

**“DRAFT”**

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

**Little Wolf Thrice  
Density Management Study**

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District  
EA# 104 – 08 – 07

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Swiftwater Field Office proposes a commercial thinning of approximately 20 acres of late-seral forest stands, 70-80 years old.

These proposed Density Management Study is located in the Upper Umpqua fifth-field watershed within Late-successional Management Area (20 acres) yielding approximately 112,000 board feet (112 MBF) of timber in support of local and regional manufacturers and economies. The proposed unit is located in the Upper Umpqua fifth-field watershed in Sections 3 and 10; T. 25 S., R. 08 W.; Willamette Meridian.

**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 would be consistent with the range and scope of those effects analyzed and described in the Roseburg District’s 2008 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP, 2008).

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) would 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 would mostly degrade within two years after harvest. (*Little Wolf Thrice Density Management EA*, pg. 27).

Treatment of logging slash by machine piling and burning at the landings has the potential to affect air quality locally. Burning will be accomplished under guidelines established by the Oregon Smoke Management Plan. Adhering to the guidance of the Oregon Smoke Management Plan minimizes smoke impacts from prescribed fires on local communities and directs smoke away from Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas (2008 Final EIS, pg. 813). 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 2008 Final EIS (pgs. 813-816).

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 would 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 commercial thinning management of forested stands 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. This project is expected to increase this body of knowledge. This is the third entry into the Little Wolf Study area and the public was afforded several opportunities to comment on the current proposal. 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 Little Wolf Thrice Density Management EA 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 would 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. 14-19, 35-37), wildlife (pgs. 19-26), fire and fuels management (pg. 27), soils (pgs. 27-31), hydrology (pgs. 31-33), fish populations and habitat (pgs. 33-35) were analyzed in the *Little Wolf Thrice Density Management 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 (*Little Wolf Thrice Density Management EA*, pg. 38). No cultural resources were discovered (*Little Wolf Thrice Density Management EA*, pg. 12). It has been determined that there will be no effect to cultural or historical resources (*Little Wolf Thrice Density Management EA*, pg. 38).

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 (*Little Wolf Thrice Density Management EA*, pg. 36).

Little Wolf Thrice Density Management would have no effect on the Oregon Coast coho or its critical habitat. The closest Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Coho or Chinook salmon is approximately 0.1 miles downstream from the project and would not be adversely affected by the project (*Little Wolf Thrice Density Management EA*, pg. 35).

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is in process for the northern spotted owl and its critical habitat. Results of that consultation will be disclosed in the FONSI issued with the Decision Record.

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 Little Wolf Thrice Density Management would 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 the 2008 FEIS.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider the effects of this decision on the President's National Energy Policy. A high-voltage transmission line and a natural gas pipeline are adjacent to or within the Little Wolf Thrice Density Management project area but there are no known energy resources with commercial potential within the project area. Trees would be felled away from the transmission lines, and ground-based equipment would not be allowed to operate within the transmission line and pipeline corridor, except on designated skid trails and roads (*Little Wolf Thrice Density Management EA*, pg. 13). There would 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 Little Wolf Thrice Density Management would 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 would be within those anticipated and already analyzed 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 will be in conformance with the *2008 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (2008 ROD/RMP) for the Roseburg District, approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior on December 30, 2008.

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Max Yager  
Acting Field Manager  
Swiftwater Field Office

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Date