

Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)

Clever Beaver Density Management

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District
NEPA #: DOI-BLM-OR-R040-2010-002-EA

May 18, 2011

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Swiftwater Field Office will perform density management on approximately 229 acres of mid-seral forest stands, 49-60 years old, in the Clever Beaver Density Management timbersale. In addition, up to approximately 4 acres will be cleared or brushed for spur right-of-ways to access the harvest areas.

This project is within the Late Successional Management Area (LSMA), Riparian Management Area (RMA), and the Timber Management Area (TMA) Land Use Allocations. Clever Beaver is located in the Upper Smith River and Upper Siuslaw Watersheds in Sections 25, 27, 33, and 35 of T. 20 S., R. 6 W. Willamette Meridian. Clever Beaver will yield approximately 4.782 million board feet (4.782 MMBF) of timber in support of local and regional manufacturers and economies.

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 *2008 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of the Resource Management Plan of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management* (2008 Final EIS) and the *1994 Final - 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 additional amount of down woody debris (i.e. four tons per acre) will not dramatically increase the fire risk to the area. The primary carrier of fires is the fine fuels of less than three inches in diameter. These fine fuels generated in the harvest process will mostly degrade within two years after harvest. Therefore, there will be an increase in fire risk in the area for approximately two years before these additional fine fuels degrade (*Clever Beaver Density Management EA*, pgs. 24-25).

Treatment of logging slash by prescribed fire has the potential to affect air quality locally. Burning would be accomplished under guidelines established by the Oregon Smoke Management Plan (*Clever Beaver Density Management EA*, pg. 7). 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 1994 PRMP/EIS (pgs. 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 thinning regularly across western Oregon. There is also a wide body of literature describing the environmental effects of such forest management activity. No effects will be highly controversial. The public was afforded several opportunities to comment on the current 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 project were analyzed in the *Clever Beaver Density Management EA* and will not 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 will 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 (pgs. 13-15), wildlife (pgs. 16-24), fire and fuels management (pgs. 24-25), soils (pgs. 25-29), hydrology (pgs. 29-34), aquatic habitat and fisheries (pgs. 34-36), botany (pgs. 36-38), and carbon storage (pgs. 38-41) were analyzed in the *Clever Beaver Density Management EA* and were found to not be significant.

Greenhouse gas emissions from the proposed action will be so small as to be negligible. The EA concluded that the proposed action would result in greenhouse gas emissions that would constitute 0.00002 percent of current total global emissions (1,483 tonnes out of 6.8 billion tonnes) and 0.00009 of current total U.S. emissions (*Clever Beaver Density Management EA*, pg. 41). This emission will be so small that its incremental contribution to global and national emissions will not be measurable at the level of precision of the global and national emissions.

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 has completed Section 106 responsibilities under the National

Historic Preservation Act, in accordance with the 1998 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office protocols (*Clever Beaver Density Management EA*, pg. 42). Inventories for cultural resources were completed (November 2, 2009) and no cultural resources were discovered. Therefore, there will be no effect to historic properties as a result of the action (*Clever Beaver Density Management EA*, pgs. 11, 42).

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 (*Clever Beaver Density Management EA*, pg. 36).

The Swiftwater fisheries staff has determined that any impacts to water temperature, substrate/sediment quality, large wood, pool quality, or habitat access within the project area will be non-existent or immeasurable above background levels. Aquatic habitat in Summit Creek, Beaver Creek, Clevenger Creek and their tributaries will be unaffected, except for short-term reductions in the amount of large and small functional wood available to the stream. Due to the high volume of wood already in the streams and the high density of trees in the no-harvest buffers, fish species and populations in the streams in the project area will be unaffected (*Clever Beaver Density Management EA*, pgs. 34-36, 42). Therefore, the proposed project will not have an effect on Oregon Coast coho salmon or its habitat and further consultation with the NOAA Fisheries Service is not required (*Clever Beaver Density Management EA*, pg. 42).

Consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has been completed for the northern spotted owl for *Actions Proposed by the Roseburg District BLM for Fiscal Years 2011-2013*. A Biological Opinion was received from the USFWS (*Roseburg District BLM Fiscal Year 2011-2013 Program of Activities* [Tails#: 13420-2011-F-0012]) dated December 28, 2010. The Biological Opinion stated (pgs. 64-65) that thinning of dispersal habitat is *likely to adversely affect* spotted owls by negatively affecting forage species (e.g. flying squirrels) that the owls may feed upon. However, the USFWS concluded in their Biological Opinion (pg. 82, Ref. No. 13420-2011-F-0012) that the Roseburg District's program of density management (which included the Clever Beaver project) *are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence* of the spotted owl because thinning is not likely to completely eliminate mammalian prey species and the network of reserved land use allocations would maintain a sufficient amount of dispersal habitat.

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 Clever Beaver Density Management will be consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of the silvicultural treatment on the human environment would not exceed those anticipated by either the 2008 Final EIS or the 1994 PRMP/EIS.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider the effects of this decision on the President's National Energy Policy. There are no known energy transmission, transport facilities, utility rights-of-way, and/or energy resources with commercial potential within the Clever Beaver project area (*Clever Beaver Density Management EA*, pg. 11). Therefore, 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 Clever Beaver 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 will not be required. I have determined that the effects of the silvicultural treatment will be within those anticipated and already analyzed in either the 2008 Final EIS or the 1994 PRMP/EIS. Therefore, Clever Beaver Density Management will be in conformance with 2008 *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* for the Roseburg District (2008 ROD/RMP) approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior on December 30, 2008 and it will be consistent with the 1995 *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* for the Roseburg District (1995 ROD/RMP), approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995.



Max Yager, Field Manager
Swiftwater Field Office

5-18-11

Date