MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: Gold Member Blowdown Timber Sale #30-081286 and attached Forest Practice Application No. 2609823 is a two unit variable retention harvest (VRH) with associated riparian harvest encompassing 102 net harvest acres. This proposal consists of riparian harvest of approximately 8 acres of blown down riparian management zones and approximately 94 acres of variable retention harvest on adjacent uplands Approximately 2,827 MBF of timber will be removed with this timber sale proposal. Approximately 170 feet of new road construction, 3,454 feet of reconstruction, and 5,118 feet of pre-haul maintenance are planned in conjuncture with this proposal. 318 feet of road will be decommissioned and 985 feet will be abandoned upon completion of harvest.

Description of mitigation: The following Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) procedures apply:

Northern Spotted Owl: (Procedure PR-14-004-120) The sale is outside known owl management areas, and is in 60 year-old timber not considered to be habitat.

Marbled Murrelet: (Procedure PR-14-004-320)
There are no occupied marbled murrelet sites in the proposal area and the South Coast murrelet model identifies this proposal area as non marbled murrelet habitat.

Riparian and Wetland Management Zones (RMZ/WMZ): (Procedure PR-14-004-150)
All streams adjacent to or within this sale meet or exceed the HCP required buffers.

Type 3 waters have a 175' average buffer applied to standing timber.

Type 4 waters have a 100' average buffer applied to standing timber.

Type 5 (including RMZ units) have a 30' foot no equipment zone applied to them

This proposal includes approximately 8 acres of blow down salvage within riparian areas. Within the RMZ harvest, the inner core has been protected with the installation of a 25' buffer. All sound standing timber, "legacy" down wood not associated with the recent wind storm event, and 10 down conifer logs per RMZ acre will be left. An estimated 15 -20% of the original stand will be left post harvest in the riparian harvest areas. This will provide LWD to the stream and some shade relief until a new conifer plantation is established. Road construction and logging operations will be in compliance with the HPA, HCP, and Forest Practice rules to mitigate possible adverse effects on RMZs.

Slope Stability: (Procedure PR-14-004-050)
All unstable slopes were excluded from the sale area.

Retention Trees: (Procedure PR-14-006-090)

A total of 756 trees were selected and either clumped or scattered throughout the variable retention harvest of the upland portions of the proposal. All sound standing trees, legacy down wood, and 10 pieces per RMZ acre will be left in the riparian harvest portions of this proposal.

Roads:

Road construction, reconstruction, and maintenance activities will be in compliance with the HCP, HPA, and current Forest Practices regulations. The work detailed in the road plan has been designed to improve surfacing on the haul roads, and provide for better drainage by installing additional, and replacing inadequate, culverts that will divert storm water onto stable forest floor. Soils exposed during road construction activities will be protected from erosion by grass seeding and mulching with hay.

Proponent: Department of Natural Resources – Olympic Region

Location of proposal, including street address, if any:
This proposed timber sale is located 14 road miles east of Humptulips, Washington off the Rayonier 3270 road system. It is located in parts of Section 36 T21N, R9W, W.M.

Lead agency: Department of Natural Resources

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

[] **There is no comment period for this Mitigated DNS.**

[X] **This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from** April 15, 2009 **. Comments must be submitted by** April 29, 2009

Responsible official:	John X. Viada
Position/title:	Olympic Region – Region Manager
Phone:	360-374-6131
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OK

Date: 3-24-09 **Signature:** John X Viada

There is no agency SEPA appeal.
11/09/00