2005 Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments

Introduction

The Northwest Forest Plan guides management of more than 22 million acres of Federal forests administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the USDA Forest Service in western Oregon, Washington, and northern California. The Northwest Forest Plan is a balanced, scientifically-based, long-term management plan designed to produce a predictable and sustainable supply of timber, and to protect the health of forests and wildlife. Of the 22 million acres managed under Northwest Forest Plan direction, BLM manages approximately 2,557,700 million.

The BLM Districts in western Oregon implementing the Northwest Forest Plan are: Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Coos Bay, Medford, and the Lakeview District's Klamath Falls Resource Area. In northern California, the BLM Field Offices implementing the Northwest Forest Plan are: Alturas, Arcata, Clear Lake, and Redding.

Forestry

The BLM manages over 2.5 million acres of land in western Oregon, lands that are managed under the standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan. Approximately, 500,000 acres (or 22 percent of the BLM western Oregon land base) are available for planned timber harvest. In Fiscal Year 2005 the BLM in western Oregon offered 198.2 million board feet (MMBF) of timber for sale.

The BLM reforests forest lands after timber harvest and natural disturbances such as wildland fires. Each District and Field Office conducts site preparation, tree planting and other management treatment such as browse protection or vegetation control to ensure healthy forests in the future.

The BLM is also working to implement an enhanced thinning program on BLM-managed lands. This thinning is done to improve growth and reduce wildfire risks. Additionally, thinning is done in response to scientific studies that indicate timely thinning can accelerate and enhance the development of old growth characteristics in younger forests.

Western Oregon Plan Revision

In September of 2005, the BLM formally began a public process to revise its six Resource Management Plans that were finalized in 1995 for the Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg and Medford Districts and the Klamath Falls Resource Area. The western Oregon Resource Management Plans are being revised in response to the American Forest Resource Council lawsuit settlement agreement. The planning area includes approximately 2,557,700 acres of public land.

Through a formal public scoping process in the fall of 2005, the public was asked for help in defining what issues should be addressed in the planning process.

The revisions to the existing Resource Management Plans will ultimately answer the question regarding how the BLM should manage the lands covered by the Oregon & Calfornia Lands Act of 1937 (O&C). This Act required that these western Oregon lands be managed to achieve the requirement of permanent forest production. We must have Resource Management Plans that are consistent with the O&C Lands Act as interpreted by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, while also complying with other applicable laws such as the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act.

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2005 Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments' Numbers

2005 O&C Appropriated Dollars $107,497,000

Forest Management $23,893,000

Design and administer timber sales; monitor ecological trends, impacts, and effectiveness of management of the ecosystem; ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations; support the research, protection, and management of habitat for wildlife species; assist development and implementation of recovery plans for threatened and endangered species; implement best management practices on watersheds.

Reforestation and Forest Development $24,474,000

Maintain sustainability of forest resources and timber harvest levels through successful reforestation, utilizing site preparation, tree planting, young stand maintenance and protection, genetic tree trait conservation, and growth enhancing and forest health practices; develop site specific and watershed level prescriptions using silvicultural techniques; maintain up-to-date inventories of sites available for reforestation and forest development.

Other Forest Resources Management $35,322,000

Conduct watershed analysis; comply with Clean Water Act; use smoke management to comply with air quality rules; monitor Threatened and Endangered species.

Transportation and Facilities Maintenance $10,619,000

Maintain 300 buildings and 104 recreation sites. Maintain 14,000 miles of roads, 353 bridges and thousands of culverts in Western Oregon (roads, trails, and airstrips).

Planning $5,086,000

Maintain viability of resource management plans (RMP) through plan monitoring, incorporation of new data and amendments to the RMPs.

Data System Operation and Maintenance $2,151,000

Convert existing Geographic Information System (GIS) data from Map Overlay and Statistical System to commercial software; operation of the data system at each BLM Western Oregon District Office.

Construction and Acquisition $291,000

Access easements across private land to allow management of federal lands, and for construction of roads, bridges, buildings and other facilities.

Jobs-in-the-Woods $5,661,000

Hire displaced timber workers, provide training, and assist communities while accomplishing watershed restoration.

FY 2005 Westside Oregon BLM TImer Sale Data (numbers in Million Board Feet)

District	Offered	Harvest
Lakeview	4.9	10.0
Salem	43.5	30.5
Eugene	33.3	28.2
Roseburg	22.6	24.7
Medford	53.0	24.8
Coos Bay	40.9	22.9
Totals	198.2	141.1

BLM Tree Planting in FY 2005

BLM District	Acres Planted	Seedlings Planted
Lakeview	26	125,000
Salem	344	108,700
Eugene	243	84,300
Roseburg	331	173,100
Medford	2,594	1,152,000
Coos Bay	137	50,400
Oregon Total	3,675	1,581,000

Northwest Forest Plan Range in Oregon and Washington

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Western Oregon Plan Revision

Throughout this process, we will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify which management direction is best suited to local, regional, and national interests. This formal public scoping process will help identify planning issues and provide for public comment on the proposed planning criteria.

The BLM is using this information to prepare management alternatives and planning criteria for developing the six plan revisions. The impacts of alternatives will be analyzed in one environmental impact statement. The plan revisions will be completed in 2008.

Information about the plan revision can be found on the project web site:

http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/state_info/planning/or/wopr/

or by contacting the project office directly (503) 808-6629, or email at:

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