<u>Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)</u>

Susan Creek Stew WUI

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District
EA# OR – 104 – 08 – 06

The Susan Creek Stew WUI will occur along the Susan Creek Road system (including road numbers: 26-2-14.0, 26-2-14.3, 26-2-14.4, 26-2-15.0, and 26-2-23.0) and adjacent to the Susan Creek Mobile Home Park in the Middle North Umpqua Watershed in Sections 13 and 14 of T. 26 S., R. 2 W., Willamette Meridian. The project is within the Matrix (18 acres) and Riparian Reserve (RR) (6 acres) Land Use Allocations and partially within the Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

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 reduction in fuel loadings will decrease the fire risk to the project area (EA, pg. 4):
   - slash within 50 feet of roads will be chipped and blown back into the forest to decompose upon the forest floor or chipped and removed from the project site (EA, pg. 6); and
   - The primary carrier of fires is the fine fuels of less than three inches in diameter. These fine fuels generated in the fuel reduction process would mostly degrade within two years (EA, pgs. 10-12).

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 or will not be affected by fuels reduction operations.

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

( ) Yes (√) No

Remarks: The BLM conducts fuels management operations regularly across western Oregon. There is also a wide body of literature describing the environmental effects of such forest management activities. 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 BLM conducts fuels management operations regularly across western Oregon. In addition, negotiated services and sales are well-established practices and do not establish 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 Susan Creek Stew WUI EA and found not to be significant (EA, pgs. 9 - 16).

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 new cultural resources were discovered. Known cultural resources were analyzed in light of the Susan Creek Stew WUI project. It has been determined that there will be no effect to scientific or cultural resources (EA, pgs. 7, 17).

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	( ) Yes	(√) No
Fish Species	( ) Yes	(√) No
Wildlife Species	( ) Yes	(√) 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 Susan Creek WUI (EA, pg. 7) has analyzed 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.

On May 12, 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed the Oregon Coast coho salmon was listed as threatened under the ESA. There is one non-fish-bearing intermittent stream which crosses the 26-2-23.0 road and one other road accessing a private residence. Because only selective vegetation would be removed to reduce fuel hazards and all heavy equipment would stay on the roadway, no impact to water quality or water resources are expected as a result of this project. Also, because there are no fish-bearing streams within the project area, this project will have no mechanism for affecting the Oregon Coast coho salmon or other aquatic Special Status Species downstream of the project (EA, pgs. 7, 17).

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, a Biological Assessment (BA) was prepared as part of consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended, for this project. It conforms to the requirements and procedures outlined in the Alternative Consultation Agreement (ACA) between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) executed March 3, 2004. The Susan Creek Stew WUI project is aligned with the goals of the National Fire Plan (NFP) and meets the criteria required to qualify as a NFP project. A project compliance form has been completed, signed on September 22, 2009. (EA, pg. 16 - 17). Furthermore, it has been determined that the Susan Creek Stew WUI project "*may affect* but is *not likely to adversely affect*" the Northern Spotted Owl.

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 in the Environmental Assessment, Best Management Practices, and the Project Design Features ensure that Susan Creek Stew WUI will be consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of the fuels management treatment on the human environment will not exceed those anticipated by the Roseburg District PRMP/EIS.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I have determined that Susan Creek Stew WUI 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 fuels management 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.

Max Yager

Max Yager, Field Manager
Swiftwater Field Office

9-10-10
Date