



# PLAN WESTERN OREGON REVISIONS

FACT SHEET

October 2008

BLM  
Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Coos Bay, Medford, and Klamath Falls Offices

*Note: This is an abbreviated summary. For complete information see the Final Environmental Impact Statement*

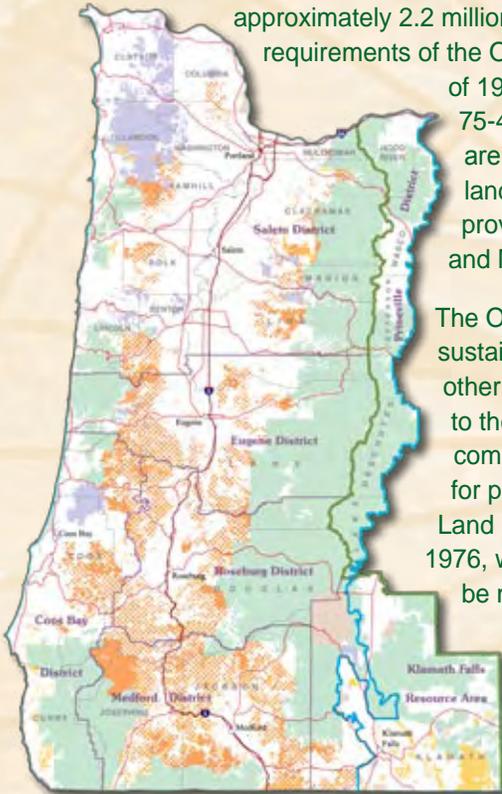
## The Planning Area

For more information see Chapter 1, page 13 in Volume 1.

The planning area for this project covers approximately 2.6 million acres of public land contained in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg, and Medford Districts and the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District.

Of the 2.6 million acres of public land managed by the BLM, approximately 2.2 million acres are managed under the requirements of the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Lands Act, Public Law 75-405), while about 400,000 acres are classified as "public domain" lands and are managed under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

The O&C lands are managed for a sustained yield of forest products and other values needed to contribute to the economic stability of local communities. The statutory authority for public domain lands is the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which requires that these lands be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The management of all Federal lands must also comply with a variety of other laws including the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act.



## Why Revise the Resource Management Plans Now?

For more information see Chapter 1, page 4 in Volume 1.

The BLM is proposing to revise existing plans to replace the Northwest Forest Plan land use allocations and management direction because:

- The BLM plan evaluations found that the BLM has not been achieving the timber harvest levels directed by the existing plans, and the BLM now has more detailed and accurate information than was available in 1995 on the effects of sustained yield management on other resources.
- There is an opportunity to coordinate the BLM management plans with new recovery plans and re-designations of critical habitat currently under development.
- The BLM has re-focused its management goals on the objectives of its statutory mandate for sustained yield management of the timber lands covered under the O&C Lands Act to contribute to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and other benefits from such management to watersheds, stream flows, and recreation.

## What is the Purpose and Need for the Revisions?

For more information see Chapter 1, page 4 in Volume 1.

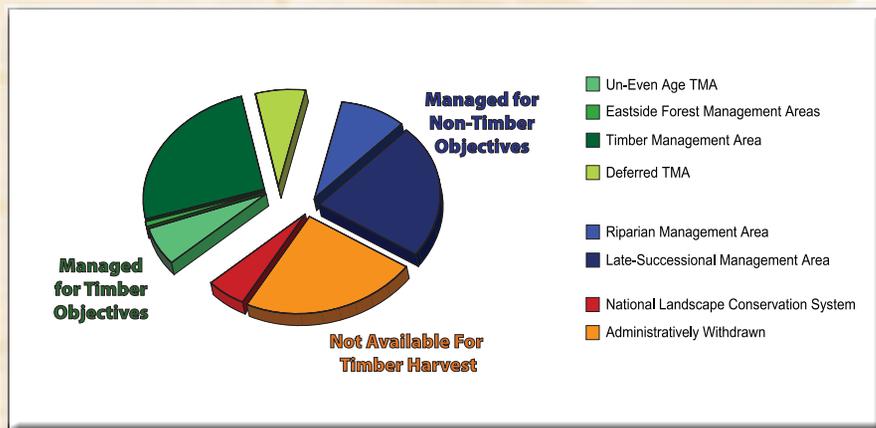
The purpose and need for the proposed action is to manage the BLM-administered lands for permanent forest production in conformity with the principles of sustained yield consistent with the O&C Lands Act. The plans will also comply with all other applicable Federal laws including, but not limited to, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and to the extent that it is not in conflict with the O&C Lands Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. In accord with the Endangered Species Act, the plans will use the BLM's authorities for managing the lands it administers in the planning area to conserve habitat needed from these lands for the survival and recovery of species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.



## What Does the Proposal Entail?

Four action alternatives, along with the No Action Alternative, are being proposed. The No Action Alternative would continue management of the current resource management plans, which were approved in 1995 and subsequently amended. The four action alternatives consist of a Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) and the three alternatives that were analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from August 2007. These alternatives represent a range of management strategies proposed to meet the purpose and need. These management strategies encompass management objectives, land use allocations, and management directions. Some management objectives, land use allocations, and management directions are common to all four action alternatives. Examples of management objectives, land use allocations, and management directions that are common to the four action alternatives are:

- Congressionally-reserved areas would be retained and managed for the purposes for which they were established.
- A diversity of developed and dispersed outdoor recreational experiences would be maintained.
- District recreation sites, management areas, facilities, trails, and visitor service programs would be carried forward.
- The BLM would take actions to reduce fire hazards to communities that are at risk from uncharacteristic wildfires.
- The BLM would provide for the harvest and collection of special forest products.



## Late-Successional Management Areas

In the Final EIS, these areas would provide habitat for the northern spotted owl (large, connected blocks of suitable habitat) and the marbled murrelet. Salvage harvesting of timber would be allowed to recover economic value after stand-replacement disturbances. The Late-Successional Management areas are based on final recovery plan efforts and critical habitat designations for the northern spotted owl. For more information see Chapter 2, page 28 in Volume 1.

## Riparian Management Areas

These areas would maintain or promote development of mature or structurally-complex forests and provide for the riparian and aquatic conditions that supply streams with shade, sediment filtering, leaf litter, and large wood and root masses that stabilize stream banks. These management areas would be one site-potential tree height (averaging approximately 180 feet) on each side of a stream channel as measured from the ordinary high water line on perennial and intermittent fish-bearing streams with a 60-foot exclusion for thinning and silvicultural activities and perennial non-fish-bearing streams. The management areas for intermittent, non-fish-bearing streams would be one-half of one site-potential tree height (averaging approximately 90 feet) on each side of the stream channel with a 35-foot exclusion for thinning and silvicultural activities. For more information see Chapter 2, page 32 in Volume 1.

## Eastside Forest Management Lands

These lands consist of the areas east of Highway 97 on the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District. This allocation consists mainly of Public Domain lands and would be managed on a sustainable basis for multiple uses including: grazing, wildlife habitat, recreational needs, riparian habitat, cultural resources, community stability, and commodity production including commercial timber and other forest products. For more information see Chapter 2, page 35 in Volume 1.



## Timber Management Areas

These areas would be managed to achieve a high level of continuous timber production that provides an allowable sale quantity of timber that could be sustained through a balance of growth and harvesting. There are three types of timber management areas:

### Timber Management Area

In these areas, forests would be managed to achieve a high level of continuous timber production that could be sustained through a balance of growth and harvesting, and an allowable sale quantity of timber. The rotation age would be approximately 80 to 100 years and there would be no green tree retention after regeneration harvesting. For more information see Chapter 2, page 39 in Volume 1.

### Uneven-Age Timber Management Area

In these areas, forests would be managed to contribute to the annual productive capacity using a combination of uneven-age harvesting methods that include thinning, single tree selection harvest, and group selection harvest that would promote development of fire-resilient forests. For more information see Chapter 2, page 37 in Volume 1.

### Deferred Timber Management Area

In these mapped areas, harvest would be deferred to maintain substantially all the existing levels of older and more structurally complex multi-layered conifer forests through the year 2023. This would be done to support the recovery efforts for the northern spotted owl while a strategy to deal with the invading barred owl is developed. For more information see Chapter 37, page x in Volume. 1.

## What are the Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives?

For more information see Chapter 4 in Volume 2.

### Forest Structure

For more information see Chapter 4, page 501 in Volume 2.

- Forests are classified in the analysis by the following four-stage structural classification system: For more information see Chapter 3, page 206 in Volume 1.
  - *Stand establishment.* Forests that approximate the early-successional conditions that follow disturbances, such as timber harvesting or wildfires.
  - *Young.* Forests that approximate the small conifer forests described in the 1993 Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team (FEMAT) Report and Northwest Forest Plan.
  - *Mature.* Forests that are defined similarly to the mature forests described in the FEMAT Report and Northwest Forest Plan.
  - *Structurally complex.* Forests that approximate the old-growth forests described in many analyses (e.g., the medium/large conifer multi-story forests of the FEMAT Report and the large, multi-storied older forests of the Late-Successional Forest Monitoring Report).
- Within the next 100 years, all five alternatives would decrease the abundance of young forests and increase the abundance of mature and structurally complex forests on BLM-administered lands compared to current amounts. Together the mature and structurally complex forests approximate the late-successional forests that are described in the Northwest Forest Plan.
- The alternatives would vary widely in the amount of existing old forest (forest stands over 199 years old) that would be harvested in 100 years from: 14 percent under the No Action Alternative to 63 percent under Alternative 3. Under the Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP), 27 percent of existing old forests would be harvested in 100 years.



- In the PRMP, 73 percent of the existing older forest acres would be in land use allocations outside of the Timber Management Area. The Deferred Timber Management Area includes nearly all of the older and more structurally complex forests in the Timber Management Area. Under the PRMP, substantially all of the existing older forests would be protected through 2023.

## Carbon Storage

For more information see Chapter 4, page 537 in Volume 2.

- The PRMP and all alternatives would increase total carbon storage from current levels.
- None of the alternatives would result in carbon storage of more than 1 percent of the current carbon stored in forests and harvested wood in the United States or 0.02 percent of current global carbon storage in vegetation, soil, and detritus.

## Socioeconomics

For more information see Chapter 4, page 545 in Volume 2.

- Under the PRMP, we project an increase of approximately 1,200 in timber-related jobs in western Oregon, as compared to a potential loss of approximately 3,800 jobs under the No Action Alternative.
- Under the PRMP, we project annual county payments of \$75 million, as compared to \$42 million under the No Action Alternative. Over the course of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, the counties averaged \$115 million in BLM-related payments per year.
- The BLM plays the greatest role in the Douglas County budget, where it accounts for 20 percent of the total budget and 70 percent of the discretionary budget. These receipts would help fund many county activities including public safety, health and community services, education, and transportation.
- Under all alternatives, timber harvesting would increase. There would be an increase in jobs and income along with a multiplier as impacts ripple through other sectors in the affected county economies. Economic effects would vary in proportion to increased timber harvest volumes.

## Timber

For more information see Chapter 4, page 571 in Volume 2.

- The harvest land base under the PRMP would be 994,000 acres or 45 percent of the planning area's forested acres.
- The estimated Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) from the timber management areas would be 502 million board (mmbf) feet. The Northwest Forest Plan originally anticipated an ASQ of 211 mmbf, but the actual timber harvest levels have been far less, averaging approximately 134.7 mmbf.
- Regeneration harvests (356 mmbf per year or 71 percent of the ASQ; approximately 7,700 acres or 35 percent of the harvested acres per year), would take place in forest stands no longer growing consistent with their potential (due to age or other conditions, such as inadequate stocking), or to meet other resource objectives (such as improving stand health or age class distribution).
- A large portion of the future timber harvest under the plan (146 mmbf per year or 29 percent of the ASQ; approximately 14,600 acres or 65 percent of the harvested acres per year) would come from a vigorous program of thinning younger stands. A proactive approach to thinning would take advantage of biological windows to improve stand health, enhance growth on remaining trees, or to improve habitat conditions. We anticipate that there would be another 86 mmbf from thinning in other land use allocations.
- Under the plan, the receipts generated from BLM timber harvest are estimated to equal 85 percent of the average BLM county payments for the last 20 years.

## Sensitive Species

For more information see Chapter 4, page 611 in Volume 2.

- Under the PRMP, risks to BLM-sensitive species would be low, but slightly higher than the No Action Alternative due to increased risks from invasive plants, loss of interior habitat, and increased edge effect. Application of conservation measures to all species consistent with the BLM Special Status Species Policy on all BLM-administered lands in the planning area would result in low risk of local extirpation of occurrences for all habitat groups.



## Marbled Murrelet

For more information see Chapter 4, page 684 in Volume 2.

- The nesting habitat for the marbled murrelet on BLM-administered lands would increase under all five alternatives within 100 years.
- The PRMP would retain 99 percent of all marbled murrelet nesting habitat greater than 200 years old on BLM-administered lands through 2023.

## Northern Spotted Owl

For more information see Chapter 4, page 644 in Volume 2.

- Under the PRMP, habitat development by 2056 on BLM-administered lands would contribute sufficiently to the development, distribution, and spacing of large blocks of suitable spotted owl habitat, with the exception of spacing between large habitat blocks on either side of the Klamath-Coast Range provincial boundary.
- Habitat conditions that facilitate spotted owl movement and survival would improve by 2056 under all alternatives. In parts of the planning area, the distribution of BLM-administered lands is insufficient to achieve adequate dispersal conditions under any alternative.

## Water

For more information see Chapter 4, page 753 in Volume 2.

- Regeneration harvesting under the alternatives is not great enough to increase susceptibility to increased peak flows.
- Under the PRMP, the risk of natural tree mortality from blowdown, which could affect stream shading, would be lower than under Alternatives 2 and 3 in the Draft EIS.
- Over the next 10 years, under all alternatives, sediment delivery would increase less than 1 percent above current levels. Most new roads would be located outside of a stream influence zone where possible.
- Sediment inputs to streams from harvest-related landslides, over time, under all alternatives, would be substantially similar to the amount that would occur under the No Harvest reference analysis.

## Fish

For more information see Chapter 4, page 779 in Volume 2.

- The potential large wood contribution to streams would increase over time under all alternatives. The greatest increase would occur under the PRMP. Wood contribution to streams creates the added benefits of trapping smaller organic materials along stream edges, reducing water velocities, encouraging gravel deposition, and can result in narrower and deeper channels that are less susceptible to stream temperature increases.
- Fine sediment delivery to stream channels would not increase more than 1 percent above existing rates under any alternative and would not decrease fish survival.
- The risk of adverse effects to fish from an increase in peak flow would be very low under all alternatives.
- None of the alternatives would contribute to an increase in stream temperature that would affect fish.

## Fire and Fuels

For more information see Chapter 4, page 805 in Volume 2.

- In the Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, and Roseburg Districts, compared to the current condition, all alternatives would reduce the fire hazard and would reduce the acres of high severity fire when wildfires occur.
- In the Klamath Falls Resource Area, compared to the current condition, the No Action Alternative and the PRMP would reduce the fire hazard and the acres of high severity fire when wildfires occur.
- In the Medford District, compared to the current condition, the PRMP would increase fire resiliency and decrease hazard and severity of fires.

