

**Second Decision Record
for the
Friese Camp Forest Management Project
EA #DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2011-0015-EA**

Introduction

The Medford District Bureau of Land Management, Butte Falls Resource Area (BLM) completed the environmental analysis for forest management activities proposed in the *Friese Camp Forest Management Project Environmental Assessment* (DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2011-0015-EA) (EA). The EA analyzed possible impacts from projects proposed on 2,195 acres of matrix lands and 65 acres of riparian reserves. The EA was published on July 16, 2012 and was available for a 30-day public comment period that ended August 14, 2012.

On August 15, 2012, the BLM issued a *Finding of No Additional Significant Impact* and decided to implement a portion of the proposed actions, as described in the first *Decision Record for Friese Camp Forest Management Project*, dated August 15, 2012. The first Decision Record selected Alternative 3, which implemented restoration thinning on 479 acres of matrix land, small diameter thinning on 314 acres of matrix lands and 65 acres of riparian reserves, road decommissioning on 2.6 miles of road, road realignment on 1.1 miles of road, road closures on 5.1 miles of road, temporary route construction and reconstruction on 2.17 miles, activity slash treatment on 858 acres, and restoration of 10 water source sites. This Second Decision Record will implement restoration thinning on 29 acres as analyzed in Alternative 3 in the EA.

Decision

My decision is to implement, in part, actions proposed and analyzed under Alternative 3 in the Friese Camp EA and to defer decisions on the remaining actions until a later date to be determined. My decision will implement actions in locations described below and will include all required project design features (PDFs) as described in the EA (p. 16-21) and the following additional PDF:

- Mechanized equipment (feller buncher systems) may be used off designated skid trails during the dry season (soil moisture content less than 25%) for 1 or 2 passes only (one round-trip). These 1 to 2 pass trails must be spaced a minimum of 50 feet apart off of designated skid trails. Equipment must be 6 psi or less. All other use of ground-based equipment must be restricted to designated skid trails.

My decision is to authorize the following actions (Map 1):

- 29 acres of restoration thinning on matrix lands in the following locations:
 - Township 34 South, Range 3 East, sections 27 and 34; and
 - Township 35 South, Range 3 East, section 3.
- 0.1 mile of temporary route construction and decommissioning in Township 34 South, Range 3 East, section 34.
- 0.17 mile of temporary route reconstruction and decommissioning in Township 35 South, Range 3 East, section 3.

My decision is based on site-specific analysis, supporting project record, management recommendations in the Central Big Butte Creek watershed analysis, management direction in the Northwest Forest Plan and Medford District RMP, and public comments. This Decision Record is the second decision to implement forest management activities analyzed in the Friese Camp Forest Management EA. Subsequent decisions could occur and will include public notification.

Decision Rationale

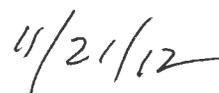
My decision to authorize the proposed action is in compliance with the Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, dated April 1995, and the Northwest Forest Plan, dated April 1994 (EA, p. 7). The proposed action complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations, standards, and guidelines (EA, p. 7). All required Threatened and Endangered species, Special Status Species, Survey and Manage species, and cultural surveys were completed and mitigations were applied, where appropriate.

My decision to implement Alternative 3 is based on consideration and evaluation of how well the purpose and need is met and the associated environmental consequences of implementing or not implementing the Friese Camp Forest Management Project, as analyzed in the EA and documented in the FONSI.

As stated in the first Decision Record, I considered how the alternatives analyzed in the EA met the purpose and need, the associated environmental effects, and public input. Based on those considerations, I have decided that this Second Decision Record meets the purpose and need described for this project while minimizing the potential for adverse effects on the environment. The required implementation of PDFs will provide for the protection of resources consistent with existing laws and policy and the direction of the 1995 RMP.



Jon K. Raby
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area



Date

Administrative Remedies

The decision described in this document is a forest management decision and is subject to protest by the public. In accordance with Forest Management regulations at 43 CFR Subpart 5003—Administrative Remedies, protests of this decision may be filed with the authorized officer, Jon Raby, within 15 days of the publication date of the Notice of Decision in the *Medford Mail Tribune* newspaper, Medford, Oregon. The protest must clearly and concisely state which portion or element of the decision is being protested and the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error.

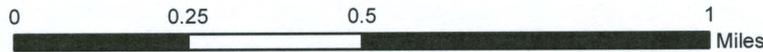
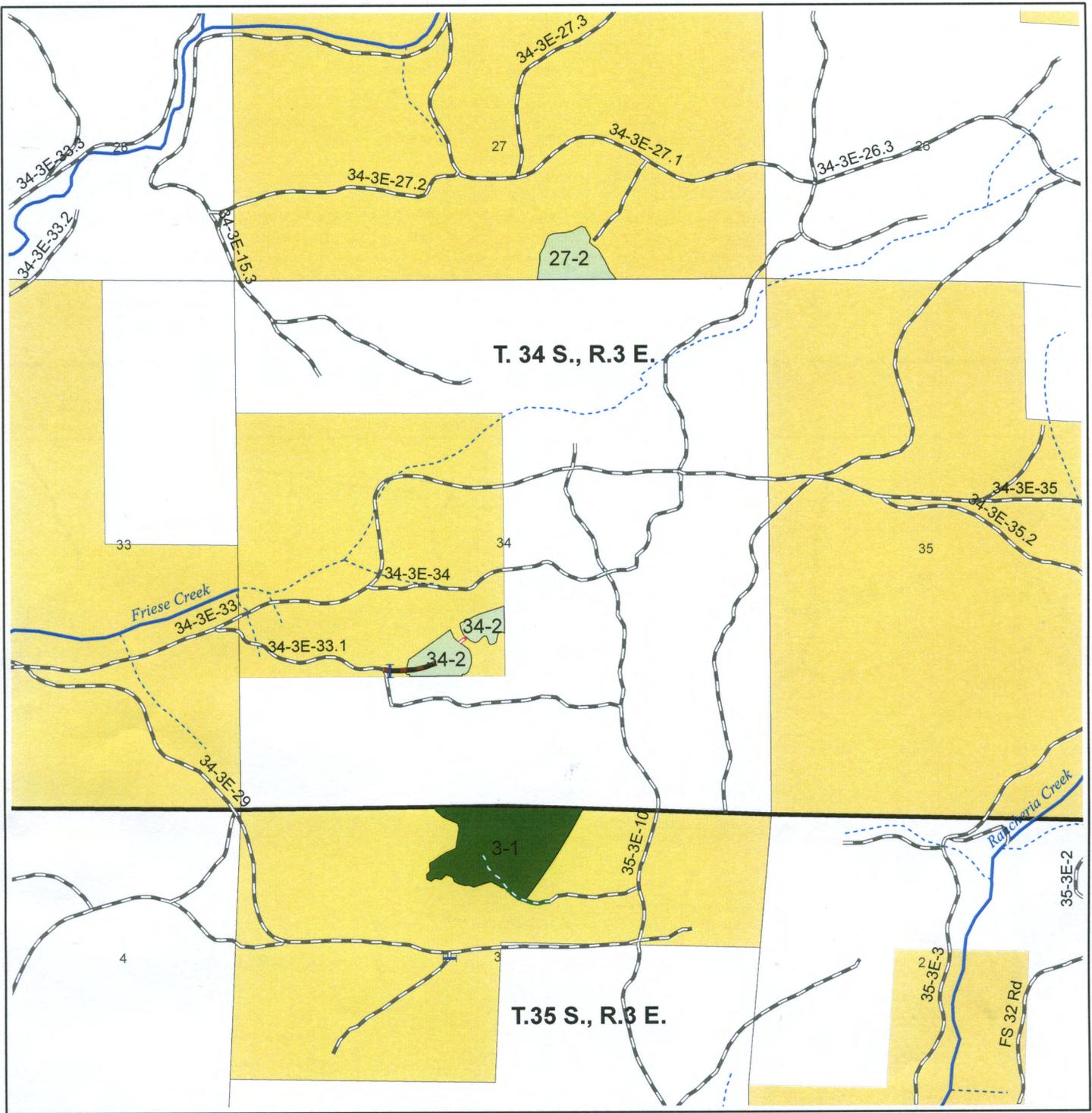
In accordance with BLM Forest Management Regulation 43 CFR § 5003.2 (a and c), the effective date of this decision, as it pertains to this action, will be the publication date of this Notice of Decision in the *Medford Mail Tribune*. This date applies to the restoration thinning (29 acres) in Township 34 South, Range 3 East, sections 27 and 34; and Township 35 South, Range 3 East, section 3, 0.17 mile of temporary route reconstruction and decommissioning in Township 35 South, Range 3 East, section 3, and 0.1 mile of temporary route construction and decommissioning in Township 34 South, Range 3 East, section 34. Publication of this notice establishes the date initiating the protest period provided in accordance with 43 CFR § 5003.3.

43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (b) states, “Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision.” This precludes the acceptance of electronic mail (email) or facsimile (fax) protests. **Only written and signed hard copies of protests delivered to the Medford District Office will be accepted.** The Medford District Office is located at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon.

43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (c) states: “Protests received more than 15 days after the publication of the notice of decision or the notice of sale are not timely filed and shall not be considered.” Upon timely filing of a protest, the authorized officer shall reconsider the project decision to be implemented in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available to him. The authorized officer shall, at the conclusion of the review, serve the protest decision in writing to the protesting party(ies). Upon denial of a protest, the authorized officer may proceed with the implementation of the decision as permitted by regulations at 5003.3(f).

If no protest is received by the close of business (4:30 p.m.) within 15 days after publication of this Notice of Decision, this decision will become final. If a timely protest is received, the project decision will be reconsidered in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available, and the Butte Falls Resource Area will issue a protest decision.

Map 1.



November, 2012

**Butte Falls Resource Area
Friese Camp Forest Management Project
Decison Record # 2**

Legend

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Restoration Thin 40% | Barricade to be constructed |
| Restoration Thin 60% | Quarry |
| Existing Road | Perennial Stream |
| New Construction | Intermittent Stream |
| Reconstruction/Decommission | Bureau of Land Management |
| Pre-Designated Skid Trail | Other |



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