



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

1300 AIRPORT LANE, NORTH BEND, OR 97459

Web Address: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay> E-mail: OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov

Telephone: (541) 756-0100 Toll Free: (888) 809-0839 Fax: (541) 751-4303



1792(OR-120)

EA OR128-03-24 Chopsticks

Sept 25, 2007

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Attached is a copy of the Decision Documentation for the Chopsticks Stewardship Restoration Project, EA OR128-03-24 DNA #2. Through a Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), BLM has determined that the previously prepared Brummit Creek Density Management and Restoration Environmental Assessment (EA OR128-03-24) adequately analyzed this new action, and therefore, a new EA was not needed.

This Decision Documentation would also be posted on the District Internet site:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay>.

In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this stewardship project would not become effective until the Notice of Forest Management Decision is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands affected by the decision are located. For this Project, the Notice of Forest Management would be published in *The World* newspaper.

Sincerely,

Paul t. Flanagan

Paul T. Flanagan
Myrtlewood Field Manager

Attachment:

Chopsticks Stewardship Dec Document
Map (1pg).



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1792 (OR-120)
DNA 2
EA OR 128-03-24

Decision Documentation for Chopsticks Stewardship Restoration Project DNA No. 2 to EA OR128-03-24

Background:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coos Bay District, previously prepared and Environmental Assessment (EA OR128-03-24) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in evaluating the effects of Density Management within Late-Successional and Riparian Reserves, and Road Related and Instream restoration activities within the Brummit Creek planning area. This project is located in T28S R10W Section 5, in the China creek drainage. The purposes of the Brummit Creek Density Management and Restoration Environmental Assessment which apply to the Chopsticks Stewardship project are:

- Implement the Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan by planning and implementing silvicultural/fuels treatments in Late-Successional and Riparian Reserves to be beneficial to the creation of late-successional and Riparian Habitats (RMP ROD p. 19 and E-8).
- Develop management actions which promote the attainment of the objectives for Late-Successional Reserves which include enhancing conditions and maintaining the function of late-successional and old-growth forest systems (RMP ROD p. 18).
- Develop management actions which promote attainment of the objectives for Riparian Reserves including maintaining and restoring plant species composition and structure, riparian habitats and habitat connectivity, water quality and sediment regimes (RMP ROD p. 6-7).

The Chopsticks Stewardship Restoration Project consists of density management thinning within Late-Successional and Riparian Reserves on 65 acres, all less than 80 yrs of age. In addition, the stewardship project would renovate 0.5 miles of road

The Environmental Assessment analyzed a No Action Alternative and a Proposed Action Alternative. The proposed project, as described under the Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA) No. 2 to EA OR128-03-24, is substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed. There has been no new information or circumstances that would affect the analysis and conclusions in the original EA. The direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing document. Project Design Features are taken directly from the parent EA and applied to this project.

The DNA is tiered to the *Final – Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP) and its *Record of Decision*, as supplemented and

amended, which is in conformance with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for the Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (i.e. Northwest Forest Plan [NFP] and its *Record of Decision*, as supplemented and amended. The relevant watershed analysis is the East Fork Coquille Watershed Analysis (May 2000).

Actions described in the DNA are in conformance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. A detailed analysis is located in the Brummit EA analysis file.

Decision:

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action as described in DNA No.2 to EA OR128-03-24, the Chopsticks Stewardship Restoration Project.

The proposed action is to implement silvicultural prescriptions on Unit 3, a Unit which was dropped from consideration, and change the harvest method from helicopter logging to cable based yarding on Unit 2 because of economic feasibility. The proposed action would implement activities and prescriptions outlined in the original EA. These prescriptions include density management thinning, some hardwood thinning, and gap creation. Road renovation would also be implemented according to the EA. The fish barrier culvert on China Creek would be replaced with a passable structure.

On July 25, 2007, the Under Secretary of the Department of Interior signed a new Survey and Manage Record of Decision¹ that removed the survey and manage requirements from all of the BLM resource management plans (RMPs) within the range of the northern spotted owl. In any case, this project falls within two of the exceptions listed in the modified October 11, 2006 injunction. These exemptions are: 1. Thinning projects in stands younger than 80 years old 2. Replacing culverts on roads that are in use and part of the road system.

Rationale for Decision:

I am choosing to offer the Chopsticks Stewardship Restoration Project for the following reasons:

- It meets the purpose and need for action described in the EA and in the *Final – Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP)* and its *Record of Decision*, as supplemented and amended.
- It is consistent with the RMP objectives and management directions for the Late-Successional Reserve LUA, the Riparian Reserves LUA, roads, and fish habitat restoration.
- It is consistent with the Proposed Action (Alternative 2) as described in the EA.
- The No Action alternative fails to address the purpose and need for action and does not meet the management objectives.

¹

Complete Title: Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl

Administrative Remedies:

In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this project would not become effective until the Notice of Forest Management is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands affected by the decision are located. For this project, the Notice of Forest Management would be published in *The World* newspaper.

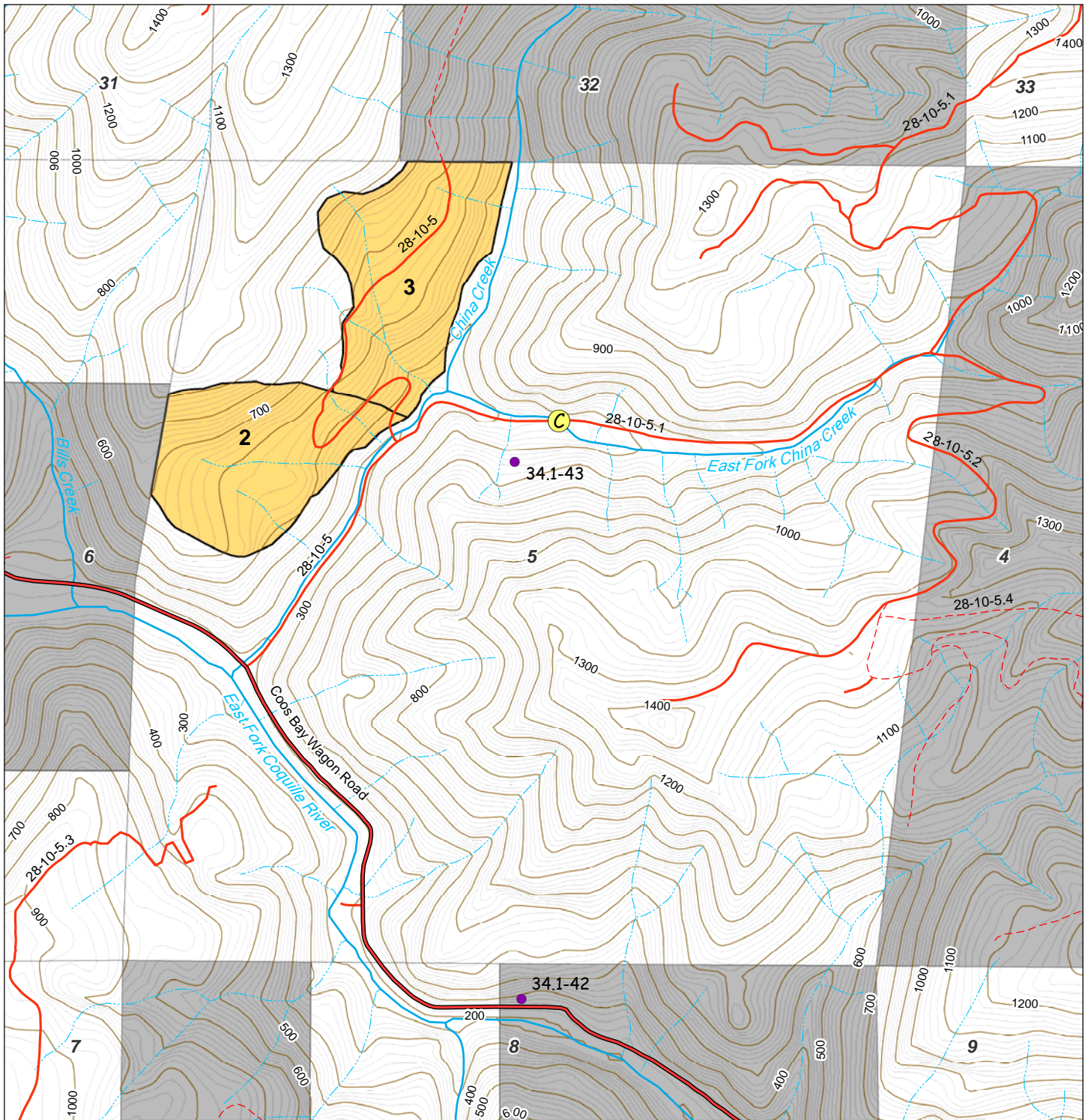
Decision Recommended by:

<u>Dennis Turowski</u>	<u>9/25/2007</u>	<u>Teresa Collier</u>	<u>9/25/2007</u>
Dennis Turowski Natural Resource Staff Administrator	Date	Teresa Collier Natural Resource Staff Administrator	Date

Decision Approved by:

<u>Paul T. Flanagan</u>	<u>9/25/2007</u>
Paul T. Flanagan Myrtlewood Field Manager	Date

Chopsticks Stewardship Units - T28S-R10W Sec. 5



Map Features

- Coos Bay Wagon Road
- BLM Controlled Road
- - - Non-BLM Controlled Road
- Fishbearing Stream
- - - Non-Fishbearing Stream
- Chopsticks Stewardship Units
- BLM Administered Lands
- State, Private & Other
- 2002 Aerial Photos
- Ⓢ China Cr. Fish-Barrier Culvert



US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
 Coos Bay District Office
 Myrtlewood Resource Area

Scale = 1:12,000



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.