

To: Wagon Road Pilot - Environmental Assessment ID Team  
Date: May 18, 2011  
From: Kathy Hoffine, Myrtlewood Field Manager, BLM and  
Tim Vredenburg, Natural Resource Director, Coquille Indian Tribe  
Subject: Wagon Road Pilot - Team Assignments and Timelines  
DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2011-0008-EA

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### **Introduction**

The Secretary of the Interior designated Pilot Demonstration projects in BLM Districts in southwest Oregon to demonstrate the principles of ecosystem restoration developed by Drs. Jerry F. Franklin and K. Norman Johnson (*Applying Restoration Principles on the O&C Forests in Southwest Oregon, 2010*). The Secretary has also endorsed the Coquille Indian Tribe working in partnership with the BLM in the development of this pilot project.

### **Project Summary**

The BLM and CIT will work together to develop a variable retention timber sale based on the ecological restoration principles outlined by Drs. Franklin and Johnson and meet the timeframes proposed by the Secretary. The stands are approximately 70-years old and are designated as Matrix and Riparian Reserves under the 1995 RMP.

**Location:** T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Sec. 17 WM

### **Need for the Project**

In general, the basis for this pilot project is the need to focus on activities that achieve environmental, economic and social benefits by improving ecosystem diversity and functionality and increasing societal options for timber harvest on federal forest lands, particularly the O&C and CBWR land base. The stands chosen in this project represent the Moist Forest conditions and contain stand characteristics described by Drs. Johnson and Franklin as needing treatment. There is a lack of diversity concerning early-successional stages in Moist Forest ecosystems which can be provided through regeneration harvest and modified site preparation and planting. The structure and composition of early successional stages are important to perpetuating species populations at the local scale, thereby enabling reestablishment of species into the regenerated forest and promoting the sustainability of current ecosystem dynamics while providing timber harvest opportunities. There is a need to demonstrate these ecosystem principles through timber harvest to accomplish these ecosystem goals.

Additionally, harvest activities on BLM administered lands have shifted from a mix of commercial thinning and regeneration harvests to almost exclusively commercial thinnings. Even at the current annual sale quantity levels, a thinning-only harvest regime cannot be sustained on the Coos Bay District.

Forest management on federal lands in the Northwest continues to be stymied by conflicting interests that pit timber production against habitat protection and result in the legal and administrative gridlock noted by both the Secretary and the Oregon Congressional Delegation. By demonstrating the restoration principles outlined by Drs. Johnson and Franklin, the social acceptability of this project can be directly compared to the controversies around current forest management practices. That is, this pilot project would serve to demonstrate the various ecosystem restoration principles and tools, and help gauge whether or not a broader social support for active management could be developed.

### **General Project Objectives**

As designated by the Secretary, the Wagon Road Pilot is intended to accomplish the following:

- Demonstrate the application of ecosystem principles developed by Drs. Franklin and Johnson. The intent of these principles is to move the current federal landscape towards desired forest conditions that include the maintenance of older trees, restoration of characteristic structure and composition including early-successional habitat, and increased heterogeneity.
  - Provide an example of active forest management which includes regeneration timber harvest, with a focus on ecosystem restoration that has a broader base of social acceptance.
  - Provide commercially viable timber sales that provide revenues from management of those timber resources.
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## **Roles**

The disciplines included in the core group have been selected based on previous anticipated issues from similar projects. These roles may change as the project develops. Support team members are equally important, but their resource may not have the depth of analysis to support conclusions of effects.

### Project Lead – Tim Vredenburg (CIT)

- Provide team members with project development such as the marking prescription and road management.
- Represent Coquille Indian Tribe's interest in management of these forest lands
- Coordinate and schedule IDT field reviews.
- Coordinate with GIS for data layers.
- Coordinate with Field Manager.

### Team Lead – Aimee Hoefs (BLM)

- Maintain Administrative Record.
- Initiate Public Scoping, collate comments for team.
- Ensure analysis is in conformance with NEPA, Bureau Policy, ROD/RMP and Field Manager requirements.
- Schedule and facilitate meetings.
- Inform supervisors of team member participation/quality of work products.
- Prepare FONSI, Final EA, Decision Documentation.
- Keep team members informed of project development.
- Share information from support members during ID Team meetings.

### Field Manager – Kathy Hoffine (BLM)

- Provide ID Team with anticipated results in terms of work products, meeting deadlines and other project expectations.
- Provide direction on issues that arise within the team where consensus cannot be reached.

### Core Team Members

- Attend all ID Team meetings or make suitable alternative arrangements.
- Participate in team discussions, particularly in development of project design features.
- Provide professional analysis of the effects of the project on applicable resource. Analysis will be concise, free from personal bias, and focused on the relevant issues/resource. Analysis will include information from most current literature sources.
- Make appropriate professional assumptions and conducts analysis for units, roads, and other resource components not visited in the field.
- Provide written analysis within agreed upon deadlines.

- Communicate with Team Lead as issues arise with the project, meeting timeframes and/or Team Member conflicts.

Paul Leman (BLM) – Forest Condition – stand condition/structure analysis, logging systems, prescriptions

Stephanie Messerle (BLM) – T&E – aquatics – BA for consultation as needed, prepare reports for EFH assessment, compliance with ACS Objectives, and culvert review-fish passage

Gordie Reeves (FS) – T&E – aquatics – Analysis of EFH assessment, compliance with ACS Objectives

Ed Vaughn (CIT) – Unit layout and logging systems

Jason Robison (CIT) – T&E – wildlife – applicable surveys (including red tree vole surveys); Field assessment of MAMU/NSO suitable habitats; prepare USFWS BA for BLM submission as needed; other Special Status Species effects analysis

Jim Kirkpatrick (BLM) – Noxious weed assessment, POC risk analysis, restocking

### Support Team Members

- Attend initial ID Team meeting.
- Upon request, participate in subsequent meetings.
- Support Core Team Members.
- Communicates with Team Lead as issues arise with the project, meeting timeframes and/or Team Member conflicts.
- Provide professional analysis of the effects of the project on applicable resource. Analysis will be concise, free from personal bias, and focused on the relevant issues/resource. Analysis will include information from most current literature sources.
- Make appropriate professional assumptions and conducts analysis for units, roads, and other resource components not visited in the field.
- Provide written analysis within agreed upon deadlines.

Larry Standley (BLM) – Water resources and soils review (compaction, fragile soils)

Eva Bailey (BLM) – Unit layout, support to Leman

Jered Bowman (BLM) – Unit layout, support to Leman

Jay Flora (BLM) – GIS support, final EA maps

Barry Hogge (BLM) – Fuels treatment prescriptions, analysis for FRCC

Tim Rodenkirk (BLM) – Botanical SSS compliance, applicable field surveys

Don Ivy (CIT) – Cultural, Native American concerns

Stephan Samuels (BLM) – Environmental Justice

Ron Shipp (BLM) – Engineering

Chris Schumacher (BLM) – Provide supporting data and analysis

Teresa Stutesman (BLM) – Provide guidance during ID Team meetings, review overall project development, and review and edit NEPA and consultation documents.

Jeff Davis (BLM) – Provide guidance during ID Team meetings, coordinate with other partners, review overall project development, and review and edit NEPA documents.

### **Implementation Roles**

BLM and CIT – NEPA interdisciplinary team membership

BLM and CIT – Unit layout

BLM – Cruising, contract preparation and sale administration

CIT – pre and post-sale monitoring