

**SUPPLEMENTAL AND UPDATED INFORMATION TO DECISION RECORD  
for the Roaming Salvage  
Environmental Assessment #OR014-96-04**

**Proposed Action**

The Sinking Salvage Timber Sale is another resource area wide salvage sale where primarily dead and dying trees will be harvested. Trees succumbing to fire, insects and disease, wind, and drought will be the primary targets of the salvage operations. Potential sale volume would be 500 to 1800 cunits (300 to 1,000 MBF) of all tree species. The harvesting will take place in the fall of 2002 and the summer of 2003. The salvage is scattered over primarily KFRA lands north of highway 66 with some salvage also occurring in the Gerber Block and south of HWY 66. This sale is similar to other salvage sales that have been implemented under the Roaming Salvage EA.

**Purpose**

The impacts of the Sinking Salvage Timber Sale were analyzed in the Roaming Salvage EA (Environmental Assessment #OR014-96-04). The Decision Record for the Roaming Salvage EA was signed on May 21, 1996. Impacts were analyzed for removal of up to 15MMBF over a five year period. Approximately 12.5 MMBF of timber has been harvested through five salvage sales and one timber sale modification to date. The purpose of this document is to provide the Decision Maker with updated and/or supplemental information about the Sinking Salvage Timber Sale that was not available at the time the initial Decision Record was signed. The supplemental and updated information includes; post treatment timber sale monitoring, on-going soil monitoring information and updated management guidelines and pretreatment survey information for Threatened and Endangered and Survey and Manage (S&M) species addressed in the Klamath Falls Resource Management Plan (KFRA RMP), S&M Record of Decision (ROD) (Jan. 2001), and the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP). This supplemental information will be used to amend any of the Project Design Features addressed in the EA as a result of new information. The amendments to the Project Design Features are primarily additional protective measures to reduce impacts and to protect S&M species addressed in the S&M ROD (Jan. 2001) after the EA and the Decision Record was signed. This supplemental information applies only to the Sinking Salvage Timber Sale that is scheduled to be sold August 28, 2002. This document will assist the Decision Maker in determining if the supplemental information and amendments to the Project Design Features results in impacts that have not already been analyzed in the EA and that would warrant an amendment to the EA.

**Supplemental & Updated Information**

**Threatened and Endangered or Sensitive Species**

**Northern Spotted Owls**

The USF&WS, in a letter date June 12, 1996, through informal consultation, approved a request from the KFRA that all harvesting (salvaging) activities proposed under the Roaming Salvage EA be included under the Klamath Province Programmatic Salvage and Forest Health Projects Biological Assessment of February 8, 1996 (Programmatic BA). The KFRA agreed to implement the Project Design Standards established in the Programmatic BA (See Site Specific Biological Assessment For Klamath Province Programmatic for Salvage and Forest Health Projects - June 12, 1996). To date, five salvage sales have been implemented under the Roaming Salvage EA and compliance with the Project Design Standards has been monitored (See REO Monitoring Report for the Lower Spencer Creek Salvage, July 29, 1998).

The Sinking Salvage Salvage Timber Sale will implement all the Project Design Standards in the Programmatic BA.

Survey Protocol - All northern spotted owls sites (Unmapped Late Successional Reserves) continue to be surveyed annually to determine breeding status of local owls.

Survey Results - Locations of nest sites and single owls frequently change. Nest sites and breeding status will continue to be documented yearly in the proposed salvage area.

Management Recommendations - The Klamath Falls RMP states on Page 38; "Fall no trees within 1/4 mile of all active northern spotted owl nest sites from approximately March 1 to September 30 to avoid disturbance and harm to young owls." Annual monitoring of nest sites in the KFRA indicate that most owls fledge by late July. Therefore, in consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the seasonal restriction has been changed to March 1 - August 10.

Management To Be Implemented - Monitoring of the nest site will continue on an annual basis. If nesting occurs within the cutting area through the life of the timber sale contract, the above seasonal restrictions will be implemented.

Rationale - These measures conform with informal consultation requirements and the KFRA RMP and NFP to protect and mitigate impacts to the northern spotted owl in the immediate vicinity of the Sinking Salvage Timber Sale.

### **Bald Eagles**

Survey Protocol - Bald eagle nest sites within the Klamath Falls Resource Area are monitored yearly to determine locations of new nests and the status of nesting eagles. Aerial surveys and ground surveys are conducted each spring.

Survey Results - Bald eagles frequently use the same or nearby nest sites each year. New nest sites are found frequently during spring aerial surveys and field operations.

Management Recommendations - The Klamath Falls RMP states on page 38: "Provide a buffer up to 30 acres around nest sites and restrict management activity near nest sites between January 1 and August 31."

Management To Be Implemented - If nesting occurs within 1/4 mile of the cutting area through the life of the timber sale contract, the above seasonal restrictions will be implemented. In addition, a buffer of up to 30 acres will be provided around an active nest site.

Rationale - These measures meet the pertinent RMP bald eagle protection requirements and mitigate impacts in the immediate vicinity of known bald eagle sites.

### **Golden Eagles**

Status - Golden Eagles are not classified as a Federally Threatened and Endangered Species. However, under the KFRA RMP, they receive the same protection as bald eagles (see page 34 of the KFRA RMP).

Management To Be Implemented - The timber sale contract has standard language (E-4 clause) that allows modifications to the contract to protect Threatened and Endangered, S&M, and raptor species. This clause will be invoked if an active nest is located. A seasonal restriction and a buffer of up to 30 acres would be provided around an active nest site.

Rationale - These measures conform to the KFRA RMP to protect and mitigate impacts to golden eagles in the immediate vicinity of the Sinking Salvage Timber Sale.

### **Longnose and Shortnose Suckers**

"Shortnose suckers occur in the main stem of the Klamath River mainly south of the state line and this area will not be entered with the proposed sale. The rest of the proposed sale area does not contain T & E suckers." (*Site Specific Biological Assessment For Klamath Province Programmatic for Salvage and Forest Health Projects - June 12, 1996*)

## **Accipiters -**

### **Sharp-shinned hawks and Cooper's hawks**

Management Recommendations - The Klamath Falls RMP states on page 34: "Provide up to a 15-acre buffer for some management activities around known and future nest sites."

#### Management To Be Implemented -

No harvest buffers will be placed around sharp-shinned and Cooper nest trees to protect the nest tree and the integrity of the nest site.

Rationale - These measures conform to the RMP accipiter protection requirements and mitigate impacts in the immediate vicinity of the known sharp-shinned hawk nest site.

## **Survey and Manage (S&M) Species**

### Status

The Sinking Salvage Timber Sale project area has not been completely surveyed for Survey and Manage species. Pre-disturbance Surveys were done in some of the analysis area as early as FY1996 and through FY 2001 to survey protocols (O'Dell, T. 1999.Version 1.3) and Terrestrial and Aquatic Mollusk Survey Protocol Version 2.0 (October 29, 1997). As a result, several Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) Survey and Manage (S&M) fungi species have been found within the Sinking Salvage project area. Table 1 lists the known S&M species within the analysis area, NFP 2001 ASR Record of Decision Category, and management required for the species.

### Management To Be Implemented

In each area that is identified as a salvage area, the Survey and Manage Coordinator will be consulted to determine if there are Known Sites in that area or if the area is potential habitat for any of the Survey and Manage species that require pre-disturbance surveys. When salvage trees are located in potential habitats, no harvest activities will take place until the areas can be surveyed. If pre-harvest surveys cannot be conducted, no harvest of salvage trees will occur. Known S&M sites will be managed to protect the site from ground disturbance activities. At known S&M sites, site and species specific buffers will be designated.

Background information on surveys, non survey and manage species found, and methods used can be found in the project binders.

Rationale - Harvest restrictions around known sites and measures taken to prevent disturbance of sites by logging equipment will protect the species.

<b>Table 1. Survey and Manage Species</b>	<b>2001 ASR</b>	<b>Management Required</b>	<b>Buffer Size</b>	<b>Management in Buffer</b>	<b># of KFRA Sites</b>
<b>Fungi</b>					
<i>Albatrellus ellisii</i>	B	Manage All Known Sites	60 foot radius	Can reach in and Cut.	11
<i>Boletus pulcerrimus</i>	B	Manage All Known Sites	60 foot radius	No entry within buffer.	1
<i>Chromosera cyanophylla</i>	Removed*	Manage All Known Sites	25 foot radius	No entry within buffer.	183
<i>Clavariadelphus ligula</i>	B	Manage All Known Sites	60 foot radius	Can reach in and Cut.	10
<i>Clavariadelphus sachalinensis</i>	B	Manage All Known Sites	60 foot radius	No entry within buffer.	1
<i>Clavariadelphus truncatus</i>	D	Manage High Priority Sites	60 foot radius	No entry within buffer.	1
<i>Collybia bakerensis</i>	F	None	N/A	N/A	0
<i>Gyromitra californica</i>	B	Manage All Known Sites	60 foot radius	No entry within buffer.	4
<i>Gyromitra infula</i>	Removed*	Manage All Known Sites	60 foot radius	Can reach in and Cut.	8
<i>Gyromitra melaleucoides</i>	Removed*	Manage All Known Sites	60 foot radius	Can reach in and Cut.	57
<i>Mycena overholtsii**</i>	D	Manage High Priority Sites	60 foot radius	No entry within buffer.	0
<i>Mycena monticola</i>	Removed*	Manage all Known Sites	25 foot radius	No entry within buffer.	40
<i>Rhizopogon evadens. var. subalpinus</i>	B	Manage All Known Sites	60 foot radius	No entry within buffer.	1
<i>Spathularia flavida</i>	B	Manage All Known Sites	60 foot radius	No entry within buffer.	1
				<b>Totals</b>	318
<b>Mollusks</b>					
<b>Pre-disturbance and Purposive surveys will be done for the mollusks listed below.</b>					
<b>Aquatic</b>					
<i>Fluminicola</i> No. Sp 1	Removed*	Manage All Known Sites			2
<i>Fluminicola</i> No. Sp 3	A^2	Manage All Known Sites			2
<i>Fluminicola</i> No. Sp 16	A	Manage All Known Sites	Protect from Grazing		1
<b>Terrestrial</b>					
<i>Helminthoglypta hertleini**</i>	E^4	Manage All Known Sites			0
<i>Pristoloma articum crateris</i>	B^4	Manage All Known Sites			0
<b>Vascular Plants</b>					
<i>Cypripedium montanum</i>	C	Manage High Priority Sites			1
* Removed from the S&M species list but, still required to be					
Managed as a Known Site until disposition in the special status species program is determined.					
** These species have never been found on the KFRA but are thought to be in this area					
		4			

## **Former Protection Buffer Species - Great Gray Owls**

**Survey Protocol** - Different parts of the proposed salvage area have been annually surveyed from 1996-2002 in accordance with the survey protocol for Great Gray Owl (May 12, 1995 direction from the Regional Interagency Executive Committee Members and California Federal Executives, and BLM Informational Bulletin No. OR-97-311 that described adjustments to the original great gray owl protocol.)

**Survey Results** - A nighttime detection of a male great gray owl was recorded in 2001. However, there were no other detections. Therefore, no activity center has been designated.

**Management Recommendations** - Although the S&M 2001 ROD does not require protection of a new nest site after the date of the Decision Record, the Great Gray Owl is considered a raptor and the standard timber sale E4 clause will be used to protect any new Great Gray Owl nest site. Protection of the nest tree and a no-cut buffer up to 3 acres in size would be reserved around any identified nest tree.

**Management To Be Implemented** – Surveys for Great Gray Owls in the Sinking Salvage Timber Sale area will continue on an annual basis. The standard timber sale E4 clause will be included in the timber sale contract.

**Rationale** – If a nest tree is located in the future, the proposed management recommendation allows for the protection of the nest tree and the surrounding area even after the Decision Record is signed and pre-disturbance surveys are completed. Concurrently, the management recommendation allows for minimal disruption of a sold timber sale contract as intended in the S&M 2001 ROD.

## **Consultation**

See Northern Spotted Owl discussion above. The Sinking Salvage Timber Sale is within the known range of the northern spotted owls and the area analyzed in the Northwest Forest Plan. On June, 12, 1996, BLM informally consulted with the USF&WS regarding the proposed action. The USF&WS concurred with the BLM's determination of not likely to adversely affect federally threatened or endangered species or their habitat. This determination was subject to the BLM implementing the Project Design Standards listed in the *Site Specific Biological Assessment For Klamath Province Programmatic for Salvage and Forest Health Projects*. The standards are intended to not reduce the canopy closure in dispersal or nesting habitat by more than 10% and the post project canopy closure will remain above 60% for nesting habitat and above 40% for dispersal habitat. The KFRA has been able to meet this standard based upon the post treatment monitoring to date on previous completed salvage sales.

## **Consistency**


The initial Decision Rationale and the supplemental information is consistent with the goals and objectives of the

- Final Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) and its Record of Decision (June 1995).
- Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan).
- Klamath Falls Resource Area Fire Management EA (OR-014-94-09)
- Klamath Falls Resource Area Integrated Weed Control Plan EA (OR-014-93-09) Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001).
- The Sinking Salvage Timber Sale lies within the overlap area of the Northwest Forest Plan and the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. This decision was considered within the context of both of these management efforts, including the Scientific Assessments associated with ICBEMP. No additional analysis is deemed necessary at this time.

### **Conclusion For Sinking Salvage Timber Sale**

As result of the supplemental information and protective measures discussed above, The Decision Rationale, signed May 21, 1996 to implement the Proposed Action Alternative of the Roaming Salvage EA (EA #OR-014-96-04) which includes the Sinking Salvage Timber Sale is still valid. Harvest of on going salvage is analyzed in the EA. The Sinking Salvage Timber Sale treatment will be implemented using BLM timber sale procedures and is expected to occur over the next 14 months. I have determined that a change to the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Roaming Salvage EA is **not** necessary for these reasons:

- The existing EA for the Roaming Salvage EA fully analyzes the project as modified by the proposed mitigation and adjustments. There will be no substantial changes to the action as proposed and analyzed in the EA. The actions as amended are within the scope of the alternatives identified in the EA, and the environmental impacts are within those analyzed in the EA and less than those anticipated for the preferred alternative in that assessment.
- There are no significant new circumstances or facts relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the modification to the proposed action or its impacts which were not addressed in the EA. The EA anticipated protecting Survey and Manage species in accordance with the Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan and the KFRA RMP. The surveys conducted for this sale satisfy the survey requirements for this sale as amended by the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines which was signed in January of 2001, and fulfills the Survey and Manage Commitment identified in the EA.

  
Mel Crockett  
Acting Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

8/12/02  
Date