

***Supplemental Environmental
Assessment for the
Cow Catcher Timber Sale***

EA #OR-105-04-10
(Supplement to EA # OR-105-98-05)

South River Field Office, Roseburg District

Prepared: August 2, 2004

Finding of No Significant Impact

As described in the supplemental EA (p. 4), the direct effect of the timber sale on red tree voles, a Bureau Tracking Species, is the removal of 146 acres of primary habitat, and the expected loss of any red tree vole nests and any red tree voles that may be present in the sale area. The habitat removed represents slightly more than one-half of one percent of the 26,951 acres of primary red tree vole habitat provided by federal lands in the Lower Cow Creek watershed.

The analysis in the supplemental EA (p. 6 and Appendix B), projects that in 100 years (2104), there will continue to be sufficient habitat in the Lower Cow Creek watershed to support stable populations of red tree voles. Under present management direction, 92 percent, or 36,641 acres of the 39,945 acres of BLM-administered lands in the watershed are projected to provide primary red tree vole habitat. Ninety percent of all primary habitat, or 32,963 acres, would remain in reserved land use allocations withdrawn from timber harvest.

This is consistent with the findings contained in the 2004 *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (pp. 207-208) which concluded that federal lands would provide sufficient habitat to provide for stable and well-distributed populations of the species, except possibly in the northern Coast Range of Oregon and foothills of the Willamette Valley where there is little federally-managed land.

As described in the supplemental EA (pp. 7-8), the *Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP) requires that within individual Connectivity/Diversity Blocks 25-30 percent of forest stands will be maintained as late-successional forest, 80 years or greater in age. Regeneration harvest will only be programmed in late-successional forest stands on a rotation age of 150 years. The ROD/RMP further specifies that regeneration harvest in Connectivity/Diversity Blocks will be limited, on a decadal basis, to 1/15 of the total acreage available on the entire Roseburg District.

As addressed in the supplemental EA (pp. 8-9), harvest authorized by the Cow Catcher Timber Sale Decision, late-successional forest in Section 9, T. 31 S., R. 6 W. will be reduced to 502 acres or 80 percent of the Block. In Section 17, T. 31 S., R. 6 W., late-successional forest will be reduced to 198 acres or 30.5 percent of the Block. The units to be harvested are 225 years old, consistent with harvest of late-successional forest on a 150-year rotation.

Since implementation of the ROD/RMP in June of 1995, authorized and planned regeneration harvest for the entire land use allocation, from 1995 through 2005, totals 911 acres or 50.8 percent of the decadal allowance authorized by the ROD/RMP.

Consequently, regeneration harvest in Connectivity/Diversity Blocks in the Cow Catcher Timber Sale project area is consistent with management direction from the ROD/RMP for regeneration harvest in individual Blocks and for the entire land use allocation.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the Cow Catcher Timber Sale and the analysis in the original Cow Catcher Timber Sale EA, I have determined that the proposed action will not have any significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and an environmental impact statement is not required.

I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the ROD/RMP for the Roseburg District, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995, as amended by the 2004 *Record of Decision to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines*. I have also concluded that the impacts of the proposed action on the human environment do not exceed those anticipated in the *Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*.

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Date