

Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)

Powell's Bottle Commercial Thinning and Density Management

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District
EA# OR-104-02-09

Powell's Bottle Commercial Thinning and Density Management will occur on four (4) units (approximately 103 acres) of 38 to 55 year-old second-growth forest located in the Upper Umpqua Fifth-Field Watershed in Sections 3, 5, and 9 of T. 25 S., R. 7 W., and Section 33 of T. 24 S., R. 7W.; W.M. Within these 103 acres, approximately one and a half (1.5) acres will be removed for the development of roads and spur right-of-ways.

This project is within the General Forest Management Area, Riparian Reserve, and Late-Successional Land Use Allocations and will contribute approximately 1.8 million board feet of timber to help meet the Roseburg District's annual sale plan.

Test for Significant Impacts.

1. Has significant impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (1))?

Yes No

Remarks: The proposal will not have significant impacts. Any impacts will be within the range and scope of those effects analyzed and described in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS).

2. Has significant adverse impacts on public health or safety (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (2))?

Yes No

Treatment of logging slash by prescribed fire has the potential to affect air quality locally. Burning will be accomplished under guidelines established by the Oregon Smoke Management Plan and Visibility Protection Plan to avoid adverse effects. 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 Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS, pp. 4-9 to 4-12).

Remarks: The fuel loadings will not dramatically increase the fire risk to the area (EA, pg. 4):

- Slash within 50 feet of logging landings will be machine-piled and burned (under the direction of a written site specific prescription or "Burn Plan"); and
- Most of the fine fuels, less than 1 inch diameter, will degrade within two years after harvest which will dramatically decrease the risk of a fire building in intensity to consume larger diameter fuels.

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: Public comments provided information that helped in the formulation of the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan decision (October 8, 2003) and is reflected in both that decision (pgs. 3-9) and in the Project Design Features for the Powell's Bottle Commercial Thinning and Density Management project (Powell's Bottle Decision Document, pgs. 5-12).

Public notification of Powell's Bottle was available through the Summer 2007, Fall 2007, and Winter 2007 Quarterly Planning Updates. However, no comments were received that I consider highly controversial in regards to the design of this project.

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

Yes No

Remarks:

The BLM conducts thinning and density management regularly across western Oregon. There is also a wide body of literature describing the effects of such forest management activity. No effects are expected to be highly controversial.

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 does 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, wildlife, fire and

fuels management, hydrology, soils, fish populations and habitat were analyzed in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan EA and found not to be significant (pgs. 20, 27-28, 32-33, and E-14).

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 cultural resources were discovered. It has been determined that there will be no effect to scientific or cultural resources (EA, pgs. 37-38).

9. May adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) 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 (EA, pgs. 43-44).

On February 4, 2008, NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) announced that it is listing the Oregon Coast coho salmon as threatened under the ESA. There is Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for coho salmon or Chinook salmon approximately 0.10 miles from the proposed unit (Decision Record (DR) Appendix F, pg. 15). However, the project will not adversely affect Oregon Coast coho salmon or EFH in Upper Powell Creek, Leonard Creek, Bottle Creek, or their tributaries (DR Appendix E, pgs. 11-12).

A Letter of Concurrence was received from NOAA Fisheries for the Upper Umpqua Density Management Plan (NMFS No. 2007/08162) dated January 31, 2008 which concurred with the Roseburg District's conclusion that the proposed activities are *not likely to adversely affect* (NLAA) the Oregon coast coho salmon.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been completed for the federally threatened bald eagle, northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet and for spotted owl critical habitat and murrelet critical habitat (EA, pg. 37).

A Letter of Concurrence was received from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (*Reinitiation of consultation on Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management FY 2005-2008 Management Activities* [Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511]) dated June 24, 2005 which concurred with the Roseburg District's conclusion that the proposed commercial thinning and density management activities are *not likely to adversely affect* Northern spotted owls or marbled murrelets as a result of disturbance (pgs. 23-25, 14-15).

Project design features (DR, pgs. 5-12) will be implemented in compliance with the letters of concurrence.

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 Powell's Bottle Commercial Thinning and Density Management will be consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of the commercial thinning and density management treatments on the human environment will not exceed those anticipated by the Roseburg District PRMP/EIS.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider the effects of this decision on the President's National Energy Policy. Within the project area, there are no known energy resources with commercial potential. There are no pipelines, electrical transmission lines, or energy producing or processing facilities. As a consequence, there will 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 Powell's Bottle Commercial Thinning and Density Management 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 silvicultural 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.

Marci L. Todd, Field Manager
Swiftwater Field Office

Date