



## 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: [BLM\\_OR\\_CB\\_Mail@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov)

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



IN REPLY REFER TO

5400/1792 (ORC030)

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2012-0004-EA

Soup Creek VRH Environmental Assessment

***November 19, 2012***

Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Coos Bay Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Scoping Document for the Soup Creek Variable Retention Harvest Environmental Assessment. The Scoping document and associated maps are now posted on the District Internet site: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/index.php>.

The BLM proposes to conduct forest treatments on approximately 295 acres of a 72 year old timber stand. All treatment would occur within the General Forest Management Area (GFMA) portion of the Matrix Land Use Allocation (LUA).

You are invited to submit written comments on any issues or concerns that you may have regarding this proposal by December 22, 2012. Comments which are helpful to the analysis process are those which identify new scientific or technical information, determine the scope of issues to be addressed, and express site-specific concerns related to the proposed action. Opinions agreeing or disagreeing with current laws and policies are not helpful in refining the proposed action.

Please direct requests for hard copies, questions, or comments to Coos Bay District BLM, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459-2000, ATTN: John Goering; call (541) 756-0100; FAX: (541) 751-4303, or email to [BLM\\_OR\\_CB\\_Mail@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov), ATTN: John Goering.

Sincerely,

*/s/ A. Dennis Turowski*

A. Dennis Turowski

Umpqua Field Manager



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DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2012-0004-EA

Soup Creek VRH Environmental Assessment

## SCOPING DOCUMENT

*November 19, 2012*

Dear Citizen:

The following information and the enclosed maps briefly describe a proposed action for the development of the Soup Creek Variable Retention Harvest (VRH) Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2012-0004-EA).

The USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Umpqua Field Office of the Coos Bay District is preparing an Environmental Assessment within the Mill Creek fifth field watershed. The proposed action would examine approximately 295 acres of a 72 year old previously thinned stand for variable retention harvest treatments.

### **Project Summary**

For this project, an interdisciplinary team will design a timber sale project that applies ecological forestry principles including variable retention harvest to promote development of structurally complex forests and high quality early successional habitat within the Soup Creek area. Forest treatments would occur within the General Forest Management Area (GFMA) land use allocation and within proposed critical habitat for the northern spotted owl. This EA will evaluate the impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on critical habitat among other relevant issues.

### **Location**

The area of analysis is located in T. 23 S., R. 09 W. Sections 19, and 30, Willamette Meridian, Coos County, Oregon. This area is located about 18 miles southeast of Reedsport and 3 miles south-southeast of Loon Lake. See enclosure for General Unit Location Map.

### **Need for the Proposed Project**

The *Final-Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (USDI 1994) and its *Record of Decision* (ROD/RMP) (USDI 1995) respond to two needs: the need for forest habitat and the need for forest products (ROD p. 1). These needs were addressed in the RMP through an ecosystem management strategy under which BLM lands “will be managed to maintain healthy, functioning ecosystems from which a sustainable production of natural resources can be provided” (RMP p. 5). The Coos Bay District declared an Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) in the RMP, which is to be derived entirely from the Matrix land use allocation.

Of particular concern is the lack of diversified stand structure (height, age, and diameter classes) and distribution within the analysis area, Critical Habitat Unit (CHU), and proposed CHU. The Revised Recovery Plan for the northern spotted owl recommends active forest management and disturbance-based principles. “Managers should promote spatial heterogeneity within patches, and local and regional landscapes, restore lost species, and structural diversity (including hardwoods) within the historical range of variability, and restore ecological processes to historical levels and intensities (Franklin et al. 2002, 2007, Drever et al. 2006, Long 2009).

This includes early-successional ecosystems on some forest sites” (Swanson et al. 2010, Perry et al. 2011, Revised Recovery Plan 2011, pp. III-14). Management action is needed in order to restore more natural, early-successional forest conditions that provide more ecological benefits to spotted owls (and other native forest species) than do traditional clear-cuts and young, even-aged stands (Swanson et al. 2010, Revised Recovery Plan 2011, pp. III-18).

### **Scoping Period**

You are invited to submit written comments on any issues or concerns you may have regarding this project by December 22, 2012. Comments which are helpful to the analysis process are those which identify relevant scientific or technical information, determine the scope of issues to be addressed, and express site-specific concerns related to the proposed action. Opinions agreeing or disagreeing with current laws and policies are not helpful in refining the proposed action.

A field trip to review the project area will be offered on December 12, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. Those wishing to attend will meet BLM personnel at the junction of Loon Lake and Soup Creek roads before proceeding to the proposed project site (see enclosed project map).

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.

Please direct your responses or questions to John Goering, Umpqua Field Office, 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459, call (541) 756-0100, FAX: (541) 756-9303 or e-mail at [BLM\\_OR\\_CB\\_Mail@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov).

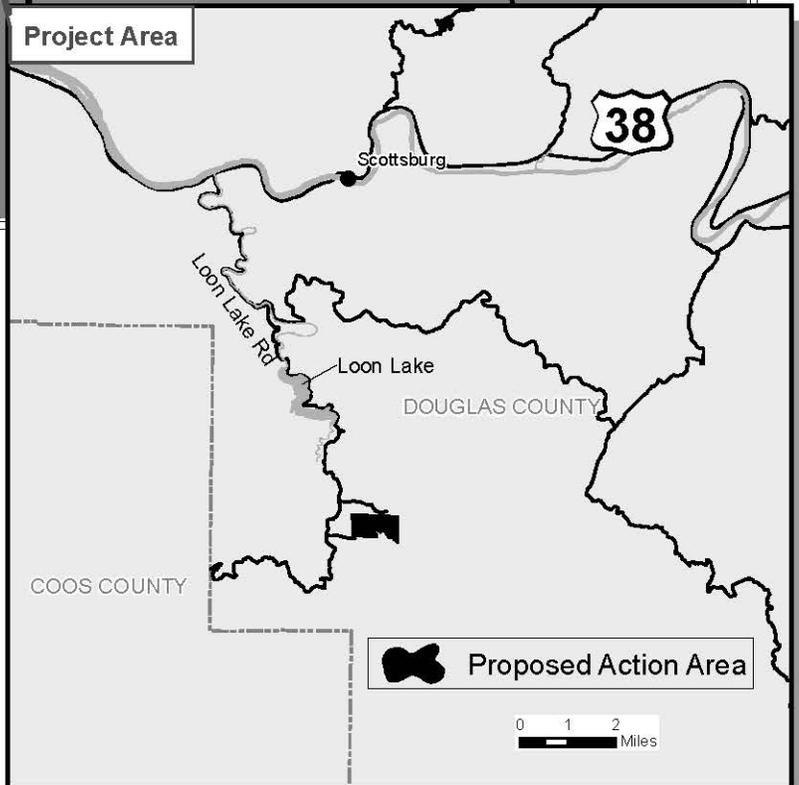
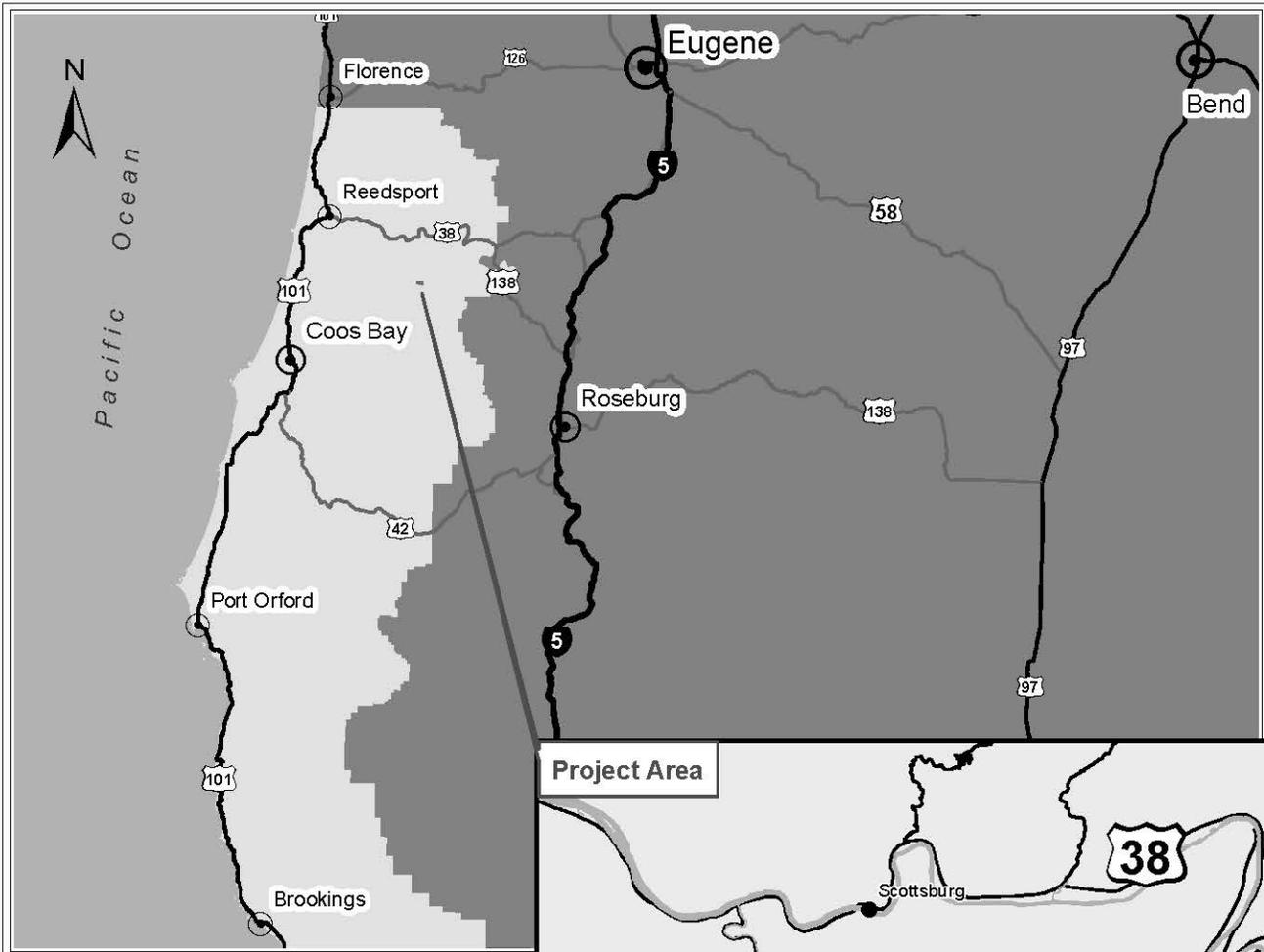
Respectfully,

*/s/ A. Dennis Turowski*  
A. Dennis Turowski  
Umpqua Field Manager

Enclosures

VICINITY MAP  
**Soup Creek Variable Retention Harvest**  
**EA No. DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2012-0004-EA**

Umpqua Resource Area  
 COOS BAY DISTRICT BLM



**United States Department of the Interior  
 Bureau of Land Management**

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# Soup Creek VRH Project Area DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2012-0004-EA



## Legend

-  Proposed Action Area
-  Riparian Reserve
-  Road
-  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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