

**Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests,  
and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management  
Office of Communications**

*Working as One to Serve Central Oregon*

[www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon)

**For immediate release: April 21, 2008**

**Contact: Virginia Gibbons (541) 416-6647**

## **Upper Beaver Watershed Project Proposal**

Prineville— A proposed project to manage vegetation within the Upper Beaver watershed is open for public comment through May 16, 2008. The project area, referred to as the “Upper Beaver Vegetation Management Analysis”, covers a 37,000-acre portion of the Paulina Ranger District on the Ochoco National Forest, approximately 70 air miles east of Prineville and within Crook County.

The project is being proposed to improve the vegetative condition and restore plant communities towards a range of historic condition. Several objectives have been identified to meet the intent of the project, including:

- A need for increasing large trees, late and old structure stands, introducing large woody debris and hardwood plant species within the Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas while reducing the distribution of western juniper
- Reducing the amount of fuels to maintain low intensity fire conditions
- Providing wood products for meeting public needs and contributing to the health of local and regional economies

Proposed actions associated with the project include thinning approximately 2,923 acres of timber through commercial harvesting methods and 8,337 acres through non-commercial means. Fuels created by thinning activities would be piled on approximately 2,500 acres and prescribed fire would be used for fuels reduction purposes on approximately 17, 843 acres total. A shaded fuel break is proposed for approximately 600 feet along each side of the historic Summit Trail to protect significant values and to provide for firefighter safety in the event of a wildfire in this area.

Commercial harvest methods would include the use of tractors on most units, skyline on four units and helicopter logging on one unit. Approximately two miles of temporary roads would be constructed; no new permanent roads would be constructed and all roads that are reopened during the project would be closed after activities are completed.

Site-specific forest plan amendments within the project area may be needed to implement some of the proposed activities. These proposed activities include:

- Using prescribed fire treatments in designated old growth areas
- The re-designation of an approximate 276-acre ponderosa pine-dominated old growth area in Sugar Creek to an approximate 389-acre area of mixed conifer-dominated old growth at the upper end of Powell Creek, which has been determined by wildlife biologists to be more suitable for old growth-associated species.

-more-

Please send your comments on this project proposal by May 16, 2008 to: Janis Bouma, Project Leader, Paulina Ranger District, 7803 Beaver Creek Road, Paulina, OR 97751 or email comments to [comments-pacificnorthwest-ochoco-paulina@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-ochoco-paulina@fs.fed.us) Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, become a matter of public record. Anonymous submissions will be considered, however, an anonymous commenter will not have appeal rights. For further information, contact Janis Bouma at 541-477-6900.

-end-