

Decision Record
for the
Spencer Creek Riparian Treatments
Environmental Assessment No. OR014-99-11

New Information

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Spencer Creek Riparian Treatments was completed and signed on May 25, 2000. Since that date, surveys for bryophyte species were completed in accordance with the Survey Protocols for Protection Buffer Bryophytes, Version 2.0. No Survey and Manage bryophyte species were found.

Surveys for Survey and Manage mollusk species were completed in the fall of 1999 and the spring of 2000 with no species found. However, during fungi surveys, a site was located for the Survey and Manage species *Prophysaon coruleum, var. klamithica* (Blue-grey taildropper). This is a Survey and Manage Strategies 1 and 2 species. The habitat management to be implemented for this species is given below under Mitigating Measures.

During Survey and Manage fungi surveys, several sites for the Component 1 and 3 fungal species *Plectania milleri* (Miller's black cup) were found. Samples of these species were sent to specialists to be analyzed for positive identification. During this process, one of the samples was identified as *Sarcosoma mexicana*. This is a Protection Buffer and Strategy 3 species. The habitat management to be implemented for this species is given below under Mitigating Measures.

In the EA, the determination was made for both the northern spotted owl and the bald eagle that this action would have "no effect" on either of these threatened species and therefore consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act would not be necessary. A brief summary follows to clarify the "no effect" determination.

There are two historic northern spotted owl sites mentioned in the EA. Both are 1.2 miles or greater from the treatment area. Neither site is currently occupied and neither has been occupied for over 3 years. If either of these owl sites were to become occupied again in their current location it is unlikely that either would use the proposed treatment area. The bald eagle nest mentioned in the EA is 0.8 mile downstream from the proposed treatment area. It is occupied this year but did not nest. One adult and one sub-adult have been seen at the nest site. To date, this site has no known successful reproduction. Due to the distance from the treatment and the timing of year anticipated for this treatment, there should be no effect on this eagle nest site.

Decision

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, Alternative 1, from the Environmental Assessment. This alternative will thin the dense understory patches, mainly white fir, within the designated Riparian Reserves on Spencer Creek. This thinning will be done by hand crews using

chain saws. A 40' no-disturbance buffer will be established along each side of Spencer Creek. The thinning prescription detailed in the EA will be used with the following mitigating measures:

Mitigating Measures

No-disturbance thermal clump buffers will be established around the 7 located sites of the Component 1 and 3 fungal species *Plectania milleri* (Miller's black cup) and the 1 located site of the Protection Buffer and Strategy 3 fungal species *Sarcosoma mexicana*. These buffers will extend in a 60' radius around the located sites.

A no-disturbance thermal clump buffer will be established at the 1 located site of the Survey and Manage mollusk species *Prophysaon coruleum*, var. *klamithica* (Blue-grey tailedropper). This buffer will extend in a 60' radius around the located site.

Signed Larry Frazier (Acting For) **Date** 10/02/2000

Teresa A. Raml
Manager
Klamath Falls Resource Area