

**U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg District, Oregon**

**Saddle Up To Paradise
Commercial Thinning & Density Management
Decision Document**

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**U.S. Department of Interior
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Roseburg BLM District, Oregon**

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SECTION 1 – THE DECISION

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative as described in the Saddle Up To Paradise Commercial Thinning and Density Management Environmental Assessment (EA) in Chapter 2, pages 6-9 (EA #OR-104-07-03). The Project Design Features that will be implemented as part of the Action Alternative are described on pages 9-15 of the Saddle Up To Paradise EA. These project design features have been developed into contract stipulations and will be implemented as part of the timber sale contract.

The proposed commercial thinning and density management will occur on two units (approximately 200 acres) of 33 to 64 year-old second-growth forest located in the Elk Creek/Upper Umpqua Fifth-Field Watershed in Section 27; T21S, R07W; Willamette Meridian. Within these 200 acres, approximately 10 acres will be removed for the development of spur roads.

This project is within the General Forest Management Area (89 acres), Riparian Reserve (20 acres), and unmapped Late-Successional Reserve (LSR)(81 acres) Land Use Allocations and approximately 3.184 million board feet of timber will be available to support local and regional manufacturers and economies. In addition, approximately 0.2 acres will be removed for the development of spur roads on private, industrial forest lands.

Saddle Up To Paradise will provide approximately 3,184 MBF of merchantable timber available for auction. Approximately 1,679 MBF is within GFMA, 320 MBF is within Riparian Reserves, and 1,185 MBF is within the unmapped Late-Successional Reserve.

This decision is subject to administrative remedy under 43 CFR § 5003.2 and 5003.3.

Updated Information

Acreage reported for the treatment prescription (EA, pgs. 1-2, 6) and timber yarding summary (EA, pgs 1-2, 8) and mileages for road construction and renovation (EA, pgs. 1-2, 9) have been updated based on GPS data since the EA was released for public review on July 3, 2007. In addition, there have been developments in legal actions involving the Oregon Coast coho (EA, pgs. 42-43, 53) and updates to the Bureau Special Status Species policy (EA, pgs. 25-27, 75-79) and what will be decommissioned with the use of subsoiling (EA, pgs. 1-2, 9, 11-12).

This updated information, described below, has been considered but does not alter the conclusions of the analysis.

1) Treatment Prescription:

Units 27A and 27B will be commercially thinned and have density management treatments

applied. These units consist of approximately 200 acres (formerly 206 acres) of mid-seral forest, aged 33 to 64 years. The harvest area is divided amongst: GFMA (89 acres [formerly 104 acres]), unmapped LSR (81 acres [formerly 82 acres]), and Riparian Reserves (20 acres). Within the 200 acres, approximately 10 acres will be removed for the development of spur roads.

2) Timber Yarding:

Saddle Up To Paradise will require a mix of skyline cable yarding (109 acres [formerly reported as 115 acres]) and ground-based yarding (91 acres). Approximately 10 acres of the 91 acres of ground-based yarding will be for the development of spur roads. Up to 10 acres of additional, incidental ground-based logging may be necessary (i.e. removal of guyline anchor trees, isolated portions of units, etc.) and will occur on gentle slopes (less than 35 percent) within the proposed units, during the dry season.

3) Road Construction and Renovation:

Approximately 1.94 miles (formerly 1.98 miles) of new spur roads (Spurs #1-6) will be constructed and approximately 2.07 miles (formerly 1.78 miles) of existing road will be renovated.

4) Decommissioning:

Natural surfaced spurs (Spurs #2, #6, a portion of Spur #1, and a portion of old roadbed near Spur #3) within the unmapped LSR and Riparian Reserve will be decommissioned by blocking with trench barriers, water-barring, subsoiling, and mulching with logging slash where available or with straw if logging slash is not available (0.8 miles [formerly 0.67 miles]). The equivalent of approximately 0.6 miles of logging landings and/or decking areas will be subsoiled. In addition, there will be approximately four miles of existing or new skid trails located in the ground-based yarding portion of the units that will be subsoiled.

5) Oregon Coast Coho Ecologically Significant Unit:

On July 13, 2007, U.S. Magistrate Judge Stewart made findings and recommendations in Trout Unlimited v. Lohn (CV-06-1493-ST) that the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) determination not to list the Oregon Coast coho salmon is arbitrary, capricious, contrary to the best available science and that NMFS should be ordered to issue a new final listing rule consistent with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) within 60 days of the Court's decision. The U.S. District Court has not issued a court order in Trout Unlimited v. Lohn.

The status of listing for the Oregon Coast coho under the ESA remains unchanged from the analysis that was conducted in the Saddle Up To Paradise EA (pgs. 42-43). The Oregon Coast coho is still considered a Bureau Sensitive species and was analyzed as such in the EA (pgs. 42-46, 82).

6) Updated Special Status Species List:

On July 26, 2007, the Oregon/Washington BLM revised the special status species list and policy in IM-OR-2007-072. Updates to Oregon/Washington special status species include: the removal of the previous categories of Bureau Assessment and Bureau Tracking, the addition of the category of "Strategic Species", updates to the criteria for the creation of Bureau Sensitive species, and changes to the list of species that are Sensitive or Strategic.

The updates are effective immediately; however, there is a phase in for implementation of pre-project clearances for the new species listed as Bureau Sensitive. Where pre-project

clearances have already been conducted for a project, there are no requirements to conduct pre-project clearances or address the newly added Bureau Sensitive species in your National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects.

Since evaluations and clearances for special status species were already completed prior to the effective date of IM-OR-2007-072 (as documented in the Saddle Up To Paradise EA, pgs. 25-27, 51), it is not necessary to update the EA based on the aforementioned direction (previous paragraph).

Compliance and Monitoring

Compliance with this decision will be ensured by frequent on the ground inspections by the Contracting Officer's Representative. Monitoring will be conducted as per the direction given in Appendix I of the RMP (pgs. 189-209).

SECTION 2 – THE DECISION RATIONALE

The Project Design Features described in the EA (pgs. 9-15) will minimize soil compaction, limit erosion, protect slope stability, protect wildlife, protect air and water quality, and protect fish habitat, as well as protect other identified resource values. I have reviewed the resource information contained in the EA, which is briefly summarized in Table 2 (below), and the updated information presented in this Decision. This decision recognizes that impacts could occur to some of these resources; however, the impacts to resource values will not exceed those identified in the *Final - Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* (PRMP/EIS). This decision provides timber commodities resulting from silvicultural treatments whose effects to the environment are within those anticipated and already analyzed in the PRMP/EIS.

Chapter 2 of the EA describes two alternatives: a "No Action" alternative and a "Proposed Action" alternative. The No Action alternative was not selected because it did not meet the objectives from pages 3-4 of the EA to: comply with Section I of the O&C Act, provide a sustainable supply of timber and other forest commodities, contribute to the Roseburg District's Allowable Sale Quantity of 45 MMBF, manage forest land to assure a high level of sustained timber productivity, or perform density management to help forest stands develop late-successional characteristics and attain forest conditions that contribute to the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. In addition, the EA did not identify any impacts under the proposed action alternative that would be beyond those identified in the PRMP/EIS.

Survey and Manage

In Northwest Ecosystem Alliance et al. v. Rey et al the U.S. District Court modified its order on October 11, 2006, amending paragraph three of the January 9, 2006 injunction. This most recent order directs:

"Defendants shall not authorize, allow, or permit to continue any logging or other ground-disturbing activities on projects to which the 2004 ROD applied unless such activities are in compliance with the 2001 ROD (as the 2001 ROD was amended or modified as of March 21, 2004), except that this order will not apply to:

- a. Thinning projects in stands younger than 80 years old;

- b. Replacing culverts on roads that are in use and part of the road system, and removing culverts if the road is temporary or to be decommissioned;
- c. Riparian and stream improvement projects where the riparian work is riparian planting, obtaining material for placing in-stream, and road or trail decommissioning; and where the stream improvement work is the placement large wood, channel and floodplain reconstruction, or removal of channel diversions; and
- d. The portions of project involving hazardous fuel treatments where prescribed fire is applied. Any portion of a hazardous fuel treatment project involving commercial logging will remain subject to the survey and management requirements except for thinning of stands younger than 80 years old under subparagraph a. of this paragraph.”

The Swiftwater Field Office has reviewed the design of Saddle Up To Paradise Commercial Thinning and Density Management as described in the EA (pgs. 6-9). Saddle Up To Paradise is a commercial thinning and density management project on 200 acres of mid-seral forest stands that are approximately 33 to 64 years old. For the foregoing reason, it is my determination that Saddle Up To Paradise Commercial Thinning and Density Management meets exemption “a” above.

SECTION 3 – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

For the Saddle Up To Paradise EA, comments were solicited (March – May, 2007) from affected tribal governments, adjacent landowners and affected State and local government agencies. No comments were received from these sources. The general public was notified via the *Roseburg District Planning Update* (Spring 2007) which was sent to approximately 150 addressees. These addressees consist of members of the public that have expressed interest in Roseburg District BLM projects. Comments were received from one local organization requesting additional information about the project.

During the thirty day public review period for the Saddle Up To Paradise EA (which ended on August 2, 2007), comments were received from four organizations.

Upon reviewing the comments that were received, the following topics warrant additional clarification specific to the Saddle Up To Paradise project: (1) clarification on the location of unmapped LSR, (2) snag habitat, (3) roads within the LSR and Riparian Reserve, (4) long-term effects of Spur #3, (5) species diversity, (6) 20 inch diameter breast height [DBH] limit, and (7) impacts to old-growth trees.

1) Clarification on the Location of Unmapped LSR

A comment was received requesting clarification of the location of the entire, unmapped LSR. The attached map (Figure 1) provides the requested clarification.

2) Snag Habitat

A comment was received that questioned the adequacy of the snag retention, particularly in the reserves, as prescribed in the Saddle Up To Paradise EA.

The project design features included in the EA (pgs. 12-13) meet the desired condition as described in the *South Coast-Northern Klamath Late-Successional Reserve Assessment* (LSRA). The LSRA (pg. 82) recommends that “[r]emnant snags would be retained where they do not present a safety problem” and “...at least 3 snags per acre on north facing slopes and 1 snag per acre on south facing slopes will be retained on completion of any density management treatment.”

As stated in the EA (pgs. 12-13), within the unmapped LSR and the Riparian Reserve, snags will be retained or created in the following manner:

(1) Snags that are greater than 10 inches DBH and greater than 16 feet tall will be retained. Tree marking was designed to protect existing snags to the extent possible. Those that pose a safety concern will be cut and left for coarse woody debris.

(2) Within two years of the completion of harvest activities, if there are less than three snags per acre on north slopes and one snag per acre on south slopes, snags will be created on a per acre basis to meet the minimum interim needs. Units 27A and 27B are considered to be a predominantly southerly aspect. Trees damaged from the harvest will be preferentially selected for girdling and recruited as snags.

Furthermore, existing snag habitat is expected to be retained due to the protection afforded them by the project design features (EA, pgs. 12-13) and additional snags may be created following harvest operations, thus providing additional snag recruitment as future habitat (EA, pgs. 26-27).

3) Roads within the LSR and Riparian Reserve

A comment was received that asked: how many miles of new roads would be built in the LSR or Riparian Reserve, how long is the segment of Spur #1 that is on a 75 percent slope, and how high the cutbank would be on the aforementioned segment of Spur #1.

The EA states that this segment of Spur #1 is 300 feet long on page 12 and 250 feet long on page 40. The different reported lengths of the segment in question represent an approximation of the length. Therefore, approximately 250-300 feet of Spur #1 will be built on soils with a 75 percent slope and the resultant cutbank is estimated to be up to 20 to 30 feet high. This segment is depicted on the attached map (Figure 1).

The miles of spurs that will be built within the LSR or Riparian Reserve is shown in Table 1 (below).

Table 1. Length of Spurs within Late-Successional or Riparian Reserves.

Spur	Length of Spur (miles)		
	Late-Successional Reserve	Riparian Reserve	Total
#1	0.55	0.01	0.56
#2	0.25	0.01	0.26
#3	0	0.15	0.15
#6	<0.01	0	<0.01
Total	0.81	0.17	0.98

4) Long-term Effects of Spur #3

A comment was received asserting that BLM must reconsider building Spur #3 because: it goes through two Riparian Reserves, its effects to soil productivity would remain indefinitely, and that detrimental compaction from roads retards the purpose of the project to increase the growth of trees.

The effects of constructing Spur #3 were considered in the EA. The EA considered and analyzed the entries into the Riparian Reserve by Spur #3 (EA, pgs. 32-33) and the long-term effects to soil productivity (EA, pgs. 36-38).

As stated in the EA (pg. 37), approximately 1.1 acres of soil productivity will be irretrievably lost due to road effects and detrimental compaction can retard the growth of adjacent trees by approximately ten percent. However, when road and in-unit effects are considered jointly, soil productivity will either be maintained or slightly decreased following implementation of the proposed action (EA, pg. 38).

Since only 1.1 acres (0.6 percent of the 200 acre project area) of soil is detrimentally impacted by road effects and soil productivity is at least maintained when the project is considered as a whole, tree growth in the entire project will not be retarded and Saddle Up To Paradise will meet the objective to help forest stands develop late-successional characteristics.

5) Species Diversity

A comment was received that stated the EA failed to explain how the native, vegetative species diversity would be enhanced by the thinning and density management prescription.

As discussed in the EA (pg. 18), the stands will not develop multi-storied canopies without altering the current growth and developmental trajectories. In the absence of treatment, shade-tolerant species (e.g. grand fir, western red cedar) remain suppressed in the understory and there will be insufficient sunlight to allow for shrub, conifer and hardwood regeneration. Furthermore, reducing the canopy closure will allow sunlight to reach the forest floor to encourage establishment of an understory and vertical stratification of canopy layers (EA, pg. 19).

6) 20 inch DBH Limit

A comment was received that the LSRA requires a maximum cutting limit of 20 inches DBH and that the EA should have also required this diameter limit.

The LSRA (pg. 82) states that “[i]n general, trees greater than 20 inches in DBH would not be cut.” Based on the cruise data, there are approximately 911 trees greater than or equal to 20 inches DBH that will be cut in the Saddle Up To Paradise project.

Approximately 4.3 percent of the total number (21,195 trees) of trees that will be harvested in this project are greater than or equal to 20 inches DBH and 95.7 percent of the trees to be harvested are less than 20 inches DBH.

Since 95.7 percent of the trees to be harvested are less than 20 inches DBH, Saddle Up To Paradise meets the LSRA recommendation that in general, trees greater than 20 inches DBH will not be cut. There is no explicit prohibition on the cutting of all trees greater than 20 inches in diameter in the LSRA.

7) Impacts to Old-Growth Trees

A comment was received that asked how many old-growth trees would be destroyed by the proposed action as a result of road rights-of-way, clearing landing areas, and operational safety concerns.

Based on the cruise data there are no old-growth conifers within the road right-of-ways (which also includes clearings for landings) within the project area. Within the road right-of-ways there are conifers up to 32 inches diameter breast height that will be harvested, but these trees have characteristics typical of second-growth trees and not old-growth trees. In addition, the project design features state that “[p]rior to attaching any logging equipment to a reserve tree, precautions to protect the tree from damage shall be taken” (EA, pg. 10).

The remaining comments received were general or philosophical in nature and did not raise issues specific to the Saddle Up To Paradise Commercial Thinning and Density Management project nor how the analysis was flawed or in error. No further comments have been received pertaining to Saddle Up To Paradise Commercial Thinning and Density Management.

SECTION 4 – PROTEST PROCEDURES

The decision described in this document is a forest management decision and is subject to protest by the public. In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR § 5003 Administrative Remedies, protests of this decision may be filed with the authorized officer [Marci L. Todd] within 15 days of the publication date of the notice of decision/timber sale advertisement in *The News-Review*, Roseburg, Oregon.

43 CFR § 5003.3 subsection (b) states that: “Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision.” This precludes the acceptance of electronic mail or facsimile protests. Only written and signed hard copies of protests that are delivered to the Roseburg District Office will be accepted. The protest must

clearly and concisely state the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error.

Protests received more than 15 days after the first publication of the notice of decision/timber sale advertisement are not timely filed and shall not be considered. Upon timely filing of a protest, the authorized officer shall reconsider the decision to be implemented in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available to her. The authorized officer shall, at the conclusion of her review, serve her decision in writing to the protesting party. Upon denial of a protest the authorized officer may proceed with the implementation of the decision.

For further information, contact Marci L. Todd, Field Manager, Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd; Roseburg, OR. 97470, 541 440-4931.

Marci L. Todd, Field Manager
Swiftwater Field Office

Date

Table 2. Summary of Effects of the Action: Saddle Up To Paradise Commercial Thinning & Density Management.

Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
Cultural Resources		
Cultural Resources.	Project area was inventoried for cultural resources (August, 1998) and Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act were completed, in accordance with the 1998 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office protocols. No cultural or historic resources were identified (EA, pg. 15).	There will be no effect to cultural or historical resources (EA, pg. 15).
Botany & Noxious Weeds		
Federally threatened (FT) Kincaid's lupine and the federally endangered (FE) rough popcorn flower .	There is no suitable habitat for the rough popcorn flower and surveys were completed for Kincaid's lupine (spring, summer, fall 2006). No Kincaid's lupine sites were discovered (EA, pg. 51).	No impacts to these two federally listed plant species will occur since there are no known sites within the project area.
Survey & Manage (S&M) Species.	Saddle Up To Paradise Commercial Thinning and Density Management meets one of the exemption criteria for Survey and Manage guidelines from the October 11, 2006 U.S. District Court Order (EA, pg. 28, 51-52).	The decision to eliminate Survey and Manage standards and guidelines is effective on this project (EA, pg. 28, 51-52).
Bureau Sensitive (BS), Assessment (BA), and Tracking (BT) Species.	Surveys were completed (spring, summer, fall 2006) and no sites were discovered (EA, pg. 51).	No impacts to BS, BA, or BT botanical species will occur since there are no known sites within the project area.
Noxious weeds.	There are infestations of noxious weeds scattered throughout the project area; mostly located within road prisms or previously used logging landings (EA, pg. 52).	The project area has been treated in the past (2002) and will receive future treatment (2007) under the Roseburg District Integrated Weed Control Plan. The project area will be monitored and new infestations will be treated in accordance with the weed control plan. The project design features will

Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
		minimize the spread of noxious weeds (EA, pg. 52).
Fisheries		
Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Coho Salmon and Chinook salmon.	The nearest essential fish habitat is located approximately 0.10 miles downslope from the harvest units (EA, pg. 45).	The project will not adversely affect essential fish habitat for Chinook or Coho salmon (EA, pg. 45). Therefore, consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service is not required.
Bureau Sensitive (BS), Assessment (BA), and Tracking (BT) Species.	Oregon Coast coho salmon (BS), Oregon coast steelhead, Coastal Cutthroat (BT) Oregon Coast Chinook Salmon, Pacific lamprey (BT), and Umpqua Chub (BS) are present within the Elk Creek fifth-field watershed (EA, pg. 42). Saddle Butte Creek, a fish-bearing stream, is adjacent to the project area (EA, pg. 43). The haul route for the project has two perennial fish-bearing, two perennial non-fish bearing, and 19 intermittent or ephemeral stream crossings (EA, pg. 43).	Since stream temperature and water chemistry will not be influenced by the action; and changes in sediment will be negligible, fish habitat and aquatic species will not be affected (EA, pg. 45).
Hydrology		
Stream Flow (water yield and peak flow).	The project will involve the partial removal of vegetation on areas constituting less than 15 percent of the watershed (EA, pg. 34).	No measurable effect to peak flow is anticipated as a result of the action because water yield increases are usually only detectable when at least 25 percent of the forest cover has been removed within a watershed (EA, pg. 34).
Stream Temperature.	Variable width “no-harvest” buffers, at least 20 feet wide, will be established along streams to retain direct shading as necessary for maintenance of water temperatures (EA, pg. 32).	Stream shading will not be affected by thinning or density management and therefore stream temperatures will not be affected (EA, pg. 32).

Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
Sedimentation.	Effects of sediment generated by timber hauling in wet weather, will be short-term and limited to the immediate vicinity of two stream crossings on the Big Tom Folley road (BLM Road 22-7-14) (EA, pg. 33).	<p>The amount of sediment contribution to Saddle Butte and Big Tom Folley Creeks from these crossings will be minimal since: (1) the road prism next to the stream at both crossings is heavily vegetated which will filter out sediment and (2) the road is on a very low gradient which will not allow for sediment transport (EA, pg. 33)</p> <p>“No-harvest” buffers will intercept surface run-off and prevent sedimentation of streams, such that there will be no cumulative degradation of water quality in the Elk Creek Watershed (EA, pg. 35).</p>
Soils		
Landslides.	Thinning and density management will result in a slight short-term (e.g. 10 years) increase in the risk of harvest-related landslides on the steep FGR slopes. This short-term increase in landslide risk is due to a temporary decrease in canopy interception of precipitation (EA, pg. 40).	The risk of slope failure under the action (which will be low) will be unchanged as compared to the no action alternative (which was also considered low [EA, pg. 40]).
Soil Productivity.	Soil productivity will either be maintained or slightly decreased (less than one acre) following implementation of the action (EA, pgs. 38, 81).	<p>A net improvement to soil productivity will be expected in the long-term because (EA, pg. 38):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Old and new surfaces with detrimental compaction will continue to recover very slowly where not subsoiled but have accelerated recovery where subsoiled and mulched. ○ The unmapped LSR and Riparian

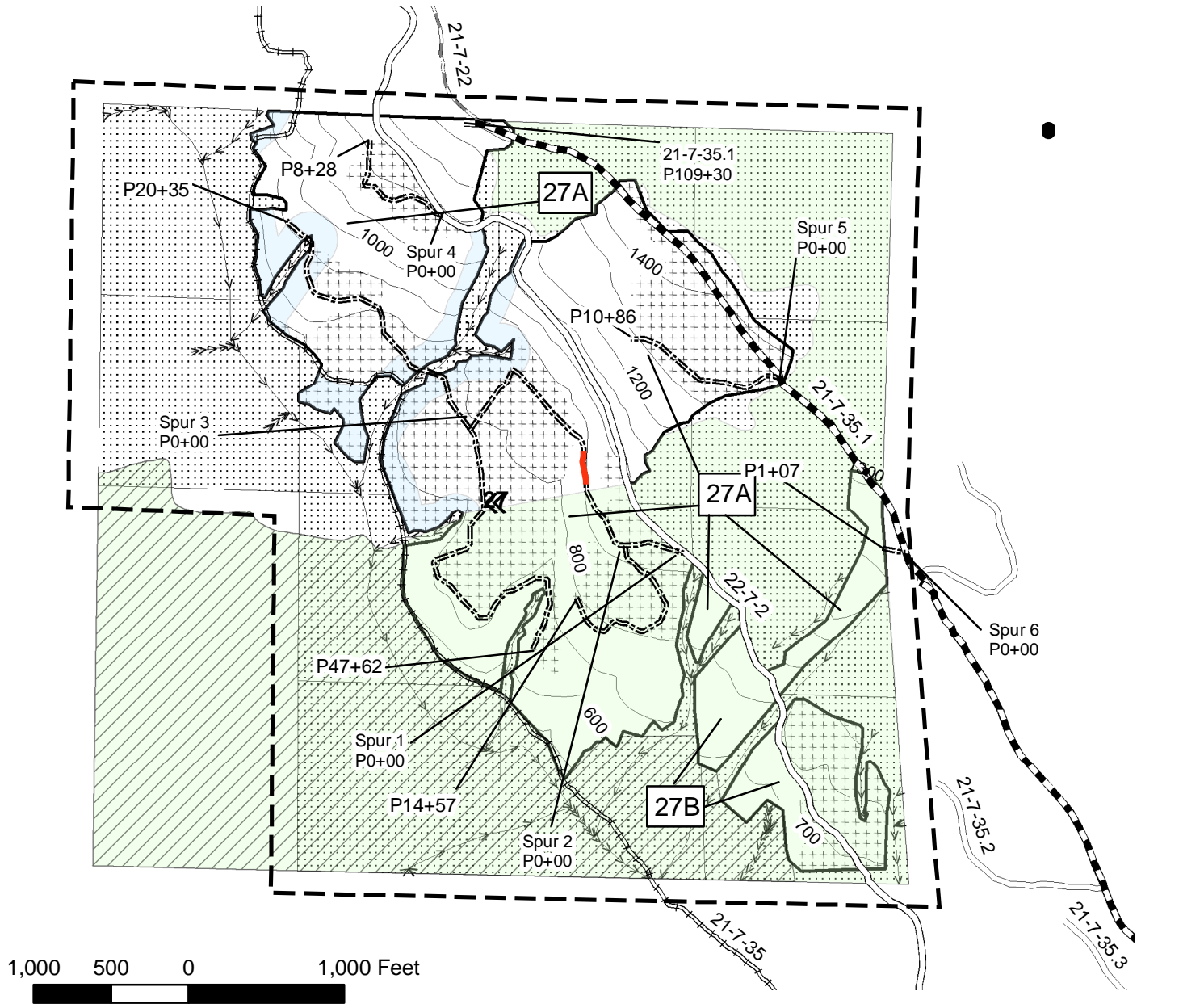
Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
		Reserve portions of the project area will not undergo future soil disturbance.
Wildlife		
<p>In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been completed for the federally threatened (FT) bald eagle, northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet and for spotted owl critical habitat and murrelet critical habitat.</p>	<p>A letter of concurrence from the USFWS for the re-initiation of consultation on Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management FY 2005-2008 Management Activities (Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511) was received June 24, 2005 (EA, pg. 53).</p>	<p>The USFWS concurred with the Roseburg District's determination that the action will <i>not likely to adversely affect</i> the marbled murrelet or northern spotted owl (EA, pgs. 21-25, 53). The action has no effect on the bald eagle (EA, pg. 21).</p> <p>Project design features will be implemented in compliance with the letters of concurrence.</p>
Bald Eagle.	<p>No noise/visual disruption effects to bald eagles will occur due to this action since there are no known nests within 0.5 mile of the harvest units. There are no known bald eagle nest sites within the project area. Based on current surveys (2006) the nearest known bald eagle nest site is approximately 9.3 miles to the southwest (EA, pg. 21).</p>	<p>No disruption effects to bald eagles will occur and suitable nesting habitat will not be modified.</p> <p>Thinning will facilitate the development of late-successional characteristics, thereby increasing the amount of suitable habitat available earlier than through natural stand development (EA, pg. 21).</p>
Noise/Visual Disruption of Marbled Murrelet nesting behaviors. The project area is located approximately 33 miles from the coast, within Zone 1 (EA, pg. 21).	<p>An occupied marbled murrelet site was detected in the south half of Section 27, T. 21 S., R. 07 W., W.M. during the intensive ground survey effort in 2004 and an un-mapped Late-Successional Reserve approximately 340 acres in size was established (EA, pg. 22).</p>	<p>Implementation of seasonal restrictions and daily operating restrictions will mitigate disturbance concerns for marbled murrelets (EA, pg. 22).</p> <p>The USFWS concurs that the commercial thinning and density management activities are not likely to adversely affect the marbled murrelet occupied site within Zone 1 (pgs.8-11,</p>

Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
Marbled Murrelet Habitat.	<p>All suitable marbled murrelet habitat within 0.25 miles of the project area was surveyed in 2003-2004 following the 2003 survey protocol. Treatment will not occur within suitable habitat, where marbled murrelets were detected (EA, pgs. 21-22).</p> <p>Older remnant trees that could serve as suitable nest trees may be present, but are not the numerically predominant stand components. Such trees will be retained to the greatest degree practicable (EA, pg. 7).</p>	<p>Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511) (EA, pg. 53).</p> <p>Commercial thinning and density management will reduce tree densities, facilitating the development of future nesting habitat by increasing tree and tree-limb growth rates; thus providing an opportunity for murrelets to occupy these stands earlier (EA, pg. 22).</p> <p>The USFWS concurs that the commercial thinning and density management activities are not likely to adversely affect the marbled murrelet occupied site within Zone 1 (pgs.8-11, Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511) (EA, pg. 53).</p>
Critical Habitat for the Marbled Murrelet.	This project is not within designated critical habitat for the marbled murrelet (EA, pg. 22).	There is no effect to critical habitat for the marbled murrelet from this action.
Noise/Visual Disruption of Northern Spotted Owl nesting behaviors.	No noise/visual disruption effects to spotted owls will occur due to this action since there are no known spotted owl nests, activity centers, or unsurveyed suitable habitat are within 65 yards of the harvest units (EA, pgs. 24-25).	No disruption effects to spotted owls will occur.
Northern Spotted Owl Habitat. There are three northern spotted owl sites that are located within 1.5 miles (Coast Range provincial home range) of the harvest units. The Saddle Butte Creek site has an established 100 acre Known Owl Activity Center (KOAC) (EA, pg. 23).	<p>Commercial thinning and density management will include the modification of 200 acres of dispersal habitat (EA, pg. 24).</p> <p>The action will accelerate the development of late-successional characteristics used by spotted owls (e.g. large diameter trees, multiple canopy layers, and hunting perches) over the</p>	<p>Based on the residual density of trees remaining following treatment, dispersal habitat will not be reduced below 49 percent canopy cover. Therefore, the capability of the habitat to function for dispersing spotted owls will be maintained (EA, pg. 24).</p> <p>The USFWS concurs that this action is not likely to adversely affect spotted</p>















Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
	long term, thereby increasing the amount of suitable habitat available to spotted owl sites earlier than through natural stand development (EA, pg. 24).	owls (pgs. 19-20) [Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511] (EA, pg. 53).
Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl.	This project is not within designated critical habitat for the northern spotted owl (EA, pg. 23).	There is no effect to critical habitat for the northern spotted owl from this action.
Northern Goshawk (Bureau Sensitive).	There are currently no known northern goshawk nest sites within the project area but they may be present in late-successional habitat immediately adjacent to the treatment units (EA, pg. 25).	Commercial thinning and density management will accelerate the development of late-successional characteristics used by northern goshawks (e.g. large diameter trees, multiple canopy layers, and hunting perches). The action will make additional suitable habitat available to goshawks earlier than through natural stand development (EA, pg. 26).
Purple Martin (Bureau Sensitive).	There are currently no known purple martin sites within the project area and the nearest known purple martin colony is approximately 11.5 miles southeast of the project area. Purple martins are expected to forage above the forest canopies within the project area (EA, pg. 26).	Purple martins will continue to forage above the canopies within the units post-harvest and potential nesting habitat (i.e. snags) will be retained and/or created following the project design features (EA, pg. 26).
Townsend's Big-eared Bat (Bureau Sensitive) & Fringed Myotis (Bureau Assessment).	Suitable roost trees include trees with deeply furrowed bark, loose bark, cavities, or with similar structures, typically in late-successional conifers. Approximately 33 potential remnant snags and an unknown number of potential bat roosting trees are expected to occur in the proposed units (EA, pg.	Existing snag habitat is expected to be retained and more snags may be created following harvest operations, thus providing additional snag recruitment as future habitat for bats (EA, pg. 27).

Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
	<p>27).</p> <p>It is unknown if the Townsend's big-eared bat or the fringed myotis is present within the proposed project area since surveys are not practical (EA, pg. 27).</p>	
<p>Remaining Bureau Sensitive (BS) and Bureau Assessment (BA) Species.</p>	<p>Evaluation of the remaining BS and BA wildlife species was completed in March, 2007 (EA, pgs. 75-76, 79) and no known sites or concerns were identified (except for the purple martin, Townsend's big-eared bat, and fringed myotis as discussed above).</p>	<p>No impacts to the remaining BS or BA wildlife species will occur since there are no known sites within the project area.</p>
<p>Bureau Tracking (BT) Species.</p>	<p>Detections of two BT species (i.e. great gray owl and pileated woodpecker) have been documented within the project area (EA, pgs. 77-72).</p>	<p>Districts are encouraged to collect occurrence data on BT species but they will not be considered as Special Status Species for management purposes (IM-OR-2003-054).</p>
<p>Survey & Manage (S&M) Species.</p>	<p>Saddle Up To Paradise Commercial Thinning and Density Management meets one of the exemption criteria for Survey and Manage from the October 11, 2006 U.S. District Court Order (EA, pgs. 27-28).</p>	<p>The decision to eliminate Survey and Manage is effective on this project (EA, pg. 28).</p>

Figure 1. Saddle Up To Paradise Commercial Thinning & Density Management (T21S-R07W Section 27, Willamette Meridian).



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|  | Riparian Reserve |  | Existing Road |
|  | Unmapped Late-Successional Reserve |  | Road to be Renovated |
|  | Marbled Murrelet Occupied Habitat |  | Spur To Be Constructed |
|  | Harvest Area - Cable Yarding |  | Segment of Spur #1 on 75% Slope |
|  | Harvest Area - Ground Based |  | Decommissioned Road |
|  | Contract Timbersale Area |  | Boundary of Cutting Area |
| | |  | Boundary of Contract Area |
| | |  | Stream |