

File Code: 1950-1

Date: July 29, 2008

Re: Ball Park Thin Project Environmental
Assessment

To: Interested Public:

The McKenzie River Ranger District has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ball Park Thin Project area. It is now available for the 30-day public review and comment period. The EA can be viewed on the Willamette National Forest web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette/manage/nepa/current_mckenzie.html. You may also request a copy of the document by contacting the Ranger District at the number listed above.

This EA examines two Action Alternatives and a No Action Alternative for implementing stand treatments in plantations. Alternative B, as the proposed action, would implement the activities listed in the following table:

Alternative B Treatment Plan

Type of Treatment		# of Acres
<i>Timber Harvest</i>	Thinning to 40% canopy closure	664
	Riparian Thinning	122
	1-acre Gap Creation	129
	<i>Total Harvest</i>	<i>915</i>
<i>Prescribed Burning</i>	Under or pile burns	1,065
	Underburn Buffer	42
	Natural fuels underburn	49
	<i>Total Burning</i>	<i>1,156</i>

Connected actions include: approximately 95 replacement culverts and approximately 9 new culverts, construction of and decommissioning of less than 3 miles of temporary roads, various fuels treatment, maintenance will be performed on 43.9 miles of road, .53 miles of current closed roads will be decommissioned, logging slash will be reduced with fire, and there will be a natural fuels underburn performed on 49 acres.

This proposal responds to the need to improve stand conditions in terms of species composition, density, and structure over the long term in these 80 years and younger managed stands.

The project is located in the McKenzie River/Deer Creek watershed, in T.14S, R.6E; T.15S R.6E; Willamette Meridian, Lane County, Oregon. Timber

sales would be offered in Fiscal Year of 2009.

Your comments on the Ball Park Thin Environmental Assessment are encouraged and are important to me as I decide how to proceed with this project. I understand you may simply wish to express your support or opposition to the Ball Park Thin Project and I am interested in your opinion. However, comments that only support or oppose the proposed project or an alternative in the EA provide little basis for improvements. If you do not support or fully support the project as proposed, specific solution-oriented comments will be most effective and useful.

Also, if you feel we have not properly considered the issues and impacts of this project in the EA, I would like to know what they are and what you feel should be considered. Factors that may help to organize your comments:

- **Adequacy of the Analysis** - disagreement with the conclusions of the effects in the analysis or belief that the analysis is inadequate including specific reasons why you believe so (other research, scientific studies, professional opinions)
- **Alternatives or Mitigation Measures** – suggestions of an alternative that wasn't considered and would still meet the purpose and need for the project or mitigation measures that were not identified that would reduce adverse resource impacts.
- **Inaccuracies and Discrepancies** - inaccuracies or discrepancies in factual information, data, or analysis.

Reviewers should provide the Forest Service with their comments during the 30-day comment period. Comments must be submitted to Mary Allison, District Ranger, McKenzie River Ranger District, by mail at 57600 McKenzie Highway, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413, by phone at (541) 822-3381, or by fax at (541) 822-7254. The Ranger District's Office is open from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. Electronic comments may also be submitted and must be submitted to: comments-pacificnorthwest-willamette-mckenzieriver@fs.fed.us. As the Responsible Official, I will accept oral, electronic, and written comments during the comment period, which ends 30 days from the date this notice is published in the Register-Guard, Eugene, OR, which is the Forest's official newspaper of record. This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215. Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14. Only individuals or organizations who submitted comments or expressed an interest in the project during the comment period may appeal. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who only submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. Additionally, according to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without names and addresses.

Additional information about the project may be obtained by contacting the Interdisciplinary Team Leader Shadie Nimer, at 541-822-7271, (by email at snimer@fs.fed.us). Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ **Mary Allison**

MARY ALLISON
District Ranger

