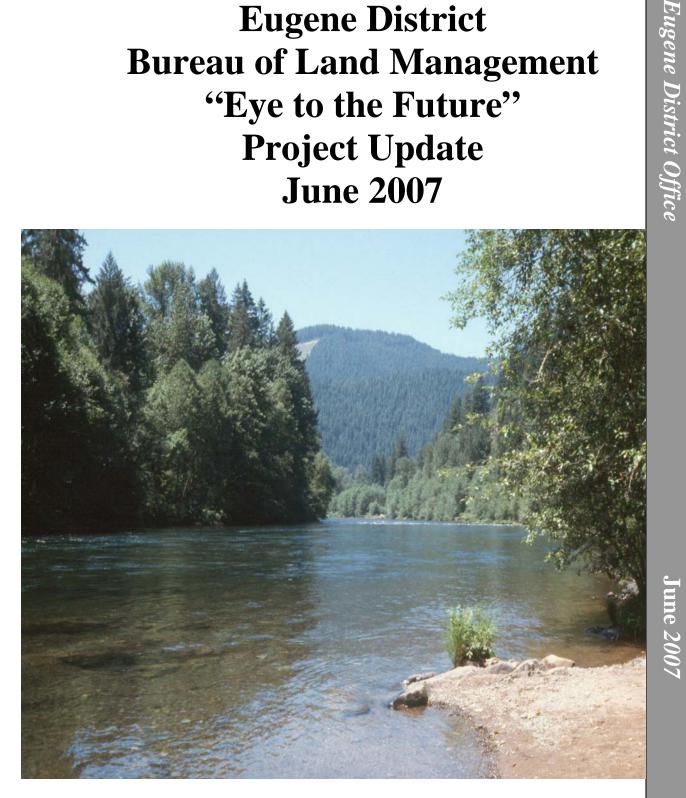
# **Eugene District Bureau of Land Management** "Eye to the Future" **Project Update June 2007**





**Public Lands: Use, Share, Appreciate** 

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.

### A Note from the District Manager

This document is designed to serve as an information link between you and the BLM's Eugene District Office. Its intent is to increase your awareness of BLM activities and improve your opportunities to discuss these activities with us. By keeping you informed of the Eugene District's management activities and inviting your participation, we hope to continue our ongoing relationships. If you need to know the status of a project or want additional information, you can contact the project lead listed in the following text. We would appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have regarding this Planning/Project Update or how it could be improved to make it more useful to you.

In the past several months, we scheduled introductory meetings with many of you. The meetings were very beneficial as they provided me and my fellow managers an opportunity to meet you and hear some of your concerns. I look forward to continuing our dialog and would welcome you to contact us if you are interested in a future meeting. We continue to work diligently on revising our Resource Management Plan through the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) process. All the Western Oregon Districts are engaged in the process and the Agency is in the final steps of developing the draft Environmental Impact Statement. The draft RMP/EIS document is expected to be released for public comment in August 2007. The BLM is working to develop a unique public involvement strategy/process for addressing comments on the documents. We have tentatively set the dates of September 8th and 19th to conduct open house/workshops on our District. These events will provide the public opportunities to ask guestions of our staff and comment on the Plans. Additional information on the Plan Revision can be found on page 4 of this document. The Eugene District also continues to work on an internal Strategic Planning Process to address issues related to our budget, staffing, and business practices. A part of this discussion addresses the options for consolidating some services with the Salem District and the Willamette National Forest. Recently, we have been able to consolidate several components in our Division of Support Services between the Salem and Eugene District. In addition, an agreement has been reached and ground has been broken for a new joint office facility that the BLM, Forest Service and National Guard will share in Springfield. As summer approaches, our staff enters the busy field season. We have numerous projects to implement and facilities to maintain for our publics. However, I am convinced we have the dedicated staff that is prepared to work closely with you to address your concerns and achieve reasonable solutions.

This document exists in two forms – the electronic version on our web page, and this companion document printed on paper. If you have Internet access you can view this document at any time and also get additional information on issues related to the Eugene District. The address is:

#### www.blm.gov/or/districts/eugene/

We will continue to send you printed copies of this document unless you request to be removed from our mailing list. If you do not need a hard copy, you can help us reduce our overhead expenses and printing and postage costs by having your name removed from the District's extensive mailing list. Contact Mark Wilkening on my staff, at 541-683-6963 or at <u>mark\_wilkening@blm.gov</u>.

#### U.S. Bureau of Land Management Western Oregon Plan Revision

#### What's Being Revised?

BLM is revising the District Resource Management Plans for the Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg, Medford District's and Klamath Falls Field Office. These plans guide the agency's actions District's on approximately two and one-half million acres in western Oregon. Of these public lands, 2.1 million acres are managed under the O&C Lands Act and about 400,000 acres are managed under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

#### Why Revise Current Plans?

The BLM must revise the six western Oregon Resource Management Plans now because:

- Plan revisions are a normal part of BLM's land use planning evaluation and revision cycle. Resource Management Plans (RMP's) are periodically evaluated and revised or amended as necessary. Recent evaluations of our existing RMP's have demonstrated that BLM has done a good job of meeting most of the plan's goals and objectives , but has not met the forest management goals and objectives of maintaining a steady and predictable flow of forest products to benefit local communities.
- Now is an opportunity to revise our RMP's to assure consistency with recovery plans now being prepared for the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet.
- BLM has been challenged in court for failure to meet the intent of the O&C Lands Act of 1937 that directs BLM to manage O&C lands for, among other things, permanent forest production. As a result, BLM agreed to revise its plans in western Oregon by December 2008 in a settlement agreement.
- The controversy surrounding the implementation of the timber management portions of these existing plans has led to numerous court cases and endless process and paperwork that take BLM resource management efforts away from on-the-ground management.

#### Where are we in the Process?

Formal public scoping was conducted from September 7, 2005 to October 23, 2005 and almost 3,000 comments were received. The Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) and the Planning Criteria and State Director Guidance has been completed. Both documents can be viewed at <u>http://blm.gov/or/plans/wopr</u>.

Currently the planning team and steering committee are working on finalizing the environmental effects analysis and the land use plan alternatives. Three land use plan alternatives and the 'no action' alternative have been identified and are being analyzed in the draft RMP/EIS (Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement). The preferred alternative will be selected soon and will be displayed in the draft RMP/EIS. The draft RMP/EIS will be released for a 90 day public comment period starting in August, 2007. The final RMP and ROD (Record of Decision) will be completed in the spring 2008 after all public comments are received and considered.

Newsletter number six was mailed to interested individuals and groups in May, 2007, explaining further about where we are in the process, the RMP alternatives and how to be involved in the public comment period when the draft is released.

#### Who's Involved in this Effort?

BLM hopes to involve interested citizens, organizations and other groups in key points of the plan revision process. In addition, several public agencies are participating as formal cooperators: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, the State of Oregon, USDA Forest Service, 16 western Oregon Counties, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

#### How Do You Get Involved?

Periodic information about the process and opportunities to get involved will be sent to interested parties. If you'd like to get on the postal or e-mail lists, contact the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision office at (503) 808-6629, e-mail <u>oropr@blm.gov</u>, or mail to P.O. Box 2965, Portland OR 97208, or contact Wayne Elliott at the Eugene District Office (541) 683-6989, wayne\_elliott@blm.gov

## Abbreviations and Definitions

ACEC/RNA - Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Area

**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** - 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).

GFMA - General Forest Management Area.

**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 old-growth forest ecosystem.

**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.

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 **DNA-Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy-**Used to document that a BLM action has been adequately analyzed in an existing NEPA document (EA or EIS) and that no further NEPA analysis is needed. "Eye to the Future"

TABLE 1: Upper Willamette Resource Area Proposed Projects			
Name/Description	Location	Planning Status	Contact
McGowan/Parson's Project- This project proposes to harvest stands in Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations to provide a sustainable supply of timber while maintaining ecologically valuable structural components, such as down logs, snags and large trees. This project also proposes aquatic habitat restoration and road improvements in the MaC areas of provided.	T. 15 S., R2W., Sections 5 and 7	Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. A decision is expected in June 2007.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
in the McGowan and Parsons Creek Watersheds. <b>Shotgun OHV Trail System Modifications</b> – This project proposes to improve the Shotgun Trail System through trail reconstruction, trail closure, signing changes, and facility enhancements.	Designated Shotgun OHV Trail System	Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. The comment period ended June 30, 2006. A decision is expected in 2007.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
<b>Mohawk East</b> - This project proposes to thin stands in Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations to provide a sustainable supply of timber while maintaining ecologically valuable structural components, such as down logs, snags and large trees. This project also proposes aquatic restoration and road improvements.	T. 15 S., R. 01W., Sections 13 and 27; T. 16 S., R 01W., Sections 3, 19, 25 and 27.	Work on an environmental assessment has ended. The EA was made available for public review in August of 2006. A decision is expected in 2007.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
<b>ERFO Roads-</b> This project proposes to repair 2 road sites damaged by January 2006 storms. This project may include culvert removal/replacement, road realignment, and road decommissioning.	Upper Willamette Resource Area	Work on an environmental assessment was completed. The EA was made available for public review in May 2007, with a decision expected in June 2007.	Diana Bus (683-6450)
<b>Camp Run Timber Sale -</b> This project proposes to treat stands in Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations to provide a sustainable supply of timber while maintaining ecologically valuable structural components, such as down logs, snags and large trees. This project also proposes aquatic restoration and road improvements.	T. 16 S R. 01 W., Sections 35, 27, 25 T. 16S R. 01 E., Section 31	Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. The EA will be made available for public review in Summer 2007. A decision is expected in 2008.	Christie Hardenbrook (683 – 6110)
<b>Brush Creek Aquatic Restoration</b> – This project proposes to enhance and restore aquatic and riparian areas, including restoration of road- stream crossings, located on BLM and Weyerhaeuser lands in the Brush Creek Drainage.	T.15 S., R. 01 W., Sections 2, 3 T. 14 S., R. 01 W., Sections 33, 34	Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. The EA was made available for public review in May 2007, with a decision expected in June 2007.	Chuck Vostal (683-6454)
McKenzie Tribs Project – This project proposes to initiate forest management activities on approximately 1000 acres. These activities may include timber harvest, aquatic habitat restoration, and road management activities (improvement, construction, and decommissioning). The land use allocations for these sections are Matrix, Riparian Reserve and BEHA.	T. 16S., R. 01E., sections 33, 25 and 35	Work on an environmental assessment is currently underway. A decision is expected in 2008.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
<b>Seeley Creek Thinning</b> – This project proposes to thin approximately 800 acres on Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations. Activities may include aquatic restoration and road management actions.	T. 15S., R.01W., sections 7, 19. T. 15S., R.02W., sections 13, 24.	Work on an environmental assessment is scheduled to begin in Fall 2007.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)

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TABLE 2: Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects					
Name/Description	Location		Planning Status	Contact	
Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Lake Creek Watershed					
<b>Poolside Thin</b> – Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 450 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R7W, Se 22, and 23, nor Pond	· · ·	The timber sale was held in March, 2007.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)	
<b>Billy Tower Thin</b> - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 370 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R7W, Se 15, northwest o		A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in July, 2007, pending findings in the DNA.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)	
<b>Nutmeg Thin</b> - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 230 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.		ections 8, 15, 16, est of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in November 2007, pending findings in the DNA.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)	
<b>Mark Time Thin -</b> Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 400 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R7W, Se 26, west of Hul		A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in February 2008, pending findings in the DNA.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)	
<b>Tower Canyon Thin</b> - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 302 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R7W, Se and 14, northw	ections 12, 13, est of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in 2009, pending findings in the DNA.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)	
<b>East Chinkapin Thin</b> - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 302 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R6W, Se T15S, R7W, Se of Hult Pond		A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in 2009, pending findings in the DNA.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)	
Salvage Sam Blowdown Salvage – Winter storms during December, 2006, created a 25-acre blowdown in the former Sammy Hill Late-Successional Reserve Density Management Project Area. BLM is considering whether or not to salvage some of the fallen logs.	T16S, R8W, Se approximately Triangle Lake.	ection 1, 2 miles NW of	An EA is being prepared and should be available for public review in late spring, 2007.	Janet Zentner (683-6795)	
January 2006 Storm Events Road Repair – BLM is planning to repair two road segments: one with subsidence damage by	T16S, R7W, Se T16S, R8W, Se		Categorical exclusions will be prepared. The projects are scheduled to be implemented	Don Meckley (683-6972)	

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realignment of the roadway grade; one with culvert replacement.		during the summer and fall of 2007.	
<b>Upper Lake Creek Riparian Restoration Project-</b> Decadent red alder and brush species will be replaced with Western Red cedar and Douglas-fir on approximately 8 acres of riparian habitat along Lake Creek above Hult Reservoir. The long term benefits include increased stream shading, recruitable large woody debris, and wildlife habitat (potential snags for birds).	T.15S., R.7W., Section 23	A DNA is being prepared. Pending findings in the DNA, work would occur over multiple years beginning in the summer of 2007.	Leo Poole (683-6289)
	Area Proposed Projects-Sius	aw Watershed	
<b>Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan</b> - BLM is planning a program to treat forested stands in the Upper Siuslaw 5 <sup>th</sup> Field Watershed. The planning area contains both Matrix and Late-Successional Reserve Land Use Allocations. Young stands in LSR (<80 years old) would be considered for thinning to accelerate development of late-successional forest characteristics. Matrix stands would be considered for timber harvest to produce a sustainable supply of forest products to the economy.	Upper Siuslaw 5 <sup>th</sup> Field Watershed, excluding the area covered under the "Upper Siuslaw Late-Successional Reserve Restoration Plan" and EIS.	An EA is being prepared. If you are interested in learning more about this process, or if you have information about important resources in this watershed, you are encouraged to contact BLM.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)
<b>Trivial Tempest Restoration Project</b> - Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan and EIS, this project would treat forest stands to accelerate the development of late-successional forest structure. A density management thinning is being considered for this 235 acre project area. In addition, a project for creation of snags and coarse woody debris is in the planning/analysis stage.	T20S, R6W, Sections 1 and 13	A DNA is being prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in September, 2007, pending findings in the DNA.	Mark Stephen (683-6439)
<b>Stone Pony Restoration Project</b> - Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan and EIS, this project would treat forest stands to accelerate the development of late-successional forest structure. Density management thinning is being considered for this 660 acre project area.	T20S, R5W, Section 7; T20S, R6W, Sections 9, 15, 19, 21, and 29; T20S, R7W, Section 3;	A DNA is being prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in August, 2008, pending findings in the DNA.	Mark Stephen (683-6439)
<b>Bottomline Density Management Study</b> - BLM is planning to re-thin this 270 acre research site as part of a continuing effort to evaluate silvicultural methods intended to promote development of late-successional forest structure.	T21S, R5W, Section 1	An Environmental Assessment will be prepared during summer, 2007. If you are interested in learning more about this process, or if you have information about important resources in this watershed, you are encouraged to contact BLM.	Peter O'Toole (683-6786)
<b>Non Commercial Silvicultural Projects - LSR 267</b> -Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan and EIS, this project would treat forest stands to	T19S, R5W; T19S, R6W; T19S, R7W; T20S, R5W; T20S, R6W; T20S, R7W.	The Siuslaw Resources Area is planning silvicultural treatments on approximately 1,000 acres in LSR 267 during 2007. DNAs	Richard Kelly (683-6405)

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accelerate the development of late-successional forest structure. A variety of silvicultural treatments would be applied to 20-40 year old aged stands in LSR 267. Tree densities would be reduced to provide growing space and allow trees to develop large live crowns and large limbs, and to promote a multi-layered		for this work will be completed in January and August.	
understory. Snags and coarse woody debris would be created. Underplanting of shade tolerant conifer trees would also occur. Siuslaw Stew Stewardship Project - Under the Proposed Action, a stewardship project is being considered for approximately 2,000	T19S, R6W, Section 21	A DNA has been prepared. The contract was awarded in March 2007. Work on the ground	Sharmila Premdas
acres in LSR 267. Tiered to the Upper Siuslaw Late-Successional Reserve Restoration Plan and EIS, the proposed action would include approximately 25 acres of commercial thinning, pre- commercial thinning, culvert replacement and removal, weed treatments, snag and coarse woody debris creation, and road decommissioning.		is expected to begin in mid-June.	(683-6794)
<b>January 2006 Storm Events Road Repair</b> – BLM plans to repair three road segments that sustained slip-out damage by realignment of the roadway.	T18S, R8W, Section 25 T20S, R6W, Section 20	Categorical exclusions will be prepared. The projects are scheduled to be implemented during the summer and fall of 2007.	Don Meckley (683-6972)
Siuslaw River Road Repair – In order to replace a failing culvert, the Siuslaw River Road will be closed to traffic from July 11, 2007 through mid-August. Visitors can still reach BLM's Clay Creek Campground and other lands to the west of the closure by using the Siuslaw River Road from the junction with Hwy 126.	T19S, R7W, Section 25, just west of Alma	The contract is expected to be awarded around the 1st or 2nd week in June.	Eric Meyers (683-6499)
<b>Mill Creek Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project-</b> <sub>The</sub> proposed project is to place large woody debris in stream reaches devoid of key pieces, but rich in gravels. This is phase 3 of a large scale project that included the construction of 2 cascades in the Siuslaw River (Phase 1) and the replacement of a barrier culvert in Mill Creek (Phase 2).	T.19S., R8W., Sections 23	A DNA is being prepared. Implementation is scheduled for August 2007, pending findings in the DNA.	Leo Poole (683-6289)
<b>Buck and OxBow Creeks Instream Restoration</b> -Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan, logs will be placed in selected stream reaches.	T.20S., R.7W., Section 3	A DNA is being prepared. Implementation is scheduled for August 2007, pending findings in the DNA.	Leo Poole (683-6289)
Siuslaw Resource A	Area Proposed Projects-Long	Tom Watershed	
West Eugene Wetlands Project Scheduling - Pursuant to the West Eugene Wetlands environmental assessment, BLM proposes to implement maintenance activities which include the control of woody vegetation encroachment, the control of invasive species, reduce litter and thatch, maintain native species cover, and maintain suitable habitat for the western pond turtle on	West Eugene Wetlands	A DNA is being prepared. Pending results of the DNA, the implementation phase is scheduled to commence May through December.	Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790)

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approximately 600 acres.			
<b>West Eugene Wetlands Project Scheduling EA-</b> Pursuant to the West Eugene Wetlands environmental assessment, BLM proposes to implement restoration and enhancement actions on approximately 150 acres of oak and prairie habitat at the Hansen/See-sil parcel. Treatments would occur over a three year implementation period.	West Eugene Wetlands	A DNA is being prepared. Pending results of the DNA, the first implementation phase is scheduled to commence late May through December.	Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790)
West Eugene Wetlands Bank Mitigation Project – The Proposed Action is to continue to work cooperatively with the City of Eugene to implement management actions on approximately 60 acres of BLM wetland parcels with existing and in progress Mitigation Improvement Plans (MIP). These BLM parcels are all located within the West Eugene Wetlands project area in West Eugene, Oregon. The goal for these BLM sites (with MIPs) is to continue to control invasive species and maintain the prairie systems by utilizing different maintenance treatments.	West Eugene Wetlands	A DNA is being prepared, tiered to the West Eugene Wetlands environmental assessment. Pending results the schedule of work shall commence May through December 2007.	Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790) Trevor Taylor (682-4888)
West Eugene Wetlands Project Area - The Proposed Action is to burn approximately 40 acres in The Nature Conservancy's Willow Creek Preserve within the West Eugene Wetlands in Eugene, Oregon. Prescribed burning involves the hand application of fire (via drip torches) to remove and control invasive woody plants, remove thatch, and invigorate native plant populations in wet prairie systems.	West Eugene Wetlands	A Categorical Exclusion is being prepared. Burning would occur late summer through November of 2007, weather conditions permitting.	Nancy Ashlock (683-6667)
	ea Proposed Projects-Wildcat	Creek Watershed	
Walker Creek Culvert Replacements – This cooperative effort between the BLM and the Siuslaw Watershed Council will use RAC funds to remove 2 aquatic species barriers in the mainstem of Walker Creek. New culvert designs will allow for passage of all aquatic species at all flow regimes here.	T.18S., R.8W., Section 1	An Environmental Assessment is being prepared and will be available for public review in June, 2007. Project work is expected to begin in late summer 2007.	Leo Poole (683-6289)
	rea Proposed Projects-Silvicu	Itural Treatments	
Manual Maintenance/Precommercial Thinning - Manual cutting of vegetation and tree girdling in young stands to reduce competition and to reduce the density of trees is planned. This work would be completed under a service contract in October 2007 to February 2008.	T 16S, 18S, 19S and 20S.	A Categorical Exclusion is prepared after interdisciplinary team reviews. Approximately 170 acres of manual maintenance and 400 acres of pre commercial thinning are planned.	Rich Kelly (683-6405)