

Bureau of Land Management Coos Bay District Planning Update

Fall 2009



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Dear Citizen:

The *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.

For the past few years, we have prepared a planning update four times a year: in Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. The Spring and Summer updates were delayed this past year due to uncertainty about our new Resource Management Plan. In July, the Secretary of Interior withdrew the Record of Decision for the 2008 Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan (which was based on analysis from the Western Oregon Plan Revision process). All projects currently under development or awaiting decision will conform to the 1995 Resource Management Plan, even if project planning began under the 2008 RMP. Our next planning update is scheduled for Winter 2010.

Projects started and completed between editions of *Planning Update* 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.

Thank you for your continued interest in public land management.

A copy of the *Planning Update* is available for viewing on the Coos Bay District's web page, at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/plans/index.php>

Sincerely,
/s/ Mark E. Johnson

Mark E. Johnson
District Manager

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ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES AND NEW PROJECTS

Pages two through seven 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 have a signed decision, or are completed will not be listed in future issues.

This publication allows you to see a brief explanation of ongoing and proposed projects and decide if you wish additional information about any of them. If you previously requested to be put on a mailing list for specific activities, we have that on file and will continue to keep you informed.

The contact people listed with the projects are available to answer questions and provide additional details. 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, by telephoning our office at 541-756-0100, or emailing us at: OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov.

Categorical Exclusions

Required analysis for categorically excluded activities is generally completed within a one to four- week time-frame. This frequently occurs in between publications of the *Planning Update*. These type of projects are generally routine or require timely processing. To avoid confusion as to why some categorical exclusions are listed in a *Planning Update*, but others aren't, a complete listing of categorical exclusions may be found on the Coos Bay District's Planning web page under Existing/Historic Documents, at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/plans/index.php>.

Umpqua Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Fairview NWFP Project EA

OR C030-2010-0001-EA

This project was originally publically scoped under the 2008 Coos Bay Resource Management Plan, but is being modified to comply with the 1995 RMP.

Description: The project proposes to produce approximately 8,000 acres of commercial thinning, density management, and hardwood conversion treatments in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land-use allocation.

Location: T26S, R13W Sections 11, 13 and T26S, R12W, Sections 25, 26, 27, 35, 36 and T27S, R12W, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 23, 25, 27, 33 and T27S, R11W, Sections 17, 19, 20 and 21, Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon.

Planning Status: Scoping – re-scoping planned for fall 2009.
Analysis – following scoping

Decision Date: Decision Documentations - starting 2011.

Implementation: Timber Sales are planned for 2011 through 2015.

For further information, please contact John Goering.

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

Umpqua River – Sawyer Rapids DM/CT EA

EA OR125-05-01

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

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: complete.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations - starting 2009.

Implementation: Multiple timber sales are planned for FY 2009 through 2011.

For further information, please contact Paul Fontaine.

RESTORATION

Lutsinger Creek In-stream Habitat Restoration Project

DOI-BLM-OR- C030-2009-0005-DNA

Description: This project installed logs, whole trees, and boulder structures in Lutsinger Creek on 2.4 miles of private lands (Roseburg Resources) and 1.0 miles of BLM-administered lands for a total of 3.4 miles.

Location: T22S, R08W, Sections 13, 23, 24, 25 & 26, Willamette Meridian.

Planning Status: complete.

Decision date: August 31, 2009

Implementation: Phase I complete; phase II expected summer 2010.

For further information, please contact Dan Van Slyke.

Middle Creek and Cherry Creek In-stream Habitat Restoration Project

DOI-BLM-OR- C030-2009-0004-DNA

Description: This project proposes to install logs, whole trees, and boulder structures in up to 14 miles of salmonid-bearing streams on public and private lands in the Middle Creek subwatershed. Actual stream miles treated would be dependent upon funding and cooperation from private landowners.

Location: Various stream reaches within the Middle Creek and Cherry Creek subwatersheds: generally T26S, R10W; T27S, R10W; and T27S, R11W

Planning Status: complete.

Decision date: August 31, 2009

Implementation: Phase I complete; subsequent phases expected to be implemented over next 3 years dependent upon funding.

For further information, please contact Dan Van Slyke.

West Fork Smith River In-stream Habitat Restoration Project

DOI-BLM-OR- C030-2009-0003-DNA

Description: This project proposes to install logs, whole trees, and boulder structures in up to 25 miles of salmonid-bearing streams on public and private lands in the West Fork Smith River subwatershed.

Location: Various stream reaches within the West Fork Smith River subwatershed: generally T21S, R09W.

Planning Status: complete.

Decision date: August 31, 2009

Implementation: Expected to be implemented over next 4 years, possibly starting summer 2010, dependent upon funding.

For further information, please contact Dan Van Slyke.

South Sisters and Jeff Creek In-stream Enhancement Project; Phase IV

DOI-BLM-OR- C030-2009-0006-DNA

Description: This project proposed to place logs and boulders in 1.5 miles of S. Sisters Creek and its tributaries on public and private lands. Approximately 40 log and boulder structures would be placed within South Sisters Creek and Jeff Creek.

Location: T20S, R08W, Sections 16, 21 and 23, Willamette Meridian.

Planning Status: complete.

Decision date: August 31, 2009

Implementation: complete.

For further information, please contact Dan Van Slyke.

North Spit Noxious Weed Removal and Habitat Improvement

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2009-0008-DNA

Description: The project proposed to reduce Scotch broom and Sitka spruce on 25 acres of the North Spit ACEC to reduce noxious weed species and reduce predator perches. Treatment would be comprised of cutting, piling, with excavator and chainsaw, and subsequent burning. Future treatments would occur to maintain the reduced noxious weed levels.

Location: T.25 S., R.14 W., Sections 24 and 26, Willamette Meridian.

Planning status: complete.

Decision date: June 15, 2009

Implementation: complete.

For further information, please contact Stephen Langenstein.

North Spit Snowy Plover Nest-Site Improvement DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2009-0009-DNA

Description: The project proposed to place approximately 400 cubic yards of oyster shell material within the snowy plover Habitat Restoration Area to provide nest building material. The project would occur during the non-nesting time period.

Location: T.25 S., R.14 W., Section 26, Willamette Meridian.

Planning status: complete.

Decision date: June 10, 2009

Implementation: complete.

For further information, please contact Stephen Langenstein.

Other ACTIONS

Bastendorff Beach Restroom and Parking Lot DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2009-0008-DNA

Description: This project proposed to install a double vault, concrete restroom facility and delineate accessible parking at a parking area at Bettendorff Beach.

Location: T.26 S., R.14 W., Section 3, Willamette Meridian.

Planning status: complete.

Decision date: Fall 2009

Implementation: Summer 2010.

For further information, please contact Nancy Zepf.

The following projects are on-hold until further notice.

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.

For further information, please contact Timothy Barnes.

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.

For further information, please contact Linda Petterson.

Myrtlewood Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Weaver Sitkum

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2010-0001-EA

Description: The project proposes 1000 acres of commercial and density management thinning in Matrix, Late-Successional and Riparian Reserve land-use allocation.

Location: T. 28 S., R. 9 W., Sections 31, 35; T. 29 S., R. 9 W., Section 5; T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Sections 18, 21, 23, 25, 27; and T. 28 S., R. 11 W., Sections 9, 21, Willamette Meridian.

Planning Status: Scoping –ongoing.
Analysis – following scoping.

Decision Date: Decision Documentation – Summer 2010.

Implementation: Timber sales planned for FY 2011 through 2012.

For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

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

King Myrtle EA

EA OR 128-08-02

Description: The project proposes approximately 700 acres of commercial and density management thinning in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land-use allocation.

Location: Multiple sections within T29S, R10W; T29S, R11W; T29S, R12W; T30S, R10W; and T30S, R11W.

Planning Status: complete.

Implementation: Timber sales planned for FY 2009 and 2010.

For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

Remote Control EA

EA OR128-06-06

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

Location: T29S, R10W, Sections 9 and 26, Willamette Meridian.

Planning Status: complete.

Implementation: Timber sale previously sold and currently under Protest.

For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

RESTORATION

New River Meadow Habitat Restoration

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2009-0006-DNA

Description: The project proposes to treat approximately 15 acres of invasive shrubs and shore pine that have encroached on an historic coastal meadow within the ACEC. Treatment would be comprised of cutting, piling, and burning.

Location: New River ACEC T31S, R15W Section 8, Willamette Meridian.

Planning Status: ongoing.

Implementation: Expected winter 2009/2010.

For further information, please contact Kip Wright.

FY 2009 In-stream Wood Placement

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2009-0010-DNA

Description: This project proposed to install one whole tree in Edson Creek and 10-15 logs in the West Fork Brummit Creek

Location: T.27 S., R.10 W., Section 21; T.32 S., R.14 W., Section 6, Willamette Meridian.

Planning status: complete.

Decision date: July 29, 2009

Implementation: Summer 2010.

For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

FY 2010 Culvert Replacements

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2009-0008-DNA

Description: This project proposed to install three culverts to improve fish passage on Smith Creek and tributaries to Upper Rock and Weekly Creeks.

Location: T.29 S., R.10 W., Sections 35; T.29 S., R.11 W., Section 17; T.29 S., R.10 W., Section 31; Willamette Meridian.

Planning status: complete.

Decision date: June 3, 2009

Implementation: Summer 2010.

For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

Other ACTIONS

Apply Glyphosate on Tanoak to Aid in Sudden Oak Death Eradication

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2010-0002-EA

Description: The project proposes hand application of glyphosate (an herbicide) in addition to the current SOD treatments methods within the State designated SOD quarantine area.

Location: BLM lands within the quarantine area.

Planning Status: Scoping – Mid-November – Mid-December 2009.

Analysis – following scoping.

Decision date: expected winter/spring 2010.

Implementation: expected summer 2010.

For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

Lone Rock O&C ROW Permit

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2009-0005-EA

Description: The project proposes to grant an O&C Unilateral Right-of-Way permit involving approximately 1700 feet of new road construction across BLM managed lands.

Location: T31S, R12W Section 3, Willamette Meridian.

Planning Status: complete.

Decision date: Sept. 26, 2009

Implementation: within the next 5 years.

For further information, please contact Brett Jones.

Bosley Butte Communication Site Fuels Reduction

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2009-0007-DNA

Description: The project proposes to treat approximately 26 acres of unmerchantable vegetation adjacent to the Bosley Butte communication site, through cutting, piling, and burning. This communication site has a buildup of fuels that would endanger the communication equipment in the event of a wildfire.

Location: T39S, R13W Section 10, Willamette Meridian.

Planning Status: complete.

Decision date: June 29, 2009

Implementation: Expected winter 2009/2010.

For further information, please contact Mike Pope.

The following projects are on hold until further notice.

EFC 2009 EA

DOI-BLM-OR-128-2009-0003-EA

Description: The project proposed 268 acres of regeneration harvest, 40 acres of hardwood conversion, and 92 acres of density management thinning in the East Fork Coquille watershed as previously analyzed in EA OR128-03-17.

For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

Edson Regen EA

EA OR 128-08-03

Description: The project proposed to regeneration harvest 1200 acres in the Floras Creek – Sixes River area.

For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

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.

DMT - Density Management - Thinning 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 *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management Districts* (USDI BLM 2008).

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

Matrix Lands - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. 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 that governs BLM direction 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.