in traffic during hauling. Haul would occur during the dry season. Since the haul road is in fair condition and would be subject to maintenance, limiting the use of the road for haul to the dry season would minimize causal mechanisms for sedimentation to occur.

The Proposed Action would not affect the survival of native fish species in the Owens Creek drainage.

Botany

Special Status Species

Surveys will be conducted for Special Status Species vascular plants, lichens and bryophytes (including federally listed species). Those needing protection would be mitigated to follow policy, i.e., to preclude contributing to a trend toward listing (or continued listing) of the species under the Endangered Species Act. In general, this includes mitigation sufficient to retain population viability. In most cases, this mitigation would consist of avoiding disturbance to Special Status plants located in the project area.

Special Status fungi may occur in the project area, and if so, would be impacted by the Proposed Action. However, according to BLM Information Bulletin Number OR-2004-145 (Attachment 5), protection of known sites along with ongoing large-scale inventory work is thought to be adequate in assuring that projects will not contribute to the need to list these species under the ESA.

Noxious Weeds

Noxious weed species could be expected to increase with disturbance created by construction of the new road bed and other harvest activities. The types of weeds that are expected to invade the area would be similar to those found at the Dead Horse Timber Sale (Township 15 South, Range 6 West, Sections 21 and 27, approximately 2 miles away). The portion of new road construction outside of the salvage area could have perhaps 1%, but up to 10%, cover of invasive non-native and noxious weed species for possibly 10 to 20 years after the harvest. The salvage area and new road construction adjacent to it could have perhaps 1%, but up to 20%, cover of invasive non-native and noxious weed species for possibly 30 years after the harvest due to decrease in canopy cover. These effects are based on observations of timber harvest areas and roadsides in the general vicinity. Washing of equipment and sowing native grass seed, along with the Eugene District's ongoing weed control program, should mitigate the effects.

Oak Habitat

Larger oaks (over 6 feet high) would be retained in this project as much as possible. No oaks occur within the proposed road construction corridor. Approximately 35 oaks occur within the salvage area; some may be damaged or cut where they conflict with yarding activities. Cut oaks may resprout from the stump. Replanting conifers within the proposed salvage area would result in a greater number of conifer trees than was historically present. About 30 oaks are located outside and adjacent to the salvage area; these trees would not be disturbed.

Visual Resources Management

Removal of the downed timber, scattered standing damaged timber, and timber within the right-of-way of the proposed new construction would not change the existing character of the landscape. The landscape has many roads and timber harvest areas within the viewshed.

Alternative B (No Action)**Timber**

Selection of Alternative B would leave standing, damaged trees and all of the fallen timber; mortality volume would not be captured for market value. With no planting in the two blow down areas, regeneration would rely on natural seeding. The initiation and development of a second conifer cohort would be delayed but would still occur through natural seeding.

Fuels

The two 3-acre patches of blow down would continue to be FM 13 (heavy dead ground fuels) with a large brush component (FM 5) for an estimated 20-30 years until a new overstory begins to develop. Overstory redevelopment would be from natural seedlings; no tree planting would take place to speed the process. When the new overstory develops the heavy fuel loading from the windthrown tree boles would persist and the fuel model would transition to a heavy FM 10 with continued risk of a high severity, stand-replacing fire event with potential long-range spotting within the blow down area. If such a fire were to occur, suppression would be difficult under dry weather conditions until the fire moved out of the blow down patches. This would greatly increase the chances of significant fire damage occurring within the surrounding timber stands and young plants on private land.

Wildlife

There would be "No Effect" to federally listed species if Alternative B is selected.

Soils

There would be no effects to soils if Alternative B is selected; long-term productivity would be maintained at current levels.

Aquatic Resources and Fisheries

There would be no effect on compaction, erosion, or sedimentation from yarding, road building, or haul if Alternative B is selected.

Botany

Under the no action alternative, the effects outlined above to Special Status Plants, Noxious Weeds, and Oak Habitat would not occur.

Visual Resources Management

There would be no effect to the visual resources of the project area.

5.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

This analysis incorporates by reference the analysis of cumulative effects in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO FSEIS) (Chapter 3 & 4, pp. 4-10) and the Eugene District Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP EIS) (Chapter 4). Those documents analyze most cumulative effects of timber harvest and other related management activities. None of the alternatives analyzed here would have cumulative effects on soils, water or air quality beyond those effects analyzed in the above documents.

It is likely that some stands on BLM-administered lands in the Long Tom Watershed will be treated with commercial thinnings or regeneration harvests. In 2006, the Rock Fish timber sale (commercial thinning, T16S, R7W, Sec. 23 – Long Tom and Lake Creek Watersheds) was completed. The Get Ready timber sale (commercial thinning, T16S, R72, Sec. 25 – Long Tom Watershed) was completed in 2007.

On private lands in the watershed, more intensive timber management actions, including clearcutting and broadcast burning, are occurring and are likely to continue. Also, it is possible that some forest stands on private land will be converted to non-forest land, for either agricultural or residential use. Private lands provide habitat for deer, elk, and neotropical birds but will primarily alternate between early- to mid-seral stages.

6.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

6.1 LIST OF PREPARERS

The Proposed Action and alternative were developed and analyzed by the following interdisciplinary team of BLM specialists.

NAME	TITLE	DISCIPLINE
Karin Baitis	Soils Scientist	Soils
Leo Poole	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries
Steve Steiner	Hydrologist	Hydrology
Jeff Apel	Forester	Engineering
Dave Reed	Fuels Specialist	Fuels/Air Quality
Doug Goldenberg	Botanist	Botany
Peter O'Toole	Forester	Silviculture
Dan Crannell	T & E and Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Habitat
Larry Larson	Timber Cruiser	Timber Cruising
Janet Zentner	Forester	Logging Systems
Sharmila Premdas	Landscape Planner	Planning and Environmental Coordination

6.2 CONSULTATION

This Proposed Action is addressed in the habitat modification and disturbance programmatic biological assessment for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

The Proposed Action "May Affect, and is Likely to Adversely Affect" the northern spotted owl due to habitat modification.

The Proposed Action "May Affect, and is Likely to Adversely Affect" the marbled murrelet due to disturbance in the critical portion of the breeding period, and "May Affect, but is not Likely to Adversely Affect" this species during the latter portion of the breeding period.

There is no Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) located in this project area. There are no listed fish species in the Long Tom drainages and its tributaries. Consequently, no consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required.

The project area occurs in the Coast Range. Cultural resource sites in the Coast Range, both historic and prehistoric, occur rarely. Pre-disturbance survey is not required. Post-disturbance inventory will be completed on slopes less than 10% in accordance with Appendix D of the Protocol for Managing Cultural Resource on Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon.

7.0 REFERENCES

USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management. February 1994. Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. Portland, Oregon.

USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management. April 1994. Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

USDI Bureau of Land Management. November 1994. Eugene District Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. Eugene, Oregon: Eugene District Office.

USDI Bureau of Land Management. June 1995. Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan. Eugene, Oregon: Eugene District Office.

USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management. 2004. Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines. Portland, OR.

USDI Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office. 2004. Information Bulletin No. OR-2004-145 Implementation of Special Status Species Policies for the Former Survey and Manage Species. Dated 7/20/2004.

**Migratory Bird Treaty Act Review Form
Templeton Road Salvage EA09-04**

APPENDIX A

Bird Species of Conservation Concern (Siuslaw Resource Area, Eugene District, BLM)							
Species	Within Range?	Habitat Present?	Effect to habitat by proposed action?	How would habitat be affected?	How prevalent is this habitat in the watershed?	What would be the impacts of proposed action?	Comments
American bittern	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Black-throated gray warbler	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Horned Lark (<i>strigata</i>)	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Lewis's woodpecker	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Northern goshawk	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Northern harrier	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Olive-sided flycatcher	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Peregrine falcon	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Rufous hummingbird	Yes	No	Yes	NA	NA	NA	
Short-eared owl	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Vesper Sparrow	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Game Birds Below Desired Condition (Siuslaw Resource Area, Eugene District BLM)							
Species	Within Range?	Habitat Present?	Effect to habitat by proposed action?	How would habitat be affected?	How prevalent is this habitat in the watershed?	What would be the impacts of proposed action?	Comments
Mourning dove	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Harlequin duck	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Ring-necked duck	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Wood duck	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Cackling Canada goose	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Dusky Canada goose	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Mallard duck	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Band-tailed pigeon	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Northern pintail duck	Yes	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	

Templeton Road Salvage

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March 18, 2009

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE
Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
for
Templeton Road Salvage
DOI-BLM-OR-E050-2009-0004-EA

Determination:

This decision is in conformance with the Eugene District's 2008 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (2008 ROD/RMP). The analysis supporting this determination 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 (1995 RMP) or the 2008 RMP, at the discretion of the decision maker.

This project 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. Regeneration harvest would not occur in a Late-Successional Management Area or in a Deferred Timber Management Area.
5. There would be no destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat designated for species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Since the planning and design for this project was initiated prior to the 2008 ROD, it contains certain project design features that are not consistent with the management direction contained in the 2008 RMP.

The design features for this project that are consistent with the 1995 RMP but not consistent with the 2008 RMP include:

- Approximately 240 linear feet per acre of downed woody debris greater than 20 inches diameter at breast height would be retained in the two three-acre blow down patches. The 1995 RMP allows the retention of such coarse woody debris in General Forest Management Area (GFMA) land use allocations. Where existing coarse woody debris does not meet the standard of 240 linear feet per acre of downed woody debris greater than 20 inches in diameter, merchantable material will be used to make up the deficit (1995 ROD page 86). Management direction from the 2008 RMP for salvage in Timber Management Area (TMA) is the following: Salvage harvest would be conducted 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). The Templeton Road Salvage project is located within Timber Management Area.

The 2008 ROD anticipated these inconsistencies and projected they would not alter the analysis of effects in the associated final environmental impact statement. The 2008 ROD anticipated that the primary inconsistency with the 2008 RMP would be the retention of merchantable material in regeneration harvest units for green tree retention, snags, and coarse woody debris where the management direction in 2008 RMP would direct the removal of all merchantable material. This type of inconsistency would result in less

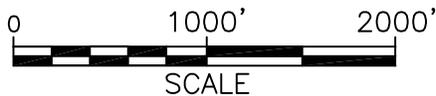
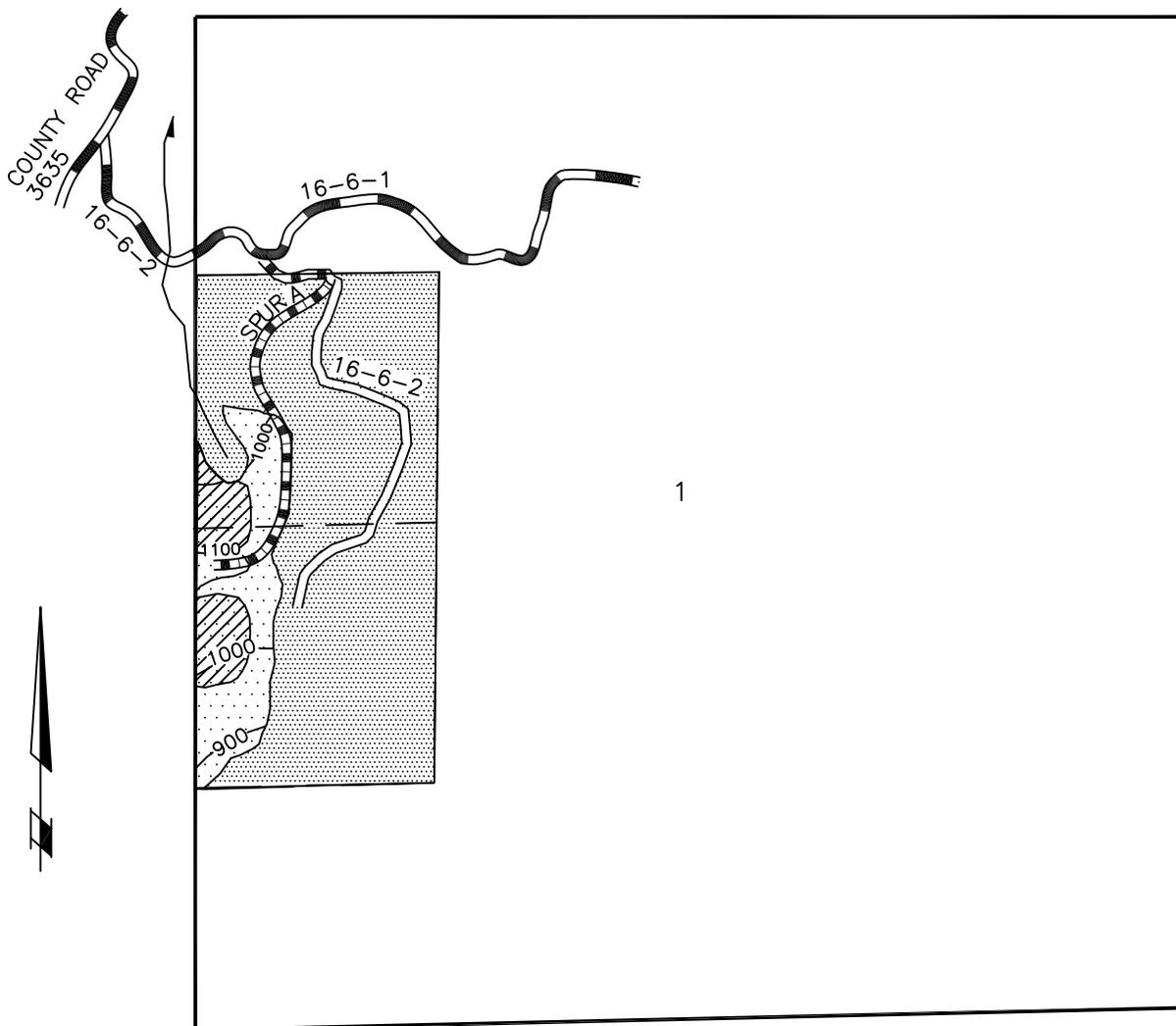
change to the current condition of the affected environment described in the 2008 EIS than if the project was consistent with the management direction in the 2008 RMP.

The implementation of this project will not have significant environmental effects beyond those already identified in the 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.

William Hatton
Field Manager, Siuslaw Resource Area

Date

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 PROJECT AREA PLANNING MAP
 TEMPLETON ROAD SALVAGE
 T. 16 S., R. 6 W., Section 1



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|------------------------|
|  | SALVAGE AREA |  | ROCK SURFACED ROAD |
|  | RESERVE AREA |  | DIRT ROAD |
|  | THREE-ACRE AREA
TO BE PLANTED AND
RETAIN 240 LINEAR
FEET/ACRE DOWNED
WOODY DEBRIS |  | ROAD TO BE CONSTRUCTED |
| | |  | ROAD TO BE RENOVATED |
| | |  | STREAM |