

CHAPTER 4 – CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Forest Service consulted with the following individuals, Federal, State, and local agencies, tribes and non-Forest Service persons during the development of this environmental assessment.

Federal, State, and Local Agencies

City of The Dalles, Department of Public Works
Hood River County Planning Department
Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Wasco County Court
Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District

Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

No listed threatened or endangered fish species are located within the project area. As such, no consultation with NMFS is required.

Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

The effects to northern spotted owls for this project were consulted on with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through formal consultation on FY 2011-2012 activities within the Willamette province that have the potential to adversely affect spotted owls due to habitat modification and disturbance (FWS reference: 13420-2010-F-0157). The conclusion by the US Fish and Wildlife Service is that these projects are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the spotted owl or result in the destruction or adverse modification of spotted owl critical habitat. This consultation was updated in May 2011 to incorporate some additional units that were may affect, but not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) for spotted owls (FWS reference: 13420-2011-I-0135).

The full reference for the FY 2011-2012 Biological Opinion is: Biological Opinion Regarding the Effects of Habitat Modification Activities on the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) and its' Critical Habitat within the Willamette Province, FY 2011-2012, proposed by the Eugene District, Bureau of Land Management; Salem District, Bureau of Land Management; Mt. Hood National Forest; Willamette National Forest; and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (FWS Reference Number 13420-2010-F-0157).

The full reference modification Letter of Concurrence is: Letter of Concurrence Regarding the Effects of Habitat Modification Activities within the Willamette Province, CY 2011-2012, proposed by the Salem District, Bureau of Land Management; Mt. Hood

National Forest; and Willamette National Forest on the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) and its Critical Habitat (FWS Reference Number 13420-2011-I-0135)

These two consultation documents cover the actions that are proposed outside the Research Natural Area on National Forest System lands. In addition, a third consultation process is underway to address the proposed treatments within the Research Natural Area and on City of The Dalles lands within the interior of the watershed. Also, the consultation would include the proposed treatment units that were initially classified as non-owl habitat but after a field review, these units were determined to be suitable or dispersal habitat. A stand-alone consultation is required for these units and will be completed in 2011 prior to signing the Decision Notice for this project.

Consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

In accordance with Region 6 of the Forest Service entered a Programmatic Agreement with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the proposed underburning activities of the project were determined to fall within the category of undertakings that may be excluded from case-by-case review based on inspection or monitoring (Stipulation III.b(17); Prescribed burns where burning, line construction, or mop-up would not impact historic properties that consist of wooden structures or other fire-sensitive features, or where special and proven protective measures are taken to preserve such features from fire effects.). The proposed underburning was documented in Heritage Resource Report 2011/060601/0004. The remaining activities of the project, including commercial thinning, jackpot underburning, mastication, and non-commercial thinning involve heavy machinery and ground disturbance and required surveys. Heritage Resource surveys were conducted for those activities requiring inspection and documented in Heritage Resource Report 2011/060601/0003.

The protective measures would adequately protect the known heritage resources. The site protection measures were developed on the Mt. Hood National Forest to be consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act and adapted for use across the forest. The Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred that the previous use of these methods would result in no effect to heritage resources. Contracts would contain provisions for the protection of sites found during project activities. Based on the proposed protective measures, the project meets the criteria in the Programmatic Agreement for “Historic Properties Avoided” determination (Stipulation III (B) 2). As such, no additional consultation with SHPO is required.

Tribes

The Dalles Watershed Phase II planning area that is on National Forest System lands is located on usual and accustomed land for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (as is all of the Mt. Hood National Forest). The Treaty of 1855 granted the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) the right of “usual and accustomed” gathering of traditional native plants and “special interest” use. According to the Ethnographic Study

of the Mt. Hood National Forest (French et al. 1995), no traditional use areas have been identified in this planning area. No activities are proposed that would preclude any granted rights. Fieldwork by the Interdisciplinary Team has revealed that huckleberries exist in only occasional small, isolated patches throughout the area and do not offer any significant potential for enhancement. There are no other known traditional native plant communities within the proposed project area. Therefore, the proposal to implement fuels reduction project would not have any adverse affect on members of the CTWS.

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation was consulted on this project and did not raise any issues with the proposed project. The project was discussed at the government-to-government quarterly meetings between CTWS and Forest Service. Also, the project was discussed in a government-to-government meeting in July 2011 attended by the Responsible Official for this project, Forest Supervisor of Mt. Hood National Forest.

List of Preparers

The following is a list of Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) members who assisted in the development of the Preliminary Assessment.

| <u>Role</u> | <u>Person</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| IDT Leader / NEPA Specialist | Jennie O’Connor Card |
| IDT Co-Leader / GIS | Andy Tierney |
| Collaborative Group Coordinator | Jennie O’Connor Card |
| Fire / Fuels Specialist | Ray Weiss / Karrie Stevens |
| Silviculturist | Whitney Olsker |
| Logging Systems | Andy Tierney |
| Roads Engineer | Ken Huskey |
| Soil Scientist | John Dodd |
| Hydrologist | Mark Kreiter |
| Fish Biologist | Chris Rossel |
| Wildlife Biologist | Patty Walcott |
| Botanist / Invasive Species | Lance Holmberg |
| Range | Dan Fissell |
| Recreation / Visual Quality | Jim Thornton / Dan Gilfillan |
| Heritage Resource Specialist | Mike Dryden |
| Aquatic Conservation Strategy | Mark Kreiter / Chris Rossel |