

**Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)**

**Darth Raider  
Commercial Thinning & Density Management**

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District  
EA# OR-104-02-09

Darth Raider Commercial Thinning and Density Management timber sale will occur on approximately 181 acres in six units in Sections 17, 18, and 19, T. 24 S., R. 07 W., Willamette Meridian. The stands that will be treated are second-growth forest that range in age from 39 -66 years old. Within these 181 acres, approximately five acres will be removed for the development of roads and spur right-of-ways.

This timber sale is located within the General Forest Management Area, Riparian Reserve, and Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) land-use allocations. Darth Raider will provide approximately 2.716 MMBF of merchantable timber available for auction.

**Test for Significant Impacts.**

1. Has significant impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (1))?

( ) Yes                      (✓) No

**Remarks:** Any impacts will be consistent with the range and scope of those effects analyzed and described in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS).

2. Has significant adverse impacts on public health or safety (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (2))?

( ) Yes                      (✓) No

**Remarks:** Treatment of logging slash by prescribed fire has the potential to affect air quality locally. Burning will be accomplished under guidelines established by the Oregon Smoke Management Plan and Visibility Protection Plan to avoid adverse effects. Any impacts to local air quality will be localized and of short duration, consistent with the range and scope of those effects analyzed and described in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS, pp. 4-9 to 4-12).

3. Adversely effects such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (3))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** Unique geographic characteristics (such as those listed above) are absent from the project area and will not be affected.

4. Has highly controversial effects on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (4))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** Public comments provided information that helped in the formulation of the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan decision (October 8, 2003) and is reflected in both that decision (pgs. 3-9) and in the Project Design Features for the Darth Raider Density Management project (Darth Raider Decision Document, pgs. 6-12).

Public notification of Darth Raider was available through the Summer 2007, Fall 2007, and Winter 2007 Quarterly Planning Updates. In addition, the public was also notified of those portions of the Darth Raider project formerly proposed as Basin Shield Commercial Thinning and Density Management in the Spring 2007 Quarterly Planning Update. However, no comments were received that I consider highly controversial in regards to the design of this project.

5. Has highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks to the human environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (5))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The risks to the human environment from the proposed project were analyzed and found not to be highly uncertain or unique (Darth Raider Decision Document, Table 2, pgs. 16-23).

6. Establishes a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (6))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The advertisement, auction, and award of a timber sale contract allowing the harvest of trees is a well-established practice and does not establish a precedent for future actions.

7. Is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (7))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The cumulative impacts to forest vegetation, wildlife, fire and fuels management, hydrology, soils, fish populations and habitat were analyzed in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan EA (pgs. 20, 27-28, 32-33, and E-14) and in the Darth Raider Decision Document (Table 2, pgs. 16-23). The cumulative impacts were found not to be significant because they will not exceed those identified in the *Final - Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* (PRMP/EIS, 1994).

8. Has adverse effects on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (8))?

Yes  No

**Remarks:** The BLM conducted inventories (July 2006; June, 2007) for cultural resources and completed Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, in accordance with the 1998 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office protocols (Darth Raider Decision Document, pg. 16). No cultural resources were discovered. It has been determined that there will be no effect to scientific or cultural, resources (Darth Raider Decision Document, pg. 16).

9. May adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (9))?

Botanical Species  Yes  No

Fish Species  Yes  No

Wildlife Species  Yes  No

**Remarks:** Surveys did not identify the presence of any federally threatened or endangered botanical species; therefore the action will have no effect on listed botanical species (Darth Raider Decision Document, pg. 16).

On November 27, 2007, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) notified the OR/WA BLM that the Oregon Coast coho salmon was proposed for listing as threatened under the ESA (Darth Raider Decision Document, pg. 13). The Roseburg District made a determination that this project will result in a “may effect, not likely to adversely affect [NLAA]” in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Density Management Plan Biological Assessment (Sept. 30, 2005) prepared for consultation with NMFS (Darth Raider Decision Document, pg. 18).

There is Essential Fish Habitat for Coho salmon or Chinook salmon approximately 0.5 miles from proposed the harvest units (Darth Raider Decision Document, Appendix E, Table 2). Conservation measures incorporated into the project design features will prevent adverse effects to Essential Fish Habitat. However, the project will not adversely affect essential fish habitat. Therefore, consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service is not required (Darth Raider Decision Document, pg. 18).

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been completed for the federally threatened northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet and

for spotted owl critical habitat and murrelet critical habitat (Darth Raider Decision Document, pg. 19).

A Letter of Concurrence was received from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (*Reinitiation of consultation on Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management FY 2005-2008 Management Activities* [Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511]) dated June 24, 2005 which concurred with the Roseburg District's conclusion that commercial thinning and density management activities was *not likely to adversely affect* the northern spotted owl, spotted owl critical habitat, marbled murrelet, or marbled murrelet critical habitat (Darth Raider Decision Document, pg. 19-21).

Project design features (Darth Raider Decision Document, pgs. 6-12) will be implemented in compliance with the letters of concurrence.

10. Threatens to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (10))?

( ) Yes                      (✓) No

**Remarks:** The measures described above ensure that Darth Raider Commercial Thinning and Density Management will be consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of the silvicultural treatment on the human environment will not exceed those anticipated by the Roseburg District PRMP/EIS.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider the effects of this decision on the President's National Energy Policy. Within the project area, there are no known energy resources with commercial potential. There are no pipelines, electrical transmission lines, or energy producing or processing facilities. As a consequence, there will be no known adverse effect on National Energy Policy.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I have determined that Darth Raider Commercial Thinning and Density Management will not have a significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. I have determined that the effects of the silvicultural treatment will be within those anticipated and already analyzed in the PRMP/EIS (1994) and will be in conformance with the *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP) for the Roseburg District, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995.

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Marci L. Todd, Field Manager  
Swiftwater Field Office

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Date