

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
And
DECISION RECORD

WARNER ROOST
EA-OR090-05-07**

Background:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Warner Roost project were prepared by the Upper Willamette Resource Area, Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The project would occur on approximately 350 acres located in T. 15 S., R 2 W., sections 21 and 29. Action may include timber harvest, pre-commercial thinning, snag creation, creation of coarse wood debris, road improvements, temporary road construction and road decommissioning.

Purpose and Objective:

The purpose of the action is to accelerate the development of suitable nesting and roosting habitat for bald eagles and to reduce human impacts to eagles by closing roads on BLM lands. Proposed actions would be in alignment with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) bald eagle recovery plan and recommendations in the “McKenzie Resource Area Bald Eagle Habitat Management Plan.” The need for this action is established in the Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP/ROD). This directs that silvicultural prescriptions be developed and implemented to promote the development of habitat conditions favorable to bald eagles on lands adjacent to or identified as Bald Eagle Habitat Areas (BEHAs).

Clarifications:

Under alternative 3, there is issue analysis regarding soils (EA Section 4.3.3, pg. 14) that is relevant only to acres proposed for thinning in Alternative 2. These acres are not proposed for thinning under alternative 3, therefore the analysis does not apply.

Public Comment:

The EA was advertised on July of 2005, in the Eugene Register Guard, as available for a 30-day public review period. One comment letter was received during the review period. Comments from this letter were mainly subjective and did not ask for clarification on any issue.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

On the basis of the information contained in the attached Environmental Assessment, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the Proposed Action will not have significant environmental impacts not already addressed in the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994)* and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (June 1995)*, and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (2001)* with which this EA is in conformance, and does not, in and of

itself, constitute a major federal action having significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, a new environmental impact statement or supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Decision:

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment No. 0R090-EA-05-07 and the Finding of No Significant Impact, it is my decision to implement Alternative 2. This alternative proposes to thin uplands and Riparian Reserve Areas totaling approximately 350 acres. Thinning would be designed to accelerate the development of suitable nesting and roosting habitat for bald eagles. Snags and down logs would also be created throughout the project area, varying in size and tree species.

To access acres for treatment, approximately 1 mile of proposed temporary road would be constructed. Roughly 1 mile of existing rock road would be blocked or gated, and culvert replacements would be installed on 2 miles of existing permanent road.

Decision Rationale:

Alternative 2 was selected because it best meets the purpose and need described in the EA. Alternative 3 was not selected as it would reduce the acres treated from approximately 350 acres to 220 acres because the temporary roads would not be constructed. Consequently, the acres, which are considered to have the highest potential for suitable nesting habitat (due to existing stand characteristics), could not be treated. Without treatment, these stands would take several decades longer to become suitable habitat than it would under Alternative 2.

Administrative Review Opportunities:

The decision to implement this project may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies. In accordance with 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this project will not be subject to protest until the notice of sale is first published in the Eugene Register-Guard. This published notice of sale will constitute the decision document for the purpose of protests of this project (43 CFR 5003.2b). Protests of this decision must be filed with this office within fifteen (15) days after first publication of the notice of sale.

As interpreted by BLM, the regulations do not authorize the acceptance of protests in any form other than a signed, written hard copy that is delivered to the physical address of the BLM Eugene District Office.

Approved by:

William O'Sullivan
William O'Sullivan
Upper Willamette Resource Area Manager

Date: 2/20/07