



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

1300 AIRPORT LANE, NORTH BEND, OR 97459

Web Address: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay> E-mail: OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov

Telephone: (541) 756-0100 Toll Free: (888) 809-0839 Fax: (541) 751-4303



In Reply Refer To:
5400/1792 (OR-120)
EA No. OR125-08-06

January 30, 2009

SCOPING DOCUMENT

Dear Citizen:

This Letter is to inform you of the scoping period for the Fairview Project Environmental Assessment (EA OR125-08-06), being prepared by the Umpqua Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District.

The Environmental Assessment is for multiple timber sales that would occur within the North Fork Coquille River, South Fork Coos River, and Coos Bay Frontal Pacific Ocean fifth field watersheds. The proposed action would examine approximately 8,000 acres of 40-85 year old stands for treatment through a combination of commercial thinning, density management thinning, and regeneration harvest.

Forest treatments would occur in the Timber Management Area (TMA) and the Riparian Management Area (RMA) land use allocations as defined by the 2008 Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision (RMP/ROD).

Project Summary

For this project, an interdisciplinary team will review approximately 8,000 acres of BLM lands to design timber sale projects. Ground based, skyline cable, and helicopter logging would be considered for use to remove the trees.

Thinning would be applied within TMA and RMA stands to recover anticipated mortality; to adjust stand composition or dominance; to reduce stand susceptibility to disturbances such as a fire, windstorm, disease, or insect infestation; and to improve merchantability and value.

Regeneration harvests would be conducted to remove volume and replace slower-growing stands with young, rapidly growing stands. Generally, regeneration harvests would be scheduled for stands to maximize potential growth and yield, however, regeneration harvests could also be applied to younger stands for purposes that include: management of age class distribution, management of diseased stands, to change species composition to a more commercially desirable species, management of overstocked stands with poor vigor and low crown ratio, or to respond to natural disturbance. The minimum age of stands that will be considered suitable for regeneration harvesting would be the 40 year old age class.

The timber sales are expected to be sold in Fiscal Years 2011 through 2014 and would contribute to the decadal Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) for the Coos Bay District Office.

The Fairview Project will include road construction and management of existing road systems by renovation and improvement. Decommissioning and limiting access to selected roads will also be considered.

Location

The area of analysis located in T 27 S, R 13 W Sections 11, 13 and T 26 S, R 12 W, Sections 25, 26, 27, 35, 36 and T 27 S, R 12 W, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 23, 25, 27, 33 and T 27 S, R 11 W, Sections 17, 19, 20 and 21, Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon. See attachments for General Unit Location Map.

Project Objectives (Purpose)

The purpose of this project is to implement forest management objectives established in the Coos Bay RMP/ROD. The RMP/ROD and applicable statutes specify the following forest management objectives to be accomplished in managing TMA and RMA lands in the project area.

Timber Management Area Objectives

- Manage forests to achieve continuous timber production that could be sustained through a balance of growth and harvest. This includes commercial thinning and regeneration harvesting.
- Offer for sale an annual allowable sale quantity.

Riparian Management Area Objectives

- Provide for the conservation of special status fish species.
- Provide for the riparian and aquatic conditions that supply stream channels with shade, sediment filtering, leaf litter and large wood, and streambank stability.
- Maintain and restore water quality.
- Maintain and restore access to stream channels for all life stages of fish species.

Scoping Period

You are invited to submit written comments on any issues or concerns you may have regarding this project by March 9, 2009. Comments which are helpful to the analysis process are those which identify scientific or technical information that may be useful, determine the scope of issues to be addressed, and express site-specific concerns related to the proposed action.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA document or other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

The EA interdisciplinary team will use your comments, along with their own professional expertise, to develop a Proposed Action, alternative actions, and design features. The Proposed Action and alternatives will then be analyzed and the results documented in an EA as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. If the EA results in a FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact), the document is anticipated to be available for review in February of 2010. A copy of the EA will be sent to those that request it or are on the District's mailing list to receive an EA. It will also be posted on the District's web site: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay>.

Please direct your responses or questions to Jeremy Hunt, Umpqua Field Office, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459, call (541) 756-0100, FAX: (541) 756-9303, or email OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov.

Respectfully,

/s/ A. Dennis Turowski

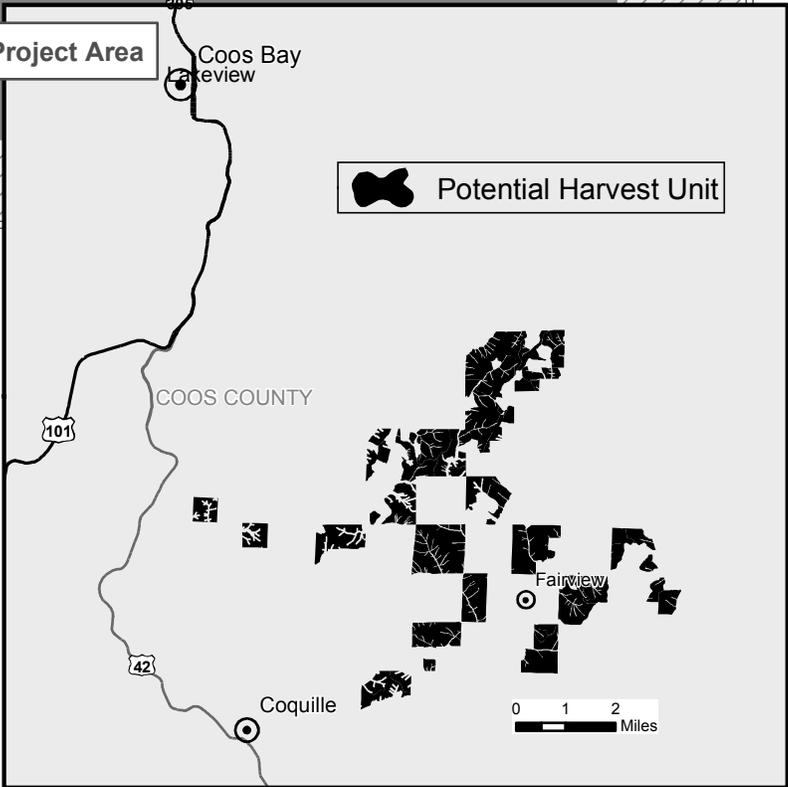
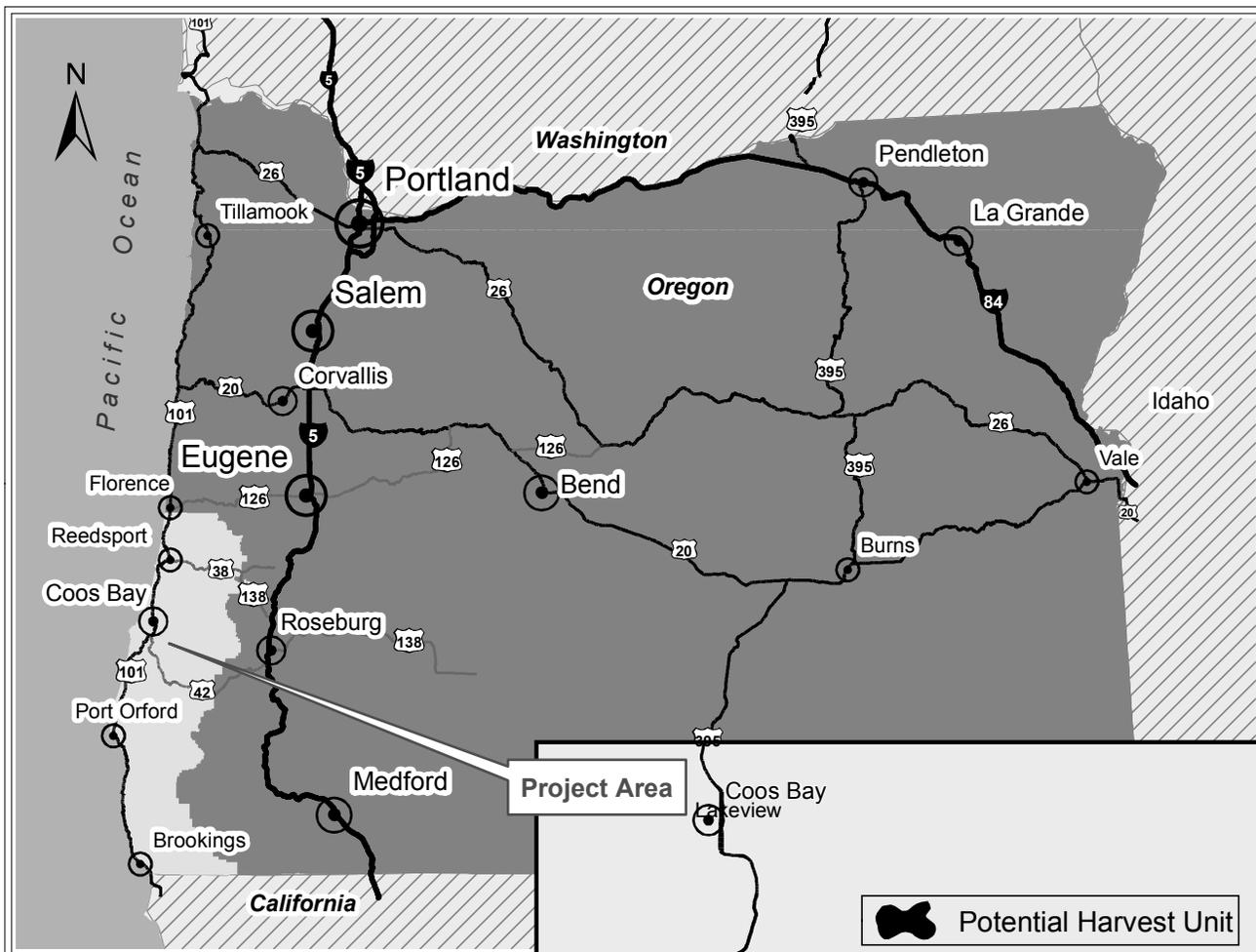
A. Dennis Turowski
Umpqua Field Manager

Enclosures

VICINITY MAP

Fairview Project EA No. OR125-08-06

Umpqua Resource Area
COOS BAY DISTRICT BLM

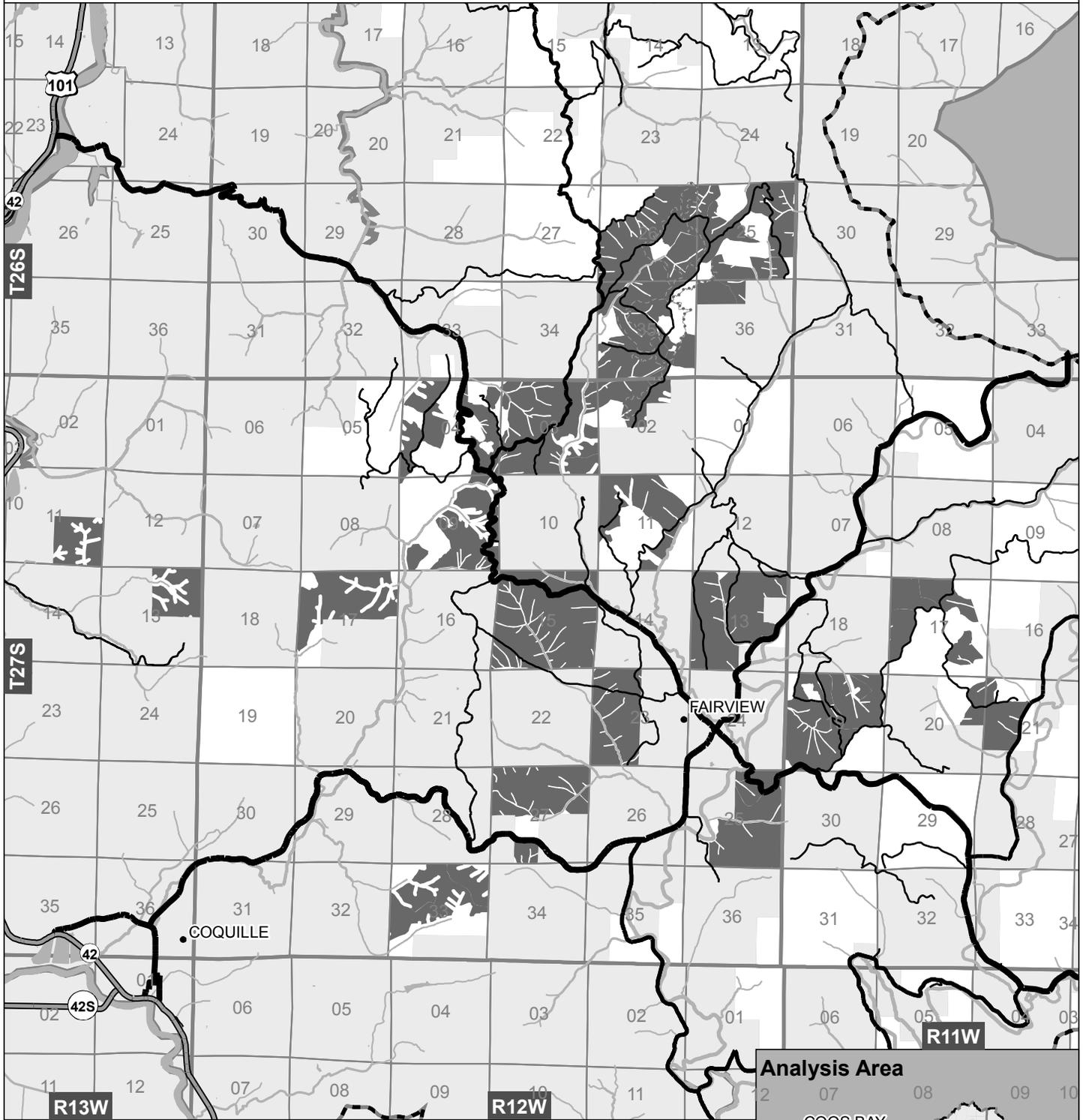


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Bureau of Land Management**

Coos Bay District
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459
541-756-0100
email: OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov
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Fairview Project EA No. OR125-08-06 Analysis Area



- Highway
- Road
- Blue Ridge Trail
- Analysis Area

- Potential Harvest Unit**
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- Land Ownership**
- BLM Administered Land
 - Private or Other Lands



**US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management**



Coos Bay District Office
Umpqua Resource Area



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Analysis Area

