# Roseburg District BLM Planning Update



#### Spring 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 <a href="https://www.blm.gov/roseburg">www.blm.gov/roseburg</a>.

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 at (541) 440-4930:

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

 Construction of 95 feet of road by Roseburg Resources Company, under Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-851. Located in the N½NW¼ of Section 33, T. 28 S., R. 8 W.

#### Swiftwater Field Office

• Lone Rock Timber Co., Amendment to Agreement No. R-767 Permittee Temporary Road construction in Secs. 27 & 29, T. 25 S., R. 5 W., W.M.

## **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

• **Silvicultural Treatments** - Planting, mulching, and tubing of approximately 250 acres. This includes initial planting and replanting of timber sale units, and reforestation of a burned riparian area within the old Bland Mountain fire.

#### Swiftwater Field Office

- BLM Sewer System Usage Authorization by the Veterans Administration, Roseburg, Oregon. This project allows the Veterans Administration to add runoff from a building to the storm drain flow and would allow access for the sanitary sewer line for the existing vehicle wash rack and two restroom facilities in the chiller building. (OR-104-02-02).
- Harvest of Special Forest Products (SFP) for Calendar Year 2002 by permittees in the Swiftwater Field Office. This would authorize the sale and removal of small amounts of listed Special Forest Products. (OR-104-02-04).

## Watershed Analysis Status

#### South River Field Office

Work on the second iteration of watershed analysis for the Lower Cow Creek watershed is nearing completion. Work on a second iteration of watershed analysis and a water quality restoration plan for the Myrtle Creek watershed commenced in mid-October.

## Swiftwater Field Office

The Upper Umpqua Watershed Analysis (WA) will be completed in March of 2002. This WA will identify some very practical restoration opportunities in this watershed.

## **New Projects**

#### South River Field Office

An interdisciplinary review and analysis for density management treatments in marbled murrelet reserves, previously noted in the planning update, has been rescheduled for September of 2002.

An interdisciplinary review and analysis for commercial thinning was initiated on January 7, 2002. The South River Commercial Thinning 2002 Environmental Assessment will consider the effects of thinning and density management on approximately 500 acres of forest located within the General Forest Management Area and Riparian Reserves.

An environmental assessment for watershed restoration projects in the Myrtle Creek fifth-field watershed is scheduled for initiation in early March, 2002. Specific project proposals have not been identified at this time.

## Swiftwater Field Office

## **Rock Creek Access Road Realignment**

**Description:** Realignment of approximately one quarter mile of the 26-3-1.0 road (Northeast

Fork) to repair potential failures. **Location:** T.24S., R.2W., Section 25. **Issue Identification:** On Going.

Analysis: On Going.

Public Review: March 2002.

Decision: April 2002.

## Status of Previous Planning Update Action Items

## South River Field Office 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 of the assessment is now expected in April or May. The assessment is not a project analysis from which any decisions will be generated. Any forest health or hazard-reduction treatments that may be proposed will require preparation of the appropriate level of environmental analysis by a separate team.

#### **South River Firewood Cutting Areas**

Description: Establish programmatic guidelines for the establishment of public firewood cutting areas for the purpose of providing a stable supply of firewood for home heating. Firewood cutting would be limited to hardwood species.

Location: Matrix lands within the Resource Area located within a maximum of 200 feet from surfaced, all-weather roads. Riparian Reserves, owl activity centers and cultural sites would be excluded from consideration.

**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:** Unknown at this time. **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:** Anticipated in February-March 2002.

**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.; Secs. 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.

#### **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:** Unknown at this time.

#### **South River Watershed Restoration**

**Description:** The EA analyzed an array of restoration projects to be implemented over a 5 year period. Projects include road renovation and decommissioning, culvert replacement, stream bank stabilization, tree-lining and placement of logs in stream for habitat structure.

**Location:** S. Umpqua River, Myrtle Creek, Lower Cow Creek, Olalla-Lookinglass and Middle Fork Coquille Watersheds.

**Issue Identification:** Complete. **Public Review:** Complete.

**Decision Date:** Decisions on projects analyzed in the EA but not yet implemented will be

issued over the next three to four years.

## **Slimewater Creek Density Management**

**Description:** Density Management of approximately 255 acres of early and mid-seral aged stands in the South Umpqua River/Galesville Late-Successional Reserve. These stands are located in Sec. 27, T. 30 S., R. 4 W. and Sec. 9, T. 31 S., R. 4 W. The objective would be the accelerated development of late-seral habitat characteristics for the northern spotted owl and other species.

Location: Shively-O'Shea Subwatershed.

**Issue Identification:** Complete.

Analysis: Complete.

Public Review: Complete.

**Decision Date:** Treatment of 118 acres was authorized on October 30, 2001. This sale did not receive any bids in the November 27, 2001, auction. It will be reoffered at a future date, pending receipt of a Letter of Concurrence from the National Marine Fisheries Service that the action is not likely to adversely affect listed fish species.

#### 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 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: March 2002.

Public Review: Expected by April 2002. Decision Dates: Expected by August 2002.

#### **Cavitt Creek Road Restoration**

**Description:** Road-related restoration in the Cavitt Creek; reduce or eliminate sedimentation to streams; providing for unobstructed movement of aquatic fauna; road renovation, decommissioning, and culvert replacement.

Location: Secs. 21, 23, 25-27, 35, T. 27 S., R. 3 W.; Secs. 19, 30, T. 27 S., R. 2 W.;

Secs. 2, 3, 5, T. 28 S., R. 3 W. W.M.

Issue Identification: Completed.

Analysis: Completed.

Public Review: Completed

Decision: January 17, 2002.

#### **Umpqua Land Exchange Project (ULEP):**

**Description:** The Foundation for Voluntary Land Exchanges (Foundation) is working in conjunction with the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the Umpqua Land Exchange Project. The Project will explore opportunities for voluntary changes in the checkerboard pattern of public and private ownerships in the Coast Range portion of the Umpqua Basin. The study area includes approximately 675,555 acres in the lower Umpqua River Basin, almost all of it in Douglas County. The Foundation is preparing an EIS to identify and analyze potential land exchange opportunities.

Location: Swiftwater Resource Area, Coast Range.

Scoping: Completed.

Draft EIS Due: May 31, 2002.

Comment Period: 90 days (June through August 2002).

## **Eagleview Campground** - Project is being reopened.

**Description:** Conversion of formerly leased camp area (1948 - 1992) into a public access camp area; Project is in Late Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve; Background Analysis found in the Middle Umpqua Frontal Watershed analysis.

**Location:** T. 24 S., R. 7 W., Sec. 11. **Issue Identification:** Completed.

Analysis: Completed.

**Public Review:** Awaiting Biological Opinion from United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

#### FY 2001 Commercial Thinnings -

**Description:** Commercial thinning on an estimated 160 acres; Background analysis found in

the Calapooya Watershed Analysis.

Location: T. 24 S., R. 3 W., Sec. 17; and T. 25 S., R. 4 W., Sec. 17

**Issue Identification:** Completed.

Analysis: Completed.

Public Review: Completed.

**Decision:** Awaiting Consultation from NMFS.

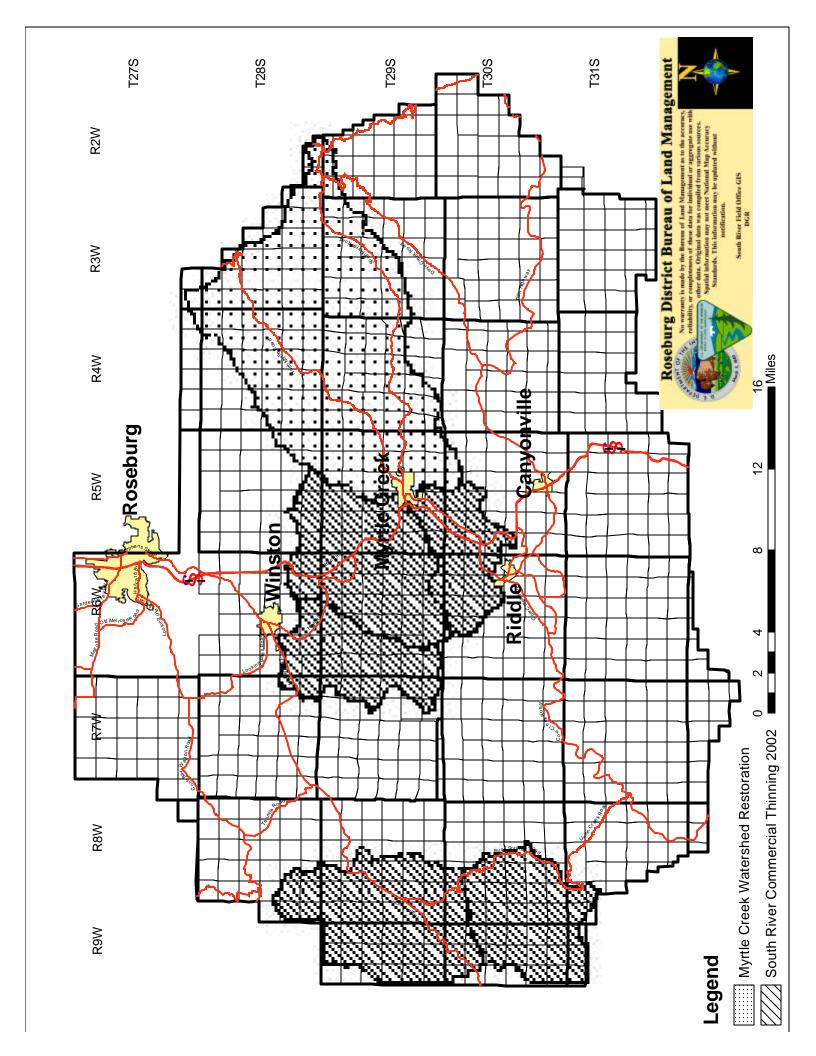
The following projects are not presently considered action items. Further work on the environmental assessments has been deferred. At such time as analysis is resumed, it will be noted in the Planning Update.

#### **South River Field Office**

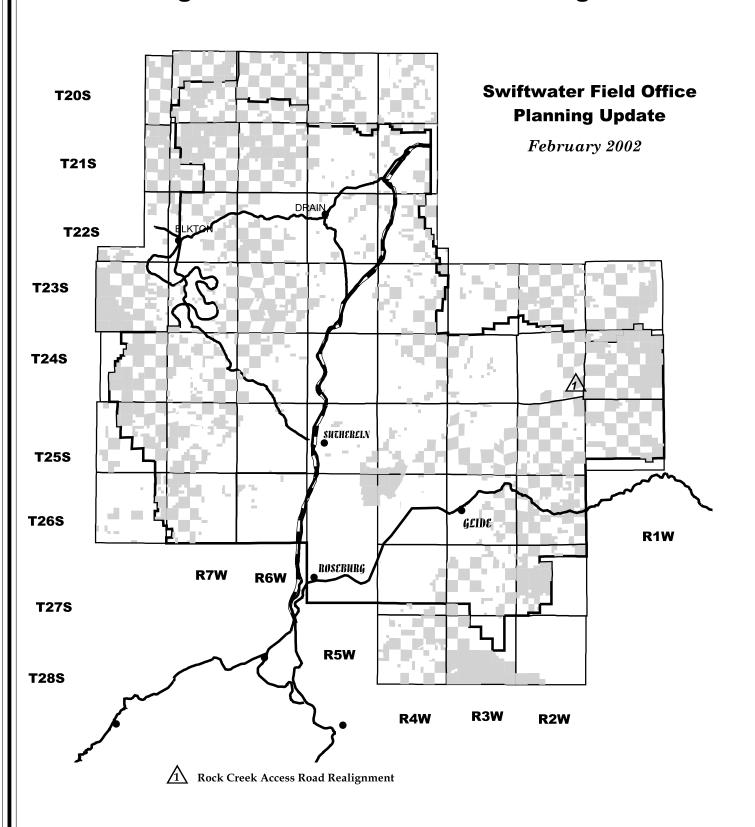
North Myrtle Timber Sales Can-Can Watershed Level Project Plan North Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Level Plan Middle South Umpqua /Olalla-Lookingglass Watershed Level Plan

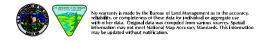
#### **Swiftwater Field Office**

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



## **Roseburg District - Bureau of Land Management**





#### **Planning Documents**

Planning during winter 2001-2002 for implementation in summer/fall 2002

#### **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.

#### **Upcoming Events**

The Annual Umpqua Valley Migratory Bird Day Festival will be held on May 11, 2001, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Umpqua Valley Arts Center. This is an annual event organized by the BLM, USFS, USFWS, ODFW, Umpqua Audubon Society, Douglas County Museum, Umpqua Wildlife Rescue, Wildlife Safari, Ducks Unlimited, and the Umpqua Valley Arts Association. For more information, contact Liz Gayner, Umpqua Valley IMBD (International Migratory Bird Day) at 464-3381.

**FREE FISHING** will be June 8, 2002. BLM, FS, County Parks, Umpqua Bass Masters, ODFW, and others pull together at Cooper Creek Reservoir to encourage people to fish.

#### North Bank Habitat Management Area

The Swiftwater Field Office will begin putting many of the actions in the North Bank Habitat Management Area / ACEC Record of Decision and Habitat Management Plan (June 2001) into effect during 2002. The plan was developed for the North Bank Area to provide protection and enhance habitat for the endangered Columbian white-tailed deer as well as other special status plants and wildlife that are present in the ACEC.

- Prescribed burning of 450 acres was done during fall 2001 and approximately 800 acres are planned for late summer 2002 to improve deer forage.
- Several guzzlers, a water catchment and storage system, will be installed to provide water for deer and other wildlife during the dry season.
- Removal and treatment of various noxious weeds and thistles across the area will
  continue.
- Stream restoration projects to control channel down-cutting and road renovation will be undertaken to begin the long-term process of restoring riparian function on North Bank.

#### Resource Advisory Committee

The Roseburg Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is underway with their first two meetings completed and two more meetings planned for March 18 and 25, 2002. The RAC is made up of fifteen members and six alternates from a wide variety of interests. The RAC has been appointed under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to facilitate local community collaboration with federal land management activities in the selection of projects. Projects such as trail improvements, forest health, and fish and wildlife habitat to name a few, will be conducted on federal lands or will benefit resources on federal lands using O&C County funds under Title II of the Act.

### **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.

**NFP - 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.