



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

1300 AIRPORT LANE, NORTH BEND, OR 97459

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5400/1792 (OR120)

Edson Thin EA # OR 128-07-02

December 4, 2006

SCOPING DOCUMENT

Dear Interested Party:

The enclosed information and map describe a Proposed Action for the Edson Thin Environmental Assessment (EA).

The proposed action would generate one timber sale totaling approximately 6 million board feet that would contribute to the decadal Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) for the Myrtlewood Field Office. This timber sale is expected to be sold in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008.

The proposed action would partially harvest approximately 700 acres through a combination of commercial thinnings in the General Forest Management Area (GFMA) and density management thinnings in Riparian Reserves of the Matrix Land Use Allocation as defined in the Coos Bay District Final Proposed Resource Management Plan, 1995 and the interagency FSEIS Record of Decision (ROD), 1994; respectively.

Thinnings would be in younger stands 30 to 57 years old. The purpose of commercial thinning and density management thinning is to increase tree growth, capture tree mortality, and/or increase the structural complexity of stands. No hardwood conversions are planned with this proposal, although some hardwoods would be thinned.

The proposed action may also include piling of thinning slash, pile burning, snag creation, streamside restoration, road construction, road improvement, and road renovation to facilitate access for harvest operations. Some BLM controlled roads may be closed upon completion of harvest, that do not provide access to private lands.

Edson Thin is located about 7 miles southeast of Langlois, Oregon within the New River Frontal and Sixes River Analytical (fifth field) Watersheds. The New River Frontal is 99,375 acres and the BLM manages 4% (4,354 acres) of the watershed. The Sixes River is 85,833 acres, the BLM manages 2% (2,107 acres), and the USFS manages 25% (21,692 acres) of the watershed. The remainder of both watersheds is privately owned.

The proposed harvest activities are located in T.31S., R.14W., Sections 10, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26; Willamette Meridian and T.32S., R.14W., Section 14; Willamette Meridian.

You are invited to submit written comments on any issues or concerns you may have regarding this project by January 5, 2007.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA document or other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The EA interdisciplinary team will use your comments, along with their own expertise, to develop a Proposed Action, alternative actions, and design features. The Proposed Action and alternatives will then be analyzed and the results documented in an EA as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA is expected to be available for public comments in May 2007. A copy of the EA will be sent to those that request it or are on the District's mailing list to receive an EA. It will also be posted on the District's web site: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay>.

We have not scheduled any formal public scoping meetings. However, if you have any questions, need maps or other information, feel free to visit our office to discuss the proposed project, or you may contact Jim Kowalick at this office, (541)-751-4286, FAX (541) 756-9303. Our e-mail address is coos_bay@blm.gov and our US mailing address is 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459.

Sincerely,

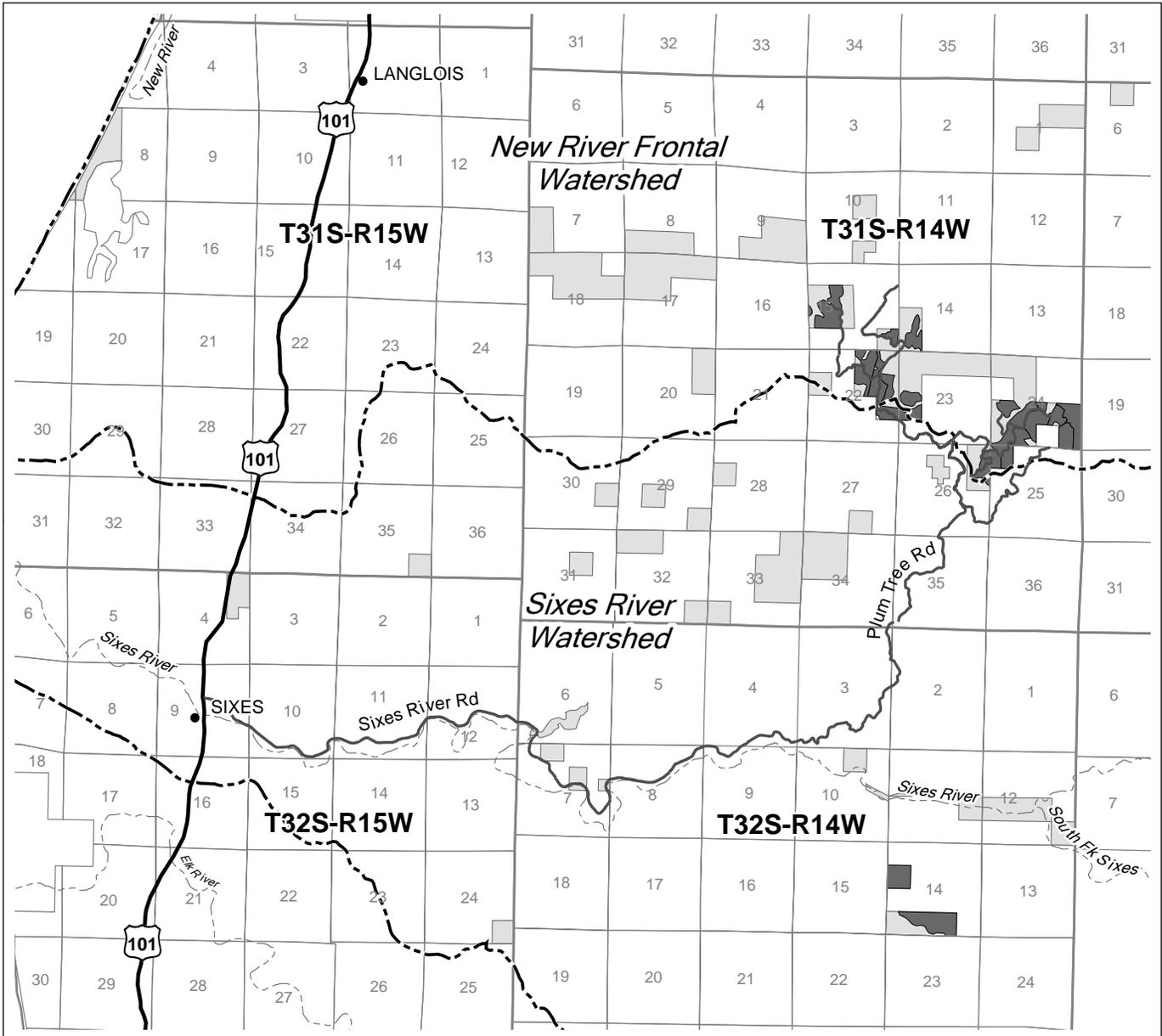
Paul T. Flanagan

Paul T. Flanagan
Myrtlewood Field Manager

Attachment:

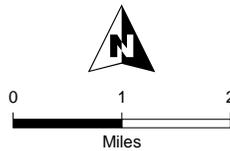
Project Vicinity Map (1pg)

2007 Edson Thinning EA Vicinity Map



Legend

- Primary Haul Road
- Highway 101
- Major Stream
- Watershed Boundary
- Potential Thin Unit
- BLM Administered Land



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