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To: All District Managers

From: Deputy State Director, Resource Planning, Use and Protection

Subject: Timber Salvage Program Implementation

The Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR §5400.0-3 (a) (b)) authorizes the sale of timber from the Revested Oregon and California Railroad and Reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands and other public lands. These timber resources include the salvage of merchantable down and dead timber. The District Resource Management Plans (RMP) are consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan (Standards and Guidelines, pages C-13 to C-16) in terms of authorizing timber salvage under certain situations depending on the land use allocation.

However, the salvage of down and dead timber may not have been sufficiently nor consistently emphasized to the appropriate extent by individual districts. In certain situations, the lack of emphasis on timber salvage has resulted in the inconsistent implementation of the timber salvage program and loss of timber value due to the theft or rapid decomposition of salvage material. This loss of timber value compromises the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) ability to meet its timber sale volume commitments and is inconsistent with timber management objectives.

The Timber Sales Procedure Handbook 5410, page 1, Section II B “Priority Listing” states that “Damaged and/or dead timber has highest priority and is scheduled for offering as early as practical. Subsequent priorities are set in relation to advance planning, normally determined from management plans.”

The following guidelines should be used to ensure that the timber salvage program is applied consistently throughout Oregon and Washington, and to ensure its consideration as a very important program:

1) Timber salvage should be considered a top priority workload for the districts, as it contributes to meeting the volume commitments (Allowable Sale Quantity) specified under the individual RMPs and for Annual Work Plan targets.
2) Small amounts of salvage are categorically excludable and, as such, should be expeditiously pursued (see 516 DM 6 Appendix 5, C, (2)).
3) Timely removal of wind-thrown trees from roads is important to prevent theft and to provide emergency and fire control access to BLM and private lands.
4) Districts should adjust work priorities to minimize loss to theft or deterioration by quickly recovering salvageable timber resources.
5) Timber salvage represents a highly worthwhile contribution to socio-economic goals and should be applied to the maximum extent allowed under individual district RMPs.
6) Timber salvage should be pursued in Riparian Reserves, Late-Successional Reserves (LSR), and other reserves in a manner consistent with applicable standards and guidelines, and analysis documents (e.g., Late-
Successional Reserve Assessments [LSRA], Watershed Analyses, etc.), particularly where the likelihood of theft is high.

7) Watershed Analyses and LSRAs should contain information on current and expected coarse woody debris levels required to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy and LSR objectives, respectively.

8) A catastrophic event might result in a form and/or degree of salvage opportunity not anticipated in the underlying assumptions, and standards and guidelines for the various types of reserves. This might warrant additional analysis to facilitate appropriate salvage which might be precluded otherwise. This might include consideration of fuels management and hazard reduction, and forest health issues. This effort should be pursued to the extent that doing so is justified in relation to the anticipated salvage timber value, and the ability to not jeopardize attainment of the reserve objectives.

Development of this Information Bulletin (IB) occurred with the coordination of the west-side Oregon District Forestry leads and George Buckner, Wildlife Biologist, OR-931.

For information contact Lyndon Werner, OR-931, at (503) 808-6071.

**Districts with Unions** are reminded to notify their unions of this IB and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
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(Acting)

Authenticated by
Mary O'Leary
Management Assistant

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