

***Middle Fork Coquille 2007 Commercial Thinning and Density Management
Environmental Assessment***

EA # OR-105-07-04

**Deep Six Density Management Reoffer
Decision Document**

Bureau of Land Management
South River Field Office, Roseburg District Office

Background

The Deep Six Density Management project was a component of the proposed action analyzed in the Middle Fork Coquille 2007 Commercial Thinning and Density Management Environmental Assessment. The original timber sale notice for the project was published on February 26, 2008 and the timber sale was originally sold at auction on March 25, 2008.

Citing an economic recession in the timber market, the Office of the Secretary of the Interior issued an Instructional Memorandum (2010-003) authorizing the BLM to enter into a process of mutual cancellation of existing contracts sold on or before September 15, 2009 that were not yet terminated.

On December 14, 2009, the purchaser informed the BLM of the desire to enter into mutual cancellation of the Deep Six Density Management contract. Mutual cancellation and termination of the contract was completed between the purchaser and the BLM on August 8, 2011.

Decision:

It is my decision to reoffer remaining components of the original Deep Six Density Management project as originally authorized. All features, conditions and requirements of the original decision remain in effect.

Six units totaling 147 acres will be treated reflecting partial harvest of 15 acres of Unit 4, and seven acres of Unit 6. Adjustments in unit acreage have also reduced the size of Units 1 and 5 by one acre each. The remaining timber volume to be harvested is 2,186 thousand board feet.

All authorized road construction and renovation in Units 3, 4 and 6 was completed prior to the cancellation of the original contract. The only road work remaining is the renovation of an uninventoried road in Unit 2, which is designated as a temporary road to be renovated, used and decommissioned in the same operating season.

Rationale for the Decision:

The Middle Fork Coquille 2007 Commercial Thinning and Density Management EA analyzed two alternatives in detail, Alternative One, the alternative of taking No Action (EA, p. 5), and Alternative Two, the Proposed Action (EA, pp. 5-14). The EA (pp. 14-16) also considered two other alternatives not analyzed in detail.

The BLM received comments from four organizations. These comments did not provide information or identify any relevant issues that the BLM should have considered in the analysis. Some comments did not pertain to the project being analyzed.

A representative selection of the comments received from the four organizations was addressed by this office in the original Deep Six Density Management decision on February 25, 2008 and the Burma Triangle Commercial Thinning decision on May 23, 2008. These may be found at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/plans/files/deepsixdr.pdf> and <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/plans/files/BurmaTriangleDR.pdf>, respectively.

Effects of the sale on resources such as Port-Orford-cedar, Wildlife, Botany, Aquatic Habitat, Fish, Essential Fish Habitat and Water Quality, Cultural/Historical Resources, and Noxious Weeds are described in the original Deep Six Density Management Decision Document, incorporated herein by reference. This document may be found at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/plans/files/deepsixdr.pdf>.

Additional Information

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Carbon Sequestration

Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions have been identified as an emerging resource concern by the Secretary of the Interior (Secretarial Order No. 3226; January 16, 2009), the OR/WA BLM State Director (Instruction Memorandum OR-2010-012, January 13, 2010), and by the general public through comments on recent project analyses.

The U.S. Geological Survey, in a May 14, 2008 memorandum to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, summarized the latest science on greenhouse gas emissions and concluded that it is currently beyond the scope of existing science to identify a specific source of greenhouse gas emissions or sequestration and designate it as the cause of specific climate impacts at a specific location. Given this uncertainty, analyses have focused on calculating greenhouse gas emissions and storage, in the context of carbon release and sequestration.

This office has completed several analyses of carbon storage and release for commercial thinning and density management EAs¹, based on thinning and density management prescriptions comparable to that applied in the Deep Six Density Management project.

Averaged over acres proposed for treatment, tonnes of carbon released ranged from 3.03 to 4.17 tonnes per acre, varying with thinning intensity, timber volume removed, fuel consumption for yarding, hauling distance to the mill, and amount of post-harvest fuels treatment.

¹ South River FY 2009 Commercial Thinning (NEPA # DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2009-0005-EA) at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/plans/files/SR09CThinEA.pdf>, Sir Galahad Commercial Thinning and Density Management (NEPA # DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2010-0008-EA) at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/plans/files/SirGalahadEA.pdf>, and Box of Rocks Commercial Thinning and Density Management (NEPA # DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2010-0015-EA) at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/plans/files/BoxofRocksEA.pdf>.

If these numbers are applied to this project, carbon release would be on the magnitude of approximately 440 to 620 tonnes. This would equate to between 1,615 and 2,275 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) released. These emissions are inconsequential against estimated annual global CO₂ emissions of 25 billion tonnes and U.S. emissions of 6.9 billion tonnes.

In the analyses conducted, the period of time in which growth of remaining trees re-sequestered carbon released by the thinning treatment (carbon neutral) ranged from approximately one (1) to 1.4 years. There is no reason why levels of carbon release and time to re-sequestration for the Deep Six Density Management project would not be comparable to what has been modeled in the EAs cited above.

Seasonal Restrictions

As identified in the Middle Fork Coquille 2007 Commercial Thinning and Density Management EA (Figure B-1, Appendix B), Units 5 and 6 are overlapped by the Weaver Creek and Deep Creek northern spotted owl home ranges which have shown repeated occupation by a pair of spotted owls and/or reproductive success. In the original decision, operations on these units were seasonally restricted from March 1 through June 15, both dates inclusive. Since issuance of the original decision, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has extended the period over which seasonal restrictions apply in order to avoid potential disruption to nesting northern spotted owls. These restrictions, extending from March 1 through July 15, both dates inclusive, are adopted in this decision.

A reevaluation of habitat conditions in the vicinity of Unit 5 has led to a determination that suitable nesting habitat for the marbled murrelet is present within 100 yards of the westernmost portion of the unit. To avoid the potential for flushing nesting birds operations on approximately five acres will be seasonally restricted from April 1 through August 5, after which daily operating restrictions will apply from August 6 through September 15. Daily operating restrictions prohibit commencement of operations until two hours after sunrise and require cessation of operations two hours before sunset.

Conformance

The Roseburg District initiated planning and design for this project to conform and be consistent with the Roseburg District's 1995 ROD/RMP, in effect at the time of the original project offering.

Monitoring:

Monitoring of the effects of the proposed action will be done as described in the Middle Fork Coquille 2007 Commercial Thinning and Density Management EA.

Administrative Remedies:

The Roseburg District published the original Deep Six Density Management project decision in a timber sale notice on February 28, 2008, in *The News-Review*, Roseburg, Oregon, followed by a 15-day protest period as required by 43 CFR § 5003.3. The Roseburg District did not receive any protests.

There have been no changes to the reoffered component of the Deep Six Density Management project. As described on page one of this decision document, all features, conditions and requirements of the original decision will remain in effect.

The principle of administrative finality precludes any further protest of issues on Deep Six Density Management Reoffer that could have been raised at the time of the original offering. Consequently, there is no new protest opportunity, and this decision is effective immediately.



Steven Lydick
Field Manager
South River Field Office

3/26/2012

Date

'Middle Fork Coquille FY 2007 Density Management/Commercial Thinning' E.A.

'Final Decision' Document

DEEP SIX

Density Management Reoffer

T29S, R9W

Willamette Meridian, Douglas Co., OR

R9W

R8W

32

T
28
S

T
29
S

8

17

20

34

35

36

31

2

6

5

11

12

13

24

18

19

Private

Private

Private

Roseburg Resources Co.

Plum Creek

Silver Butte Timber Co.

Plum Creek

Roseburg Resources Co.

Moore Mill and Lumber Co.

Douglas County

UPPER CAMAS

128

132

MIDDLE FORK COQUILLE RIVER

WILDCAT RD.

128A

128

42

Camas Valley

28-9-1.0

28-8-31.2

28-9-1.2

28-8-31.2

1.1

Plum Creek

12.1

12.2

11.2

12.2

28-9-12.1

Contract # OR10-TS12-05



0 1 Miles

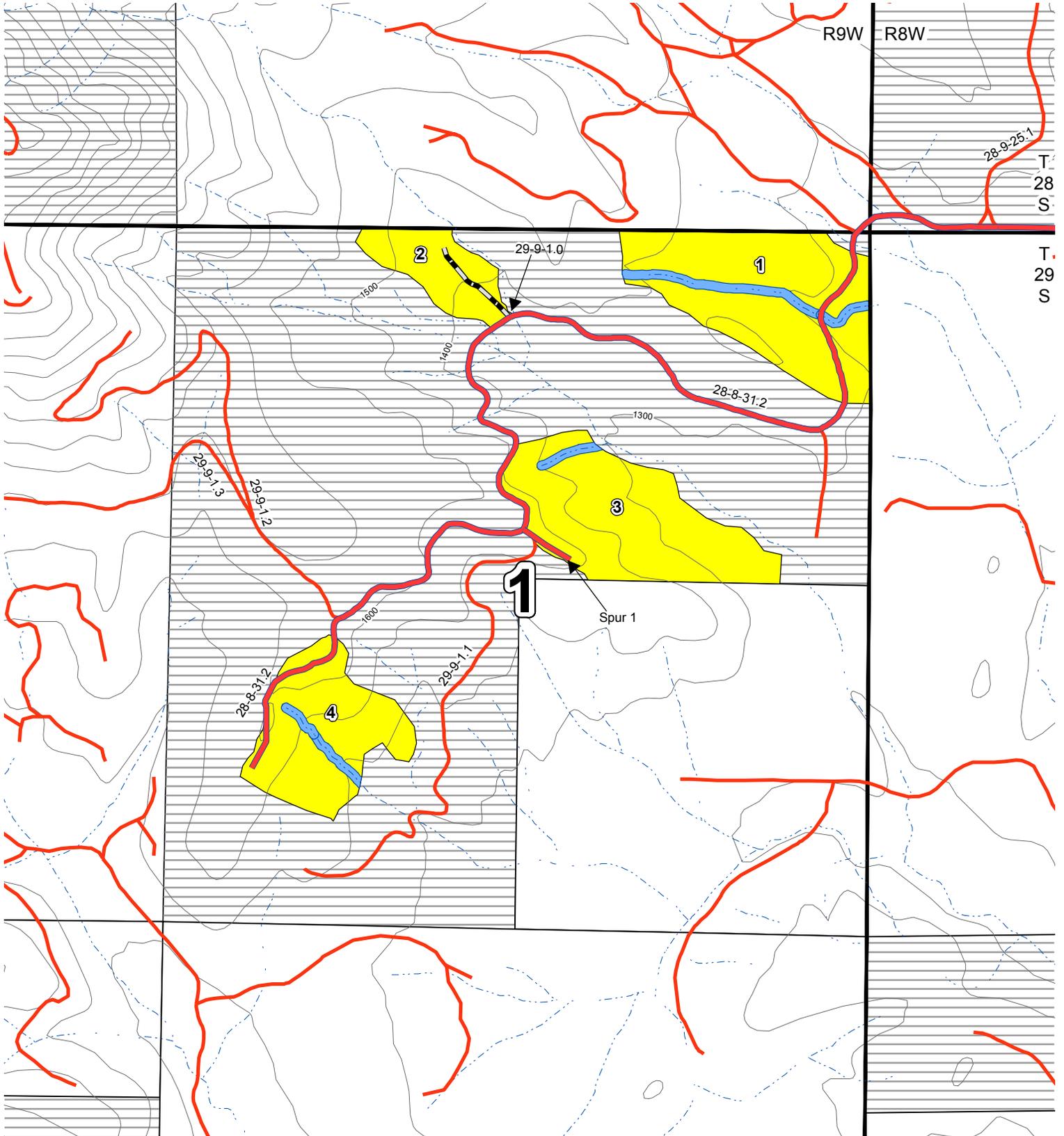
- Highway 42
- County Road
- Haul Route
- Existing Road
- Renovate / Decommission
- Thinning Area
- BLM (O&C) Land
- BLM (CBWR) Land
- Non-BLM Land

1-19-2012

Exhibit "D"

DEEP SIX

Density Management Reoffer



T29S, R9W

Willamette Meridian, Douglas Co., OR.



0 1,000 Feet

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of this data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

- Existing Road
- Access/Haul Route
- Road to Renovate/Decommission
- Stream
- 100 Ft. Contour

- Thinning Area
- BLM (Coos Bay Wagon Rd.) Land
- Non-BLM Land
- 35' No Treatment Riparian Area

