

Roseburg District BLM

Planning Update



Winter 2002

Dear Citizen:

The Planning Update is published to provide current information about specific projects and future events planned on the Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management. Please send written comments, including the specific project and field office name, to 777 N.W. Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg, Oregon 97470, during the public comment period. If you wish to save paper and postage, and you have access to the internet, you can find the Planning Update at www.blm.gov/roseburg.

Please remember to ask us to remove your name from our mailing list if you no longer wish to receive the Planning Update. For your convenience, you can also find a copy of the Planning Update at the Douglas County Library. Your comments and concerns are welcome and may influence the final decision on these projects.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Sincerely,

Cary A. Osterhaus
District Manager

USDI - Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg District Office
777 N.W. Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, Oregon 97470



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Key Contacts

For more information about projects in the field offices, contact the following environmental coordinators:

- Jim Luse, Swiftwater Field Office, 464-3254
- Paul Ausbeck, South River Field Office, 464-3270

Non-Discretionary Actions Under Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreements

There are 140 individual agreements and easements that were executed prior to implementation of the Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP) (p. 71). These agreements are subject to regulations in effect at the time they were executed or assigned. Discretion on the part of the BLM to object to road construction is limited to one environmental reason - excessive erosion damage.

South River Field Office

- Silver Butte Timber Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-824
Permittee Road Construction in Section 1, T. 31 S., R. 6 W.
- Lone Rock Timber Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-768
Permittee Road Construction in Section 9, T. 28 S., R. 8 W.

Swiftwater Field Office

None completed for the fourth quarter 2002.

Categorical Exclusions

This is a category of actions that federal agencies have determined not to significantly affect the human environment, individually or cumulatively. Neither an EA or EIS is required (40 CFR 1508.4).

South River Field Office

- **Timber Salvage** - Bolt Cutter/Burma Shave Salvage - Salvage of 62 MBF of blown down timber adjacent to previously harvested units of the Bolt Cutter Timber Sale in Sections 15 and 21 of T. 29 S., R. 6 W. and 25.5 MBF of blown down timber from the Burma Shave Commercial Thinning Sale in Sections 5 and 7 of T. 30 S., R. 8 W. (OR-105-02-31)
- **Hauling Permit** - Issuance of a temporary hauling permit to White Family Investments LLC authorizing the use of BLM roads in Section 17 of T. 29 S., R. 3 W. (OR-105-02-28)
- **Special Forest Products** - Harvest of yew bark for medicinal purposes authorized in Sections 8 and 9 of T. 28 S., R. 8 W. (OR-105-02-36)

Swiftwater Field Office

No categorically excluded items completed for the fourth quarter 2002.

New Projects

South River Field Office

Early Commercial Thinning

Initiation of this analysis has been rescheduled for the end of January, 2003.

Commercial Thinning 2003

An analysis for commercial thinning was initiated in October, 2002. The analysis will consider thinning and density management treatments to approximately 520 acres of forest stands allocated to Matrix and Riparian Reserves. Prospective units are located within the Olalla-Lookingglass, South Umpqua River and Myrtle Creek watersheds. The specific locations of proposed units are: Section 31, T. 29 S., R. 7 W.; Section 31, T. 29½ S., R. 7 W.; Sections 23, 25 and 35, T. 29 S., R. 3 W.; Sections 31 and 32, T. 28 S., R. 2 W.; Sections 35 and 36, T. 28 S., R. 3 W.; and Sections 5 and 6, T. 29S., R. 2W. It is anticipated that the analysis will generate three timber sales with an estimated yield of 9,000 CCF of merchantable timber volume from the Matrix allocations.

Swiftwater Field Office

Currently, there are no new action items (projects) to be included in this section.

Status of Previous Planning Update Action Items

District Wide Projects

Outplanting Site Project

Description: This project would thin approximately half of the surviving trees in each plantation (an average of 480 trees per acre were planted). Due to the nature of these plantations, every other tree would be cut, as well as any naturally seeded trees and brush.

Location: Roseburg District Outplanting Sites.

Issue Identification: September 2002.

Analysis: Environmental Analysis in progress.

Public Review: Expected December 1, 2002.

Decision Dates: Expected January 25, 2003.

South River Field Office

Myrtle Creek Watershed Restoration

Description: An assessment of the environmental consequences of watershed restoration projects that would include the replacement of stream-crossing culverts that are at risk of failure and/or blocking passage to fish, road decommissioning, road upgrading, slide stabilization, and installation of in-stream structures to promote habitat complexity.

Location: Throughout the Myrtle Creek 5th Field Watershed.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

South River Commercial Thinning 2002

Description: Commercial thinning and density management of approximately 520 acres of managed second-growth stands in GFMA and Riparian Reserves. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Sections 27, 33 and 35, T. 29 S., R. 6 W.; Sections 3 and 9, T. 30 S., R. 6 W.; Sections 25 and 35, T. 29 S., R. 7 W.; Section 29 of T. 29 S., R. 8 W.; Section 13, T. 29 S., R. 9 W.; and Sections 13 and 23, T. 30 S., R. 9 W.

Location: Upper Middle Fork Coquille and Middle South Umpqua River/Rice Creek watershed analysis units.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

South River FY 2001 Regeneration Harvest Project Plan

Description: Regeneration harvest of approximately 640 acres allocated as GFMA and Connectivity/Diversity Blocks. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Secs. 33 and 35, T. 27 S., R. 4 W. ; Secs. 3, 5 and 10, T. 28 S., R. 4 W.; Sections 3 and 4, T. 30 S., R. 4 W.; Secs. 27 and 33, T. 31 S., R. 6 W.; and Sec. 3, T. 32 S., R. 6 W. The timber sales would be expected to yield approximately 26,900 CCF of timber.

Location: Lower South Umpqua River Watershed, South Umpqua River and Lower Cow Creek watersheds.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Middle Fork Coquille Commercial Thinning 2001

Description: Commercial thinning and density management of approximately 1,000 acres of managed second-growth stands in GFMA, Connectivity/Diversity Block and Riparian Reserve land use allocations. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Sec. 29 and 31 of T. 28 S. R. 8 W.; Sec. 31, 32, and 33 of T. 29 S., R. 8 W.; Sec. 5 and 7 of T. 30 S., R. 8 W.; and Sec. 1, 2, and 3 of T. 30 S., R. 9 W. The action is expected to result in 5 timber sales yielding approximately 18,000 CCF of timber.

Location: Middle Fork Coquille River watershed.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Anticipated in November 2002.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Beatty Creek/Island Creek Land Exchange

Description: The BLM would exchange parcels of timbered lands from the Public Domain for approximately 764 acres of Roseburg Resources Company lands in the Lower Cow Creek watershed. A majority of the lands acquired by the BLM would be added to the Beatty Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Area. Lands in the Island Creek area would be managed to provide additional recreational opportunities in association with the BLM's Island Creek Day Use Area.

Location: The lands that would be acquired by the BLM are located in Secs. 30 and 31, T. 30 S., R. 6 W. and Sec. 36, T. 30 S., R. 7 W. The BLM has identified 4 parcels of land in Sec. 4, T. 25 S., R. 3 W.; Sec. 20, T. 23 S., R. 4 W.; and Sec. 22, T. 24 S., R. 3 W. that are available and would be offered in exchange. Not all of the offered parcels are anticipated to be needed to complete the exchange.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Complete.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

South River Commercial Thinning 2000

Description: Commercial thinning and density management of approximately 300 acres of managed second-growth stands in GFMA and Riparian Reserves. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Sec. 19, T. 28 S., R. 8 W.; Secs. 13 and 24, T. 29 S., R. 3 W.; Secs. 3 and 4, T. 30 S., R. 3 W.; Sec. 19, T. 29 S., R. 2 W.; and Sec. 9, T. 30 S., R. 2 W. The timber sales would be expected to yield approximately 5,590 CCF of timber.

Location: East Fork and Middle Fork Coquille River, South Umpqua River, and Middle South Umpqua River/Dumont Creek watersheds.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Complete.

Public Review: Complete.

Decision Date: A 34-acre commercial thinning, Hurricane Ruby, was authorized on August 27, 2001. The commercial thinning was offered and sold on September 25, 2001. A second commercial thinning consisting of 136 acres, Weaver Road, was authorized on October 30, 2001, and sold at auction on November 27, 2001. A third sale, which included Units L and M of the analysis, was sold on September 24, 2002. One additional sale from the analysis is anticipated, but no date has been scheduled.

South Umpqua Connectivity Density Management

Description: Density management of approximately 140 acres allocated as Connectivity/Diversity Blocks and Riparian Reserves. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Sec. 17, T. 30 S., R. 2 W and Sec. 17, T. 30 S., R. 3 W. The timber sales would be designed to accelerate the development of old-growth habitat and yield an estimated 2,040 CCF of timber.

Location: Deadman/Dompier and South Umpqua River watersheds.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Complete.

Public Review: Complete.

Decision Date: The Bland Days Commercial Thinning Timber Sale was sold on September 24, 2002. The sale included Unit A from this analysis, totaling 56 acres. The remainder of the acres analyzed are still available for future offerings.

Ragu Timber Sale

Description: Regeneration harvest of approximately 150 acres allocated as GFMA.

Proposed timber sale units would be located in Sec. 9, 21, 29, and 33, T. 29 S., R. 8 W.; and Sec. 5, T.30 S., R. 8 W. The timber sale would be expected to yield approximately 6,208 CCF of timber.

Location: Olalla Creek/Lookingglass Creek and Middle Fork Coquille River watersheds.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Complete.

Public Review: Complete.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Dickerson Heights Timber Sale

Description: Regeneration harvest of approximately 180 acres allocated as GFMA and

Connectivity/Diversity Blocks. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Secs. 3, 11, 9, and 15, T. 29 S., R. 7 W. The timber sale would be expected to yield approximately 8,800 CCF of timber.

Location: Olalla Creek/Lookingglass Creek watershed.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Loose Laces Timber Sale

Description: Regeneration harvest of approximately 200 acres allocated as GFMA and

Connectivity/Diversity Blocks. Proposed timber sale units would be located in Secs. 1, 3, 13, and 15, T. 31 S., R. 6 W. The timber sale would be expected to yield approximately 7,300 CCF of timber.

Location: Lower Cow Creek watershed.

Issue Identification: EA OR105-98-04 and FONSI withdrawn and replaced by EA OR105-99-14. Issue identification completed.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment work in progress.

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Cow Catcher Timber Sale

Description: Regeneration harvest of approximately 190 acres of Matrix lands in Sec. 5, 7, 9, and 17, T. 31 S., R. 6 W. The timber sale would be expected to yield approximately 7,700 CCF of timber.

Location: Lower Cow Creek watershed.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress.

Public Review: Unknown at this time.

Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

Swiftwater Field Office

FY 2003 Commercial Thinning Timber Sales

Description: Analyze and design two separate commercial thinnings. The two thinnings would be analyzed separately, but have one environmental assessment (EA) document; Copeland Divide, (Commercial Thinning) Sec. 3, T. 22 S., R. 6 W., W.M.; Sec. 31, T. 21 S., R. 4 W. W.M.; Sec. 7, T. 22 S., R. 4 W. W.M.; and Boyd Howdy (Density Management/Commercial Thinning) Secs. 11, 13, 15, 21, 23, 25 & 27, T. 25 S., R. 2 W., W.M.; Secs. 29 & 30, T. 25 S., R.1W., W.M..

Location: Swiftwater Resource Area; GFMA, Connectivity, LSR, and Riparian Reserve.

Issue Identification: May/June 2002.

Analysis: Expected Jan. 2003.

Public Review: To be announced.

Decision Dates: To be announced.

Recreation Programmatic EA

Description: This EA analyzes a variety of repair, maintenance, upgrade, and minor improvement projects. To streamline the NEPA process this EA analyzes three project categories: 1) Repair/maintenance of damage caused by “Acts of God” (i.e. flood, wind, etc); 2) General maintenance and upgrade (e.g. pumphouses, pavilions, paving, etc.); and 3) Minor improvements (e.g. Eagle Scout projects, sprinkler systems, watchable wildlife sites, etc.)

Location: Swiftwater Resource Area Recreation Sites.

Issue Identification: August 2002.

Analysis: Expected by January 2003.

Public Review: To be announced.

Decision Dates: To be announced.

Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan (Formerly known as “Tyee Restoration”)

Description: This EA analyzes a variety of potential and continuing projects throughout the watershed. Treatment of forests for fish, wildlife and commercial objectives; treatment or decommissioning of roads; and instream and aquatic enhancement are a few of the types of projects analyzed in this EA.

Location: Swiftwater Resource Area; GFMA, Connectivity, LSR, and Riparian Reserve.

Issue Identification: May 2002.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in Progress.

Public Review: Expected by February 2003.

Decision Dates: To be announced.

Tioga Segment Re-Construction EA

Description: This project would upgrade the remaining unimproved portion of the Tioga Segment of the North Umpqua Trail. The reconstruction would include approximately 2600 feet of the North Umpqua Trail (approximately 502 feet of the trail is on BLM lands and the remainder is on lands owned by Douglas County (DC)), widening the trail to 48 inches, cutting encroaching trees (<16 Inches dbh), removing all protruding rocks in the trail path, covering hundreds of roots with soil and then gravel, establishing brush clearing limits of 8' x 8' and improving the trail drainage. The trail reconstruction would begin at the Deadline Falls trail junction and continue to the trail junction leading to the Douglas County Park Swiftwater.

Location: Sections 1 & 12, T.26S., R.3W., W.M.

Issue Identification: May 28, 2002.

Analysis: Completed July 2, 2002.

Public Review: Completed August 1, 2002.

Decision Date: Completed August 26, 2002.

FY 2002 Commercial Thinning Timber Sales

Description: Analyze and design four separate commercial thinnings. The four thinnings would be analyzed in two separate environmental assessment (EA) documents; West Side (Hayhurst and Cat Tracks), Sec. 3, T. 22 S., R. 6 W., W.M.; Sec. 31, T. 21 S., R. 4 W. W.M.; Sec. 7, T. 22 S., R. 4 W. W.M.; and East Side (Relativity and East Fork) Secs. 11, 13, 15, 21, 23, 25 & 27, T. 25 S., R. 2 W., W.M.; Secs. 29 & 30, T. 25 S., R.1W., W.M..

Location: Swiftwater Resource Area; GFMA, Connectivity, LSR, and Riparian Reserve.

Issue Identification: Completed.

Analysis: Westside EA complete. East Side expected was completed on November 4, 2002.

Public Review: Westside: Completed. Eastside: expected to be completed December 21, 2002.

Decision Dates: Westside: Completed. Eastside: Relativity expected for 2nd quarter, East Fork is to be announced.

Deferred Analyses

The following projects are not presently considered action items. Further work on the environmental assessments has been deferred. At such time as analysis is resumed, it will be noted in the Planning Update.

South River Field Office

North Myrtle Timber Sales

Can-Can Watershed Level Project Plan

North Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Level Plan

Middle South Umpqua /Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Level Plan

South River Firewood Cutting Areas

Swiftwater Field Office

Shingle Lane Regen & Commercial Thinning
Watson Mountain
Powell Creek
Pipeline
What-a-Gas
Green Thunder
Bear Hill

Other Assessments

South River Aquatic Restoration Assessment

Planning effort to consolidate all information from data sources, inventories, watershed analysis, etc. This consolidated information would then allow the South River Field Office to identify problem areas to focus future restoration activities. Ongoing.

Forest Health and Hazard Assessment

Description: An assessment to identify risks such as fire, insects and disease on a landscape scale, and propose locations and potential treatments to address these risks.

Location: All lands within the South River Resource Area.

Analysis: Completion is expected by the end of December. The assessment is not a project analysis from which any decisions will be generated. Any proposed forest health or hazard-reduction treatments will require an assessment of environmental consequences and preparation of the appropriate level of documentation by a separate interdisciplinary team.

Watershed Analysis Status

South River Field Office

Work on second iterations of watershed analysis for the Lower Cow Creek and Myrtle Creek watersheds is continuing. Completion dates are unknown at this time.



South River Commercial Thinning Analysis 2003

R9W

R8W

R7W

R6W

R5W

R4W

R3W

R2W

Roseburg

T27S

South River Resource Area

Winston

T28S

Myrtle Creek

T29S

UPPER SOUTH
MYRTLE CREEK

DAYS CREEK

COFFEE
CREEK

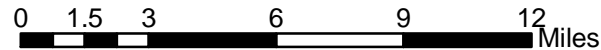
T30S

MT SHEP

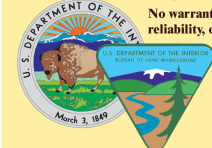
Riddle

Canyonville

T31S



Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management



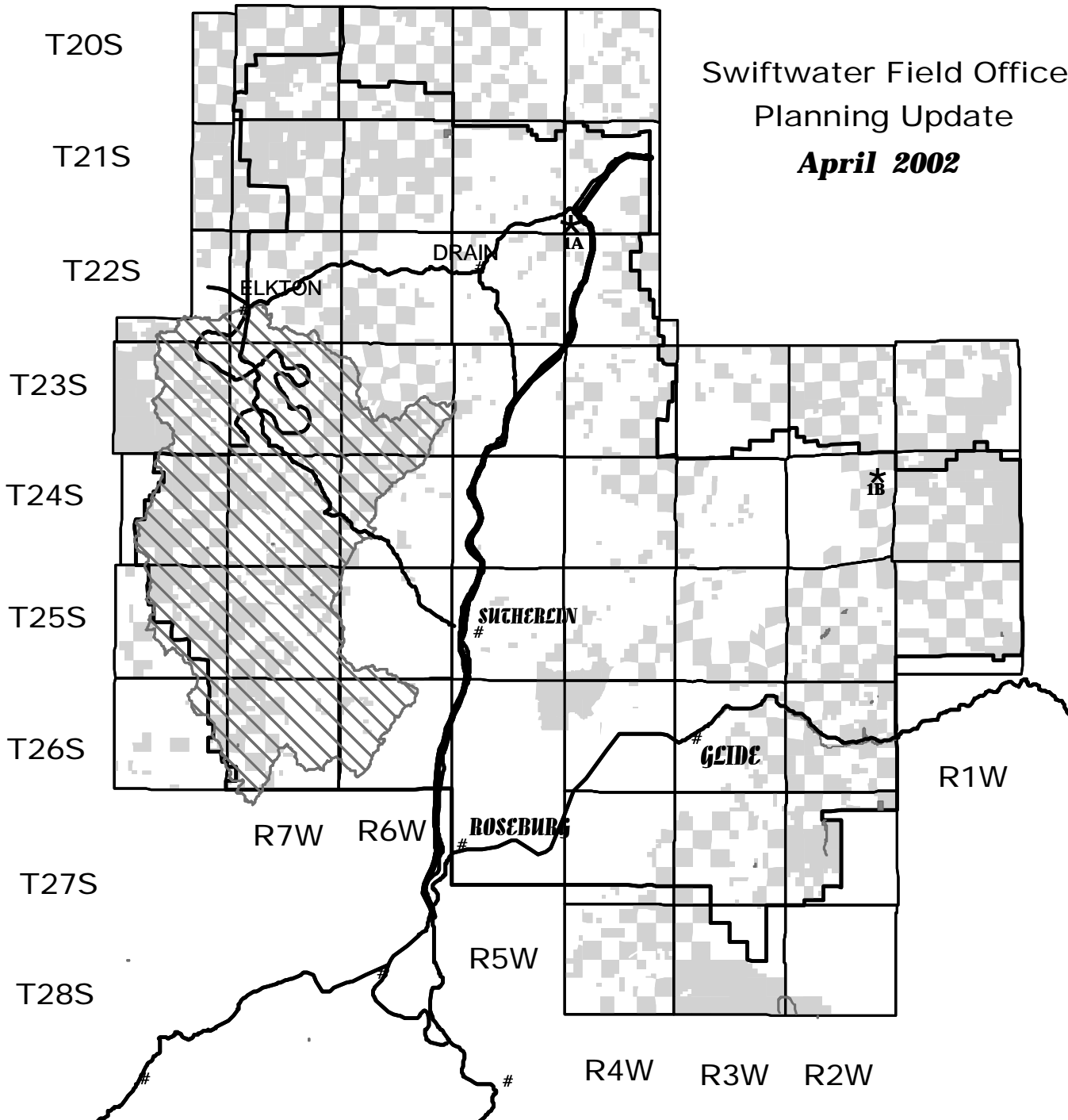
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South River Field Office GIS

Roseburg District - Bureau of Land Management

Swiftwater Field Office
 Planning Update
April 2002

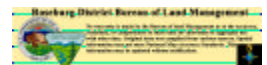


Legend

- Interstate 5
- Major Oregon Highways
- Towns
- Tyee Restoration Projects
- Recreation Programmatic EA

FY 2003 Thinnings

- Copeland Divide Commercial Thinning
- Boyd Howdy Density Management



Abbreviations and Definitions

BO - Biological Opinion.

CF - Cubic feet.

CCF - Hundred cubic feet.

CX or Categorical Exclusion - Actions which do not have significant effects on the environment and for which an Environmental Analysis (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

EA - Environmental Assessment - A concise public document that briefly provides evidence and analysis of a proposed Federal action. It is used to determine whether further analysis needs to be done for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

IDT - Interdisciplinary Team - A group of resource specialists, whose participation is determined by the issues relating to the project proposal, and who conduct environmental analysis.

LSR - Late Successional Reserves - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. These reserves will maintain a functional, interactive, late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystem. Approximately 81% of the Roseburg District BLM is reserve.

Matrix Lands - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. Most timber harvest contributing to the Allowable Sale Quantity takes place in this area. Approximately 19% of the Roseburg District BLM is matrix.

MBF - Thousand board feet.

MMBF - Million board feet.

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act - A federal law which sets the systematic interdisciplinary analysis to achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological, economic, and other sciences to provide for an informed decision. The process provides for public participation in the development, review and revision of certain activities on Federal Lands.

NWFP - Northwest Forest Plan - A common name for the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994). It is also used to refer to the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species with the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl which accompanies the Record of Decision.

O&C Lands - Revested Oregon and California Railroad Lands.

Resource Management Plan (RMP) - A land use plan prepared by the BLM in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

Scoping - An early and open part of environmental analysis that allows interested public and other Federal, state and local agencies the opportunity to provide issues, concerns and opportunities relative to proposed project actions. Scoping is required by regulation for Environmental Impact Statements.