

Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)

Rone Access Environmental Assessment

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District
EA #OR-104-07-09

The Rone Access project will construct a 40 foot road in Section 31 of T. 24 S., R. 03 W. Willamette Meridian, beginning at the 24-3-30.0 road.

This project is within the General Forest Management Area Land Use Allocation and will cross BLM administered land to access Roseburg Resources Company lands.

The Roseburg District *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* directs “[r]eview, on a case-by-case basis, new development proposals that address public needs or provide significant public benefits. They may be approved when adverse effects can be minimized and mitigated” (ROD/RMP, pg. 30).

Test for Significant Impacts.

1. Has significant impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse (40 CFR §1508.27(b) (1))?
() Yes (✓) No
Remarks: The proposal will not have significant impacts. Any impacts will be within 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: Logging slash will be disposed of by Roseburg Resources Company on their own lands. Roseburg Resources Company will be subject to Oregon State smoke management and permitting procedures.
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: After contacting adjacent landowners, no comments were received (EA, pgs. 16-17).

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 (EA, pg. 6).

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 construction of roads across Bureau of Land Management administered lands for access to private lands is a well-established practice and will not establish 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 (pgs. 7, 13-15), wildlife (pgs. 7-9), fire and fuels management (pg. 6), soils (pg. 11), hydrology (pgs. 9-10), fish populations and habitat (pg. 11-13) were analyzed in the Rone Access EA and found not to be significant.

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 surveys 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 (EA, pgs. 5, 16). No cultural resources were discovered (EA, pg. 6). It has been determined that there will be no effect to scientific, cultural, or historical resources (EA, pg. 6).

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Fish Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Wildlife Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Remarks: Surveys did not identify the presence of any federally threatened or endangered botanical species; therefore the proposed action will have no effect on listed botanical species (EA, pgs. 14).

The Oregon coast coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) salmon was listed on May 12, 2008, as a threatened species (50 CFR Parts 223 and 226, pg. 7816). The nearest fish bearing stream is over 1000 feet away from the proposed road construction (EA, pg. 11). There will be no affect to water quality/quantity, sedimentation, stream flow, large woody debris delivery to the stream or fish passage. Therefore, there are no mechanisms for an adverse effect to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Since the proposed action will not affect the components of EFH, the action “*Will Not Adversely Affect*” EFH for Oregon coast coho salmon (EA, pg. 13). Therefore the proposed action will have “*No Effect*” on listed coho and further consultation is not required.

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 for spotted owl critical habitat critical habitat (EA, pg. 16).

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 the proposed road construction and reclamation activities are *not likely to adversely affect* Northern spotted owls as a result of disturbance (pgs. 3-4, 16).

Project design features (EA, pgs. 4-6) 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 insure that the Rone Access project will be consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of the road repairs and realignment 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 the Rone Access road construction 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 Rone Access road construction will be within those anticipated and already analyzed in the *Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (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.

Marci L. Todd, Field Manager
Swiftwater Field Office

Date