

“DRAFT”

Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)

Little Wolf Quarry Expansion

Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District
EA# OR-104-07-05

The proposed Little Wolf Quarry Expansion would, over a 25 year lifespan, expand and reclaim the existing Little Wolf Quarry in Section 1, T. 25 S., R. 08 W., Willamette Meridian. Over the lifespan of the quarry, the project would make approximately 400,000 cubic yards of high quality rock available for this area of the coast range. The quarry would be designated a Community Pit, reserving the mineral estate within the quarry limits to the federal government and would allow for multiple entries. Expansion, excavation, reclamation, and harvest would occur concurrently throughout approximately five phases of operations.

This project is within the Late-Successional Reserve Land Use Allocation and is designed to help meet the Roseburg District’s transportation management obligations. This project is in conformance with the Roseburg District *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD)*.

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 would 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: The quarry expansion would create no additional adverse impact on public health than what was analyzed for in the ROD.

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 would not be affected.

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

Yes No

Remarks: The Little Wolf Quarry has existed and been in operation since 1968. It has been used as a community rock source since that time and is now being designated as such. No controversy is expected to be associated with the expansion, excavation, reclamation, and harvest of the area within the quarry boundaries.

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

Yes No

Remarks: The Little Wolf Quarry has existed and been in operation since 1968. The risks to the human environment from the proposed project was analyzed in the Little Wolf Quarry Expansion EA and found not to be highly uncertain or unique.

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 Little Wolf Quarry has existed and been in operation since 1968. Its operation is a well established practice and would 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 (pg. 15), wildlife (pg. 16), fire and fuels management (pg. 17), soils (pg. 19), hydrology (pg. 21), fish populations and habitat (pg. 23) were analyzed in the Little Wolf Quarry Expansion 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 has completed Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, in accordance with the 1998 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office protocols (EA, pgs. 11, 25). No cultural resources were discovered (EA, pg. 11). It has been determined that there would be no effect to scientific, cultural, or historical resources (EA, pg. 25).

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 proposed action would have no effect on listed botanical species (EA, pg. 24).

Little Wolf Quarry Expansion would have no mechanism for effect on the Oregon Coast coho or their critical habitat (EA, pg. 25). The expansion of the quarry “will not adversely effect” Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Coho salmon or Chinook salmon in Little Wolf Creek (EA, pg. 25).

The Little Wolf Quarry Expansion project will be included in the Biological Assessment of Selected Actions Proposed by the Roseburg District BLM for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010, expected to be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service on October 1, 2008. It has been determined the proposed action will “*may affect, likely to adversely affect*” the northern spotted owl due to the removal of 2.0 acres of dispersal-only habitat and will “*may affect, not likely to adversely affect*” the marbled murrelet due to disturbance to murrelets during the breeding season. In addition, because primary constituent elements will be removed, the proposed action “*may affect, likely to adversely affect*” Critical Habitat for each the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet (pgs. 23-25, 14-15).

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 **Little Wolf Quarry Expansion** would be consistent with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws. The impacts of quarry operations on the human environment would 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 would 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 Elementary Watson Commercial Thinning & Density Management would 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 would be within those anticipated and already analyzed in the *Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (PRMP/EIS, 1994) and would 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