

Secretarial Forestry Pilot Projects Update: June 24, 2011

In December 2010, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar set in motion a plan to apply the principles of ecosystem restoration, as suggested by Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin, on BLM lands within the Roseburg, Coos Bay, and Medford Districts. As the BLM moves forward with these pilot projects we'll be regularly posting updates about their status.

Roseburg Pilot Project

The Roseburg District held a public meeting for the Roseburg Secretarial Demonstration Pilot Project (Roseburg Pilot), on June 22, 2011 at the Roseburg District Office. The meeting focused on describing the environmental analysis, or NEPA process, for the Roseburg Pilot and fielding questions from members of the public. Jay Carlson, Roseburg District Manager, provided background information about the pilot project and the current phase of the project planning effort. Steve Lydick, South River Field Manager described the NEPA process, periods of potential public input and the role of the South River Field Office in drafting the Environmental Assessment.

Short overview presentations were given by Roseburg District Employees participating on the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) for the Pilot Project, presenting brief summaries of their specific roles. A question and answer period was provided and District staff answered questions and accepted comments from members of the public in attendance. Formal outreach (Scoping) comments will be accepted through July 15, 2011 on the Roseburg Secretarial Demonstration Pilot Project. The scoping notice is listed in the NEPA Planning page at the following link:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/forestrypilot/>

The next public meeting will take place in August at the Roseburg District Office and will focus on review of the draft Environmental Assessment. Contact: Cheyne Rossbach, (541) 464-3245.

Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project Update:

Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project EA will be available this week and the 30-day public comment period will run from June 27 to July 27. Field assessment work is ongoing for some of the FY 2012 work. The EA contains two alternatives: No Action and the Proposed Action. There are approximately 300 acres of commercial (timber sale) harvest, and 600 acres of noncommercial (stewardship plus service work). All 900 acres will be part of the decision for the EA, but the latter work will be tasked/contracted the early part of FY12 (due to timing of the EA and botany clearance work).

The Medford District held a very successful initial public workshop to establish a multi-party monitoring plan. About 25 people attended. An oversight group of partners and agency personnel has been established to help complete a monitoring plan that will be ready for implementation before the first project is started in September of 2011.

Work is starting on assessing the landscape for the next FY projects with the goal to have spotted owl habitat assessed and restoration needs identified on the remaining lands south of the Applegate River (an additional 10,000 acres). The goal is to complete the entire Middle Applegate Watershed restoration and owl habitat needs assessment by the end of FY11. Contact: John Gerritsma, (541) 618-2438

Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot Project

Additional information, including the cooperative agreement between the Coquille Indian Tribe and BLM, has been posted to the Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot Project website. The District and Coquille Indian Tribe plan to host a public field tour of the marked stand during the last two weeks of August. Additional information will be coming soon.

The interdisciplinary team continues to gather information on Section 17. The project area was surveyed by dogs that search for northern spotted owl scat. This information will be used to supplement the ongoing northern spotted owl surveys in the area. Red tree vole surveys are complete, and no red tree vole nests were located in the project area. Northern spotted owl surveys are still underway.



The maps and handouts from the Coos Bay Wagon Road pilot project public meetings are now posted on the Wagon Road pilot website. The closing date for the Wagon Road EA has been extended until July 5, 2011. Meanwhile, the interdisciplinary team is completing field work and the next team meeting will be held June 21, 2011. Contact: Mark Johnson, (541) 756-0100

