

**DECISION
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT
FOR
ROSEBURG, OREGON ADC DISTRICT
Fiscal Year 1997**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Damage Control (ADC) program continues to receive requests to conduct wildlife damage management to protect livestock, wildlife and human safety from vertebrate predators in the Roseburg ADC District located in southwestern Oregon. ADC is continuing to work cooperatively with the Winema, Fremont and Siskiyou National Forests (FS), the Lakeview District of Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and private land owners to reduce wildlife damage in the District. ADC completed an environmental assessment (EA) in June, 1995 for controlling damage caused by predatory animals and has been reviewed. It is determined that this analysis remains valid and that all recent documentation and new information has been considered in this decision.

II. DECISION AND RATIONALE

After meeting with cooperators, I have carefully reviewed the ADC activities in the Roseburg District for fiscal year 1996. I believe that the need for action and issues identified in the EA have not changed and are best addressed by continuing the existing program. Mitigations and Standard Operating Procedures identified and analyzed in the EA will continue to be incorporated as part of each annual work plan. It is my decision to continue implementing the previously selected alternative as described in the June 19, 1995 EA and FONSI. The EA analyzed four alternatives to address wildlife damage management in the District. Planned ADC activities in the District will continue to incorporate all actions identified in Alternative 2. The alternative allows ADC to control offending animals or local populations on private lands and on specific areas adjacent to and on Forest Service and BLM lands that have documented historical losses and to respond to requests involving bears and cougars.

MOUs signed between APHIS and FS, BLM, ODFW and ODA clearly outline the responsibility, technical expertise, and coordination between agencies; and in the case of the FS and BLM provide the basis for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The current program is consistent with the management direction provided in the Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plan) for the Winema, Fremont and Siskiyou National Forests and with the RMP and MFPs for the Lakeview District of the Bureau of Land Management.

All wildlife damage management activities have been conducted in a manner consistent with all applicable environmental regulations including the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and in

compliance with those reasonable and prudent measures outlined in the Section 7 consultation completed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Roseburg ADC District EA.

The FY 1996 annual take of the primary target and nontarget species in the Roseburg ADC District has been analyzed and compared to the statewide take and compared to the estimated populations. It was determined that the take remains well within the allowable harvest levels analyzed in the EA and the 1994 FEIS. The take of nontarget animals was below the 5% objective established in the EA.

To insure that concerns of the Klamath Tribes are addressed on an annual basis, Oregon ADC invited representatives from the Tribes to participate in annual work planning sessions within their area of legal concern. The results of this consultation was incorporated into a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Tribe and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service that meet the intent of the Government-To-Government Relationship Directive of April 29, 1994.

A public notice is being published announcing the availability of this Decision and FONSI. In addition, copies of this Decision and FONSI are being sent to all parties who commented on the original EA.

III. Compliance and Monitoring

APHIS-ADC will continue to formulate a joint strategy for program monitoring, data collection and analysis with BLM, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other cooperating agencies. ADC activity will be monitored via periodic coordination contacts between ADC and those cooperating agencies.

Normally, according to the APHIS procedures implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), individual predator control actions are categorically excluded (7 C.F.R. 372.5(c), 60 Fed. Reg. 6000, 6003 (1995)). In order to evaluate and determine if there may be any potentially significant or cumulative impacts, we have decided to review all ADC actions as described in the EA. The EA, this decision and FONSI will be reviewed annually or as needed to ensure conformance with all state and federal agency management plans or other guidelines, current environmental regulations, annual work plans and APHIS-ADC policies. Substantial changes in the scope of this project or changes in the guidance documents and environmental regulations could trigger the need for further analysis.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

A review of the past years activities in the Roseburg ADC District indicates that there will not be a significant impact on the quality of the human environment as a result of this proposal. I agree with this conclusion, and therefore, determine that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This determination is based on consideration of the following factors which are addressed in the Roseburg EA:

1. The proposed activities will not significantly affect public health and safety.
2. The proposed activities will not have an impact on unique characteristics of the geographical areas such as historical or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecological critical areas.
3. The effects on the human environment of the proposed activities are not highly controversial.
4. The effects of the proposed activities are not highly uncertain and do not involve unique or unknown risks.
5. The proposed activities do not establish a precedent for future actions.
6. There are no significant cumulative effects identified by this assessment.
7. The proposed activities do not affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or will cause a loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources, including interference with American Indian traditional uses or Sacred sites.
8. The proposed activities will fully comply with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. An informal Section 7 consultation for the proposed activities has been completed.
9. There are no irreversible or irretrievable resource commitments identified by this assessment.
10. The proposed activities will not threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

For additional information concerning this decision, please contact Thomas Hoffman, APHIS-ADC, 2600 S.E. 98th, Suite 110, Portland, Oregon 97266, Area Code (503) 231-6184.

Approved By:



Thomas R Hoffman
State Director
Animal Damage Control

12/17/96
Date