BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FOR

Proposed, Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Plants, Lichens, Bryophytes and Fungi Collawash Thin Project

Clackamas River Ranger District Mt. Hood National Forest

INTRODUCTION

This report evaluates the potential effects of the proposed action on Proposed, Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive (PETS) plant species in accordance with The National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321 et seq.) the federal Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), and the National Forest Management Act (16 USC 1604 et seq.). To comply with the above, the Forest Service has set forth guidance in FSM 2670 that is designed to ensure Forest Service actions (1) do not contribute to the loss of viability of any native or desired non-native species or cause a trend toward federal listing for any species, (2) comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act; and (3) provide a process and standard which ensures that PETS species receive full consideration in the decision making process.

To achieve these objectives, all Forest Service projects, programs and activities are reviewed for possible effects on PETS species and the findings documented in the Decision Notice (FSM 2672.4). On the Mt. Hood National Forest there are no federally listed (proposed, endangered, threatened) plant species known to occur, however one federally threatened species (*Howellia aquatilis*) is suspected.

The Region 6 Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List as revised April, 2004 was used to determine species of vascular plants, fungi, bryophytes and lichens that are documented from or suspected to occur on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

PROJECT LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

The project consists of approximately 292 acres located in the Collawash Watershed on the Clackamas River Ranger District (Map A).

Unit #420	Located on Forest Road 6322 just north of its intersection with FS road 6320; T.7S. R.6E. Section 4.
Unit #421	FS road 6321 near it intersection with road 6321-011, T.7S. R6E. Section 3.
Unit #422	Road 6321, T.6S. R.6E. Section 34 SW 1/4.
Unit #423	Intersection of FS Roads 6321 and 6321-119, T.6S. R.6E. Section 34.
Unit #424	FS Road 6321-117, T.6S. R.6E. Section 27.
Unit #425	Forest Road 6322-170, T.6S. R.6E. Section 33.

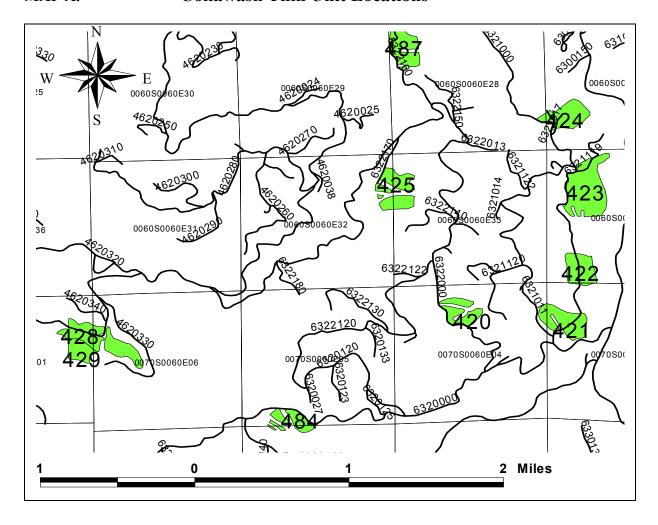
Unit #428 Located west of road 4620-330, T.7S. R.5E. Section 6, T7S. R.6E. Section 1.

Unit #429 This unit borders the southern boundary of unit 428.

Unit #484 FS road 6320-015, T.7S. R.06E. Section 5.

Unit #487 FS road 6322-160 near the road's end, T.6S. R.6E. Section 28.

MAP A. Collawash Thin Unit Locations



Proposed Action

The proposed action will thin and harvest wood fiber. To accomplish project objectives, approximately 0.8 miles of temporary road construction will be needed. The proposed action is within the matrix land allocation and includes acreage within riparian reserves. The proposed action will be approximately 292 acres.

Thinning: The proposed action would "thin from below", resulting in a residual stand of approximately 80 to 140 trees per acre. It is anticipated that harvested trees will be 10 to 15 inches

dbh. All skidding equipment will be restricted to designated skid trails and harvesters will operate on slash beds.

Roads: New temporary road construction is proposed to access landings. All temporary roads constructed would be obliterated and rehabilitated following completion of the project.

Table 1 displays the proposed action unit acreages and logging systems.

Table 1 – Proposed Action

Unit	Acres	Actions	Unit	Acres	Actions
420	20	S	425	33	S/H
421	30	GB/S	428a	18	GB/S
422	25	GB/S	428b	23	GB/S
423	57	S	429	14	S
424	27	GB/S	484	18	GB/S
487	27	S			

GB = Ground Based Logging, S = Skyline Logging, H = Helicopter Logging.

METHODOLOGY

<u>Pre-Field Analysis:</u> Prior to any site visits, the following pertinent information was reviewed: Aerial photography, Regional Forester's list of PETS species (revised April, 2004), Mt. Hood PETS plant database, and the Interagency Species Management System (ISMS) with information on the project area. No PETS species are known to occur within or adjacent to the proposed project area. Based on habitat and range information, (herbarium records, technical manuals, plant atlases, etc.), PETS species that are known or suspected to occur on the Mt. Hood National Forest and have potential habitat within the proposed project area are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2.

PETS Species Documented or Suspected From Mt. Hood NF				
	Vascula	ar Plants		
Species	Common Name	General Habitat	Survey Period	Potential Habitat?
Agoseris elata	tall agoseris	Moist-dry meadow	June-Aug	No
Arabis sparsiflora var. atrorubens	sicklepod rockcress	Dry meadow, shrub- steppe	May-Aug	No
Aster gormanii	Gorman's aster	Dry cliffs, talus, rock slopes above 3500'	June-Sept	No
Astragalus tyghensis	Tygh Valley milkvetch	Shrub-steppe grassland	May-Aug	No
Botrychium lanceolatum	lance-leaved grape fern	Sub-alpine meadow, glacial till	July-Sept	No

Botrychium minganense	Mingan moonwort	Forested wetlands	June-Sept	Yes
Botrychium montanum	mountain grape-fern	Forested wetlands	June-Sept	No
Botrychium pinnatum	pinnate grape fern	Forested wetlands	June-Sept	Yes
Calamagrostis breweri	Brewer's reedgrass	Sub-alpine, moist – dry meadows	June- Sept	No
Carex livida	pale sedge	Wet-dry meadow, fen	June-Sept	No
Castilleja thompsonii	Thompson's paintbrush	Rock outcrops east of the Cascade Crest	July-Aug	No
Cimicifuga elata	tall bugbane	Mesic mixed hardwood/ conifer forest	June-Sept	Yes
Coptis trifolia	3-leaflet goldthread	Edge of forested fens	June-July	No
Corydalis aquae-gelidae	cold water corydalis	Forested seeps and streams	June-Sept	Yes
Diphasiastrum complanatum	ground cedar	Open conifer forest	Apr-Nov	No
Erigeron howellii	Howell's daisey	Moist-dry cliffs, talus, rocky slopes	June-Sept	No
Fritillaria camschatcensis	Indian rice	Moist-dry meadow	June-Aug	No
Howellia aquatilis var howellia	howellia	Low elevation lakes and ponds	June- Sept	No
Lewisia columbiana var. columbiana	Columbia lewisia	Dry cliffs, talus, rocky slopes	June-Sept	No
Lycopodiella inundata	bog club-moss	Wet meadows and bogs	July-Sept	No
Montia howellii	Howell's montia	Moist-dry open lowland forest	April-July	Yes
Ophioglossum pusillum	adder's tongue	Wet-moist meadow	June-Sept	No

PETS Species Documented or Suspected From Mt. Hood NF					
	Vascu	lar Plants			
Species	Common Name	General Habitat	Survey Period	Potential Habitat?	
Phlox hendersonii	Henderson's phlox	Sub-alpine, dry, rocky, Scree	July-Sept	No	
Potentilla villosa	villous cinquefoil	Sub-alpine, dry, rocky, scree	July-Sept	No	
Ranunculus reconditus	obscure buttercup	Shrub-steppe grasslands	April-June	No	
Romanzoffia thompsonii	mistmaiden	Vernally wet cliffs	April-June	No	
Scheuchzeria palustris var.americana	scheuchzeria	Wet meadow, bog, fen	June-Sept	No	

Sisyrinchium sarmentosum	Pale blue-eyed grass	Moist-dry meadow	June-Aug	No
Suksdorfia violacea	Violet suksdorfia	Moist cliffs, talus, rocky slopes	May-July	No
Taushia stricklandii	Strickland's taushia	Moist-dry meadow	June-Sept	No
Wolffia borealis	Dotted water-meal	Pond, lake, gently flowing water	May-Sept	No
Wolffia columbiana	water-meal	Pond, lake, gently flowing water	May-Sept	No
	Bryo	phytes		
Rhizomnium nudum	moss	Moist mineral soil in forest, 3000 – 5000 ft.	June - Oct	No
Schistostega pennata	green goblin moss	Moist mineral soil on rootwads	June- Oct	No
Scouleria marginata	moss	Rock and boulders in streams	May - Nov	No
Tetraphis geniculata	bent-awn moss	Large down wood in old growth forest	May- Oct	No
	Lic	hens		
Chaenotheca subroscida	pin lichen	Boles of live trees and snags in moist forest.	May-Nov	Yes
Dermatocarpon luridum	Brook lichen	Rock submerged in streams	May-Nov	No
Hypogymnia duplicata	Ticker-Tape lichen	Conifer boles where > 90" inches of precipitation.	May - Oct	No
Leptogium burnetiae var. hirsutum	Jellyskin lichen	Bark of deciduous trees, down rotted logs and moss on rock.	May-Nov	Yes
Leptogium cyanescens	Blue jellyskin lichen	Moss and bark of deciduous trees.	May-Nov	Yes
Lobaria linita	Cabbage lungwort	Lower bole of conifers /often mossy boulders.	May-Nov	Yes
Nephroma occultum	Cryptic kidney lichen	Tree boles and branches in older forest habitat	May-Nov	No
Pannaria rubiginosa	Brown-eyed shingle lichen	conifer/deciduous tree bark in moist forest habitat.	May-Nov	Yes

PEIS	Species Documented of	r Suspected From Mt. Ho	ood NF	
	Lic	hens		
Species	Common Name	General Habitat	Survey Period	Potential Habitat?
Peltigera neckeri	Black saddle lichen	Many substrates in moist forest.	May-Nov	Yes
Peltigera pacifica	Fringed pelt lichen	On moss in moist forest habitats	May-Nov	Yes
Pilophorus nigricaulis	Matchstick lichen	Rock on cool, north- facing slopes.	May-Nov	No
Pseudocyphellaria rainierensis	specklebelly	boles of hardwoods and conifers in older forests	May-Nov	No
Ramalina pollinaria	Chalky ramalina	Bark in moist, low- elevation habitats.	May-Nov	No

Tholurna dissimilis	Urn lichen	Branches of krummolz at moderate to high elev.	Jun-Oct	No
Usnea longissima	Methuselah's beard lichen	Branches of conifers and hardwoods in moist forest.	Apr-Nov	Yes
	Fu	ıngi		
Bridgeoporus nobilissimus	noble polypore	Large true fir snags	May-Nov	No
Cordyceps capitata	earthtongue	Parasitic on truffles (Elaphomyces spp.)	Sept-Oct	Yes
Cortinarius barlowensis	mushroom	Montane coniferous forest to 4000 ft.	Sept-Nov	Yes
Cudonia monticola	earthtongue	Spruce needles and coniferous debris.	Aug-Nov	No
Gomphus kauffmanii	mushroom	Terrestrial in deep humus under pine and true fir	Sep-Nov	No
Gyromitra californica	mushroom	On/adjacent to-rotted confer stumps/ logs.	June	Yes
Leucogaster citrinus	truffle	With the roots of conifers to 6600 feet.	Aug-Nov	Yes
Mycena monticola	mushroom	Terrestrial in conifer forest above 3300 feet.	Aug-Nov	No
Otidea smithii	cup fungi	Under cottonwood, Dfir and w. hemlock.	Aug-Dec	Yes
Phaeocollybia attenuata	mushroom	Terrestrial in conifer forest.	Oct-Nov	Yes
Phaeocollybia californica	mushroom	With silver fir, Doug fir and w. hemlock	May, Oct- Nov	Yes
Phaeocollybia olivacea	mushroom	Terrestrial in low- elevation conifer forest.	Oct-Nov	Yes
Phaeocollybia oregonensis	mushroom	Associated with roots of silver fir, Dougfir and w. hemlock.	Oct-Nov	Yes
Phaeocollybia piceae	mushroom	Terrestrial with true & Dougfir /w. hemlock.	Oct-Nov	Yes
Phaeocollybia pseudofestiva	mushroom	under mixed conifers and hardwoods.	Oct-Dec	Yes

PETS Species Documented or Suspected From Mt. Hood NF					
	Fungi				
Phaeocollybia scatesiae	mushroom	With true fir and <i>Vaccinium</i> spp.	May, Oct- Nov	No	
Ramaria amyloidea	coral fungi	Terrestrial under true fir, Dougfir and w. hemlock.	SepOct.	Yes	
Ramaria gelatiniaurantia	coral fungi	Terrestrial under true fir, Dougfir and w. hemlock.	Oct.	Yes	
Sowerbyella rhenana	cup fungi	Terrestrial under conifers.	OctDec.	Yes	

<u>Field Surveys:</u> Field surveys were conducted within the project area between June 21 and 24, 2004 and September 9 and 10, 2004. With the exception of *Bridgeoporus nobilissimus*, surveys are not considered practical to detect the presence of PETS fungi species identified as having habitat within the proposed project area (FEIS 2004). It is assumed that these species are present in the project area where there is suitable habitat. Surveys to detect all other PETS species identified as having habitat in the project area are considered practical.

FINDINGS

The forest in all units of this project is young and dominated almost exclusively by Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziessi*) with western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) being a major associate. The units have a variety of slopes and aspects with elevations generally between 2200 and 3200 feet. The trees in all units are closely spaced and form an almost complete canopy cover.

The most common plant association present is the Western Hemlock/Dwarf Oregon Grape/Swordfern. Here the herb layer is dominated by swordfern (*Polystichum munitum*) with bracken fern (*Pteridium aquillinum*), star-flower (*Trientalis latifolius*), trillium (*Trillium ovatum*), and vanilla leaf (*Achlys triphylla*) present in smaller amounts. A fairly dense shrub layer of vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) with minor amounts of drier site shrubs such as salal (*Gaultheria shalon*), baldhip rose (*Rosa pisocarpa*), and creeping snowberry (*Symphoricarpos mollis*) are common.

Smaller inclusions of Western Hemlock/Swordfern, Western Hemlock/Dwarf Oregon Grape and Western Hemlock/Dwarf Oregon Grape-Salal can also be found within the proposed project area. A description of these and similar plant associations can be found within the "Plant Association and Management Guide for the Western Hemlock Zone (Halverson *et al.* 1986).

PETS species detected by surveys: **NONE**

Species Assumed Present: Cordyceps capitata

Cortinarius barlowensis Gyromitra californica Leucogaster citrinus

Otidea smithii

Phaeocollybia californica Phaeocollybia attenuata Phaeocollybia olivacea
Phaeocollybia oregonensis

Phaeocollybia piceae

Phaeocollybia pseudofestiva

Ramaria amyloidea

Ramaria gelatiniaurantia Sowerbyella rhenana

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

Proposed, Threatened and Endangered Species

Howellia aquatilis is generally confined to palustrine wetlands. No habitat of this type exists within the project area, thus the proposed action will have **NO EFFECT** on this threatened Collawash Thinning EA - Appendix D page D-7

species.

Sensitive Species

Table 3 displays the impact of the proposed action on species that were targeted by the field survey. No PETS species were detected by the survey, however for the following fungi species, presence is assumed.

Cordyceps capitata is a widespread but locally rare species documented from 38 sites in the western Cascade and Coast Ranges in Washington, Oregon and northern California. Two sites are known from Mt. Hood NF on Zigzag District. The species is parasitic on the fruiting body of Elaphomyces spp., a genus of underground-fruiting fungi in the truffle group. Elaphomyces are associated with the roots of conifers. The proposed action will not remove all host trees for Elaphomyces, and it is assumed that C. capitata will be able to persist. Soil compaction and the creation of forage enhancement areas could have a localized negative impact on individuals. Tresender (2004) analyzed 31 studies that looked at the response of mycorrhizal fungi to nitrogen fertilization and found populations depressed by 15 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. As C. capitata is dependent on the mycorrhizal Elaphomyces spp., it is assumed that nitrogen fertilization may impact individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing for this species.

Cortinarius barlowensis is widely distributed, known from 16 sites in the western Cascades, Coast Range and Olympic Mountains of Washington and Oregon. There are three known sites from the Mt. Hood NF on the Zigzag District. Habitat is soil under conifers. Soil compaction and the creation of forage enhancement areas could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing.

Gyromitra californica is distributed from British Columbia to northern California and east to Colorado, Montana and Nevada. It is known in Washington, Oregon and northern California from 35 sites, one of which is on the Mt. Hood NF, Hood River District. This species is found on well-rotted stumps and logs of conifers or in soil with rotted wood. Soil compaction and the creation of forage enhancement areas could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing.

Leucogaster citrinus is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, known from western Washington, western Oregon and northern California and known from 45 sites. There are four sites from the Mt. Hood NF, Zigzag District. This truffle species is associated with the roots of conifers. The proposed action will not remove all host trees, so it is assumed that *L. citrinus* will be able to persist. Soil compaction and the creation of forage enhancement areas could have a localized negative impact on individuals as will the application of nitrogen fertilizer. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing for this species.

Otidea smithii is known from 10 scattered sites in the western Washington, Western Oregon and northern California. On the Mt. Hood NF, there is one known location on Clackamas River District. This is found on soil under Douglas-fir, western hemlock and cottonwood. Soil compaction and the creation of forage enhancement areas could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend

toward federal listing.

Phaeocollybia attenuata is endemic to the Pacific Northwest from western Washington and western Oregon to northern California where it is known from 131 sites. One site is known from the Mt. Hood NF on Zigzag District. This species is on soil under conifers. Soil compaction and the creation of forage enhancement areas could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing.

Phaeocollybia californica is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, known from 34 sites in western Washington, western Oregon and northern California. No sites are known to occur on the Mt. Hood NF, however, there is a site on the adjacent Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. This species is terrestrial and associated with the roots of Douglas-fir, western hemlock and Pacific silver fir. The proposed action will not remove all host trees, so it is assumed that *P. californica* will be able to persist. Soil compaction, the creation of forage enhancement areas and nitrogen fertilization could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing for this species.

Phaeocollybia olivacea is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, known from 92 sites in western Washington, western Oregon and northern California. There is one known site on the Mt. Hood NF on Zigzag District. This species is terrestrial under conifers. Soil compaction and the creation of forage enhancement areas could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing.

Phaeocollybia oregonensis is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, know from 10 sites in the Oregon Coast Range and western Cascades. On Mt. Hood NF there are two sites from Zigzag District. This species is terrestrial and associated with the roots of Douglas-fir, western hemlock and Pacific silver fir. The proposed action will not remove all host trees, so it is assumed that *P. oregonensis* will be able to persist. Soil compaction, the creation of forage enhancement areas and nitrogen fertilization could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing for this species.

Phaeocollybia piceae is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, known from 49 sites in western Washington, western Oregon and northern California. There is one known site on the Mt. Hood NF on Zigzag District. This species is terrestrial and associated with the roots of Douglas-fir, western hemlock and Pacific silver fir. The proposed action will not remove all host trees, so it is assumed that *P. piceae* will be able to persist. Soil compaction, the creation of forage enhancement areas and nitrogen fertilization could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing for this species.

Phaeocollybia pseudofestiva is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, known from British Columbia south through western Washington, western Oregon to California. There are 36 known sites in Washington, Oregon and California, four of which are on the Mt. Hood NF, Zigzag District. The species grows on soil under conifers. Soil compaction and the creation of forage enhancement areas could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing.

Ramaria amyloidea is endemic to the Pacific Northwest from western Washington to northern California. It is currently known from 16 sites. Habitat for the species is soil in sites associated with true fir, Douglas-fir and western hemlock. Soil compaction and the creation of forage enhancement areas could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing.

Ramaria gelatiniaurantia is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, known from 24 sites from western Washington to northern California. Two sites are located on the Mt. Hood NF, Clackamas River District. Habitat for the species is soil in sites associated with true fir, Douglas-fir and western hemlock. Soil compaction and the creation of forage enhancement areas could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing.

Sowerbyella rhenana occurs in Europe, Japan and Northwest North America. In the Pacific Northwest, it is known from 55 sites in western Washington, western Oregon and northern California, including 2 sites from the Mt. Hood NF on Clackamas River and Zigzag Districts. Habitat for the species is soil under conifers. One collection was noted to occur under tanoak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*). Soil compaction and the creation of forage enhancement areas could have a localized negative impact on individuals. The proposed action May Impact Individuals but is not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing.

Table 3.

Vascular Plants				
Species Name	Common Name	Species Likely Present in Project Area?	Impact of Project	
Botrychium minganense	mingan moonwort	No	No Impact	
Botrychium pinnatum	pinnate moonwort	No	No Impact	
Cimicifuga elata	tall bugbane	No	No Impact	
Corydalis aquae-gelidae	cold water corydalis	No	No Impact	
Montia howellii	Howell's montia	No	No Impact	

Lichens				
Chaenotheca subroscida	pin lichen	No	No Impact	
Leptogium burnetiae var. hirsutum	jellyskin lichen	No	No Impact	
Leptogium cyanescens	blue jellyskin lichen	No	No Impact	
Lobaria linita	lungwort	No	No Impact	
Pannaria rubiginosa	brown-eyed shingle lichen	No	No Impact	
Peltigera neckeri	black saddle lichen	No	No Impact	
Peltigera pacifica	fringed pelt lichen	No	No Impact	
Usnea longissima	Methuselah's beard lichen	No	No Impact	
Fungi				
Cordyceps capitata	earthtongue	Yes	MII	

Cortinarius barlowensis	mushroom	Yes	MII
Gyromitra californica	mushroom	Yes	MII
Leucogaster citrinus	truffle	Yes	MII
Otidea smithii	cup fungi	Yes	MII
Phaeocollybia attenuata	mushroom	Yes	MII
Phaeocollybia californica	mushroom	Yes	MII
Phaeocollybia olivacea	mushroom	Yes	MII
Phaeocollybia piceae	mushroom	Yes	MII
Phaeocollybia oregonensis	mushroom	Yes	MII
Phaeocollybia pseudofestiva	mushroom	Yes	MII
Ramaria amyloidea	coral fungi	Yes	MII
Ramaria gelatiniaurantia	coral fungi	Yes	MII
Sowerbyella rhenana	cup fungi	Yes	MII

MII = May Impact Individuals but not likely to lead to a trend toward federal listing.

The Biological Evaluation is complete	•	
/s/ Mark Boyll		<u>September 21, 2004</u>
Mark Boyll, Botanist		Date
	REFERENCES	

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- USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management. 2004. Record of Decision to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. Portland, OR.