



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Coos Bay District Office

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IN REPLY REFER TO

1792/6711/5420 (ORC030)

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2011-0003-EA

Big-Vincent Environmental Assessment

July 24, 2015

Dear Citizen:

As a result of comments received on the Big-Vincent Environmental Assessment (EA) and preliminary FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) that was available for review from April 21-May 20, 2015, the BLM made a few changes to clarify project design, share new information, and add supporting data to the effects analysis. These modifications do not change the analysis or result in different outputs or alternatives; therefore, additional effects analysis was not required. The following is a discussion of the changes:

Road construction: The BLM modified road-related Tables 2-4, 2-7, and 2-8 of the EA. The BLM added 0.08 miles of road improvement and 0.42 miles of new construction to the Big-Vincent project. The analysis of the effects of adding these roads do not change the FONSI.

Maps: The BLM revised Map 4a: Big-Vincent Road Work (West) in Appendix I to reflect the additional road improvement and construction.

Thinning in Riparian Reserves: We have added a statement on page 12 regarding the BARK v. U.S. Bureau of Land Management ruling, in which the court accepted the BLM's interpretation of its RMP authorizing timber harvest in Riparian Reserves to apply silvicultural practices to control stocking, reestablish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics.

Project design features: To add clarification, the BLM revised and separated "Legacy Structure" PDFs from the "Trees Excluded From Harvest" PDFs.

Snags and down wood: The BLM revised the analysis for snags and down wood. The BLM added unit-by-unit snag and down wood recommendation table (Table 3-12, pp. 60-61). The BLM provided additional background information for snags (Appendix G) and down wood (Appendix H). This analysis does not change the FONSI.

Instream wood: We have added Table 3-17 (p. 76), which provides current condition data on recent in-stream large wood placements within the Big-Vincent analysis area. This is just more baseline information.

Reasonably foreseeable future actions: The Coos Bay District Spring 2015 Planning Update included preliminary public notification of a Loon Lake EA (forest management) project in a neighboring 6th field watershed, which may or may not have resulted in overlap with the Big-Vincent analysis area. However, the project was subsequently dropped, and other projects were added to the list of reasonably foreseeable federal

actions (page 34). These new projects are currently in the earliest developmental stages; however, the BLM has included them in the Big-Vincent EA.

None of the changes in the EA invalidated the analysis supporting the FONSI, which I have now signed. The *Final* Big-Vincent EA and signed FONSI have been posted to the District's Internet site, <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/plans/index.php>.

Applicable Decision Documents will be prepared when the decisions are made to go forward with those portions of the Big-Vincent project.

Please direct requests for copies, questions, or comments to Coos Bay District BLM, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459-2000, ATTN: Heather Partipilo; call (541) 756-0100; FAX (541) 751-4303, or e-mail to BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov; ATTN: Heather Partipilo.

Sincerely,

/s/ Todd D. Buchholz
Todd D. Buchholz
Umpqua Field Manager