

## **Bull Run Creek Large Wood Placement Project**

### **Finding of No Significant Impact**

East Alsea Landscape Management Project Restoration Environmental Assessment

March 9, 2010

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Oregon State Office  
Salem District  
Marys Peak Resource Area

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Abstract: This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) discloses the predicted environmental effects of one project on federal land located in Township 13 South, Range 9 West, Section 10, within the Lower Alsea River Watershed. The project proposes to restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape features to ensure protection of the aquatic systems to which species, populations and communities are uniquely adapted on approximately 0.9 mile of a anadromous fish bearing stream. The action will occur within Riparian Reserve (RR) Land Use Allocation (LUA).

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering economic use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### Introduction

The United States Forest Service (USFS) has conducted an environmental analysis (East Alsea Landscape Management Project Environmental Assessment) for a proposal to implement one large woody debris project as follows: The enhancement of 0.9 mile of one stream segment within Bull Run Creek. Green trees would be provided from non BLM managed lands within the Lower Alsea River fifth-field watershed and helicopter transported to the stream channel. The project is on BLM managed land in Township 13 South, Range 9 West, Section 10 Willamette Meridian.

Implementation of the proposed action would conform to management actions and direction contained in the attached *East Alsea Landscape Management Project Environmental Assessment* (East Alsea Landscape Management EA). The East Alsea Landscape Management Project Restoration EA is attached to and incorporated by reference in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination. The analysis in this EA is site-specific and supplements analyses found in the *Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement*, September 1994 (RMP/FEIS) (EA p. 1). The Bull Run Creek Large Wood Placement Project has been designed to conform to the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*, (RMP) May 1995, and related documents which direct and provide the legal framework for management of BLM lands within Marys Peak Resource Area. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is described in Chapter 4 of the EA.

The FONSI will be made available for public review at the Salem District office and on the internet at Salem BLM's website, <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/index.htm> (under Plans and Projects) from March 10, 2010 to March 25, 2010. The notice for public review will be published in a legal notice by the *Newport News Times* newspaper.

### Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon review of the East Alsea Landscape Management Project EA and supporting documents, I have determined that the Proposed Action is not a major federal action and would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No site specific environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, supplemental or additional information to the analysis done in the RMP/FEIS through a new environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding is based on the following information:

**Context:** Potential effects resulting from the implementation of the proposed action have been analyzed within the context of the Lower Alsea River 5th-field watershed and the project area boundaries. The proposed action (placement of approximately 70 trees within Bull Run Creek) would occur within 3 acres of RR LUA land, encompassing less than 0.003% of the forest cover within the affected watershed [40 CFR 1508.27(a)].

***Intensity:***

1. The Project is unlikely to have any significant adverse impacts on the affected elements of the environment (EA chapter 3 - vegetation, soils, water, fisheries/aquatic habitat, wildlife and visual resources). The following is a summary of the design features that would reduce the risk of affecting the above resources (EA Appendix A).
  - Follow ODFW guidelines for timing for in-water work (July 1 to August 31).
  - Use whole trees of sufficient size and aggregated in a manner to mimic natural accumulation.

With the implementation of the project design features described in EA Appendix A, potential effects to the affected elements of the environment are anticipated to be site-specific and/or not detectable (i.e. undetectable over the watershed, downstream, and/or outside of the project areas). The project is designed to meet RMP Standards and Guidelines, modified by subsequent direction (EA p. 88); and the effects of this project would not exceed those effects described in the RMP/FEIS [40 CFR 1508.27(b) (1), EA Chapter 3].

2. The Project would not affect:
  - ✓ Public health or safety [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)];
  - ✓ Unique characteristics of the geographic area [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)] because there are no historic or cultural resources, parklands, prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, or ecologically critical areas located within the project areas (EA Chapter 3);
  - ✓ Districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor would the proposed action cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)] (EA Chapter 3).
3. The Project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without highly controversial [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)], highly uncertain, or unique or unknown risks [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)].
4. The Project does not set a precedent for future actions that may have significant effects, nor do they represent a decision in principle about a future consideration [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)]. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas without setting a precedent for future actions.
5. The interdisciplinary team evaluated the project context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)]. Potential cumulative effects are described in the attached EA. These effects are not likely to be significant because of the project's scope (effects are likely to be too small to be detectable), scale (project area of 3 acres, encompassing less than 0.003% of the forest cover within the Lower Alsea River Watershed), and duration (direct effects would occur over a maximum period of 4-6 years) (EA Chapter 3).
6. *The Project* is expected to adversely affect Oregon Coastal coho salmon, a threatened species and its habitat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)]. Effects to listed species and take protection are addressed in the programmatic consultation.

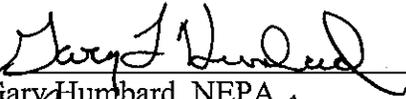
*Fisheries:* Oregon Coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act; designated critical habitat for this species has been identified as well as essential fish habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. National Marine Fisheries Service programmatic consultation, using the Consultation for Fish Habitat Restoration Activities in Oregon and Washington, CY2007-CY2012, is the consultation process used to protect the listed fish species and their critical habitat as well as essential fish habitat.

*Wildlife:* The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is responsible for the wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Listed species that may occur in the planning area include the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet. The Forest Service is responsible for supporting recovery of these species and meets this obligation by working with the FWS through a required consultation process and by implementing their terms and conditions. These terms and conditions are included in Appendix A. Consultation for this project is completed, and the FWS concluded that this project would not jeopardize the continued existence of the northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet. The reference for the FWS letter of concurrence is 13420-2008-I-0125.

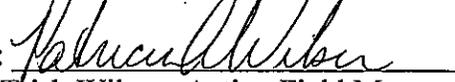
7. The Project does not violate any known Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)].

Prepared by:   
Scott Snedaker, Team Lead

3/4/2010  
Date

Reviewed by:   
Gary Humbard, NEPA

3/4/10  
Date

Approved by:   
Trish Wilson, Acting Field Manager  
Marys Peak Resource Area

3/8/10  
Date

