

Green Thunder Addendum Environmental Assessment

EA #OR-104-06-02

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District

Revising the
Green Thunder Regeneration and Commercial Thinning Harvest
EA # OR-104-99-04

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has completed the Green Thunder Addendum environmental assessment (Addendum EA) which revises the Green Thunder Regeneration and Commercial Thinning Harvest EA (Green Thunder EA).

All of the ten points listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b) were considered; however, the following were found not to apply to the action: significant beneficial or adverse effects; significant effects on public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; highly uncertain or unknown risks; no precedents for future actions with significant effects; and anticipated cumulatively significant impacts.

The following Critical Elements of the Human Environment will not be affected because they are absent from the project area: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); prime or unique farmlands; floodplains; wilderness; waste, solid or hazardous; and Wild and Scenic Rivers. No unique characteristics will be impacted (Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(3)).

No cultural or historical resources or Native American religious concerns or values were identified with respect to the project area. Thus, there will be no effect on potential Native American Religious Concerns (Green Thunder EA, Appendix E, p. 1) and there will be no adverse impacts to scientific, cultural, or historical resources (40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(8)).

Surveys and clearances were completed for special status wildlife species in the timber sale area as documented in the Green Thunder EA (Appendix F, Tables 1 through 3). Analysis in the Green Thunder EA (pp. 23-24 and 30-32) showed that any impacts to special status wildlife species will be within the range and scope of those analyzed in the Roseburg District *Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (PRMP/EIS). Compliance with the survey and manage wildlife species program in the timber sale area is documented in the Green Thunder Addendum EA (2001 ROD Compliance Review: Survey & Manage Wildlife Species). There are no survey and manage wildlife species in the timber sale area.

The BLM consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the effects of timber harvest on the Northern spotted owl. The effects of the removal of suitable nesting, roosting and foraging habitat are addressed in the August 29, 2005 *Biological Opinion for fiscal year 2005-2008 Management Activities* (1-15-05-F-0512). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that regeneration harvest was likely to adversely affect spotted owls (*Biological Opinion*, p. 78). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also concluded, however, that the effect is not expected to appreciably reduce the likelihood of spotted owl survival and recovery (*Biological Opinion*, p. 79). It noted that such declines were anticipated in the Northwest Forest Plan, and that the best available information indicates that there is no reason to believe that the conservation strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan is flawed.

Surveys and clearances were completed for special status botany species in the timber sale area as documented in the Green Thunder EA (p. 16 and Appendix F, Tables 5 – Special Status Plant Species Summary and Appendix F, Botanical Clearances). There are no BLM special status plants or State listed species in the project area. Compliance with the survey and manage botany species program in the timber sale area is documented in the Green Thunder Addendum EA (pp. 7-8 and 2001 ROD Compliance Review: Survey & Manage Botany Species). As discussed in the Green Thunder Addendum EA (p. 8), there will be no effect to the *Nephroma occultum* population in the project area because it is located entirely outside of timber sale unit boundaries.

There are no fish species present in the project watershed currently listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Green Thunder EA, p. 18 and Appendix E, p. 1). There is no Essential Fish Habitat in or immediately adjacent to any timber sale units (Green Thunder EA, p. 18). No effects on fish or Essential Fish Habitat downstream of the project area are anticipated because Riparian Reserves established on all perennial and intermittent streams will maintain shading, prevent disturbance of stream banks and channels, protect stream pools, provide a continuous source of large wood, and filter out sediments transported overland (Green Thunder EA, pp. 21-22).

For the reasons described above, there will be no significant adverse impacts to any special status species or critical habitat (40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(9)). Any impacts will be within the range and scope of those analyzed in the Roseburg District PRMP/EIS.

The action conforms with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations (40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(10)). Impacts on the human environment will not exceed those anticipated in the PRMP/EIS.

Implementation of the District *Integrated Weed Management Program*, in association with project design and contract provisions will minimize risk of introduction or spread of noxious weeds in association with road construction and timber harvest. Eradication measures will be implemented, as well as measures to discourage weed establishment. These will include mulching disturbed areas and seeding with native grasses to discourage weed establishment, and pressure washing or steam cleaning logging and road construction equipment prior to move-in to avoid introducing weeds from outside the project area (Green Thunder EA, p. 11). These actions will be consistent with the requirements of the Lacey Act; the Federal Noxious Weed Act of

1974, as amended; and Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species.

The action is consistent with Executive Order 12898 which addresses Environmental Justice. No potential impacts to low-income or minority populations have been identified by the BLM internally or through the public involvement process. Correspondence with local Native American tribal governments has not identified any known unique or special resources in the project areas which provide religious, employment, subsistence or recreation opportunities. Employment associated with the project will involve local contractors who engage in similar types of work throughout Douglas County.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider effects of this decision on National Energy Policy. Within the project area there are no known energy resources with commercial potential, and there are no pipelines, electrical transmission lines, energy producing or processing facilities (Green Thunder EA, Appendix D, p. 4) and there will be no known adverse effect on National Energy Policy.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the Addendum EA and in the Green Thunder EA, I have determined that the 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 further determined that the action conforms to management direction from 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. Further, there are no additional significant impacts beyond those already analyzed in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS) (October 1994) to which this environmental assessment is tiered.



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6/27/06
Date