



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

FEB 03 2014

Honorable Danielle Vigil-Masten, Chairperson
Hoopa Valley Tribe
P.O. Box 1348
Hoopa, California 95546

Dear Chairperson Vigil-Masten:

Please be advised that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment for the Hoopa Valley Tribe's 2013 Southeast Corner Timber Sale (Project). The BIA has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Project (enclosure). Because the Federal actions associated with this Project are not expected to have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Please advertise the enclosed *Notice of Availability* and post it at the Tribal Office and place a notice in the local newspaper or newsletter for purposes of public review and comment. The comment period for the FONSI will be effective from the date of this letter until the close of business on March 4, 2014. Please have a copy of the FONSI and Environmental Assessment available for tribal members and the public to review at your office.

Similarly, the enclosed *Decision Notice* needs to be posted and advertised. The 30-day appeal period for BIA's decision will expire on or about March 4, 2014.

If you have any additional questions concerning this letter, please contact Jay Hinshaw, Environmental Compliance Coordinator, at (916) 978-6021, or John Rydzik, Chief, Division of Environmental, Cultural Resources Management and Safety, at (916) 978-6051.

Sincerely,

Regional Director

Enclosures

cc: Darin Jarnaghan, Forest Manager, Forestry Division, Hoopa Valley Tribe

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

2013 Southeast Corner Timber Sale, Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation (HVIR), Humboldt County, California

Based on the final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the 2013 Southeast Corner Timber Sale at HVIR, I have determined that implementation of proposed federal agency actions (Alternative 1 – Preferred Alternative) will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with Section 102(2)(A) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required.

This determination is supported by the following findings:

1. Public scoping was conducted and environmental issues related to implementation of the project were identified. Alternative courses of action and mitigation measures were developed. No comments were received regarding adverse environmental impacts.
2. The EA discloses the environmental consequences of the proposed action and one other potentially viable alternative including the “no action” alternative. The preferred alternative (Alternative 1) was selected by the Hoopa Valley Tribal Council and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
3. Protective measures will be implemented to minimize impacts to biological and cultural resources as described on pages 10 through 12, and 14 through 19 in the EA.
4. The preferred alternative will not jeopardize any species listed as federally threatened or endangered. See page 10 and pages 14 through 18 in the EA.
5. The preferred alternative will result in no adverse effects to Historic Properties for the purposes of 36 CFR 800.9(b), by preserving archeological or built resources through conduct of appropriate identification and/or evaluation of significance of resources in accordance with applicable standards and guidelines. Should undiscovered archeological materials be encountered during project ground-disturbing activities, work will stop in the area of discovery and stipulations at 36 CFR 800.11 shall be followed.
6. Impacts to public health and are to be mitigated through implementation of air and water quality protection measures described on pages 12 and 13 in the EA.
7. Impacts to floodplains and wetlands were considered. Existing floodplains and wetlands shall be protected through implementation of mitigation measures described on pages 7, 8, 10, 11, and 16 through 18 in the EA.
8. Because the lands considered in the EA will be managed through the FMP in an ecologically sustainable manner in perpetuity, any cumulative effects to the environment are therefore mitigated to avoid or minimize anticipated impacts from the preferred

alternative. Cumulative effects were analyzed in pages 22 through 24 and in Addendum A of the EA.

9. Selection of the preferred alternative will allow the Hoopa Valley Tribe to harvest part of its allowable annual cut, generate local jobs and income/revenue, improve forest health, and reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfire in accordance with Tribal goals, objectives, and values.

Amy K. Lutschke

Regional Director
Pacific Regional Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs

2-2-14

Date

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE PROPOSED 2013 SOUTHEAST CORNER TIMBER SALE AT THE
HOOPA VALLEY RESERVATION, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Pacific Regional Office, has reviewed and adopted an Environmental Assessment for the 2013 Southeast Corner Timber Sale (Project) at the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation located in Humboldt County, California. The proposed Federal actions for this project will consist of issuance of funding, permits, and approvals associated with the proposed Project. The BIA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and has determined that the Federal actions will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

The purpose of the Project is to allow the Hoopa Valley Tribe to manage its forest resources in accordance with Tribal goals, objectives and values. Lands to be directly affected by this timber harvest and thinning include an estimated total of 1,190 acres within a 15,879-acre planning area. The planning area includes the South Big Hill, Lower Hostler, South Hostler, Upper Hostler, Tish Tang, South Tish Tang, Annex, and West Tish Tang forest compartments at the Reservation.

Main activities described in the preferred alternative for this Project would consist of:

- Harvesting timber of 43 units on 790 acres for a total of 8.89 million board feet (MBF) of conifer sawlogs, 1.41 MBF of woodlogs, and 3.37 MBF of hardwood timber using a combination of ground-based (tractor and skidder) and cable logging methods
 - 4.6 miles of new logging road construction
 - 2.5 miles of major road reconstruction
 - 32.5 miles of minor road reconstruction
 - Improvement and use of 6 existing borrow pits and improvement and use of 13 existing water holes (for dust abatement)
- Commercial thinning of an estimated 400 acres
- Cleaning 40 culverts and installing 26 new culverts to reduce erosion/sedimentation

Impacts to biological resources (including federal threatened or endangered species), cultural resources, air and water quality, soils and geology, timber resources, and socio-economic resources were assessed for two alternatives, including the “no action” alternative. Consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service was conducted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. These agencies agreed that the Project will not jeopardize the continued recovery and survival of any Federal threatened or endangered species including northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet and coho salmon. Similarly, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) was conducted and the SHPO concurred the Project would cause no adverse effects to Historic Properties.

Measures were adopted to protect natural and cultural resources. Prior to initiating any significant ground-disturbing activities such as timber harvests, project-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews will be conducted to assess project impacts. Work

will not be initiated until NEPA compliance has been ensured. This includes forest management projects on restricted lands once those lands are given trust status.

Public comments on BIA's FONSI will be accepted through the close of business on March 4, 2014. For information or to obtain a copy of the FONSI and/or to view the Environmental Assessment, please contact Jeff Lindsey, Forest Planner, Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation (530) 625-4284 ext. 121, or Jay Hinshaw, Environmental Compliance Coordinator, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Regional Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825. Mr. Hinshaw or his supervisor can be reached by telephone at (916) 978-6000.

DECISION NOTICE
2013 SOUTHEAST CORNER TIMBER SALE
HOOPA VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION,
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has decided to proceed in implementing the 2013 Southeast Corner Timber Sale at the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation (HVIR). The proposed Federal actions for this project will consist of issuance of funding, permits, and approvals associated with the proposed Project.

The purpose of the Project is to allow the Hoopa Valley Tribe to manage its forest resources in accordance with Tribal goals, objectives and values. Lands to be directly affected by this timber harvest and thinning include an estimated total of 1,190 acres within a 15,879-acre planning area. The planning area includes the South Big Hill, Lower Hostler, South Hostler, Upper Hostler, Tish Tang, South Tish Tang, Annex, and West Tish Tang forest compartments at the Reservation.

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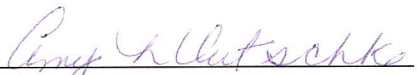
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DECISION

I have decided to proceed in implementing specific actions and projects associated with the Tribe’s Southeast Corner Timber Sale, as described above. This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203, in accordance with the regulations in 43 CFR 4.310-4.340. Your notice of appeal to the Board must

be signed by you or your attorney and must be mailed within 30 days of the date of this decision. It should clearly identify the decision being appealed. If possible, attach a copy of this decision. You must send copies of your notice of appeal to (1) the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., MS-4140-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240, (2) each additional interested party known to you, and (3) this office. Your notice of appeal sent to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals must certify that you have sent copies to these parties. If you are not represented by an attorney, you may request assistance from this office in the preparation of your appeal. If you file a notice of appeal, the Board of Indian Appeals will notify you of further appeal procedures.

If no appeal is timely filed, this decision will become final for the Department of the Interior at the expiration of the appeal period. No extension of time may be granted for filing a notice of appeal.



Regional Director
Pacific Regional Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs

2-2-14
Date