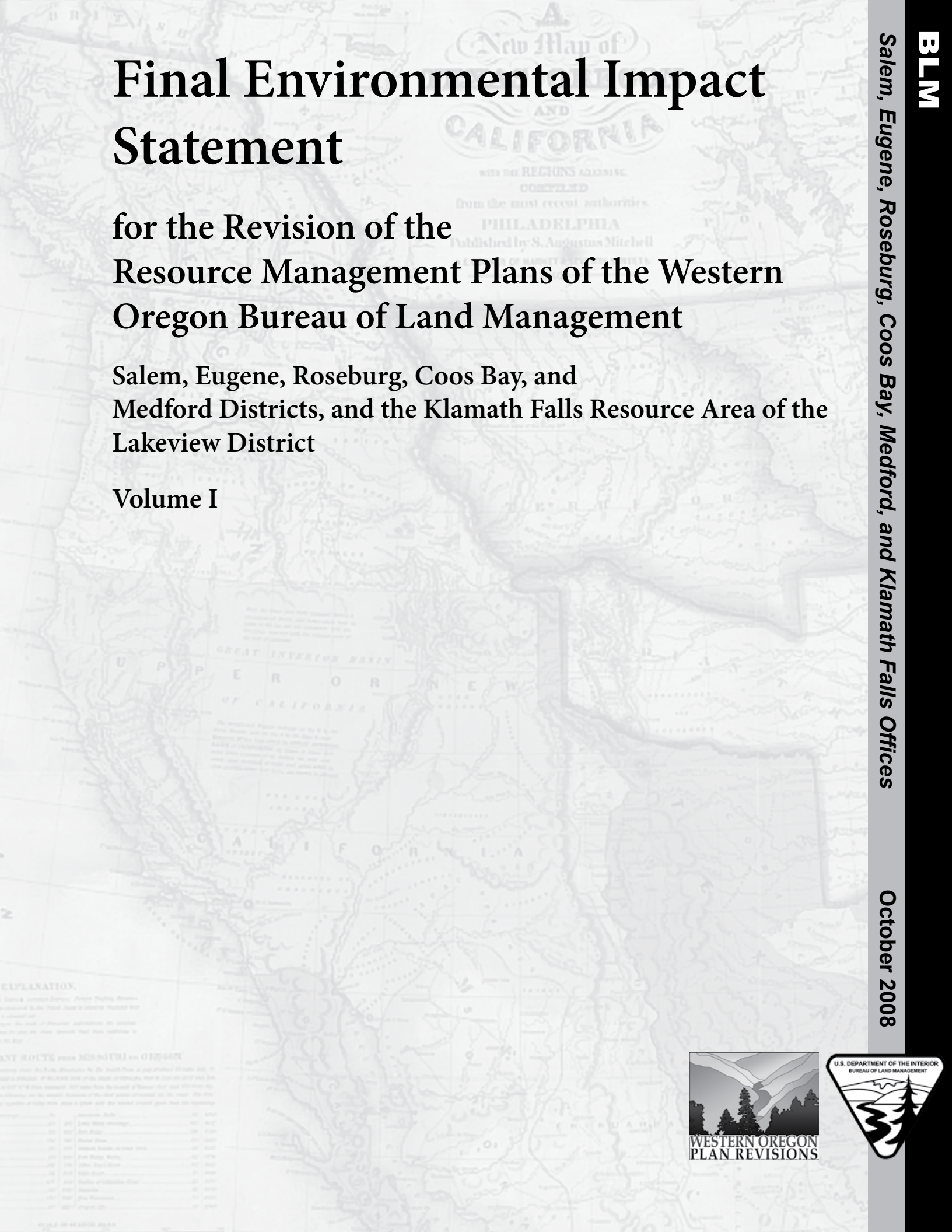


Final Environmental Impact Statement

for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management

Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Coos Bay, and Medford Districts, and the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District

Volume I



EXPLANATION.
A dashed contour line...
A solid contour line...
A dotted contour line...
A dash-dot contour line...

STANDARD ROUTE from MISSOURI to OREGON

Distance	Notes
100	...
200	...
300	...
400	...
500	...
600	...
700	...
800	...
900	...
1000	...



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.



**Final Environmental Impact Statement
for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans
of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management Districts**

*Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Coos Bay and Medford Districts,
and the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District*

October 2008

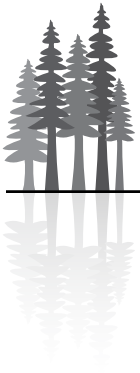
Lead Agency: Bureau of Land Management - U.S. Department of Interior

Responsible Official: **C. Stephen Allred**, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
U. S. Department of the Interior

Information Contact: Oregon and Washington State Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208
503-808-6115

Copies of this document are also available on line at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr/index.php>.

Printed copies or a CD version can be obtained by contacting the office above.





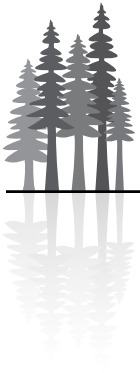
Abstract

Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management Districts

1. Responsible Agency: United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
2. Draft () Final (X)
3. Administrative Action (X) Legislative Action ()
4. Abstract: This proposed resource management plan/final environmental impact statement addresses resource management on approximately 2.6 million acres of federal land, which is mostly revested California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands Act lands (i.e., the O&C lands), within the approximately 22 million acre western Oregon planning area. This document acknowledges the primacy of the O&C Act in regards to management of timber resources. Therefore, specific changes to the current management direction for areas of critical environmental concern, scenic values as identified through a visual resource management inventory, and wilderness study areas are proposed across the alternatives. Public comment played an important role in shaping the Proposed Resource Management Plan, which includes elements of all three action alternatives from the Draft. The Proposed Resource Management Plan provides for the harvest of a sustainable supply of wood and other forest products as mandated by the O&C Act and an increase, from the existing level, in payments to the counties, while also meeting requirements of other applicable laws. Conservation of species that are listed under the Endangered Species Act is provided through establishment of Late-Successional Management Areas that are based on the recent final recovery planning efforts and critical habitat designations for the northern spotted owl. Timber harvest is deferred on substantially all of the existing older and more structurally complex multi-layered conifer forests through the year 2023 in support of recovery efforts for the Northern Spotted Owl. Riparian Management Areas, including a substantial no disturbance area along streambanks, provide for aquatic conditions that contribute toward meeting the goals of the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Uneven-age management in drier parts of the planning area uses a combination of uneven-age harvesting methods to promote development of fire-resilient forests and reduce the risk of wildfire. A diversity of developed and dispersed recreational experiences would be maintained; the collection or harvest of a diversity of special forest products would continue; and Congressionally Reserved Areas would be retained and managed for the purposes for which they were established.
5. The BLM intends to revise six resource management plans with this single draft environmental impact statement.

Notice

Readers should note that the Assistant Secretary, Lands and Minerals, U. S. Department of the Interior, is the responsible official for this proposed action. Therefore, protest through the Bureau of Land Management will not be available on the Record of Decision under 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Because there is no administrative review of the decision, the Record of Decision will not be signed until 30 days after the Notice of Availability for the Final EIS appears in the Federal Register (see 40 CFR 1506.10[b]).





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oregon State Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1610 (OR-930)

SEP 25 2008

Dear Reader:

The Proposed Resource Management Plans (RMP) in this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) describe management direction for approximately 2.6 million acres of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), primarily in western Oregon and Klamath County.

Since 2005, the BLM has engaged the public, scientists, tribes, and elected officials and worked cooperatively with other Federal, State, and local government entities to craft a plan to provide for the appropriate level of protection and use of these public lands. Our goal from the beginning has been to engage the public, to hear all sides of the debate, and to bring sound science to the process. The BLM received 29,500 comments on the Draft EIS during a five-month comment period, and we had the draft plan reviewed by scientists. We posted the public comments and the science report on our website in February 2008. Based on what we heard and what we learned, we now have a better plan to provide for permanent forest production, contribute to the conservation of species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and comply with all the other laws that govern these lands.

The Proposed RMP is a modification of the Preferred Alternative presented in the Draft EIS. It consists of "parts" of the alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS. You have already seen all the "parts" of the new plan; they are just arranged in a new way.

Throughout the planning process, we heard from many of you about the management of forests and their value to wildlife. As the BLM implements the Proposed RMP, we will provide a range of forest conditions to meet the needs of wildlife dependent on young and intermediate-aged forests, as well as those dependent on older forests.

The Late-Successional Management Areas in the Proposed RMP are consistent with the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet Recovery Plans. In addition, we will defer harvest of nearly all older and more structurally complex multi-layered conifer forests through the year 2023 while more is learned about the interaction between the northern spotted owl and barred owl.

This Proposed RMP provides for clean water and high quality aquatic and stream-side habitat for fish. Riparian Management Area buffers were expanded to one site potential tree (an average of about 180 feet each side) on perennial or fish-bearing streams and one-half site potential tree (an average of about 90 feet on each side) on intermittent, non-fish-bearing streams.

We will establish an uneven-age timber management area in the southern part of the Medford District, depending on the fire regime condition class and precipitation zone, and all of the Klamath Falls Resource Area to reduce fire hazard and improve the forest's ability to survive and recover from fire.

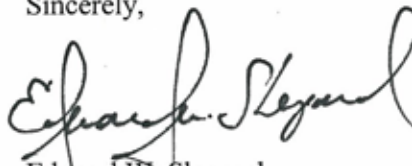
We expect this plan to yield just over 500 million board feet of timber per year from a mixture of regeneration harvest and a vigorous program of thinning younger stands. In addition, habitat improvement projects in Late-Successional Management Areas and Riparian Management Areas will produce another 86 million board feet per year for several decades. This timber volume, the estimated \$75 million in annual receipts to the counties generated from the sale of this timber, and the jobs that go with it are important to western Oregon counties. Contributing to the economic stability of local communities is a major objective of the Oregon and California Lands Act.

The management of public lands under the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 are of critical importance to the State of Oregon and many communities throughout western Oregon. The Proposed RMP is also nationally significant because of the high levels of public interest and controversy over the management of older forests, endangered species and the BLM's obligations to manage these lands for permanent forest production. Therefore, the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, in the Department of the Interior is the responsible official for these proposed plan amendments. This is consistent with previous regional level documents such as the Northwest Forest Plan and numerous amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act and its implementing regulations provide land use planning authority to the Secretary, as delegated to this Assistant Secretary. Because this decision is being made by the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, it is the final decision for the Department of the Interior. This decision is not subject to administrative review (protest) under the BLM or Departmental regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2). The Record of Decision will not be signed until at least 30 days after the Notice of Availability for the Final EIS appears in the Federal Register (see 40 CFR 1506.10[b]).

When approved, the RMP will not authorize any on-the-ground action. Site-specific management decisions for projects will be made in the future. The BLM District Managers will continue to involve the public in local management actions as the plan is implemented. Before those decisions are made, the BLM will complete an appropriate level of environmental analysis and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on those projects that may affect species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

I would like to thank you for your continued interest and involvement in the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. I also appreciate the efforts of the BLM employees, the members of the Science Team, and all our cooperators for their contributions to the most comprehensive and state-of-the-art management plan ever developed for BLM-administered lands in western Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward W. Shepard".

Edward W. Shepard
State Director,
Oregon/Washington



Preface

Reader's Guide

This final environmental impact statement is designed to provide a logical progression of information to the reviewer. The summary, five chapters, and appendices explain the management purpose and need being addressed, the scope of the issues involved, the alternatives designed to address the purpose and need, a description of the current biological and physical environment, and an analysis of the anticipated environmental consequences resulting from implementation of any given alternative.

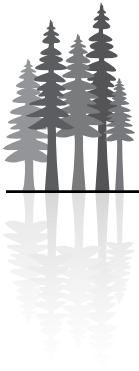
The progression of information in this document starts with a summary. The Summary presents a digest of the document. Descriptions of the No Action Alternative and each of the four action alternatives are presented in enough detail to explain each alternative's overall management strategy for achieving the purpose and need, and to explain its associated land use allocations and management direction. The Summary also includes a comparison of the major land use and resource allocations and actions by alternative. For brevity, the Summary relies heavily on graphics and brief descriptions of rather complex topics. Also, for brevity and simplicity, the citations, references, and definitions included in the main text are omitted from the Summary. Therefore, the details provided in the five chapters of the document are needed to fully understand the alternatives and their effects.

Chapter 1 presents the purpose and need for the revision of the western Oregon resource management plans. Central to these plan revisions is the interplay between the laws directing or influencing management of the Bureau of Land Management's O&C lands in western Oregon and the various legal precedents and opinions that guide implementation of various laws. To help the reader clearly understand the purpose and need and the five major issues identified for analysis, this chapter contains a more detailed discussion of these laws and legal precedents than is normally found in an environmental impact statement. This chapter also describes the planning area; past management of the O&C lands; the planning process; and involvement of local, state, and other federal agencies that collaborated in preparation of the plan revisions. Finally, this chapter identifies the nine recognized tribes within the planning area that are engaged in government-to-government relationships with the BLM.

Chapter 2 presents four action alternatives: the Proposed Resource Management Plan and the three alternatives that were in the Draft. The No Action Alternative would continue management under the current resource management plans as amended (refer to the 1995 resource management plans for the districts of Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Coos Bay, and Medford; and the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District). The action alternatives consist of a range of management approaches or strategies designed to meet the purpose and need and to resolve the planning issues. The alternatives consist of management objectives, land use allocations, and management direction to achieve the objectives.

Chapter 3 presents the existing condition and trends of the resources and programs within the planning area that would be affected by implementing the alternatives. Understanding the affected environment serves as a baseline for measuring potential effects, including the cumulative effects, of implementing an alternative. The description of the affected environment also provides the information necessary to understand the analysis of the environmental consequences in Chapter 4.

Chapter 4 presents the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of individual action alternatives. The effects of the alternatives on the various resources are compared and contrasted against each other and against the No Action Alternative. This chapter also includes brief discussions of the use of models and the assumptions used in analyzing the alternatives. Adverse effects that cannot be avoided if the alternatives were to be implemented are disclosed, and



potential mitigation is identified. A summary of the environmental consequences is provided in the Summary and in Chapter 2. However, as in any overview or summary, detail is sacrificed for brevity; therefore, the information in Chapter 4 needs to be read to fully understand the effects.

Chapter 5 presents information on the consultation and coordination that occurred in preparation of both the draft environmental impact statement and this final environmental impact statement. The public involvement, cooperators, and preparers are identified. Also discussed are the future actions such as the consultation of species listed under the Endangered Species Act, adaptive management, and plans for monitoring.

Following Chapter 5 is a list of acronyms, a glossary of words and terms that are not in common usage, and references that were cited in the document.

The appendices are numbered A through T and are included in Volumes III and IV of this document, with a separate table of contents.

A map packet is included to provide some maps at the district-specific level.



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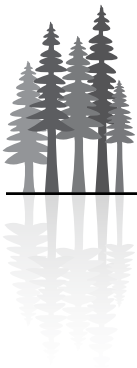
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