

Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District
Planning Update

Fall 2007

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Coos Bay District BLM Planning Update



Fall 2007

Dear Citizen:

This copy of the *Planning Update* is being mailed as it lists the anticipated planning documents for the 2008 Fiscal Year. Subsequent editions will be posted on the website on a quarterly basis (January, April, July), with only the Fall issue mailed out each calendar year. A copy is also available for viewing on the Coos Bay District's web page, at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/plans/coosbayrmp.php>.

Projects started and completed between mailed copies of *Planning Update* will have gone through the full analysis process. Legal notices published in *The World* newspaper of Coos Bay provide details on public involvement and the public comment process for these projects.

Planning Update is published to provide current information about ongoing and future projects planned by the Coos Bay District of the Bureau of Land Management. It is our intent to increase the public's awareness of BLM activities and to seek ideas and comments from those who may be affected by our resource management programs. Your ideas, comments, and participation help us make informed decisions and implement better projects. Please send written comments, including the specific project and field office name, during that project's public comment period to: 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459.

Thank you for your continued interest in public land management.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Johnson
District Manager

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Coos Bay District Office
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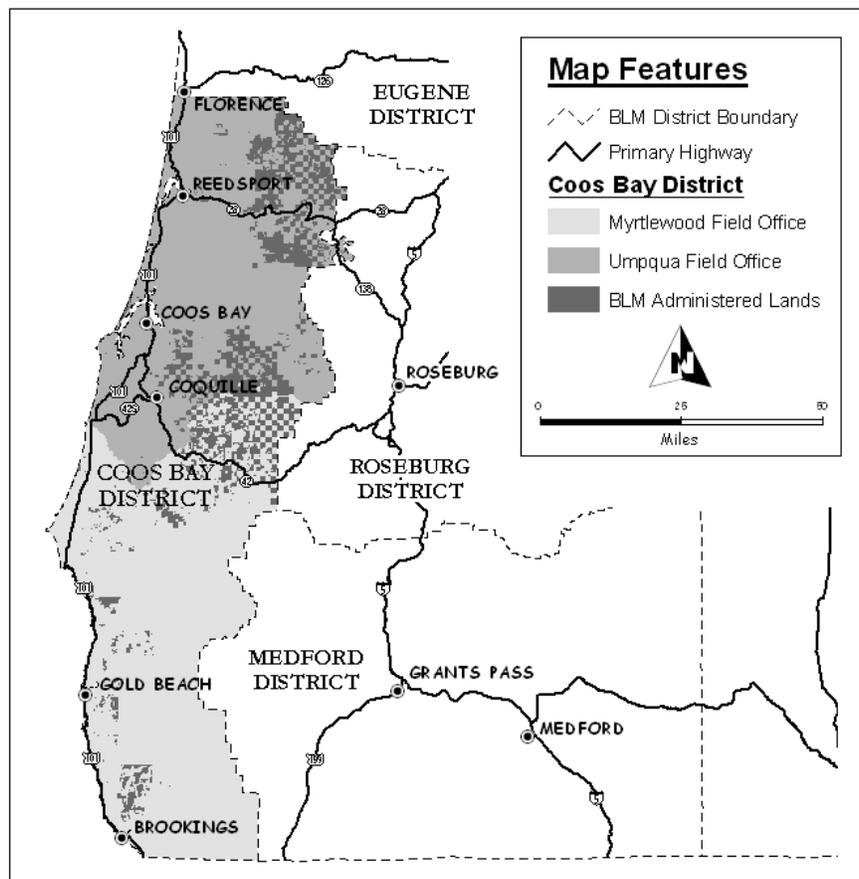
ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES AND NEW PROJECTS

Pages five through ten of the *Planning Update* summarize projects on the Coos Bay District. Some projects were previously listed and are still in the process of being completed, while others are in the process of being implemented. Projects that have been dropped from consideration or that have a signed decision will not be listed in future issues.

This publication allows you to see a brief explanation of any newly proposed projects and you can decide if you wish additional information about any of them. If you previously requested to be put on a specific mailing list, it is not necessary to repeat the request.

The contact people are familiar with their projects and are able to answer questions and provide more details on the projects. They are interested in information you wish to share concerning any of the projects or project areas. These people may be contacted either by mail, or by telephoning our office at 541-756-0100.

Map of Coos Bay District



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

Progress is continuing on the Revision of the Resource Management Plans for the Coos Bay, Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Medford Districts and the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District. A DRAFT Western Oregon Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement was released August 2007 with the public comment period closing on January 11, 2007. Information about this planning process is available at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr/>.

Abbreviations and Definitions

ACEC/RNA – Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Area.

CX or Categorical Exclusion - Actions which do not have significant effects on the environment and for which an Environmental Analysis (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

CT - Commercial Thinning - The removal of merchantable trees from an even-aged stand to encourage growth of the remaining trees. The term is applied to harvest within Matrix lands and may include some Riparian Reserve.

DM - Density Management - Cutting of trees for the primary purpose of widening their spacing so that growth of remaining trees can be maintained. Density management harvest can also be used to improve forest health, open the forest canopy, or accelerate the attainment of old growth characteristics if maintenance or restoration of biological diversity is the objective. The term is applied to harvest within Late Successional Reserves and /or Riparian Reserves.

DNA – Determination of NEPA Adequacy – Documentation of BLM’s internal analysis process that a proposed action conforms to its land use plan and is adequately analyzed in an existing NEPA document.

EA - Environmental Assessment – This is a concise public document that briefly provides evidence and analysis of a proposed Federal action. It is used to determine whether further analysis needs to be done for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact - This is a document that briefly presents the reasons why the implementation of an action will not result in “significant” environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in the Coos Bay District’s *Proposed Resource Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* (PRMP/EIS, September 1994).

LSR – Late-Successional Reserves - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. These reserves will maintain a functional, interactive, late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystem.

Matrix Lands - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. Most timber harvest contributing to the Allowable Sale Quantity takes place in this area.

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act - A federal law which sets the systematic interdisciplinary analysis to achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological, economic, and other sciences to provide for an informed decision. The process provides for public participation in the development, review and revision of certain activities on Federal Lands.

Public Involvement / Scoping - An early and open part of environmental analysis that allows interested public and other Federal, state and local agencies the opportunity to provide issues, concerns and opportunities relative to proposed project actions. Scoping is required by regulation for Environmental Impact Statements and is optional for Environmental Assessments.

RMP - Resource Management Plan - A land use plan prepared by the BLM in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

Riparian Reserves - Designated riparian areas found outside Late-Successional Reserves.

R/W - Right-of-Way - A permit or an easement that authorizes the use of public lands for specified purposes, such as pipelines, roads, telephone lines, electric lines, reservoirs, and the lands covered by such an easement or permit.

Categorical Exclusions

This is a category of actions that federal agencies have determined do not significantly affect the human environment, individually or cumulatively. Neither an EA nor an EIS is required (40 CFR 1508.4).

Below is a list of Categorical Exclusions currently signed for Fiscal Year 2008.

FY 2008 Annual Tree Planting, tubing, tubing maintenance, cone & scion collection CX OR120-08-01
Projects covered under this CX include: tubing, tube maintenance, and leader protection on previously harvested sites. Perform cone and scion collection. These projects are in various locations throughout the District.

FY 2008 Annual Road, Recreation Site, and Wildlife Habitat Maintenance CX OR120-08-02
Projects covered under this CX include: annual, seasonal, monthly, weekly, and daily maintenance of various recreational facilities. Conduct routine road maintenance and emergency repairs needed to keep the road system functional and drainage systems operational. Conduct routine wildlife habitat maintenance of existing facilities at New River, Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, and the North Spit. These projects are in various locations throughout the District.

FY 2008 Annual Pre-commercial Thinning, Manual Release, Progeny Site Maintenance, and Parent Tree Clearing CX OR120-08-03
Projects covered under this CX include: a) pre-commercial thinning on young stands to remove competing trees and brush species to provide growing space; b) manually and/or mechanically remove competing vegetation to provide for survival of young trees; and c) manually remove competing vegetation from test sites and parent trees. These projects are in various locations throughout the District.

FY 2008 Annual Use of Existing Roads for Transport of Forest and Mineral Products CX OR120-08-04
Projects covered under this CX include: the granting of Right of Way permits for use of existing BLM roads, landings, etc. for the transport of forest and mineral products, as well as, the ingress/egress to private land holdings. These projects are in various locations throughout the District.

FY 2005 Annual Sale of Special Forest Products CX OR120-08-05
Projects covered under this CX include the harvest of a variety of special forest products. Products include, but not limited to: firewood, posts & poles, chips, cedar wood products, transplant stock, cut sticks, moss, beargrass, boughs, Christmas trees, other floral greenery, cones, burls, bark, roots, pitch, and fungi. These projects are in various locations throughout the District.

FY 2008 Annual Fire Line Construction CX OR120-08-07
Projects covered under this CX include the construction of fire lines on BLM lands by adjacent intermingled land owners needed for control in prescribed burning operations. These projects are in various locations throughout the District.

FY 2008 Annual Roadside Salvage CX OR120-08-08
Projects covered under this CX include the removal of individual or small groups of trees adjacent to roads which are dead, diseased, injured, blown-down, or constitute a safety hazard in accordance with District Instruction Memorandum OR120-2007-03. Removal is limited to 50MBF per sale. These projects are in various locations throughout the District.

Sudden Oak Death Treatment

CX OR128-08-09

Multiple projects involve treating up to 250 acres infected with Sudden Oak Death disease. These projects are located primarily in southern Curry County.

Umpqua Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Umpqua River – Sawyer Rapids DM/CT EA

EA OR125-05-01

Description: The project proposes to produce approximately 10,000 acres of commercial thinning, density management, and hardwood conversion treatments.

Location: T21S, R9W, Sections 31,32, & 33, T22S, R9W, Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 25, & 35, T21S, R8W, Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 33, & 35, T22S R 8W, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 17, 18, 19, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, & 33, T21S, R7W, 19, 20, 29, 30, & 31, T23S, R8W, Sections 5, 6, & 7, Willamette Meridian.

Planning Status: Scoping – complete.
Analysis – ongoing.
Public review and comment - winter 2007/8.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations - starting 2008.

Implementation: Multiple timber sales are planned for FY 2008 through 2011.
For further information, please contact Paul Fontaine.



North Soup – Blue Retro Density Management Study EA

EA OR125-08-01

Description: The project proposes to produce approximately 225 acres density management-type treatment. This project would be the second phase of a research study into the effects of alternate forest density management treatments in young stands to develop late-successional habitat attributes and to assess the combined effects of density management and alternative buffer widths on aquatic and riparian systems.

Location: T23S, R9W, Section 16 and T26S, R12W, Sections, 25, 26, 35, & 36, Willamette Meridian.

Planning Status: Scoping – expected winter 2007/8.
Analysis – following scoping.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations - starting 2008.

Implementation: Two timber sales are planned for FY 2009.
For further information, please contact Frank Price.

The following EA is complete and projects will continue to be implemented over the next several years.

Middle Creek CT – II EA

EA OR125-04-17

Description: The project proposes to produce approximately 2400 acres of commercial thinning and hardwood conversion treatments in the Matrix land use allocation.

Location: T27S, R11W, Sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, and 35.

Planning Status: Complete.

Implementation: Multiple timber sales are planned for FY 2006 thru 2008.
For further information, please contact Terry Evans.

REALTY ACTIONS

North Spit Land Disposal #2

EA OR125-06-02

Description: The project, proposed by the International Port of Coos Bay, proposes the disposal of lands zoned for industrial use on the North Spit.

Location: T 25S, R13W.

Planning Status: - On hold until further notice.

For further information, please contact Linda Petterson.

Other ACTIONS

Coos Basin Oil and Gas Lease EA

EA OR120-07-04

Description: The EA is intended to provide additional analysis specific to possible Coal Bed Natural Gas development.

Location: BLM managed parcels within T24S, R12W; T23S, R13W; T24S, R13W; T25S, R14W; T25S, R13W; T25S, R12W; T26S, R14W; T26S, R13W; T26S, R12; T27S, R14W; T27S, R13W; T27S, R12W; T28S, R15W; T28S, R14W; T28S, R12W; T29S, R15W; T29S, R14W; T29S, R13W; T29S, R12W.

Planning Status: Scoping – March 2008.

Analysis – following scoping.

Decision Date: To be determined.

For further information, please contact Timothy Barnes.

Myrtlewood Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Remote Control EA

EA OR128-06-06

Description: The project proposes to regeneration harvest approximately 193 acres in the Matrix land use allocation.

Location: T29S, R10W, Sections 9 and 26.

Planning Status: On hold pending direction pertaining to the 2007 Survey & Manage Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

For further information, please contact Teresa Stutesman.

Slater Rocks CT EA

EA OR 128-07-01

Description: The project proposes to produce a combination of approximately 1500 acres of commercial thinning and density management in the Matrix land use allocation.

Location: T29S, R9W, Sections 9, 17, 21, 29, 31, and 33; T29S, R10W, Section 35; T30S, R.9W., Sections 5, 7, 17, 21, and 33; T30S, R10W, Sections 9, 13, and 15.

Planning Status: Scoping – complete.
Analysis – ongoing.

Decision Date: Decision Documentation – expected spring 2008.

Implementation: Timber Sales planned for FY 2008 – 2009.

For further information, please contact Paul Leman.

Edson Thin EA

EA OR 128-07-02

Description: The project proposes to produce a combination of approximately 490 acres of commercial thinning and density management in the Matrix land use allocation.

Location: T31S, R14W, Sections 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 35; T32S, R14W, Sections 11 and 14.

Planning Status: Scoping – complete.
Analysis – ongoing.

Decision Date: Decision Documentation – expected spring 2008.

Implementation: Timber Sale planned for FY 2008.

For further information, please contact Chris Schumacher.

Half Baked EA

EA # not yet assigned

Description: The project proposes approximately 260 acres of regeneration harvest and commercial thinning in the Matrix land use allocation.

Location: T31S, R12W, Sections 7, 8, 17, and 20.

Planning Status: On hold pending direction pertaining to the 2007 Survey & Manage Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

The following EA is complete and projects will continue to be implemented over the next several years.

Brummit Creek Restoration EA

EA OR128-03-24

Description: The project proposes to produce approximately 2500 acres of density management, hardwood conversion treatments, habitat improvements, and road decommissioning in the Late-Successional Reserve.

Location: T27S, R9W; T 27S, R10W; T28S, R9W; T28S, 10W.

Planning Status: Complete.

Implementation: Two more timber sales are planned for spring 2008.

For further information, please contact Teresa Stutesman.

HABITAT RESTORATION

Western Snowy Plover Habitat Restoration Area EA for New River ACEC

EA OR128-06-01

Description: The project plans for the long-term maintenance of plover habitat, reduces sand movement into the New River stream bed, and manages protection of other resources and values from large-scale sand movement.

Location: New River ACEC; T30S, R15W, Sections 3, 10, 15, 21, 22, and 28.

Planning Status: Scoping - complete.
Analysis – ongoing.

Decision Date: Decision Record – pending consultation with US Fish & Wildlife Service; expected spring of 2008.

Implementation: Expected 2008.

For further information, please contact Kip Wright.

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