



File Code: 1950

Date: August 3, 2005

Route To:

Subject: New Information Assessment for the Hilyn EA

To: District Ranger, Barlow Ranger District

I have reviewed your July 13, 2005, letter documenting the assessment of new information for the 1998 Hilyn EA. I have also had several members of my staff review the analysis including Forest Wildlife Biologist and Botanist Alan Dyck, Forest Fisheries Biologist Dan Shively, Forest Products Specialist Jim Rice, and Forest Environmental Coordinator Mike Redmond.

Based on my review of the record and the review conducted by my staff, I concur with your recommendation and find the new information and changed conditions are not significant for this project. My finding is based on the analysis that shows the new information and changed conditions do not substantially alter the impacts analyses or conclusions in the existing EA. Therefore, a new or supplemental EA is not required.

I also concur with your recommendation and find the new information and changed conditions do not reveal affects to listed species or their critical habitat in a manner or extent not previously considered. Therefore, re-initiation of consultation with the USFWS or NOAA Fisheries is not required.

I agree with your recommendation to move forward with implementing the 163 acres of plantation thinning included in my 1998 Decision Notice for the Hilyn EA. This is especially timely since our current timber management program is focusing on opportunities to commercially thin younger stands of timber. Thinning these plantations will help us meet the goals of our Forest Plan as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan and help achieve the desired future condition identified in the EA.

/s/ Gary L. Larsen
GARY L. LARSEN
Forest Supervisor

cc: Erin K Black, Mike Redmond

