

## **Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)**

### **Basin Arizona Density Management**

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District  
EA# OR-104-02-09

The Basin Arizona Density Management will occur on six unit (approximately 299 acres) of 40-49 years-old second-growth forest located in the Upper Umpqua Fifth-Field Watershed in Sections 7 and 18 of T. 24 S., R. 7 W., Willamette Meridian. Within these 299 acres, approximately two acres will be removed for the development of roads and spur right-of-ways.

This project is within the Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) Land Use Allocation and will contribute approximately 5, 060 million board feet of timber to help meet the Roseburg District's annual sale plan.

#### **Test for Significant Impacts.**

1. Has significant impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (1))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** Any impacts will be consistent with the range and scope of those effects analyzed and described in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (1994 PRMP/EIS).

2. Has significant adverse impacts on public health or safety (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (2))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The fuel loadings will not dramatically increase the fire risk to the area (EA, pg. 4):

- slash within 50 feet of logging landings will be machine-piled and burned (under the direction of a written site specific prescription or "Burn Plan"); and
- The primary carrier of fires is the fine fuels of less than three inches in diameter. These fine fuels generated in the harvest process would mostly degrade within two years after harvest.

Treatment of logging slash by prescribed fire has the potential to affect air quality locally. Burning will be accomplished under guidelines established by the Oregon Smoke Management Plan and Visibility Protection Plan to avoid adverse effects. Any impacts to local air quality will be localized and of short duration, consistent with the range and scope of those effects analyzed and described in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (1994 PRMP/EIS, pp. 4-9 to 4-12).

3. Adversely effects such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (3))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** Unique geographic characteristics (such as those listed above) are absent from the project area and will not be affected.

4. Has highly controversial effects on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (4))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The BLM conducts density management regularly across western Oregon. There is also a wide body of literature describing the environmental effects of such forest management activity. No effects are expected to be highly controversial. The public was afforded opportunities to comment on the proposal, and none of the comments received indicated controversy over the nature of the effects on the human environment.

5. Has highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks to the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (5))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The risks to the human environment from the proposed project were analyzed and found not to be highly uncertain or unique.

6. Establishes a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (6))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The advertisement, auction, and award of a timber sale contract allowing the harvest of trees is a well-established practice and does not establish a precedent for future actions.

7. Is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (7))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The impacts to forest vegetation, wildlife, fire and fuels management, hydrology, soils, fish populations and habitat were analyzed in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan EA and found not to be significant (pgs. 20, 27-28, 32-33, and E-14).

8. Has adverse effects on 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 historical resources (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (8))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The BLM conducted surveys for cultural resources and

completed Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, in accordance with the 1998 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office protocols. No cultural resources were discovered. It has been determined that there will be no effect to scientific or cultural, resources (EA, pgs. 33).

9. 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 (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (9))?

Botanical Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Fish Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Wildlife Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Remarks:** Surveys did not identify the presence of any federally threatened or endangered botanical species; therefore the action will have no effect on listed botanical species.

The Swiftwater fisheries staff has determined that any impacts from the proposed action to water temperature, substrate/sediment quality, large wood, pool quality, or habitat access within the project area would be non-existent or immeasurable above background levels. Aquatic habitat in project area would be unaffected, except for short-term reductions in the amount of large and small functional wood available to the stream.

Conservation measures incorporated into the project design features will prevent adverse effects to essential fish habitat (EFH). The proposed project would not adversely affect EFH in Upper McGee Creek, the Upper Tributary to Rader Creek and the Tributary to Umpqua River or its tributaries.

On May 12, 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed the Oregon Coast coho salmon as threatened under the ESA. Prior to NMFS's determination, the Roseburg District made a determination that this project will result in a "*may effect, not likely to adversely affect* [NLAA]" in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Density Management Plan Biological Assessment (Sept. 30, 2005) prepared for consultation with NMFS.

A Letter of Concurrence was received from NOAA Fisheries for the Upper Umpqua Density Management Plan (NMFS No. 2007/08162) dated January 31, 2008 which concurred with the Roseburg District's conclusion that the proposed activities are *not likely to adversely affect* (NLAA) the Oregon coast coho salmon (DR, pg. 19).

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been completed for the

federally threatened bald eagle, northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet and for spotted owl critical habitat and murrelet critical habitat (EA, pg. 37).

The USFWS concurred that this action is *not likely to adversely affect* the northern spotted owl, northern spotted owl critical habitat, marbled murrelet, and marbled murrelet critical habitat. Project design features will be implemented in compliance with the Letter of Concurrence. (Ref. #13420-2009-I-0109, [June 9, 2009]) (DR, pg. 20).

Project design features (DR, pgs. 5-12) will be implemented in compliance with the letters of concurrence.

10. Threatens to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (10))?

( ) Yes      (✓) No

**Remarks:** The measures described above ensure that Basin Arizona Density Management will be consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of the silvicultural treatment on the human environment will not exceed those anticipated by the Roseburg District PRMP/EIS.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider the effects of this decision on the President's National Energy Policy. Within the project area, there are no known energy resources with commercial potential. There are no pipelines, electrical transmission lines, or energy producing or processing facilities. As a consequence, there will be no known adverse effect on National Energy Policy.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I have determined that Basin Arizona Density Management will not have a significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. I have determined that the effects of the silvicultural treatment will be within those anticipated and already analyzed in the *Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (PRMP/EIS, 1994) and will be in conformance with the *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP) for the Roseburg District, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995.

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Max Yager, Field Manager  
Swiftwater Field Office

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Date