2006 Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments

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. It is designed to produce a predictable and sustainable supply of timber, and to protect the health of forests, wildlife, and waterways.

Of the 22 million acres managed under Northwest Forest Plan direction, BLM manages approximately 2,557,700 million acres in the Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Coos Bay, Medford, and Lakeview Districts. In northern California, the BLM Field Offices implementing the Northwest Forest Plan are Arcata, Redding and Ukiah.

Resource Management Plans guide the BLM's implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan. Resource Management Plans contain goals, objectives, and management actions that—coupled with annual appropriations—direct each District's program of work.

Forestry

The BLM manages over 2.5 million acres of land in western Oregon 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 2006 the BLM in western Oregon offered 200.6 million board feet of timber for sale.

The BLM reforests these 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. Thinning is also done in response to scientific studies that indicate timely thinning can accelerate and enhance the development of old growth characteristics in younger forests. In 2006, approximately 9,117 acres of forest and woodlands were thinned for these purposes. Stewardship contracting—a method to enhance community caretaking of public lands—was utilized on six of these thinning projects.

2006 Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishment Numbers

2006 O&C Appropriated Dollars $108,451,000

Forest Management $27,118,000

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 $24,421,000

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 $37,214,000

Conduct watershed analyses; comply with Clean Water Act; use smoke management to comply with air quality rules; monitor threatened and endangered species.

Transportation and Facilities Maintenance $10,742,000

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 $6,517,000

Maintain viability of Resource Management Plans (RMP) through plan monitoring, incorporation of new data, and amendments to the RMPs.

Data System Operation and Maintenance $2,141,000

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 $298,000

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 was not funded in 2006.

FY 2006 Westside Oregon BLM Timber Sale Data (numbers in Million Board Feet)

BLM District	Offered	Harvest
Lakeview	4.5	9.1
Salem	36.5	32.1
Eugene	40.3	32.2
Roseburg	49.2	24.3
Medford	28.4	11.0
Coos Bay	41.7	45.5
Oregon Totals	200.6	154.2

BLM Tree Planting in FY 2006

BLM District	Acres Planted	Seedlings Planted
Lakeview	5	3,110
Salem	212	99,530
Eugene	209	99,930
Roseburg	986	444,690
Medford	1,409	821,750
Coos Bay	327	102,025
Oregon Total	3,148	1,571,035

Northwest Forest Plan Range in Oregon and Washington

LEGEND

- Northwest Forest Plan Boundary
- State Boundary
- BLM District Boundary
- BLM Administered Land
- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Other Federal
- Non Federal

Western Oregon Plan Revisions

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.

The revisions to the existing Resource Management Plans will ultimately address how the BLM should manage the lands covered by the Oregon & California (O&C) Lands Act of 1937. This Act required that these western Oregon lands be managed to achieve the requirement of permanent forest production. Our Resource Management Plans that must be 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.

Through various involvement opportunities, the public has helped to tailor the analysis process. Public response to early scoping helped the BLM validate the existing management situation (documented in the "Analysis of the Management Situation") and the planning criteria (documented in the "Planning Criteria and State Director Guidance") which guides this revision process. The public further helped to identify the most important issues to be addressed (summarized in the "Scoping Report"). These issues include the management of vegetation (including late-successional forests), habitat for endangered species, water quality, the reduction of wildfire effects in the urban interface, and restoration of natural fire processes.

Public involvement is continuing. In 2007, the BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties through the review of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to identify which management direction is best suited to local, regional, and national interests. This formal public commenting process will aid in identifying both the thoroughness and accuracy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The BLM will be incorporating comments into revised Resource Management Plans and a Final Environmental Impact Statement to be completed in 2008.

Bureau of Land Management

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Coos Bay District Office
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Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
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Lakeview District Office
1301 S. G St
Lakeview, OR 97630

WESTERN OREGON PLAN REVISIONS

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

http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr/index.htm

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

orwopr@or.blm.gov.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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