

Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)

Little Wolf Quarry Expansion

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District
EA# OR-104-07-05

The Little Wolf Quarry Expansion Project will occur on 3.3 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands located in the Administratively Withdrawn and Late-Successional Management Area (LSMA) Land Use Allocations, located in the Upper Umpqua Fifth-Field Watershed (Section 1, T. 25 S., R. 08 W., Willamette Meridian), along the 24-8-36.0 road (also known as the Little Wolf road).

Quarry expansion will cover occur on 3.3 acres, including 2.0 acres of new surface disturbance, and will remove approximately 400,000 cubic yards of rock. Blasting will occur multiple times (as needed) over the expected lifespan of the quarry which is anticipated to be 25 years. The expansion will extend the quarry floor southwest about 120 feet, past the existing main quarry headwall. The expansion will not cut back into the headwall or toward the old overburden to the north.

The project will have no measurable increase in non-productive land during each phase of development as reclamation of the existing quarry will be concurrent with the expansion of the quarry into new areas. Reclamation of the site will consist of a visual and sediment barrier consisting of undisturbed slope varying from 25 to 75 feet in width will be left overlooking the 24-8-36.0 road. Surfaces disturbed during quarry expansion and slopes re-contoured for reclamation will drain toward the quarry floor. The drainage will then be routed to a settling pond with a spillway exiting the quarry in the same approximate location as the existing drainage ditch.

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 quarry expansion will not create adverse impacts on public health or safety. Fuel levels and fire hazard will not be increased by this project since all fuels will be removed. As reclamation occurs, fire risk will slowly begin to increase again over time. The eventual fire risk, once the area is reclaimed, would not be greater than fuel loads prior to expansion (EA, pg. 17).

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 Little Wolf Quarry has existed and has been in operation since 1968. It has been used as a community rock source since that time and is now being designated as such. 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 Little Wolf Quarry has existed and been in operation since 1968. The risks to the human environment from the proposed project were analyzed in the Little Wolf Quarry Expansion 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 Little Wolf Quarry has existed and has been in operation since 1968. Its operation 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 cumulative impacts to forest vegetation (pgs. 14-15), wildlife (pgs. 15-17), fuels management (pg. 17), soils (pg. 19), hydrology (pgs. 20-21), fisheries (pgs. 22-23), and botanical resources (pg. 24) were analyzed in the Little Wolf Quarry Expansion EA and found not to be significant.

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 (EA, pgs. 11, 25). No cultural resources were discovered (EA, pg. 11). It has been determined that there will be no effect to scientific, cultural, or historical resources (EA, pg. 25).

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 proposed action would have no effect on listed botanical species (EA, pg. 24).

The Swiftwater fisheries staff has determined that this project would have no mechanism for an effect to Oregon Coast coho (EA, pg. 25). The proposed action and its interrelated and interdependent actions would have no direct effects on the Oregon Coast coho and will not destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat (EA, pg. 25). In addition, project design features would ensure that

no indirect effects to coho or their habitat would occur. Therefore it has been determined that the proposed action will have "no effect" on proposed species (EA, pg. 25). There are currently, no further consultation obligations with the National Marine Fisheries Service. This project also "will not adversely effect" Essential Fish Habitat for coho or Chinook salmon in Little Wolf Creek or its tributaries (EA, pgs. 22-23).

Consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was completed August 4, 2009 (Biological Opinion on the Roseburg District BLM Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Program of Activities; FWS Ref. No. 13420-2009-F-0125) and it is the Service's biological opinion that the Roseburg District's proposed program of commercial thinning and other programmatic actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the spotted owl, and the marbled murrelet (BO, pg. 75).

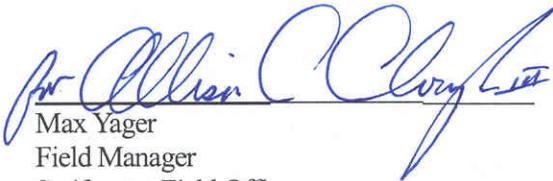
This conclusion is warranted because implementation: is likely to maintain a sufficient amount and distribution of dispersal habitat between LSMAs to facilitate natal and adult spotted owl dispersal, is not likely to completely eliminate mammalian and other prey species, is not likely to adversely affect the ability of LSMAs in or near the project area to provide for viable clusters of reproducing spotted owl, and will not occur within forest stands meeting the description in Recovery Action 32 (BO, pg. 75).

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 insure that Little Wolf Quarry Expansion will be consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of the unilateral permit and road construction on the human environment would not exceed those anticipated by either the 2008 Final EIS or the 1994 PRMP/EIS.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the EA, I have determined that the Little Wolf Quarry Expansion 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 granting the unilateral permit and the road construction will be within those anticipated and already analyzed in either the 2008 Final EIS or the 1994 PRMP/EIS. Therefore, Little Wolf Quarry Expansion 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

22 Sept 11
Date