

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

DECISION RECORD

DOI-BLM-ORWA-N050-2018-0016-DNA
Thurston Hills Non-Motorized Trails and Forest Management DNA

DECISION

It is my decision to withdraw the May 30, 2018, Decision Record for the Thurston Hills Non-Motorized Trails and Forest Management EA and to implement the actions as described in the Determination of NEPA Adequacy documentation DOI-BLM-ORWA-N050-2018-0016-DNA. It is further my decision to implement the Pedal Power Timber Sale per the modified Alternative 4 described in the DNA and implement the trail development alternative unchanged from the Alternative 4 in the EA. These are two separate but connected actions encompassed by this Decision Record.

Plan Conformance and Legal Compliance

The selected actions are in conformance with the BLM's 2016 Record of Decision and Northwestern and Coastal Oregon Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) and the EA tiers to the 2016 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Resource Management Plan for Western Oregon (PRMP/FEIS).

The BLM did not identify any species or critical habitats pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the Thurston Hills project area, and did not identify any cultural resources eligible or potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, per the National Historic Preservation Act. The project incorporates Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce nonpoint source pollution to the maximum extent practicable, as required by the Clean Water Act. The project complies with these and all other applicable statutory requirements.

DECISION RATIONALE

The proposed action has been reviewed by BLM staff. The Proposed Action is in conformance with the 2016 Northwestern and Coastal Oregon Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan. Based on the Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA), I have determined that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In addition, I have prepared a Finding of No Significant Effect (FONSI). In the FONSI, I conclude that the selected actions would not have a significant impact on the human environment and that no further analysis is required. The EA, PRMP/FEIS, the FONSI, and all documents contained in the Thurston Hills EA project file are incorporated by reference into this Decision Record.

In consideration of the project analyses and project decision factors (EA, p. 4), I have determined that the selected timber action would:

- Meet the two purposes and needs for the forest management action, including the attainment of Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) and adjustment of forest stand age-class distribution for sustained-yield management, as expressed in the EA (pp. 5-7)
- Accommodate the development of a hiking and mountain biking trail system within the Willamalane Extensive Recreation Area (ERMA) as anticipated by the RMP (EA, pp. 4, 24, and 37-38)
- Implement forest management activities in some portion of the ERMA prior to trail development so that subsequent trails to be constructed within the ERMA would not be impacted by harvest soon after their construction (estimated in the EA to be 10-20 years) (EA p. 1).

In consideration of the project analyses and project decision factors (EA, p. 4), I have determined that the selected trail development action would:

- Meet the purpose and need for trail development in the ERMA, namely, providing a new recreational opportunity for hiking and mountain biking in proximity to the greater Eugene urban area, as expressed in the EA (pp. 4-5)
- Represent the best alternative in terms of balancing public investment and recreational opportunities.

Public Involvement

The BLM provided numerous opportunities for meaningful public involvement on the Thurston Hills project and utilized public input during development of project alternatives and issues. The BLM solicited input on project alternatives and issues during early project scoping in April 2017 by way of a published scoping notice and a public meeting, and sent coordination letters to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, inviting them to consult. The BLM held a second public meeting after identifying specific alternatives and issues for the EA in November 2017. The BLM posted these specific issues and alternatives on BLM's ePlanning website in November 2017. The BLM posted the EA and Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on April 23, 2018, for a 15-day public comment period ending May 8, 2018, during which 6 comment letters were received. The BLM prepared responses to substantive comments and included them in the May 30, 2018 Decision Record in Appendix A. The BLM added additional language and context to the EA as a result of public comments and internal review, and notified the public through the interested stakeholders list (by email) of its release on May 30, 2018. The additional language did not include additional analysis or change the conclusions of the EA. The modified Alternative 4 is essentially similar to the Alternative 4 identified as a project alternative for the November 2017 public meeting and in the EA. The public and agencies had many opportunities to provide input on this alternative and its associated issues.

ERRATA

The following errors, omissions, and clarifications needed in the EA are identified and corrected here:

EA Page	Changes Made
Cover	Field Manager should be Michael Kinsey (not Brian Bickford)
38	Correction: "The cumulative effects of implementing Alternative 3 4 trail system would be similar to the analysis described under Alternative 2."