

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

**Sutherlin Creek Crossing Access**

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District  
EA # DOI-BLM-OR-R040-2010-018-EA

The Sutherlin Creek Crossing Access will occur in Fraser Canyon on Bureau of Land Management administered lands in the Lower North Umpqua River Watershed in NW1/4SW1/4, Section 19, T. 25 S., R. 4 W., Willamette Meridian. The project is within the Connectivity (approximately 0.1 acres) Land Use Allocation.

**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 additional amount of down woody debris will not dramatically increase the fire risk to the area. Slash produced by road building will be scattered outside the road prism. The primary carrier of fires is the fine fuels of less than three inches in diameter. These fine fuels generated in the road building process will likely be ground up during construction. (Kosel, Personal Observations).

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 road construction operations.

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

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The BLM issues unilateral road construction and road use permits regularly across western Oregon. Alternative access, described as the No Action Alternative, was considered in the preparation of the environmental assessment (EA No Action Alternative, pg. 6). There is also a wide body of literature describing the environmental effects of such activities. 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. (RMP, pgs. 27, 69).

5. Has highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks to the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (5))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The 1995 Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) recognized that the intermingled character of the O&C lands requires the cooperation between the Federal Government and owners of the intermingled lands, particularly with respect to timber access roads (EA, pg. 4). The issuance and construction of roads on BLM administered lands are a common practice. 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 issues unilateral road construction and road use permits regularly across western Oregon.

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, wildlife, fire and fuels management, hydrology, soils, fish populations and habitat were analyzed in the Sutherlin Crossing Access and found not to be significant (EA, pgs. 10 - 22).

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

(EA, pgs. 7, 23).

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.

The Swiftwater fisheries staff has determined that this project would have no mechanism for an effect on Oregon Coast coho salmon. The proposed action would have no direct effects on the Oregon Coast coho salmon and will not destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. In addition, project design features would ensure that no indirect effects to Oregon Coast coho salmon or their habitat would occur. Therefore it has been determined that the proposed action would have "no effect" on the proposed species. In addition the Swiftwater fisheries staff has determined that the proposed action "Will Not Adversely Affect" EFH for coho or Chinook salmon in Sutherlin Creek or its tributaries (EA, pg. 17).

The Sutherlin Crossing Access EA (pg. 29-32) has analyzed any impacts from the proposed action to the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The nearest stream is approximately 600 feet downhill and the nearest fish-bearing stream is 1800 feet from the project area. Aquatic habitat in project area would be unaffected.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, a Biological Opinion (BO) was received from the USFWS (Roseburg District BLM Fiscal Year 2011-2013 Timber Sales and other activities [Tails#: 13420-2011-F-012]) dated December 28, 2010. The Biological Opinion states (pg. 63) that the direct loss of NRF habitat due to road construction would result in adverse effects to northern spotted owls due to habitat fragmentation and edge effects. The Opinion also states that the removal of habitat by road construction is not expected to preclude the remainder of the stand from fulfilling its current habitat function. However, the USFWS concluded in their Biological Opinion (pg. 82, Ref. No. 13420-2011-F-012) that the Roseburg District's timber sale program and associated activities (which include the Sutherlin Crossing project) "are not likely to jeopardize the continued

existence of the northern spotted owl because the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the ability of Late-Successional Reserves/Managed Owl Conservation Areas/Late-Successional Management Areas or designated critical habitat ...to provide for viable clusters of reproducing northern spotted owls.”

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 Sutherlin Crossing Access will be consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of the road construction 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 Sutherlin Crossing Access 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 road construction 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, Field Manager  
Swiftwater Field Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date