

**Eugene District
Bureau of Land Management
“Eye to the Future”
Planning Update
June 2008**



Eugene District Office

June 2008

BLM

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 Planning Update or how it could be improved to make it more useful to you.

We continue our work on revising our Resource Management Plan through the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) process. We are addressing the comments on the draft RMP/EIS and are beginning to prepare the proposed Resource Management Plan and Final EIS. Additional information on the Plan Revision can be found on page 4 of this document. We are also busy with other key programs on the district. We are on schedule to offer 46 MMBF of timber for sale by the end of our fiscal year. Improvement projects at our Shotgun Creek and Clay Creek Recreation Sites have been completed for the busy summer season. Work to repair the road and replace 12 culverts on Courtney Creek –Blagen Mill Road, near Brownsville, Oregon is underway. We are working with adjacent landowners to resolve increasing trends in illegal and damaging use in the Camas Swale area, west of Creswell, Oregon. Work continues on a new joint office facility that the BLM, Forest Service and National Guard will share in Springfield. We anticipate relocation to the new facility in 2009. This document provides you with a view of the projects we would like to implement and the facilities we need to maintain for our publics in the coming months. We have the dedicated staff that is prepared to work closely with you to address your concerns and achieve reasonable solutions. I look forward to continuing our dialog and would welcome you to contact us if you are interested in a future meeting.

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/plans/index.php

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 Debra Wilson on my staff, at 541-683-6798 or at debra_wilson@blm.gov

Ginnie Grilley, District Manager

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?

On August 10, 2007 the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released for public review and comment. During the months of August through December, 2007, more than 70 meetings and workshops were conducted to provide the public an opportunity to become more informed and seek clarification on issues related to the document. The 90 day comment period was extended an additional 60 days and officially closed on January 11, 2008. The planning team has read and assessed all comments from the public and formal cooperators and in response to these comments the BLM is considering and evaluating significant changes to the preferred alternative. For example, the final RMP will be consistent with the final Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and critical habitat designations. The Final RMP/EIS is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2008. The Record of Decision (ROD) will be completed in the fall 2008 after all required BLM planning regulatory steps have been completed.

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, or www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr/index.php or mail to P.O. Box 2965, Portland OR 97208, or contact Wayne Elliott at the Eugene District Office (541) 683-6989 or 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.

District Wide Project			
<p>Sample Tree Felling - A categorical exclusion is being prepared. Sample trees are felled and measured to estimate volume for timber Sales. Contact is Larry Larson at 683-6291.</p>			
Upper Willamette Resource Area Proposed Projects			
Name/Description	Location	Planning Status	Contact
<p>Mohawk East – 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.</p>	<p>T15S, R1W, Secs. 13 and 27; T16S, R1W, Secs. 3, 19, 25 and 27.</p>	<p>Work on an environmental assessment has ended. The EA was made available for public review in August of 2006. One comment was received and will be addressed in the decision documents. Decision documents are expected in 2008.</p>	<p>Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)</p>
<p>Camp Run Timber Sale – 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.</p>	<p>T16S, R1W, Secs. 35, 27, and 25; T16S, R1E, Sec. 31</p>	<p>Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. One comment was received. Decision documents are expected in 2008.</p>	<p>Christie Hardenbrook (683 – 6110)</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>T16S, R1E, Secs. 33, 25 and 35</p>	<p>Work on an environmental has ended. The EA was made available for public comment in October 2007. Decision documents are expected in 2008.</p>	<p>Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)</p>
<p>Seeley Creek Thinning – This project proposes to thin approximately 800 acres on Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations within the Mohawk watershed. This project is located adjacent to designated trails within the Shotgun Off-Highway Vehicle Area. Activities may include aquatic restoration and road management actions.</p>	<p>T15S, R1W, Secs. 7 and 19; T15S, R2W, Secs. 13 and 24</p>	<p>Work on an environmental assessment is currently underway. This document is expected be available for public review in Summer 2008. A decision is expected in 2009.</p>	<p>Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)</p>
<p>Calapooya II/ Big Fir Spur – 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.</p>	<p>T14S, R2W, Secs. 34 and 35 T14S, R1E, Sec. 35</p>	<p>Work on an environmental assessment is scheduled to begin in Summer 2008.</p>	<p>Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)</p>
<p>Blackberry Hole Salvage – The Blackberry Hole Timber Sale (EA-02-24) was logged in 2005. Subsequently, a wind event caused some blowdown with in the logged units. This project proposes to salvage that blowdown.</p>	<p>T18S, R1W, Sec. 23</p>	<p>A review is scheduled to determine if this action is categorically excluded from NEPA analysis or if it will require an environmental assessment.</p>	<p>Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)</p>

Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects – Lake Creek Watershed			
Name/Description	Location	Planning Status	Contact
Tower Canyon Thin – Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 280 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R7W, Secs. 12, 13, and 14, northwest of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in November 2008, pending findings in the DNA.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
East Chinkapin Thin – Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 120 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R6W, Sec. 19; T15S, R7W, Sec. 24, west of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in November 2008, pending findings in the DNA.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Prairie Road - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 150 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R7W Sec15&16, NW of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in March 2009, pending findings in the DNA.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Upper Lake Creek Non-motorized Trailhead Development - Pursuant to the Upper Lake Creek Recreation Area Management Plan a trailhead for non-motorized recreation activities including equestrian, mountain biking, and hiking is being constructed in the Upper Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area. Facilities will include a single vault toilet, horse corals, picnic tables, horse trailer parking, barbeque grills, and manure disposal station.	T15S, R7W, sec. 26.	EA was signed in 2005. Construction is scheduled to begin in early summer of 2008 and be completed by October 2009.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)

Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Siuslaw Watershed			
<p>Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan – BLM is planning a program to treat forested stands in the Upper Siuslaw 5th 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.</p>	<p>Upper Siuslaw 5th Field Watershed, excluding the area covered under the “Upper Siuslaw Late-Successional Reserve Restoration Plan” and EIS.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)</p>
<p>Stone Pony Restoration Project – 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.</p>	<p>T20S, R5W, Sec. 7; T20S, R6W, Secs. 9, 15, 19, 21, and 29; T20S, R7W, Sec. 3;</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in November 2008 pending findings in the DNA.</p>	<p>Mark Stephen (683-6439)</p>
<p>Bear West Restoration Project – 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 on approximately 420 acres.</p>	<p>T20S, R7W, Secs.1, 5, 11, 15; T20S, R6.5W, Sec.1; T19S, R7W, Sec. 35; T20S, R6W, SEC. 7</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in February 2009 pending findings in the DNA.</p>	<p>Mark Stephen (683-6439)</p>
<p>Bottomline Density Management Study – 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.</p>	<p>T21S, R5W, Sec. 1</p>	<p>An environmental assessment was available for public review in December, 2007. One comment was received. A decision is expected in June 2008.</p>	<p>Peter O’Toole (683-6786)</p>
<p>Siuslaw Recreation Sites Maintenance – This project includes placing speed bumps throughout Clay and Whittaker Rec. Sites, replacing fee stations, installing trail registers, trail maintenance, installing plant ID signs on the Whittaker trail, constructing concrete approaches to restrooms and changing rooms, repairing the shelters at Clay, and replacing a chain link fence with wood fence at Clay.</p>	<p>T18S, R8W, Sec. 21; T20S, R7W, Sec. 19; T16S, R7W, Sec.19.</p>	<p>CE complete. All items have been completed except the concrete approaches have been postponed until FY 2009.</p>	<p>Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)</p>
<p>Replace toilets at Clay Creek Campground - 8 single unit vault toilets will be replaced with 4 double unit vault toilets.</p>	<p>T20S, R7W, Sec. 19.</p>	<p>CE being prepared. Six of the single unit toilets are scheduled to be removed and replaced in fall of 2008. The remaining 2 single unit toilets will be replaced when funding allows.</p>	<p>Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)</p>

<p>Chinook Stew Stewardship Project – Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan and EIS, this is a multi-year stewardship contract project that includes commercial thinning, pre-commercial thinning, snag and coarse woody debris creation, and riparian conifer release. The strategy is to thin in young stands with marginal product value and treat adjacent areas to improve stand conditions and habitat. The value of the timber is an offset against the costs of the services received.</p>	<p>T19S, T20S</p>	<p>The IDIQ contract is open for solicitations. The project areas are being identified, and the first project task order is planned for June 2008.</p>	<p>Mark Stephen (683-6439)</p>
<p>Little Siuslaw Creek culvert mitigation – Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan and EIS, boulders and/or logs will be installed in the stream below a partial barrier culvert to enable all season passage for aquatic species. This project is in cooperation with the Weyerhaeuser Company.</p>	<p>T20S, R6W, Secs. 18</p>	<p>A DNA will be prepared prior to the installation phase of this project. The proposed project is expected to occur during the 2008 summer season.</p>	<p>Rob Preece (683-7184)</p>
<p>Hat Trick Salvage – Winter storms during December, 2006, created a 10-acre blowdown area in a GFMA stand in the Coast Range. BLM is considering whether or not to salvage some of the fallen logs.</p>	<p>T17S, R7W, Sec. 21, approximately 5 miles W of Noti.</p>	<p>A categorical exclusion is being prepared. The timber sale is planned for auction in summer 2008.</p>	<p>Janet Zentner (683-6795)</p>
<p>Templeton Road Salvage – A wind event during the Fall of 2007 created a 10-acre blowdown in a GFMA stand in the Coast Range. BLM is considering whether or not to salvage some of the fallen logs.</p>	<p>T16S, R6W, Sec. 1, approximately 4 miles NW of Cheshire.</p>	<p>A categorical exclusion is being prepared. The timber sale is planned for auction in fall 2008.</p>	<p>Janet Zentner (683-6795)</p>
<p>Lane County easement request - Lane county requested an increase in easement width in order to replace an existing culvert with a fish passage culvert.</p>	<p>T19S, R5W, Sec 17</p>	<p>A categorical exclusion was prepared in April 2008.</p>	<p>Tracy Maahs (683-6376)</p>
<p>Dogwood Creek Stockpile site - Lane county requested a temporary stockpile site for a culvert being replaced on Holland Creek.</p>	<p>T19S, R6W, Sec. 29</p>	<p>A categorical exclusion was prepared in May 2008</p>	<p>Tracy Maahs (683-6376)</p>
<p>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Long Tom Watershed</p>			
<p>West Eugene Wetlands Project Scheduling EA – 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 approximately 400acres.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared for 2008 maintenance activities.</p>	<p>Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790)</p>

<p>West Eugene Wetlands Project Scheduling EA – 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.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared for thinning treatments of oak habitat and other vegetation treatments in 2008.</p>	<p>Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790)</p>
<p>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 50 acres of BLM wetland parcels with existing and in progress Mitigation Improvement Plans (MIP). The goal for these BLM sites is to continue to control invasive species and maintain the prairie systems by utilizing different maintenance treatments.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared for 2008.</p>	<p>Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790) Trevor Taylor (682-4888)</p>
<p>West Eugene Wetlands West Pond Turtle Project - The Proposed Action is to install; 1) approximately 8 basking platforms in the Amazon Creek, and 2) approximately 6 protective small wire enclosures over potential western pond turtle nests on BLM parcels.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A categorical exclusion is expected to be prepared for 2008. This project is scheduled to commence in Spring/Summer of 2008.</p>	<p>Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790)</p>
<p>West Eugene Wetlands West Native Bee Project – The Proposed Action is to work cooperatively with the Oregon State University (OSU) to install up to 6 bee traps on BLM wetland parcels.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A categorical exclusion is expected to be prepared for 2008. This project is scheduled to commence in Spring/Summer of 2008 and may continue in 2009.</p>	<p>Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790)</p>
<p>West Eugene Wetlands West Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project - The purpose for the proposed action is for BLM to assist The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to implement prescribed fire on approximately 72 acres. If prescribed fire cannot be implemented due to weather limitations, TNC may conduct other treatments (mowing, chipping, chain saw, etc.) on approximately 20 acres.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A categorical exclusion is expected to be prepared for 2008. This project is scheduled to commence in summer 2008.</p>	<p>Nancy Ashlock/ Dave Reed (683 – 2237)</p>
<p>West Eugene Wetlands Ethnobotany Project - Small amounts of vegetative material such as willows and acorns will be gathered to demonstrate basket weaving and use in traditional Native lifestyles.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A categorical exclusion has been prepared for 2008.</p>	<p>Pat Johnston (541-520-2159)</p>
<p>Transition Management, Inc. Right-of-Way Agreement E-952 – Transition proposes to improve 1,600 feet of roadway and construct 800 feet of new road to access their property.</p>	<p>T16S, R7W, Sec. 25</p>	<p>The Environmental Assessment public comment period ends June 5, 2008. The project is planned for the summer 2008.</p>	<p>Don Meckley (683-6972)</p>