North Fork Alsea Access Road Hazard Tree Removal and Road Maintenance Project Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

Environmental Assessment Number OR-080-07-01

June 8, 2007

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 environmental assessment (EA) discloses the predicted environmental effects of a hazard tree removal and road maintenance project in the vicinity of Philomath, Oregon. The actions would occur within Late-Successional Reserve (LSR), and Riparian Reserve (RR) Land Use Allocations (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.

BLM/OR/WA/PT-07/011+1792

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (Environmental Assessment Number OR080-07-01) for a proposal to implement a hazard tree removal and road maintenance project as follows: The removal of hazard trees adjacent to approximately 10 miles of Roads 12-8-19, 13-8-12.1 and 13-7-10 within the Upper Alsea River and Big Elk Creek fifth-field watersheds. The project is on BLM managed lands in Township 12 South, Range 8 West, Sections 29 and 33; Township 13 South, Range 7 West, Sections 7, 9, 15 and 17; Township 13 South, Range 8 West, Sections 1, 2, 3, 12 and 13, Willamette Meridian.

Implementation of the proposed action would conform to management actions and direction contained in the attached *North Fork Alsea Access Road Hazard Tree Removal and Road Maintenance Project Environmental Assessment* (North Fork Alsea Access Road EA). The North Fork Alsea Access Road 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 North Fork Alsea Access Road 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 (EA pp. 1-3). Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is described in Section 8.1 of the EA.

The EA and 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 June 11, 2007 to July 10, 2007. The notice for public comment will be published in a legal notice by the *Gazette Times* newspaper. Comments received by the Marys Peak Resource Area of the Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon 97306, on or before July 10, 2007 will be considered in making the decisions for this project.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon review of the North Fork Alsea Access Road 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 Upper Alsea River and Big Elk Creek 5th-field watersheds and the project area boundaries. The proposed action would occur on approximately 68 acres of LSR and RR LUA land, encompassing less than 0.04% of the forest cover within the affected watersheds [40 CFR 1508.27(a)].

Intensity:

1. The *Project* is unlikely to a have any significant adverse impacts on the affected elements of the environment (EA section 4.2 - vegetation, soils, water, fisheries/aquatic habitat, wildlife, rural interface and visual resources). The following is a summary of the design features that would reduce the risk of affecting the above resources (EA section 3.2.1).

   With the implementation of the project design features described in EA section 3.2.1, 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 section 1.3); and the effects of this project would not exceed those effects described in the RMP/FEIS [40 CFR 1508.27(b) (1), EA section 4.2].

2. The *Project* would not affect:
   - ✓ 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 section 4.1);
   - ✓ 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 section 4.1).

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 68 acres, encompassing less than 0.04% of the forest cover within the Upper Alsea River and Big Elk Creek Watersheds), and duration (direct effects would occur over a maximum period of 4-6 years) (EA section 4.2).

6. The *Project* is not expected to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or habitat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 [40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)].

   Fisheries:
   Recently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) determined that the Oregon Coast Coho Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) did not warrant listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended. No consultation is required under Section 7 of the ESA at this time, as no listed fish species are known to occur in the action area associated with this proposed project.

The proposed action, with the incorporation of project design features is not expected to adversely affect EFH. Thus, no consultation with NOAA NMFS on EFH is required for this project.

Wildlife:
To address concerns for impacts to federally listed wildlife species and their critical habitat, the proposed action has been consulted on with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as required under Section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act. This proposed action has been designed in accordance with standards set forth in a Biological Assessment (BA; USDA-FS and USDI-BLM 2006) that was used to facilitate consultation. In a Letter of Concurrence (received 10/04/2006, reference # 1-7-2006-I-0190) the Service concurred that projects designed in accordance with the standards set forth in the BA and that occur outside of the critical breeding period, would not result in adverse impacts to spotted owls, marbled murrelets, or their designated critical habitat. If this project were implemented during the critical breeding period (April-1 to August-5), this action has the potential to adversely affect marbled murrelets due to noise disturbance occurring in proximity to occupied habitat. However, this potential adverse affect would not result in jeopardy to the species. All pertinent design standards from the BA have been incorporated into this proposed action.

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: Gary J Humbard — 6/6/07
Gary Humbard, Team Lead — Date

Reviewed by: Carolyn Sands — 6/6/07
Carolyn Sands, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) — Date

Approved by: Trish Wilson — 6/7/07
Trish Wilson, Field Manager
Marys Peak Resource Area — Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Covered in this EA

The cutting and removal of existing hazard and road maintenance trees which are adjacent to a designated Bureau of Land Management Access Road (North Fork Alsea Access Road).

1.2 Project Area Location

Township 12 South, Range 8 West, Sections 29 and 33; Township 13 South, Range 7 West, Sections 7, 9, 15 and 17; Township 13 South, Range 8 West, Sections 1, 2, 3, 12 and 13, Willamette Meridian located approximately 10 miles southwest of Philomath, Oregon.

The North Fork Alsea Hazard Tree Removal project area is in the Upper Alsea River and Big Elk Creek 5th-field watersheds which drain into the Alsea River and Yaquina River respectively. Fifty-two percent of the Upper Alsea River watershed is managed by BLM, 47% is private and 1% is managed by the Forest Service. Five percent of Big Elk Creek watershed is managed by BLM, 28% is managed by the Forest Service and 67% is managed by private. The Big Elk Creek Watershed Analysis (1995) and the North Fork Alsea River Watershed Analysis (1996) describes the events that contributed to the current condition such as early hunting/gathering by aboriginal inhabitants, mining, road building, agriculture and water diversions, wildfire, and timber harvest.

1.3 Conformance with Land Use Plans, Policies, and Programs

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource & Management Plan* (RMP), dated May 1995; *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* and *Standard and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, dated April, 1994; (the Northwest Forest Plan, or NWFP), *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (S&M ROD, January 2001).

The analysis in the North Fork Alsea Access Road EA is site-specific and supplements analyses found in the *Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement*, September 1994 (RMP/FEIS). The RMP/FEIS includes the analysis from the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl,* February 1994 (NWFP/FSEIS). The RMP/FEIS is amended by the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (S&M FSEIS, November 2000).

The proposed action is located within the coastal zone as defined by the Oregon Coastal Management Program. This proposal is consistent with the objectives of the program, and the State planning goals which form the foundation for compliance with the requirements of the Coastal Zone Act. Management actions/directions found in the RMP were determined to be consistent with the Oregon Coastal Management Program.

All of the above documents are hereby incorporated by reference in the North Fork Alsea Access Road EA and are available for review in the Salem District Office. Additional information about the proposed project is available in the North Fork Alsea Access Road Project EA Analysis File (NEPA file), also available at the Salem District Office.

Survey and Manage Review

We do not expect that the litigation over the Annual Species Review (ASR) process in Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center et al. v. Boody et al. will affect this project, because the development and design of this project complies with the Northwest Forest Plan prior to the ASR process. There would be no modification of forest habitats that support red tree voles or Survey and Manage (S&M) mollusk species (EA, Section 4.2.4.1). On site surveys for botanical and fungal species have not been conducted. This project is not considered a habitat-disturbing activity. ROD p. 22 states, "routine maintenance of improvements and existing structures is not considered a habitat-disturbing activity. Examples of routine maintenance include pulling ditches, clearing encroaching vegetation, managing seed orchards, and falling hazard trees." It also states, "Pre-disturbance surveys are not required in the unusual circumstance such that a delay in implementation of the activity would result in greatly increased and unacceptable environmental risk." Although surveys for botanical and fungal species may not be required, some areas within older forested stands would be surveyed for Federal and Oregon State Threatened and Endangered and Bureau survey and manage species prior to implementation (EA, Section 4.2.5.1).

Aquatic Conservation Strategy

The Salem District is also aware of ongoing litigation Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations et al. v. National Marine Fisheries Service et al. (W.D. Wash.) related to the 2004 supplemental environmental impact statement for the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS). The Magistrate Judge issued findings and recommendations to the court on March 29, 2006.

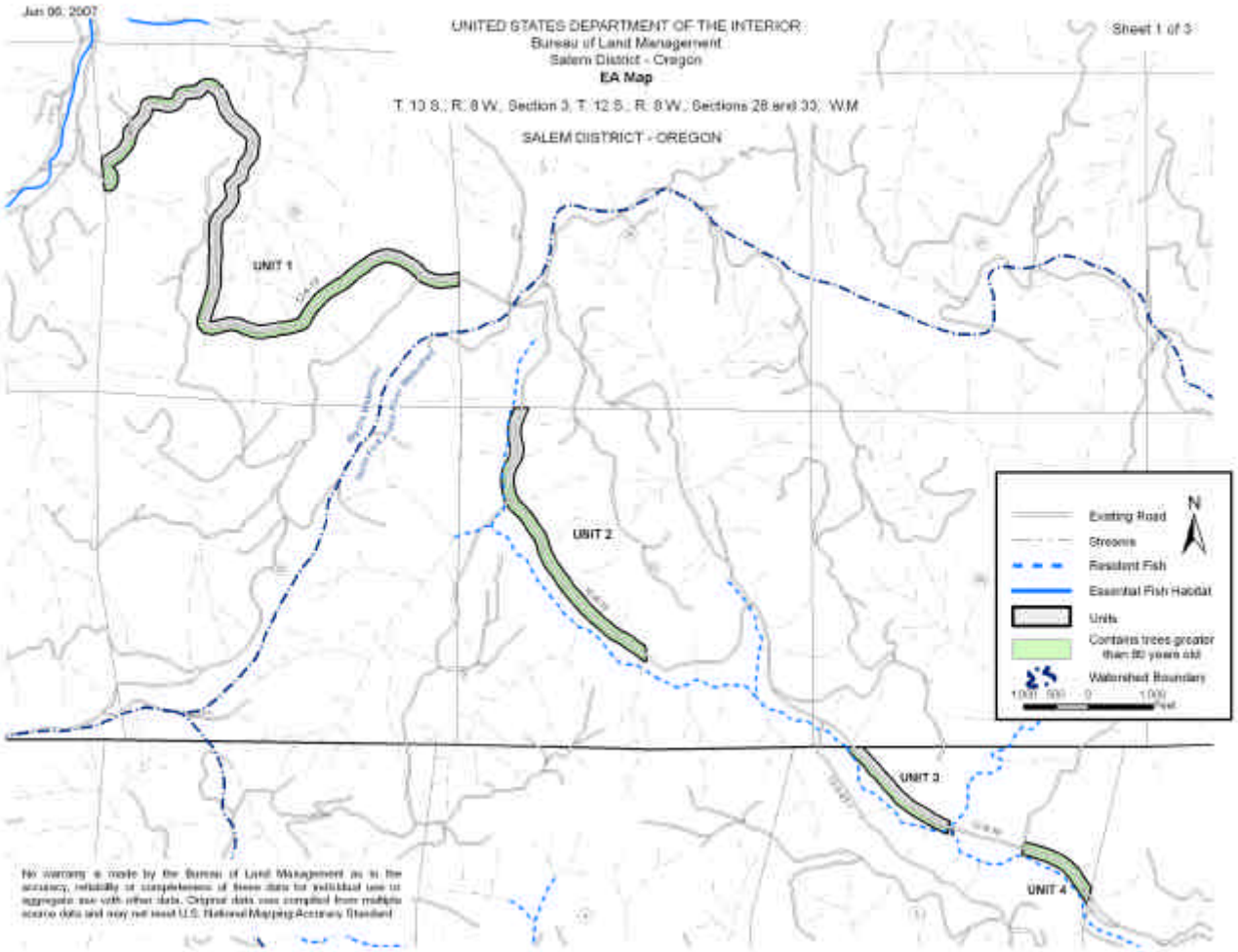
A review of the North Fork Alsea Access Road Hazard Tree Removal and Road Maintenance Project was conducted to determine whether the effects of the project on Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objectives were adequately analyzed. It is our determination that the existing ACS Objectives analysis is adequate and pertinent to the current North Fork Alsea Access Road Hazard Tree Removal and Road Maintenance Project. The analysis addresses all nine ACS objectives and identifies site-scale as well as fifth-field watershed scale impacts.

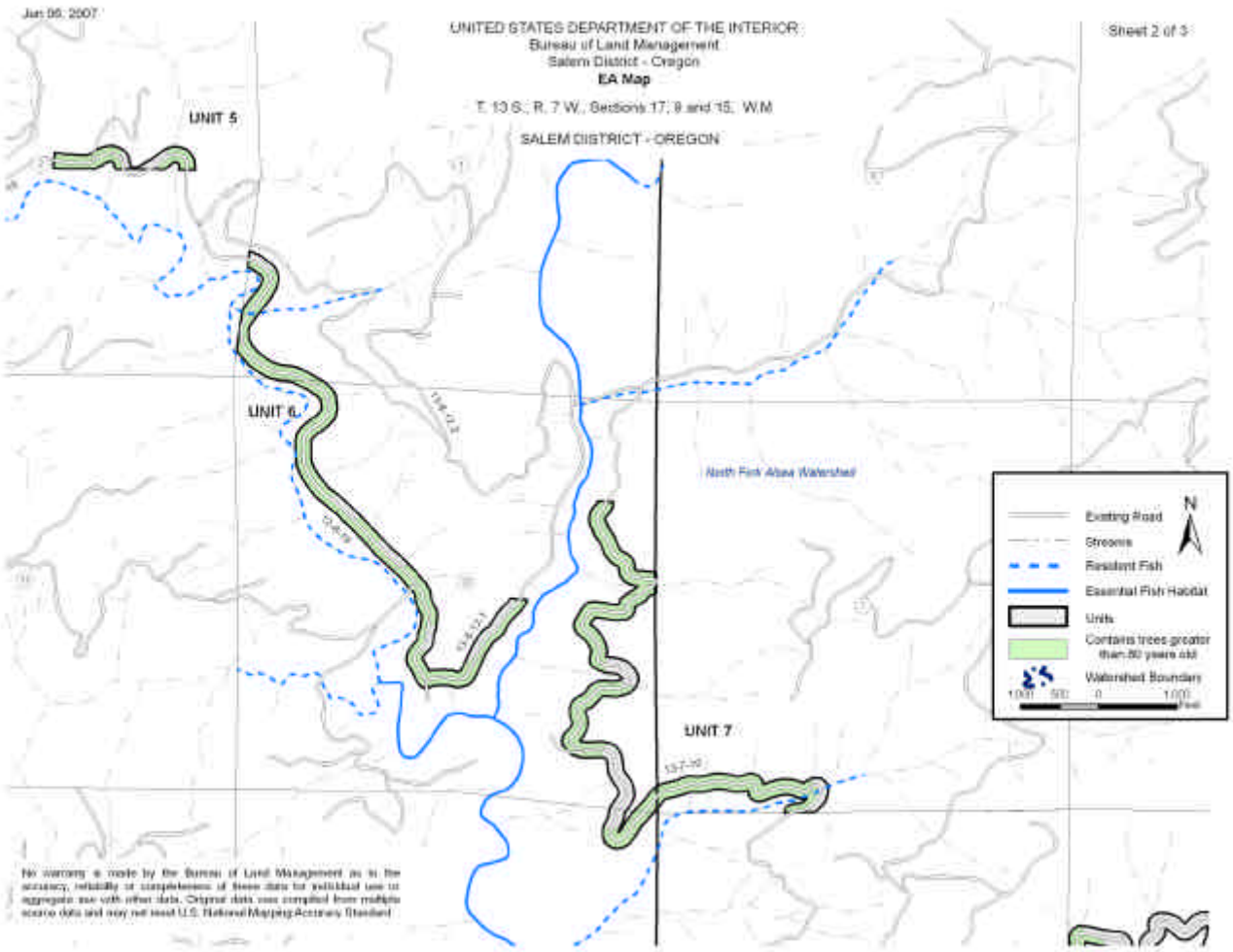
1.4 Decision to be made

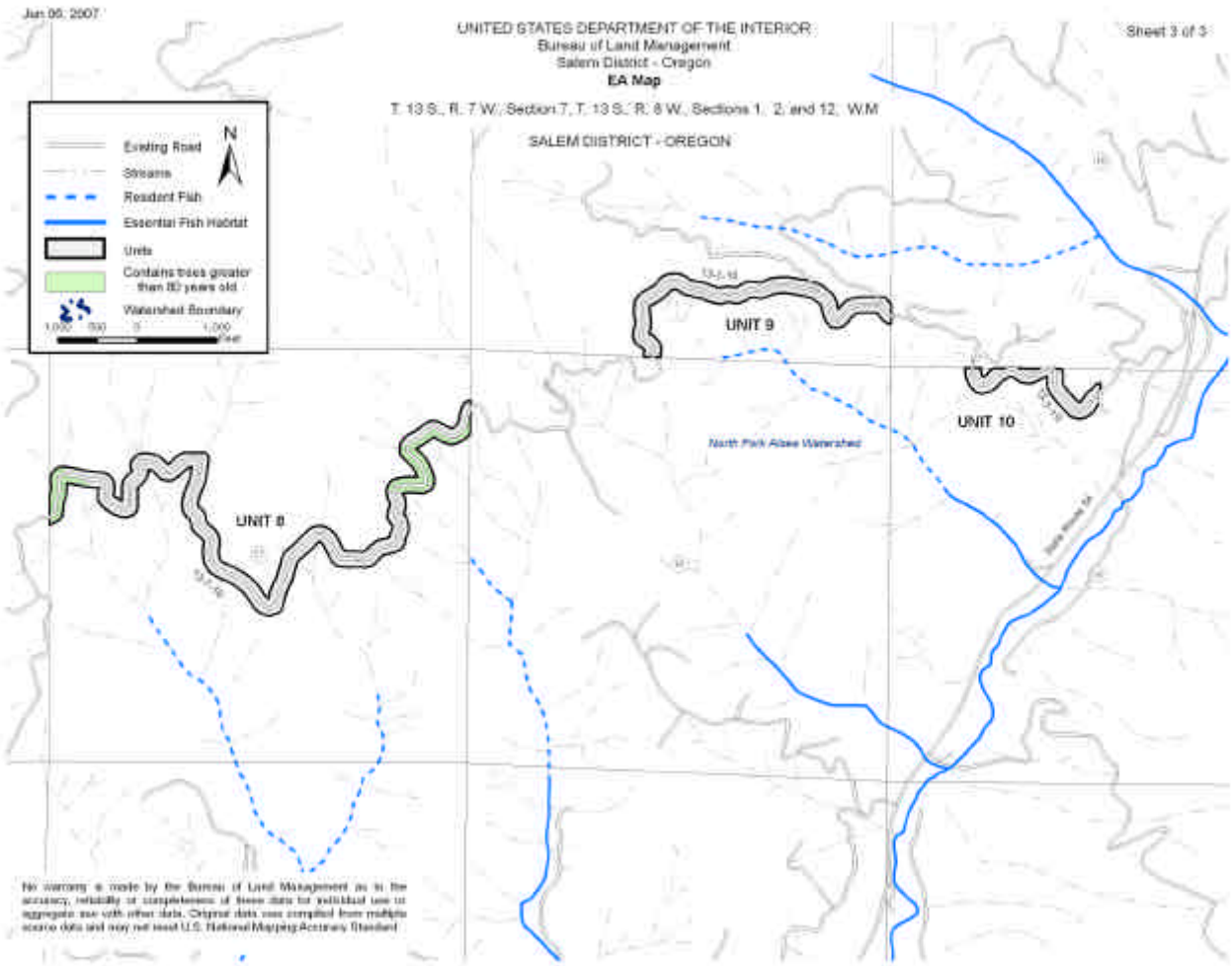
The decision to be made by the Marys Peak Field Manager is

- Whether to approve the North Fork Alsea Access Road Project, as proposed, not at all, or to some other extent.
- Whether site specific impacts would require supplemental/additional information to the analysis done in the RMP/FEIS through a new EIS.

EA Maps


Jun 06, 2007
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Salem District - Oregon
EA Map
T. 13 S., R. 8 W., Section 3, T. 12 S., R. 8 W., Sections 28 and 33, W.M.
SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON
Sheet 1 of 3
UNIT 1
UNIT 2
UNIT 3
UNIT 4
Existing Road
Streams
Resident Fish
Essential Fish Habitat
Units
Contains trees greater than 80 years old
Watershed Boundary
N
1,000 500 0 1,000
Feet


Jun 06, 2007
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Salem District - Oregon
EA Map
T. 13 S., R. 7 W., Sections 17, 8 and 15, W.M.
SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON
Sheet 2 of 3
UNIT 5
UNIT 6
UNIT 7
North Fork Alsea Watershed
Existing Road
Streams
Resident Fish
Essential Fish Habitat
Units
Contains trees greater than 80 years old
Watershed Boundary
N
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet U.S. National Mapping Accuracy Standard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Bureau of Land Management
Salem District - Oregon
EA Map
T. 13 S., R. 7 W., Section 7, T. 13 S., R. 8 W., Sections 1, 2, and 12, W.M.
SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON
Sheet 3 of 3
Existing Road
Streams
Resident Fish
Essential Fish Habitat
Units
Contains trees greater than 80 years old
Watershed Boundary
N
UNIT 8
UNIT 9
UNIT 10
North Fork Alsea Watershed
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet U.S. National Mapping Accuracy Standard

2.0 Hazard Tree Removal and Road Maintenance Project

2.1 Purpose of and Need for Action

After 40-years of tree growth adjacent to the North Fork Alsea Access Road (Road #'s 13-7-10, 13-8-12.1 and 12-8-19) the frequency of problems associated with windfall, snow and ice loaded tree and limb fall has increased to the point where safety hazards have been created to road users. Those hazards conflict with the BLM's designation of the road as an Access Road, especially since the trees have grown beyond brush size and now lean toward, and often over the roadbed.

The road's designation as an "Access Road" requires them to be maintained to a higher standard, both for public and industrial access. The BLM road maintenance crew performs frequent winter maintenance (removing fallen trees and limbs) on the roads. The objectives of this project is to reduce hazards to the public by removing trees that are both imminent and have high potential for creating future hazards from falling trees, snapping tops and limbs and slick road surface conditions from heavy leaf litter.

3.0 Alternatives

3.1 Alternative Development

Pursuant to Section 102 (2) (E) of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended), Federal agencies shall "Study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources." No unresolved conflicts were identified. This EA will analyze the effects of the Alternative 1 (Proposed Action) and Alternative 2 (No Action).

3.2 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The project would remove hazard trees which are generally located within 25 feet of road edges, with some isolated trees exceeding that distance in 40 to 70 year old forest. This project would utilize a commercial timber sale to remove trees adjacent to the North Fork Access Road #12-8-19, 13-8-12.1 and 13-7-10. Hazard trees would be defined as:

- ✓ any trees leaning into, or over the roadbed;
- ✓ deciduous trees with canopies overtopping the roadway

3.2.1 Project Design Features by RMP Objectives

To minimize soil erosion as a source of sedimentation to streams and to minimize soil productivity loss from soil compaction, loss of slope stability or loss of soil duff layer:

- The cutting and disposing of trees would be accomplished without allowing wheeled or tracked equipment to operate off of the existing roadway. Log decks may be placed off the roadbed (within ditches, shoulders and turn outs).
- If mineral soil is exposed during log removal, where appropriate, the area would be sown with Oregon Certified (blue tagged) red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) at a rate equal to 40 pounds per acre or sown/planted with other native species as approved by the resource area botanist.

To protect and enhance fisheries habitat components:
All activities, with the intent to sell timber shall be limited such that no adverse effects to Essential Fish Habitat would occur. In order to meet these conditions the following design criteria shall be incorporated:

- The logs to be removed would consist of the portion of tree within the road prism (between the top of the road cut and the toe of the fill) unless the following applies:
  - ✓ That portion of the tree where the likelihood of theft may occur would be removed.
  - ✓ The portion of the tree outside the road prism where it is determined to be unsafe and/or unfeasible to leave would be removed.
- Unless fisheries personnel determine that large woody debris (greater than 24" DBHOB) for streams and Riparian Reserves in the proposed project area are met (As defined by Watershed Analysis and NFP Standards and Guidelines) large woody debris (LWD) located within Riparian Reserves and outside the road prism would remain on site.
- Where it is safe and feasible, downed trees and portions of downed trees within the road prism that are greater than 8 inches diameter at the largest end and not removed would be moved or placed off to the stream side of the road or used for instream restoration projects.
- Where it is safe and feasible, take actions to deter theft of large woody material in Riparian Reserves such as moving tree portions away from immediate road prism area in a manner that would make the large woody material less visible and accessible.
- Operate heavy equipment in a manner that minimizes sedimentation to streams in order to avoid adverse affects to EFH.
- Provide year round hauling from Units 7 to 10 on Road 13-7-10 to Highway 34 except hauling would cease during heavy rainfall periods when road surface flows are most likely to be connected to stream channels.
- For Units 1 thru 6 designated to go out Road 12-8-19 to Feagles Creek County Road, hauling would be limited to low moisture soil conditions (generally dry season per RMP BMPs). Hauling outside of dry season may occur only during extended dry periods (weather forecasts would be for more than a week of dry conditions). In addition, road surfaces would be hardened/dry and no surface flow or sediment transport is evident on road surfaces or ditchlines.
- Harvest operations that do not fall within these design criteria, but appear to have mitigating circumstances that would result in actions that would not adversely affect EFH should be individually reviewed and approved by the fisheries specialist.
- All equipment would operate from existing roads.
- Small conifers (less than 6" DBH) would be felled and left on site within 50 feet of streams, except EFH streams.
- Small conifers (less than 6" DBH) would be felled and left on site within 210 feet of EFH streams.
- A portion of red alder debris would be felled and left on site (outside road prism) within 210 feet of all streams.
- Trees falling into or across streams would be bucked and the inner 50 feet of log touching or over the stream would remain on site, except where tree falling could impede the function of a road structure (ie. culverts). The portion of the tree that could impede road structure functionality would be fully suspended and moved away from the stream and remain on site.

To reduce fire hazard risk and protect air quality:

- Light accumulations of debris along roads that would remain in drivable condition following the completion of the project would be scattered along the length of the rights-of-way.
- Larger accumulations of debris along existing roads would be either machine piled or hand piled. Within 20 feet of the road edge, at least 90% of the ¼" to 6" diameter slash would be piled and covered for burning. All piles would be located at least ten feet away from reserve trees and snags and at least 50 feet from streams.
- Fewer large piles would be preferable over many small piles.
- During the late summer before the onset of fall rains, all machine and hand piles to be burned, would be covered at least 80% with 4 mil black polyethylene plastic.
- All burning would occur under favorable smoke dispersal conditions in the fall, in compliance with the Oregon State Smoke Management Plan (RMP pp. 22, 65).

To protect Threatened and Endangered and Bureau Special Status Plants and Animals:

- Site management of any botanical or fungal Federal or Oregon State Threatened or Endangered or Bureau survey and manage species found as a result of additional inventories would be accomplished in accordance with, *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (S&M ROD, January 2001) and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement For Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (S&M FSEIS, November 2000, pages 8-14).
- Conduct project implementation in conformance with the applicable Biological Opinion or Letter of Concurrence concerning federally listed wildlife species. Pertinent Terms and Conditions from these consultation documents would include:
    - ✓ All green trees selected for cutting and removal would be inspected by a Resource Area Biologist to ensure that they do not currently provide nesting structure for spotted owls or marbled murrelets and they are less than 36 inches DBH. No trees greater than 36 inches DBH would be removed.
    - ✓ Felling and yarding of selected trees that would occur within 100 meters of un-surveyed marbled murrelet habitat, between April 1 and September 15, would be restricted to occur during the period from two hours after sunrise to two hours before sunset.
    - ✓ The Resource Area Biologist would be notified if any federally listed wildlife species are found occupying stands proposed for green tree selection during project activities.

To reduce visual impacts to VRM 2 designations:

- The majority of debris/slash accumulated in Unit 6 would be hauled, piled and burned outside Unit 6.

4.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

4.1 Identification of Affected Elements of the Environment

The interdisciplinary team reviewed the elements of the environment, required by law, regulation, Executive Order and policy, to determine if they will be affected by the Proposed Action. Table 1 (Critical Elements of the Environment from BLM H-1790-1, Appendix 5) and Table 2 (Other Elements of the Environment) summarize the results of that review. Affected elements are **bold**. All entries apply to the action alternative, unless otherwise noted.

Table 1: Environmental Review for the Critical Elements of the Environment (BLM H-1790-1, Appendix 5)

Critical Elements Of The Environment		Status: (i.e., Not Present , Not Affected, or Affected)	Does this project contribute to cumulative effects? Yes/No	Remarks
Air Quality (Clean Air Act)		**Affected**	**No**	**Addressed in text (EA sections 4.2.7)**
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern		Not Present	No	
Cultural, Historic, Palentological		Not Affected	No	Cultural resource sites in the Coast Range, both historic and prehistoric, occur rarely. The probability of site occurrence is low because the majority of BLM managed Coast Range land is located on steep upland mountainous terrain that lack concentrated resources humans would use. Post-disturbance inventory would be completed on slopes less than 10%.
Energy (Executive Order 13212)		Not Affected	No	There are no known energy resources located in the project area. The proposed action would have no effect on energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.
Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)		Not Affected	No	The proposed action is not anticipated to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations.
Prime or Unique Farm Lands		Not Present	No	
Flood Plains (Executive Order 11988)		Not Affected	No	The proposed action does not involve occupancy or modification of floodplains, and would not increase the risk of flood loss.
Hazardous or Solid Wastes		Not Present	No	
Invasive, Nonnative Species (Executive Order 13112)		**Affected**	**No**	**Addressed in text (EA section 4.2.5)**
Native American Religious Concerns		Not Affected	No	No new ground disturbance is anticipated. Past projects of this type within this area have not resulted in tribal identification of concerns.
Threatened or Endangered (T/E) Species or Habitat	Fish	Not present	No	
	Plants	Not Present	No	There are no known sites of any Federal or Oregon state T&E listed botanical species within the project area. In addition, there is no suitable habitat for these species in the young conifer and alder habitat that is maintained as a right-of-way.

Critical Elements Of The Environment		Status: (i.e., Not Present , Not Affected, or Affected)	Does this project contribute to cumulative effects? Yes/No	Remarks
	Wildlife (including designated Critical Habitat)	**Affected**	**No**	**Addressed in text (EA section 4.2.4).**
Water Quality (Surface and Ground)		**Affected**	**No**	**Addressed in text (EA section 4.2.2)**
Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)		Not Present	No	
Wild and Scenic Rivers		Not Present	No	
Wilderness		Not Present	No	

Table 2: Environmental Review for the Other Elements of the Environment

Other Elements Of The Environment		Status: (i.e., Not Present , Not Affected, or Affected)	Does this project contribute to cumulative effects? Yes/No	Remarks
Essential Fish Habitat (Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Cons. /Mgt. Act)		**Affected**	**No**	**Addressed in text (EA section 4.2.3)**
Fuels		**Affected**	**No**	**Addressed in text (EA sections 4.2.7)**
Forest Productivity		Not Affected	No	The dispersed nature of the green tree removal portion of the project and the minor site level compaction expected suggest no detectable effects to forest productivity would occur.
Land Uses (right-of-ways, permits, etc)		Not Present	No	
Late successional / old growth		Not Affected	No	No late-successional or old-growth forest trees would be removed by this action.
Mineral Resources		Not Present	No	
Recreation		Not Affected	No	No recreation facilities exist in the project area. The area is open to off-highway vehicle use. Dispersed recreation would not be affected and would remain constant after operations.
Rural Interface Areas		**Affected**	**No**	**Addressed in text (EA sections 4.2.6)**
Soils		**Affected**	**No**	**Addressed in text (EA sections 4.2.1)**
Special Areas outside ACECs (Within or Adjacent) (RMP pp. 33-35)		Not Present	No	
other Special Status Species/Habitat	**Fish**	**Affected**	**Yes**	**Addressed in text (EA section 4.2.3 and Fisheries Report, pp. 6)**
	Plants	Not Present	No	
	Wildlife	**Affected**	**No**	**Addressed in text (EA section 4.2.4 and Biological Evaluation, pp. 5)**
Visual Resources		**Affected**	**No**	**Addressed in text (EA section 4.2.6)**
Water Resources (except Water Quality)		**Affected**	**No**	**Addressed in text (EA section 4.2.2)**

Other Elements Of The Environment	Status: (i.e., Not Present , Not Affected, or Affected)	Does this project contribute to cumulative effects? Yes/No	Remarks
Other Wildlife Structural or Habitat Components (Snags /CWD / Special Habitats, road densities)	Not Affected	No	No special habitats would be disturbed and no road construction/decommissioning would occur.

4.2 Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

Those elements of the human environment that were determined to be affected are *soils, water, fisheries, wildlife, vegetation, rural interface, visual resources and fuels/air quality.* This section describes the current condition and trend of those affected elements, and the environmental effects of the alternatives on those elements.

4.2.1 Soils

Affected Environment

The affected environment consists of existing road surfaces, ditches, cut/fill slopes and where leaning or root exposed trees are located adjacent to the road prism. Soils in these locations have been structurally altered: organic matter and surface duff layer removed, surface compacted and a layer of gravel placed on top.

Environmental Effects

4.2.1.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The effects to surface soil properties from the harvest of timber to existing roadways would be so negligible that they cannot be measured because the action would be confined to previously disturbed surfaces (i.e., roads). These surfaces are highly resistant to disturbance and have been engineered to withstand traffic. Additional information can be found in EA, Section 4.2.3.

4.2.1.2 Cumulative Effects

With no detectable direct or indirect effects, this action is unlikely to contribute to any ongoing cumulative effect to soils and their properties.

4.2.1.3 No Action Alternative

No change from existing conditions.

4.2.2 Water

Affected Environment

There are streams and wetlands in the project area but they are excluded from any direct activity under this project.

Environmental Effects

4.2.2.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

The removal of trees outside of stream protection zones (50 feet from stream channels) to existing roadways is unlikely to detectably alter surface or ground water quality (including temperature, sedimentation/turbidity, nutrient loadings, and/or bacteria levels), stream channel function or structure, and stream flows because disturbances would be minimal and confined to existing road right-of-way. The stream protection zone would be adequate to protect water quality. Additional information can be found in EA, Section 4.2.3.

4.2.2.2 Cumulative Effects

With no detectable direct or indirect effects this action is unlikely to contribute to any ongoing cumulative effect to water quality, stream channel function or streamflow.

4.2.2.3 No Action Alternative

No change from existing conditions.

4.2.3 Fisheries

Affected Environment

The proposed removal of roadside hazard and maintenance trees is within the Upper North Fork Alsea River subwatershed of the Upper Alsea Watershed crossing over to the Middle Big Elk Creek subwatershed of the Big Elk Creek Watershed. The proposed haul route would egress through Highway 34 to the east and the Feagles Creek County Road to the west. Feagles Creek Road is a Lincoln County administered graveled road paralleling the lower 3.5 miles of Feagles Creek and connects to the paved County Highway 538 near the Feagle Creek junction with Big Elk Creek. Road 13-7-10 is a mid slope gravel road that connects to Highway 34 near Yew Creek.

The upper reach of Feagles Creek which parallels Feagles Creek Road (12-8-19) on private property is visibly degraded. The majority of the impacts appear to be due to heavy cattle grazing. No riparian exclusion fencing is evident for the upper reach. The active channel is laterally eroding along much of the upper 1.5 miles of stream visible from the road. Some portions of this reach are devoid of any riparian vegetation (willows, sedges, reeds, or alders). Cows cross the stream from a heavily utilized field adjacent to the road to a pasture on the opposite side of the stream.

The middle reach (approximately ¾ of a mile of Feagles Creek) is several hundred feet away from the road and conditions are not discernable except at a few view points. Those sites that are visible; channels conditions are over widened with some evidence of recent LWD treatments. The riparian area is predominately mature forest.

The lower 1 mile of Feagles Creek is predominately agriculturally utilized; however, this reach is much less impaired. Riparian exclusion fencing was visible and a greater percentage of the stream channel had stable banks.

The segments on Road 13-7-10 associated with the proposed Units 8, 9, and 10, do not cross any fish bearing streams. The road segment on Road 13-7-10 associated with the proposed unit 7 has one resident fish bearing stream crossing, (small tributary of the southern most part of the

treatment unit). The 13-7-10 road segments associated with a dropped unit, in Section 12, cross over Parker Creek and a tributary which contain coho salmon. The segments of Road 12-8-19 in the Upper North Fork Alsea subwatershed portions of the project area may have up to six crossings over fish bearing streams. These streams have not been surveyed for fish distribution. However, any fish bearing crossings on this road are over resident fish species only, as the affected road segments are upstream of the anadromous barrier falls on North Fork Alsea River. Road 13-8-12.1 road has no fish bearing stream crossings.

The North Fork Alsea River within the project area generally appears to be low/deficient in LWD volume. Some locations, generally through gentle gradients, appear to have higher LWD volumes. The North Fork Alsea River Watershed Analysis (1996, pg. 80) noted that there was a lack of LWD throughout the drainage.

Threatened and Endangered Fish Species

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) determined that the Oregon Coast Coho Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) did not warrant listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended. No consultation is required under Section 7 of the ESA at this time, as no listed fish species are known to occur in the action area associated with this proposed project.

Essential Fish Habitat

Protection of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as described by the Magnuson/Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, and consultation with NOAA NMFS is required for all projects which may adversely affect EFH of Chinook or coho salmon in the action area. North Fork Alsea River is considered EFH to a falls, located approximately 1200 feet downstream from the 13-8-12.4 road bridge crossing in Section 12. Portions of the proposed treatment areas along the 13-8-12.1 road in section 12 are within 2 site potential tree heights of the North Fork Alsea and Parker Creek EFH. Parker Creek is considered EFH through the stream crossings on Road 13-7-10 within the project area of Section 12. A portion of the proposed treatment area along Road 13-7-10 in Section 1 is within 2 site potential tree heights of Parker Creek EFH. Feagles Creek is identified as EFH associated with portions of the proposed haul route along Road 12-8-19 which parallels the stream.

Environmental Effects

4.2.3.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Falling/Yarding – Reductions in canopy closure, and vegetative cover, can result in changes in peak or base flows which in turn impair the availability or quality of aquatic habitat. The proposed action would affect the forest canopy over topping the road system and select trees which are considered highly probable to fall across the road in the event of blow down. The action is linearly spread out over six seventh field drainages in two fifth field watersheds. Due to the nature of the project removing selected trees along the road segments, only minor alterations to the canopy in any of the affected drainages is anticipated. Based on other hydrology analysis from previous timber sales in the same fifth field watershed (eg Mainline II, Klickitat Tie, Old Blue), this action would be highly unlikely to detectably alter stream flows, as the scope of the action is expected to be less than typical timber sale canopy alteration.

The proposed action could affect 53 stream crossings. The proposed action would remove selected timber along the road including over stream crossings. Some crossings may have young

alders growing from the road fill over the top of the stream crossing. The proposed action would remove some alder from these fills that are within 50 feet of an active channel. Other stream crossing could have minimal or no actions. Those crossing where trees are removed within 50 feet of the stream channel may reduce the amount of shade over the stream. Removing trees which provide shade to the stream channel can negatively affect water temperatures. The affect is limited to small openings created by the proposed treatment on either side of the crossing. Shade conditions of the affected streams outside of the road prism and fill would not be affected. These small openings, spread out over 53 streams, are unlikely to alter stream temperatures.

All treatments are closely associated with the pre-existing heavily compacted road segments. Falling and yarding would likely be accomplished with a harvester, or similar type equipment, from the road prism. Any additional compaction or soil displacement would be minimal as treatments are planned to occur adjacent to the road, no trees to be felled are more than 50 feet from the edge of the cut-slope of the road. The minimal changes to soil compaction and soil displacement combined with the dispersed nature of the proposed action suggest it is highly unlikely to result in increased surface erosion due to compaction and soil displacement. The use of a harvester and design features to retain the inner 50 feet of a tree that falls into a stream on site indicates that no channel disturbing actions would be expected to occur. Therefore, the proposed action is unlikely to contribute to increased rates of sediment transport in stream channels.

Loss of coarse woody debris (CWD) and large woody debris (LWD) due to harvest can affect the stability and quality of aquatic habitat. The proposed falling/yarding of conifer is predominately from the eastern Units, 8 thru 10. Units 8 thru 10 do not have any fish bearing streams within the treatment area. There is one fish bearing stream associated with treatment Unit 7 (SW¼, Section 7, Township 13 South., Range 7 West). Retaining on site any conifers that are 24 inch DBH or greater within 1 site potential tree height of fish bearing streams would protect current large woody debris function at the site level. Retaining on site any conifers that are greater than 8 inch DBH within 50 feet of streams would protect current and future woody debris function at the site level. Leaving a scattering of alder boles on site within 1 site potential tree height of both fish and non-fish bearing streams would also be expected to protect the CWD loading at the site level. Any portion of a tree that falls into a stream channel would be bucked at least 50 feet from the stream and left on site. The surrounding alder and conifers would be expected to close the openings created over the road prism associated with stream crossings over time and proposed treatments would be expected to provide some growth benefits where stands are over stocked or the canopy is crowded. Remaining trees should increase growth rates following treatments.

Timber Hauling – The proposed year round hauling on rocked roads from Units 7 to 10 on Road 13-7-10 to Highway 34 are not expected to result in measurable quantities of sedimentation reaching streams, due to the limited number of crossings on relatively gentle road gradients and the small number of truck loads (less than 20 loads) anticipated to go this route. Any sediment that would reach the intermittent streams from the haul route crossings would likely be assimilated into the intermittent channels before reaching fish habitat (Duncan et al, 1987). One crossing over a fish bearing stream may have direct short term connections of road surface flows with stream channels. Cessation of hauling during heavy rainfall periods, when road surface flows are most likely to be connected to stream channels, would minimize the extent of sediment being disturbed and subsequently available for transport to the stream channel. Minor site specific effects to short reaches of fish habitat downstream of either stream crossing could to occur due to sediment generated from hauling. With application of sediment control Project Design Features (silt fences, hay bales etc…) and cessation of haul during heavy rainfall, the magnitude of sediment reaching

streams would be minimized. The duration of sediment reaching streams would be short term, only occurring during the first wet season during and immediately following hauling activities.

EFH - The proposed haul route for Units 1 thru 6 is designated to go out Road 12-8-19 to Feagles Creek County Road. Approximately 3.25 mile of Road 12-8-19 parallels Feagles Creek where fall Chinook and coho salmon are known to reside (Streamnet 2005). Hauling would be limited on this portion of road to dry soil conditions (generally dry season per RMP BMPs), sediment erosion would be minimized through proper maintenance of the road and by placing sediment/erosion control measures on ditchlines feeding to tributaries of or directly into Feagles Creek. Timber haul outside of dry season would occur only during extended dry periods (weather forecasts would be for more than a week of dry conditions). In addition, road surfaces would be hardened/dry and no surface flow or sediment transport is evident on road surfaces or ditchlines. Implementation of these design features combined with the limited number of truck loads (less than 20), is expected to have minimal risks of sediment reaching fish bearing aquatic habitat.

The proposed action, with the incorporation of project design features, is not expected to adversely affect EFH. Thus, no consultation with NOAA NMFS on EFH is required for this project. Actions and effects beyond the scope of the analysis provided would require additional review and potentially result in the need to consult with NOAA NMFS.

4.2.3.2 Cumulative Effects

Private timber management, harvesting and hauling, is expected to occur during the proposed action. The extremely minor affects anticipated on stream shade and wood recruitment due to proposed harvest activities suggests the additive impacts of the federal action is not likely to cumulatively effect these aquatic values. Impacts are further muted as the proposed actions are spread across 2 affected watersheds and 6 seventh field watersheds.

The extent and magnitude of impacts from hauling both from private and federal activities is difficult to quantify. Impacts from hauling would likely be variable from year to year, in part dependent on the amount of activities occurring within the watershed. The magnitude of sediment transport from road surfaces to stream crossings would also vary based on the water year type, wetter years likely transporting more sediment than dry years.

Within the Upper Alsea watershed, assuming a split in hauling directions, only four fish bearing streams would be crossed and all crossings would be over resident cutthroat trout habitat. The limited hydraulic connectivity of road surfaces to fish habitat in the Upper Alsea Watershed would likely result in only minor site specific effects when combining private and federal actions. The majority of stream crossing associated with the haul route are over small intermittent and ephemeral non-fish bearing streams between 100 feet and ¼ mile upstream from fish bearing habitat. These small channels would be expected to provide sediment storage and would be expected to contribute towards protecting the water quality and fish habitat downstream (Duncan, et al, 1987).

The proposed action of hauling on the Road 12-6-19, (Feagles Creek), would likely result in only a small additive increase in hauling activity, approximately 20 truck loads, when compared to the overall utilization of Feagles Creek Road. While cumulatively the proposed hauling could further degrade water quality by increasing fine sediment reaching Feagles Creek, limiting haul to dry seasons would limit the transport of surface sediment to stream channels as actions would not occur when surface transport is most likely. In addition, limiting hauling to dry road conditions would reduce the probability that additional road maintenance would be needed to maintain the

road bed. Maintaining road surfaces, including ditchlines, has been shown to be one of the significant sediment generating mechanisms (Luce and Black 1999, Furniss etal 1991). Minimizing maintenance needs, through proper design features such as seasonal restrictions, should limit the cumulative impact of the proposed action on sediment contributions to Feagles Creek Road.

4.2.3.3 No Action Alternative

The proposed one time road maintenance tree removal would not occur. Trees overhanging the road would continue to fall across the affected road network. Annual maintenance removing downed tree along the access road would be necessary to remove obstruction access.

No changes in forest canopy would be anticipated thus no changes peak/base flows would be anticipated under the No-Action Alternative. The minor site affects to stream shading noted in the proposed action would not occur and no changes to stream temperature would be anticipated under the No-Action Alternative. No site disturbances from yarding, falling, and hauling would occur, thus no changes in sediment transport or erosion would be anticipated under the no-action alternative.

Leaving the road sides untreated would have no short term effects on woody debris recruitment to stream channels. Road lengths adjacent to streams, less than 1 site potential tree height, would continue to provide coarse woody debris under existing rate. Over the long term, an acceleration of the recruitment of alder would be expected as these stands reach maturity, assuming stand senescence occurs over the next 20 to 40 years, and tree mortality increases. Large woody debris recruitment to stream channels would not be affected with the implementation of the no-action alternative.

4.2.4 Wildlife

Affected Environment

The affected environment for this project area includes the forest stands adjacent to the Klickitat Tie road which stretches across the northern half of the Upper Alsea Watershed and a small portion of the Big Elk Creek watershed. BLM lands in this area have been designated as Critical Habitat Units (CHU) for the northern spotted owl (CHU= OR-47), and marbled murrelet (CHU=OR-04-k).

On-going spotted owl surveys in this vicinity have determined that there are no active spotted owl nest sites in close proximity (<0.25 miles) to the proposed road. One inactive spotted owl site lies about 0.3 miles from the road in Section 07, but this site is currently occupied by a pair of barred owls which are not listed as a sensitive species. Marbled murrelet surveys in this vicinity have detected murrelets occupying suitable habitat adjacent to the road in Sections 7, 12, and 17. It is unknown if murrelets continue to occupy these sites and if they are nesting in close proximity to the roadway. In this watershed, marbled murrelets have been found occupying several older forest patches, particularly forests with large old-growth trees. Very few old-growth trees with potential nesting structure are located in close proximity (<100ft) to the road.

Survey and Manage Species (S&M) such as red tree voles and various mollusks are likely present in the forest stands adjacent to the roadway. Occasionally, active vole nests are found in conifer trees that border the road prism and S&M mollusk species may be found under the leaf litter on the shoulders of the road.

No special habitat types (e.g. wetlands, seeps, dry meadows, etc.) would be affected by this proposed action.

Environmental Effects

4.2.4.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Removal of individual trees adjacent to the road would not alter any suitable habitat for spotted owls or marbled murrelets, since no trees larger than 36 inches would be removed, selected hazard trees would be widely scattered, and no trees with suitable nesting structure would be removed. Since no spotted owls are currently known to be nesting adjacent to the road, there would be no potential for noise disturbance to affect this species. At a few locations along the road in this project area, marbled murrelets may be expected to occur during the breeding season (April-1 to September-15). If project activities were implemented during this period this action would be considered a may affect, but not likely adverse affect to this species due to the potential for noise disturbance to disrupt murrelet breeding behavior. This action would have no effect to murrelets if it were implemented outside of the breeding period. This project occurs within critical habitat units that have been designated for the spotted owl and marbled murrelet, but no constituent elements of habitat would be affected since hazard trees would be scattered and none of the trees would remove potential nesting structure.

The proposed action, which is intended to remove brush from the road prism and remove scattered hazard trees along the edge of the roadway, would not affect the habitat conditions within the adjacent forest stands. As such, this action would not have the potential to cause significant negative effect on red tree vole habitat (Biswell et al. 2002), nor would it alter any of the habitat elements of the adjacent forest stands which might directly or indirectly impact mollusk species of concern (Furnish et al. 1997). No surveys were required for either of these species.

4.2.4.2 Cumulative Effects

A large percentage of the BLM and Forest Service lands within this watershed have been designated as LSR, and there has been no harvest or removal of late-seral forest stands in this analysis area since prior to 1994 when the Northwest Forest Plan was adopted. Forest management activities which remove or alter the conditions within older forest stands have the potential to contribute to the cumulative loss of this habitat that is important to many associated wildlife species. However, this action would not contribute to an incremental loss of older forest conditions since affected forest stands that are adjacent to the road would retain their structure and function after the project is completed. For this reason no incremental negative effects to wildlife species or their habitats would be discernable in this analysis area as a result of the proposed action.

4.2.4.3 No Action Alternative

This alternative would avoid the potential for minor impacts to marbled murrelets and red tree voles. Forest stands within the analysis area would continue to grow and provide habitat for associated wildlife species. Minor loss of trees would continue to occur within these stands and along roadways as a result of natural disturbance processes (e.g. windthrow, insects, disease), but generally would not result in severe changes to stand structure or function, except in rare events of severe disturbance.

4.2.5 Vegetation

Affected Environment

North Fork Alsea River Watershed Analysis Area
Late seral and old-growth (= 80 years old) forests comprise 29 percent of federal ownership in the watershed. We can infer then, that commercial harvest, wind, insects, disease or stand replacement fire has occurred on 71% of the lands in the watershed since post Post-Euro-American settlement. Approximately 44% of riparian reserves are in an early seral stage vegetation type (< 40 years old), largely dominated by deciduous trees. The earliest harvests have been regenerated and are progressing towards providing mature forest structure. Most of the private industrial lands have been and will continue to be moved from mid condition class to the early condition class.

Big Elk Creek Analysis Area
Late seral and old-growth (= 80 years old) forests comprise 15 percent of the federal ownership in the analysis area. Approximately 22% of the analysis area is in permanent pastures or recent clearcut and approximately 34% is in young plantations, ranging in age from 10 to 50 year old. Most of the private industrial lands have been and will continue to be moved from mid condition class to the early condition class. Most riparian areas are dominated by hardwoods. The majority of conifers in riparian areas are small diameter, second growth trees.

Project Area
The project area is a young (less than 60 year old) coniferous and hardwood dominated area within the western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) plant association zone, located in the Oregon coastal mountains and located adjacent to major gravel roadways. Although the project area is regarded as less than 60 years of age, a few portions of the project area occur adjacent to forested stands 80 years old or older.

In general, the project area is dominated by Douglas fir (*Pseudostuga menziesii*) and western hemlock in the eastern portion of the project area, and dominated by red alder (*Alnus rubra*) in the western portion of the project. As the trees adjacent to the right-of-ways mature and begin competing for light, many suppressed and co-dominant trees tend to lean into and over the roadway. This creates a condition where the center of gravity on a tree is located to one side (over the roadway) of the main stem of the tree and makes it susceptible to breakage or blowdown during storm events. Often after storm events the right-of-way is blocked from vegetative debris. This debris is mainly cleared and piled or scattered adjacent to the roadways.

The shrub and forb layer in the project area is mainly salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) near riparian areas, otherwise mostly sword-fern (*Polystichum munitum*) and salal (*Gaultheria shallon*).

Threatened/Endangered and Bureau Special Status Botanical and Fungal Species
There are no known sites of any Federal or Oregon State Threatened or Endangered or Bureau special status or survey and manage vascular plant, bryophyte, lichen or fungus within the project areas. These young alder stands are generally considered to be too young to support any of the bureau sensitive or bureau assessment species

Noxious Weeds
The following noxious weeds are known from within or adjacent the project area, Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), bull and Canadian thistles (*Cirsium vulgare* and *C. arvense*), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), and Scot's broom (*Cytisus scoparius*).

Environmental Effects

4.2.5.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Alternative 2 proposes the cutting and removal of imminent and future roadside hazard trees within existing road prisms on 68 acres of BLM managed land (less than 0.16% of the total North Fork Alsea River Watershed and 0.02% of the total Big Elk Creek Watershed respectively).

Red alder and conifer 'safety hazard' trees would be removed from both sides of the roadway. The main stems of the trees would be removed from site. The limbs and broken tops would be scattered along the roadway but generally outside of the road prism. It is anticipated in some areas slash piles would accumulate (through piling of limbs/tops that fall within the right-of-way) that may or may not be burned. The shrubs and forbs in the areas where the slash is piled may be killed. In other areas the shrub and forb species would increase in density and size due to the increased available light from the severed trees. After the project is completed, red alder and conifer seedlings may again become established in the project area.

Threatened/Endangered and Bureau Special Status or Survey and Manage Botanical and Fungal Species
There are no known sites of any Threatened/Endangered and Bureau special status or survey and manage botanical and fungal species within the project area. If any are located during subsequent surveys, they would be protected according to Bureau policies.

Noxious Weeds
Any vegetation disturbing activity may lead to an increase in the noxious weeds known from within the project area. Tree falling and yarding operations would disrupt areas of duff and expose mineral soil. Non-native species may become established in any exposed mineral soil areas. These non-native species generally become established with the first year of disturbance and often persist for several years but soon decline as native vegetation increases within the project areas.

All of the known noxious weed species from the project area are classified by the Oregon Department of Agriculture as "B" designated weeds. "B" designated weeds are weeds of economic importance which are regionally abundant, but which may have limited distribution in some counties. Where implementation of a fully integrated statewide management plan is not feasible, biological control shall be the main control approach.

The noxious weeds species that occur within the project area are widespread throughout western Oregon and a fully integrated statewide management plan has not been implemented. The Marys Peak Resource Area has an integrated non-native plant management plan in place for the control of non-native weed species. Any adverse effects from noxious weeds within the project area are not anticipated. The risk rating for the long-term establishment of noxious weed species and consequences of adverse effects on this project area is considered low.

4.2.5.2 Cumulative Effects

Foreseeable future harvest on BLM land consists of the North Fork Overlook LSR Enhancement (350 acres) and Parker Bear LSR Enhancement (250 acres). Private industrial landowners are expected to continue with a similar harvest rotation as has occurred in the watershed since the 1940s. The scope of the project occurs on a very small portion of the land base.

4.2.5.3 No Action Alternative

As the conifers and red alders continue to compete for light many suppressed and some co-dominant trees would continue to die and fall into the roadway. Many would continue to lean into the roadway and fall during storms. Right-of-ways would continually need to be cleared of debris to keep the roads passable. As the trees thin themselves out, only the dominant trees would remain within the project area.

Threatened/Endangered and Special Status Botanical and Fungal Species
No effects since there are no known sites.

Noxious Weeds
Without any new human caused disturbances in the proposed project area the established noxious weed populations would remain at the same currently level which is considered 'low'.

4.2.6 Visual Resource Management (VRM) and Rural Interface

Affected Environment

VRM: The intermixed land ownership pattern between public and private forest land in the vicinity of the proposed project greatly limits the BLM's ability to manage this area as a contiguous viewshed. Timber harvest activities near or adjacent to the project are observable from private and public lands. Along the project area there are many clearcuts with a recent one located on private land in section 18 of Township 13 South, Range 7 West. The project is observable from the gravel forest roads 13-7-10, 13-8-12.1 and 12-8-19. No part of the project is observable from major public travel routes, recreation areas, or other key observation points. No special visual features or specific concerns were identified. The forest blocks the project view from surrounding public roads including Highway 34.

Nearly all units of the project are in VRM Class 4. Unit 6 in Sections 1 and 12 of Township 13 South, Range 8 West and Unit 10 in Section 15 of Township 13 South, Range 7 West are in VRM Class 2. Unit 6 is adjacent to the North Fork Alsea River which was eligible but found not suitable as a Wild and Scenic River. Unit 10 is also in VRM Class 3.

VRM 2: The RMP calls for managing these lands for low levels of change and retain the existing character of the. Activities may be seen but should not attract attention. Timber harvesting is allowed in VRM 2 areas, but at a rate less than full potential (i.e. partial cutting). Removing scattered individual hazard trees is an example of partial cutting.

VRM 3: The RMP calls for managing these lands for moderate levels of change and to partially retain the existing character of the scenic landscape. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view.

VRM 4: The RMP calls for managing these lands for high levels of change with the allowance for major modifications to the existing character of the scenic landscape. The level of change to the

characteristic landscape can be high. Activities may dominate the view and be the focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities.

Rural Interface: According to the RMP (p. 39) rural interface is located in Unit 10 adjacent to Highway 34. The haul routes, frequently used by all landowners, would pass residential houses. Impacts from timber harvest have historically occurred on the 13-7-10, 13-8-12.1 and 12-8-19 roads.

Environmental Effects

4.2.6.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

VRM: Changes to the landscape are expected to be moderately low and would comply with VRM management objectives. Most of the disturbance would be associated with modifications to the road prism and vegetation (scattered individual trees) in a 50 foot buffer along the 13-7-10, 13-8-12.1 and 12-8-19 roads. Short term disturbance would be observable when directly adjacent to the units and by driving the adjacent road. A forest setting adjacent to the road would remain. Evidence of the project, including stumps, would be less observable within five years as understory vegetation returns to a more natural appearance, the remaining stand continues to mature and stumps change color. The forest and surrounding terrain blocks most of the project from any key observation points. Timber harvest activities seen by the public could be obtrusive or natural looking based on their personal preference. There would also be some short term decline in visual quality as a result of the smoke created while burning of debris/slash piles occur. Any burning would be done in compliance with state smoke management regulations. Project design features would protect scenic quality of this area.

Rural Interface: Residents may be affected due to the increase of truck traffic, noise, and smoke associated with the operations but the duration would be short. The roads have been historically used as haul routes by all landowners.

4.2.6.2 Cumulative Effects

Visual resources would be affected but the surrounding lands have been and will be continuously altered from timber management activities. The proposed action of removing hazard and road maintenance trees would not notably alter the landscape. The project would contribute to the amount of timber cut in the watershed, but the amount taken is minimal compared to that of a commercial thinning/regeneration harvest or what is happening on private lands. Timber harvest activities near or adjacent to the projects are observable from private and public lands. There have been and will continue to be timber sales to increase Late Successional habitat on the surrounding BLM lands. Project design features would mitigate visual impacts within the project area.

4.2.6.3 No Action Alternative

No modifications to the landscape character of the project area would be expected to occur. Modifications to the landscape character in the general area around the project would still be expected, as a result of activities on other lands.

4.2.7 Fuels/Air Quality

Affected Environment

The over story vegetation adjacent to these roads varies from young Douglas-fir plantations to 80+ year old Douglas-fir timber stands with varying amounts of western hemlock, western red cedar,

red alder and big leaf maple present. Undergrowth is a light to heavy growth of: salal, vine maple, sword and bracken fern, and red huckleberry. There are light to moderate accumulations of dead woody material on the ground. Larger downed logs and large snags are present but fairly scarce.

Fuel loading in the adjacent timber stands is based on visual estimates utilizing GTR-PNW-51. The estimated total dead fuel loading for these adjacent stands varies from 1-8 tons per acre in the young stands up to 30+ tons per acre in the timber. Fuel models in the young stands would be combinations of model 2 "timber short grass" and model 8 – "closed timber litter". In the mature stands the typical fuel model is 10 "timber litter and under story". Much of the existing down material is rotten or only partially sound.

Environmental Effects

4.2.7.1 Alternative 1 (Proposed Action)

Fuels: Effects from the proposed project on fuels would be an increase in fine and medium size slash in the areas where trees are cut. In most locations where isolated trees are felled, the changes in fuel loading, risk of a fire start and the resistance to control a fire, would be minimal or a very small increase. In areas where multiple trees are felled, the increases in these fire risk factors would be higher although still quite low overall. The fuel arrangement would be discontinuous. The fuel model would shift from Model 2 / 8 (timber short grass / closed timber litter) to a combination of models 10 / 11 (timber litter and under story with the addition of light logging slash). Risk of a fire start in the untreated slash would be greatest where conifer slash is present and concentrated. Hardwood slash poses little risk. Highest risk would occur during the first dry season following cutting, - the period when conifer needles dry out but remain attached. These highly flammable "red needles" generally fall off within one year and risk of a fire start greatly diminishes. If left untreated, fire risk would continue to diminish over time as the fine twigs and branches in the slash begin to break down and collect on the soil surface. Past experience, in the geographic area of this proposed action, has shown that, in approximately 15 years, untreated slash would decompose to a point where it no longer contributes significantly to increased fire risk or resistance to control. This is what is expected to occur for the areas under this proposed action, where the slash created would be left in place, untreated.

Air Quality: Fuels created during the harvesting process that are lopped, scattered and left to decompose on site would have no effect on air quality. Burning cured piled fuels under favorable atmospheric conditions in scattered locations in the coast range would hardly be noticeable and is not expected to result in any long term negative effects to the air quality in the air shed. Locally within ¼ mile of the piles there may be some very short term smoke impacts after piles are ignited resulting from drift smoke. Generally, once covered dry piles have been ignited, the fire intensity builds rapidly to a point where the fuels burn cleanly and very little smoke is produced. The strong convection column produced carries the smoke and gases well up into the atmosphere where it is diluted and carried away in the air mass. After 15-30 minutes, as the piles burn down and the intensity subsides, additional smoke may be produced due to lower temperatures and less efficient combustion. Depending on size, arrangement, type and moisture content of the remaining fuel, the smoke would diminish over several hours as the piles cool and burn out (sooner if rain develops). Generally this smoke only affects the immediate area (¼ mile or less) around the pile. If a temperature inversion develops over the area during the night time hours, smoke may be trapped under the inversion and accumulate in low areas resulting in a short term impact to the local air quality. The accumulated smoke generally clears out by mid-morning the following day as the inversion lifts. Due to the location of this project and light fuels involved, it

is unlikely that inversions would present a problem. All burning would be done in compliance with the Oregon State Smoke Management Plan.

4.2.7.2 Cumulative Effects

There would be few cumulative effects to this resource, as the effects from the project would be local, and there would be no other uses affecting this resource. Burning of slash would always be coordinated with the Oregon State Smoke Management Plan which serves to coordinate all forest burning activities on a regional scale to prevent negative impacts to local and regional air sheds. Based on past experience with pile burning in this area, there are no expected cumulative effects on air quality from the planned fuels treatment under this proposal.
Although in the short term, there would be an increase in fuel loading and resultant fire hazard, there would be mitigating actions taken as previously described to reduce the overall negative cumulative impacts from the newly created slash. Over the span of 10-15 years the slash would diminish as it breaks down into duff and soil.

4.2.7.3 No Action Alternative

With a No Action Alternative there would be no change from the current conditions for the fuels resource. Conditions would remain as they are at present. No changes in aerial extent of disturbed fuel loadings.

5.0 Compliance with Components of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy

5.1 Aquatic Conservation Strategy Review

Table 3 shows the project's effect on the 4 components of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (Riparian Reserves, Key Watersheds, Watershed Analysis and Watershed Restoration).

Table 3: Aquatic Conservation Strategy Review Summary (RMP pages 5-7)

Components	Effect	Remarks /References
Riparian Reserves	None	The proposed action entails the removal of hazard trees within or immediately adjacent to roadways (see project design features/mitigation measures).
Key Watershed	None	Upper Alsea River and Big Elk Creek are not designated key watersheds.
Watershed Analysis	None	North Fork Alsea Watershed Analysis, December, 1996 and Big Elk Creek Watershed Analysis, August, 1995.
Watershed Restoration	None	The proposed actions are not a component of the resource area's watershed restoration program.

6.0 Comparison of Alternatives With Regard to the Purpose and Need

Table 4: Comparison of Alternative by Purpose and Need

Purpose and Need (EA section 2.1)	Proposed Action	No Action
This project would reduce the hazards to the public by removing trees that are both imminent and that have failure potential and which produce other (limb breakage) hazards and maintenance problems.	The project would remove hazard trees (any trees leaning into, or over the roadbed; and deciduous trees with canopies overtopping the roadway) within 25-50 feet of the road prism in 40 to 70 year old forest. This project would utilize a commercial timber sale to remove trees adjacent to the North Fork Access Road #'s12-8-19, 13-8-12.1 and 13-7-10.	Safety hazards (problems associated with windfall, snow and ice loaded tree and limb fall) would continue. Those hazards would conflict with the BLM's designation of the road as an Access Road (maintained to a higher standard, both for public and industrial access).

7.0 Documentation of the Project's Consistency with the Nine Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives

Unless otherwise specified, the No Action Alternative would not prevent the attainment of any of the nine ACS objectives. Current conditions and trends would continue and are described in EA Section 4.2. EA Section 7.0 describes the project's consistency with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives.

Table 5: Project's Consistency with the Nine Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives (ACSOs)	**Project – Hazard Tree Removal and Road Maintenance**
1. Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features.	This proposal would not appreciably change existing habitat types, or alter the development of future forest stand conditions. The canopy and understory would substantially remain intact which should keep the microclimate disturbances to a minimum. Does not prevent the attainment of ***ACSO 1***.
2. Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds.	The proposed project would maintain the existing spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. Does not prevent the attainment of ***ACSO 2***.
3. Maintain and restore the physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.	No-treatment buffers and retention of trees falling into streams would maintain the physical integrity of the aquatic system. Does not prevent the attainment of ***ACSO 3***.
4. Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems.	Most of the riparian canopy would be retained and the project is expected to maintain current riparian microclimate conditions and protect streams from further increases in temperature. Trees which fall into streams would be left on site. Does not prevent the attainment of ***ACSO 4***.
5. Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved.	No-treatment buffers and PDF's would minimize any potential sediment from harvest and road-related activities from reaching water bodies. Does not prevent the attainment of ***ACSO 5***.
6. Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing.	Alterations in the capture, infiltration and routing (both surface and subsurface) of precipitation, as a consequence of the proposal, would be minimal. The proposed alternative would not measurably alter instream flows. Does not prevent the attainment of ***ACSO 6***.

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives (ACSOs)	Project – Hazard Tree Removal and Road Maintenance
7. Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.	Project design features, such as no-treatment buffers, coupled with the small % of vegetation proposed to be removed, would maintain groundwater levels and floodplain inundation rates. Does not prevent the attainment of ***ACSO 7***.
8. Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands.	The proposed linear treatment of alder and conifer spread over 6 drainages is not anticipated to appreciably alter the composition and diversity of plant communities in the riparian areas. Does not prevent the attainment of ***ACSO 8***.
9. Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.	Species linked to Riparian Reserves issues are mostly associated with late-seral forest conditions, which would be maintained and provide existing function of the local Riparian Reserves corridors. Existing corridors for movement through Riparian Reserves would be negligibly affected within these watersheds. Does not prevent the attainment of ***ACSO 9***.

8.0 Contacts and Consultation

8.1 Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Consulted (ESA Section 7 Consultation)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wildlife: To address concerns for impacts to federally listed wildlife species and their critical habitat, the proposed action has been consulted on with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as required under Section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act. This proposed action has been designed in accordance with standards set forth in a Biological Assessment (BA; USDA-FS and USDI-BLM 2006) that was used to facilitate consultation. In a Letter of Concurrence (received 10/04/2006, reference # 1-7-2006-I-0190) the Service concurred that projects designed in accordance with the standards set forth in the BA and that occur outside of the critical breeding period, would not result in adverse impacts to spotted owls, marbled murrelets, or their designated critical habitat. If this project were implemented during the critical breeding period (April-1 to August-5), this action has the potential to adversely affect marbled murrelets due to noise disturbance occurring in proximity to occupied habitat. However, this potential adverse affect would not result in jeopardy to the species. All pertinent design standards from the BA have been incorporated into this proposed action.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service

Fish: Recently, the NOAA NMFS determined that the Oregon Coast Coho Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit did not warrant listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA. No consultation is required under Section 7 of the ESA at this time, as no listed fish species are known to occur in the action area associated with this proposed project. Should any listing of fish species occur prior to implementation of any actions associated with this EA then further review would be necessary consistent with Section 7.

Protection of EFH, as described by the Magnuson/Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, and consultation with NOAA NMFS is required for all projects which may adversely affect EFH of Chinook or coho salmon in the action area. The proposed action, with the

incorporation of project design features, is not expected to adversely affect EFH. Thus, no consultation with NOAA NMFS on EFH is required for this project. Actions and effects beyond the scope of the analysis provided would require additional review and potentially result in the need to consult with NOAA NMFS.

8.2 Cultural Resources - Section 106 Consultation and Consultation with State Historical Preservation Office

The project area occurs in the Coast Range. Survey techniques are based on those described in Appendix D of the *Protocol for Managing Cultural Resource on Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon*. Post-project survey would be conducted according to standards based on slope defined in the Protocol appendix. Ground disturbing work would be suspended if cultural material is discovered during project work until an archaeologist can assess the significance of the discovery.

8.3 Public Involvement

- In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, a letter dated November 15, 2006, was sent to 13 potentially affected and/or interested individuals, groups, and agencies. No comment letter(s) was received.
- A description of the project was included in the March 2007 project update to solicit comments on the proposed projects.

8.3.1 EA public comment period

- The EA and FONSI will be made available for public review June 11, 2007 to July 10, 2007. The notice for public comment will be published in a legal notice by the *Gazette Times* newspaper. Comments received by the Marys Peak Resource Area of the Salem District Office, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon 97306, on or before July 10, 2007 will be considered in making the final decision for this project.

8.4 Interdisciplinary Team

Table 4: Interdisciplinary Team Review

Affected Resource	Specialist	Initial	Date
Botany/Vegetation	Ron Exeter	*R.E.*	Jan. 16, 2007
Cultural Resources	Dave Calver		6-6-07
Fuels/Air Quality	Tom Tomczyk	TT	6/6/07
Fisheries	Scott Snedaker	SS	6/6/07
Hydrology/Water Quality/Soils	Patrick Hawe	Sm for PH	6/6/07
NEPA	Carolyn Sands	CDS	6/6/07
Recreation, Visual and Rural Interface Resources	Traci Meredith	TMM	6-6-07
Wildlife	Scott Hopkins	SH	6-6-07

EA Prepared By: Gary L Hunderup Date: 6/6/07

EA Reviewed By: Carolyn D Sands Date: 6/6/07
NEPA

9.0 Major Sources and Common Acronyms

9.1 Major Sources

9.1.1 Interdisciplinary Team Reports

Hopkins, S. 2007. Biological Evaluation North Fork Alsea Access Road. Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District, Bureau of Land Management. Salem, OR. 5pp + appendix

Meredith, T. 2007. Recreation, Visual Resources and Rural Interface Report. Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District, Bureau of Land Management. Salem, OR. 3pp.

Snedaker, S. 2007. North Fork Alsea Access Road Project Fisheries Report. Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District, Bureau of Land Management. Salem, OR. 11pp.

9.1.2 Additional References

Biswell, B., M. Blow, R. Breckel, L. Finley, and J. Lint. 2002. Survey Protocol for the Red Tree Vole (Arborimus longicaudus), version 2.1, dated October 2002. Unpublished document pertaining to Survey and Management Program of the Northwest Forest Plan. USDI Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office, Portland, Oregon.

Furnish, J., T. Burke, T. Weasma, J. Applegarth, N. Duncan, R. Monthey, D. Gowan. 1997. Survey Protocol for Terrestrial Mollusk Species from the Northwest Forest Plan. Draft Version 2.0, dated October 29, 1997. Unpublished document pertaining to Survey and Management Program of the Northwest Forest Plan. USDI Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office, Portland, Oregon.

USDA, Forest Service, USDI, Bureau of Land Management. 2006. Biological Assessment of habitat-modification projects proposed during fiscal years 2007 and 2008 in the North Coast Planning Province, Oregon that would affect bald eagles, northern spotted owls or marbled murrelets, or the critical habitats of the northern spotted owl or the marbled murrelet. Salem District BLM, Salem, Oregon. Dated July 24, 2006. Unpublished document.

USDA. Forest Service, USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 2004. Record of Decision to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. Portland, OR.

USDA. Forest Service, USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 1994a. Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. Portland, OR.

USDA. Forest Service, USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 1994b. Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. Portland, OR.

USDA. Forest Service, USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 2004. Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines. Portland, OR.

USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 1996. North Fork Alsea Watershed Analysis. Suislaw National Forest, Corvallis, Oregon and Salem District BLM, Salem, Oregon.

USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 1995. Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan. Salem, OR.

USDI. Bureau of Land Management. 1994. Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement. Salem, OR.

USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 2006. Letter of Concurrence for Effects to Northern Bald Eagles, Northern Spotted Owls, and Marbled Murrelets from the North Coast Province Fiscal Year 2007-2008 activities that may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect, due to activities that modify habitat and create disturbance, U.S. Department of the Interior; Bureau of Land Management, Eugene District and Salem District, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Siuslaw National Forest. Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office, Portland, Oregon. Tracking Number: 1-7-2006-I-0190 (dated 10/4/2006), Unpublished Document.

9.2 Common Acronyms

ACS ---------- Aquatic Conservation Strategy
BLM---------- Bureau of Land Management
BMP---------- Best Management Practice(s)
BO ---------- Biological Opinion
CWD ---------- Coarse Woody Debris
DBH---------- Diameter Breast Height
EA ---------- Environmental Assessment
ESA---------- Endangered Species Act
FONSI--------- Finding of No Significant Impact
LUA ---------- Land Use Allocation
LWD ---------- Large Woody Debris
NEPA --------- National Environmental Policy Act (1969)
NMFS --------- National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA--------- National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
NWFP--------- Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (1994) (Northwest Forest Plan)
RMP---------- Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (1995)
RMPFEIS----- Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan / Final Environmental Impact Statement (1994)
RR ---------- Riparian Reserves (land use allocation)
USDI ---------- United States Department of the Interior
USFWS ------- United States Fish and Wildlife Service

10.0 Response to Scoping Comments

A scoping letter, dated November 17, 2006, was sent to 13 potentially affected and/or interested individuals, groups, and agencies. One response was received during the scoping period.

10.1 Summary of comments and BLM responses

The following addresses comments raised in one E-Mail correspondence from the public received as a result of scoping (40 CFR Part 1501.7). The complete text of the comment is provided below.

10.1.1 Jason Kirchner (ODFW Stream Habitat Restoration Biologist) (February 26, 2007)

1. Comment: This proposed project would be a great opportunity to obtain large (conifer) logs, trees, logs with root wads, etc for fish habitat projects. We would utilize this material in a number of upcoming and future restoration projects in the area, and hope to partner with BLM on future fish habitat restoration opportunities as well. Please let me know if obtaining these materials is possible for fish habitat work.

Response: The Marys Peak Resource Area will be reviewing our management decisions in regards to providing materials for future in-stream projects. Our goal is to develop direction on what becomes in-stream vs what is sold as a timber sale so that we are able to act instead of re-act when material becomes available. Once we decide on what material becomes eligible for in-stream habitat restoration projects then either I or Scott Snedaker will contact you.