# Roseburg District BLM Planning Update



# Summer 2003

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 Contact**

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

- Seneca Jones Timber Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-656 900 feet of Permittee Road Improvements in Section 33, T. 29 S., R. 3 W.
- Seneca Jones Timber Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-656 100 feet of Permittee Road Construction in Section 9, T. 29 S., R. 8 W.
- Roseburg Resources Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-851 809 feet of Permittee Road Construction in Section 1, T. 30 S., R. 9 W.
- Seneca Jones Timber Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-656 485 feet of Permittee Road Construction Section 15, T. 29 S., R. 3 W.
- Roseburg Resources Co., Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreement R-851 401 feet of Permittee Road Construction in Section 6, T. 31 S., R. 6 W.

#### Swiftwater Field Office

None completed for the third quarter of 2003.

# 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 nor an EIS is required (40 CFR 1508.4).

#### South River Field Office

- Timber Salvage Salvage of blown down timber and hazard trees in or near units of Burma Shave Commercial Thinning in T. 30 S., R. 8 W., Sections 5 and 7. All salvage areas are allocated as General Forest Management Area. (OR-105-03-08)
- Realty Issuance of a Communication Right-of-Way to a local emergency service provider for placement of a radio communication repeater units on existing facilities located on the Canyon Mountain communications site in T. 31 S., R. 5 W., Section 3. (OR-105-03-10)

#### Swiftwater Field Office

- Temporary Road Use Permit R-1437. This allows the use of the first 300 feet of the 24-6-19.4 Rd. to haul timber. (OR-104-03-13)
- Temporary Road Use Permit R-1438. This allows use of the 25-4-10.0 Rd., segment B and 24-4-34.0 Rd., segments B and C to haul timber. (OR-104-03-14)
- Roseburg District 2003 Archaeology Evaluations. This allows the excavation of approximately 11 archaeology sites in the North Umpqua drainage. The excavations would remove and backfill an approximate total of 60 square meters of ground surface to a depth of approximately 40-50 centimeters, except at two terrace sites, where the units may be greater than one meter in depth. (OR-104-03-16)
- Bob Creek Culvert Replacement. This allows the replacement of existing, failing, double culverts with a low water crossing to provide access for land management and power line maintenance. (OR-104-03-18)

# **New Projects**

# South River Field Office

An analysis for density management in the South Umpqua River/Galesville Late-Successional Reserve is scheduled for initiation. At this time no project name has been assigned for the environmental assessment. The specific area(s) to be studied are still under discussion.

#### Swiftwater Field Office

#### **Gallagher Commercial Thinning**

A commercial thinning harvest is planned in Sections 9 & 19 of T. 24 S., R. 6 W. The project is proposed for the General Forest Management Area and would include the Riparian Reserves. The boundary of the analysis area includes the portions Yellow Creek and Lost Canyon 6<sup>th</sup> Field watersheds. Comments from the previous version of this project are on file and willl be considered.

# Status of Previous Planning Update Action Items

# District-Wide Projects

# **Outplanting Site Project**

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

**Location**: Roseburg District Outplanting Sites.

**Issue Identification:** Completed.

Analysis: Completed.

Public Review: Completed.

Decision Date: May 1, 2003.

#### South River Field Office

#### **Ben Irving Trail**

**Description:** Construction of a low-elevation loop trail in cooperation with the Douglas County Parks Department. Trail use would be limited to pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle use.

Location: Federal and Douglas County lands in T. 29 S., R. 7 W., Sections 17, 18, 19, and 20;

and T. 29 S., R. 8 W., Section 13. **Issue Identification:** Complete.

**Analysis:** Environmental Assessment in progress.

**Public Review:** Unknown at this time. **Decision Date:** Unknown at this time.

#### **Martin Creek Instream Restoration**

**Description:** The project proposes the placement of instream structures along a 2-mile stretch of Martin Creek, where it passes through lands owned by Roseburg Resources Company, and lands managed by the BLM. The structures would consist of multiple logs and/or boulders, designed to aggrade the stream channel and provide pool habitat for resident and anadromous fish, and other aquatic organisms. The project would also replace a stream-crossing culvert on BLM Road No. 32-7-1.2 that blocks access by fish to approximately one mile of habitat in a side tributary of Martin Creek.

**Location:** T. 31 S., R. 7 W., Section 35, and T. 32 S., R. 7 W., Sections 1 and 2.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Complete.

**Public Review:** Completed May 15, 2003. **Decision Date:** Unknown at this time.

#### **Commercial Thinning 2003**

**Description**: Commercial thinning and density management of 520 acres of forest stands allocated to Matrix and Riparian Reserves. Proposed units would be located in 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.

Location: Olalla-Lookingglass, South Umpqua River and Myrtle Creek watersheds.

Issue Identification: Complete.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in progress. Public Review: Anticipated in June, 2003. Decision Date: Unknown at this time.

#### 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 Complete.

Public Review: Completed on March 13, 2003. Final FONSI signed on March 14, 2003.
Decision Date: Decisions for the replacement of Lee Creek Culvert #4, Riser Creek Culvert, Tributary to N. Myrtle Creek Culvert, and the Slide Creek Instream Restoration project were issued in early April, 2003. Additional project decisions are anticipated in May, 2003, and subsequent years.

#### **South River Commercial Thinning 2002**

**Description**: Commercial thinning and density management of approximately 490 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 Complete. **Public Review**: Completed on April 9, 2003.

**Decision Date**: First decisions anticipated in June and July, 2003.

#### 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 Complete.

Public Review: Complete.

**Decision Date:** A Decision on the first of multiple thinning projects was issued in January, 2003. Additional decisions anticipated in fiscal years 2004-2006.

#### **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 Complete.

Public Review: Complete.

**Decision Date:** Notice of Decision published on March 21, 2003.

#### **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:** Environmental Assessment 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. Weaver Road commercial thinning, consisting of 136 acres, 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. A decision offering Leave It to Weaver Commercial Thinning is expected in June, 2003.

#### **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: Environmental Assessment 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 will comprise Bigfoot Commercial Thinning. A decision is anticipated in July, 2003.

#### 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: Environmental Assessment 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 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:** Expected in May 2003.

**Decision Date:** Pending completion of consultation, this sale is tentatively planned for

September, 2003.

#### Swiftwater Field Office

#### **Summit Creek Blowdown**

This project, located in Township 20 south, Range 6 west, section 26, will remove some blowdown logs from the Summit Creek blowdown (LSR RO267) and redistribute the logs to provide for instream structures in stream segments where it is found to be lacking within the Upper and Middle Smith River Watersheds. The logs will be stockpiled for current or future stream restoration projects. They are primarily targeted for stream segments with adjacent forests 0 - 30 years of age.

#### **FY 2003 Commercial Thinning Timber Sales**

**Description**: Analysis and design of two commercial thinnings. The two thinnings would be sold 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: GFMA, Connectivity, and Riparian Reserve.

Issue Identification: Completed.

Analysis: Completed.

Public Review: Expected Summer 2003.

**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:** Completed.

Analysis: Completed.
Public Review: Completed.
Decision Dates: Completed.

#### **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: GFMA, Connectivity, LSR, and Riparian Reserve.

Issue Identification: Completed.

Analysis: Environmental Assessment in Progress.

Public Review: Expected by June 2003.

**Decision Dates:** Multiple Decisions; to be announced.

#### **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 completed. East Side EA completed.

**Public Review:** Westside: Completed. Eastside: Completed.

Westside: Completed.

Eastside: Relativity completed.

Eastside: East Fork decision expected in July.

# <u>Deferred Analyses</u>

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**

This is an ongoing 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. Completion is anticipated in late spring or early summer of 2003.

# Forest Hazard Risk Assessment

This assessment, for all lands within the South River Resource Area, is intended to identify risks such as fire, insects and disease on a landscape scale. It will also propose locations and potential treatments to address these risks. 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. The document is presently in final "Draft" for management review.

# Watershed Analysis Status

#### South River Field Office

All watershed analyses are currently completed. No revisions of previous analyses are scheduled at this time. Work on water quality restoration plans is continuing.

## Past Events

Fun and learning was had by all attending the **Glide Wildflower Show** on April 26 and 27, 2003. Jeanne Standley, Roseburg BLM District Weed Coordinator, gave a presentation on weeds in the riparian areas.

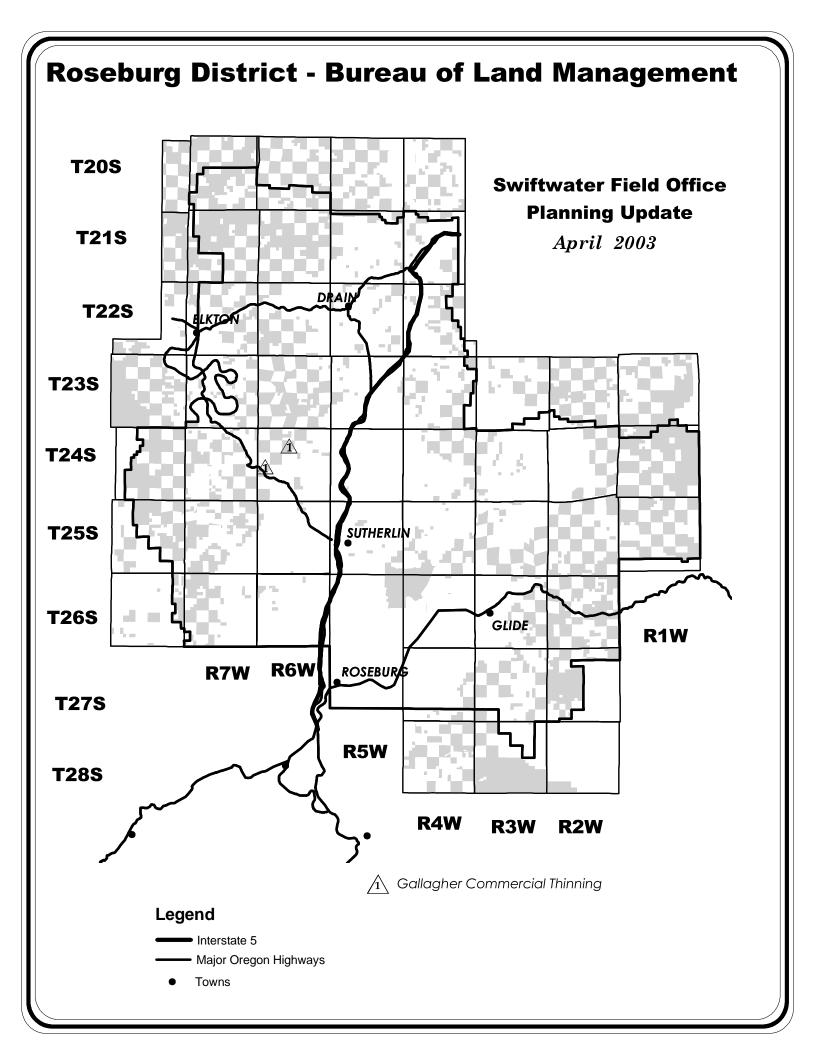
The International **Migratory Bird Day** held on May 10, 2003, was a great success. The theme for the day was Catalysts for Conservation. Families learned about identification of migratory birds, habitat, eating habits, and how to support and encourage them.

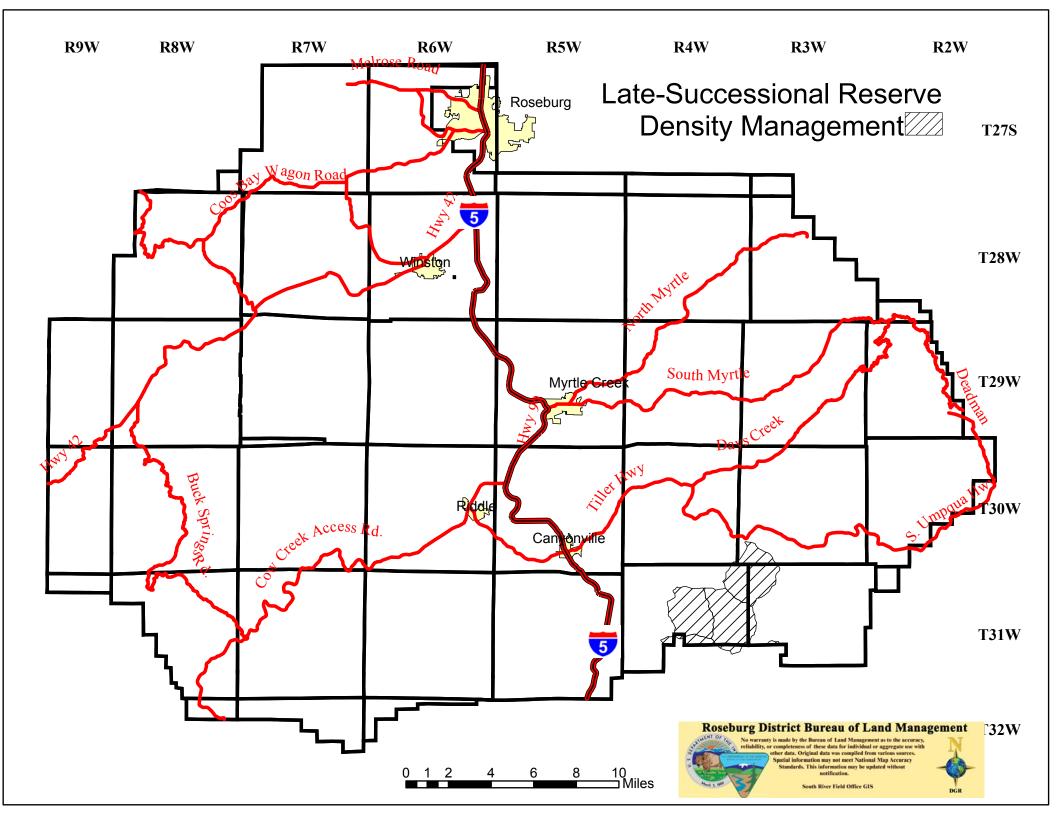
# <u>Upcoming Events</u>

Visit the BLM/Forest Service booth at the **Douglas County Fair**. Dates of the fair are August 5-9, 2003. See you there!

**National Public Lands Day** is scheduled for September 20, 2003. If you are interested in volunteering for the day or even for a couple of hours, contact the Roseburg BLM office at 440-4930, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Free Fishing Weekend** is scheduled for June 7-8, 2003. During this weekend event, the State of Oregon does not require fishing licenses. On June 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. events at Cooper Creek Reservoir will give the young and young-at-heart to fish, win prizes, and learn more about our rich and natural resources.





# **Abbreviations and Definitions**

**B** - 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** – This is 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 team is 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 oldgrowth 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.