

Bureau of Land Management Coos Bay District Planning Update

Winter 2011

Public Lands USA:
Use, Share and Appreciate



Coos Bay District BLM Planning Update

Winter 2011

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.

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 this *Planning Update* and all relevant NEPA documents are 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
Coos Bay District Manager

USDI - Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District Office
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend OR 97459
OR_CoosBay_Mail@blm.gov
(541) 756-0100

ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES AND NEW PROJECTS

Pages two through five 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 types of projects are generally routine or require timely processing. 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

Holey Foley DM DNA

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2010-0004-DNA

Description: The BLM proposes an additional 200 acres of density management thinning in the Late-Successional and Riparian Reserve land-use allocations. This project lies within the analysis area of the Umpqua River – Sawyer Rapids DM/CT EA.

Location: T. 21 S., R. 7 W., Section 33¹.

Planning Status: Completed.

Decision Date: Decision Documentation – Spring 2011.

Implementation: Timber Sale planned for 2011.

For further information, please contact John Goering.

Fairview NWFP Project EA

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2010-0001-EA

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

Location: T. 26 S., R. 13 W., Sections 11 and 13;
T. 26 S., R. 12 W., Sections 25, 26, 27, 35 and 36;
T. 27 S., R. 12 W., Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 23, 25, 27 and 33;
T. 27 S., R. 11 W., Sections 17, 19, 20 and 21.

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed.
Analysis – Scheduled for release spring 2011.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Starting 2011.

Implementation: Timber Sales 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: This project includes approximately 10,000 acres of commercial and density management thinning, and hardwood conversion.

Location: T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sections 31, 32 and 33;
T. 22 S., R. 9 W., Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 25 and 35;
T. 21 S., R. 8 W., Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 33 and 35;
T. 22 S., R. 8 W., Sections 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 17, 18, 19, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32 and 33;
T. 21 S., R. 7 W., Sections 19, 20, 29, 30 and 31;
T. 23 S., R. 8 W., Sections 5, 6 and 7.

Planning Status: Completed.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Started in 2009.

Implementation: Multiple timber sales through FY 2011.

For further information, please contact Scott Hoefs.

¹ All locations are Willamette Meridian.

RESTORATION

Lutsinger Creek In-stream Habitat Restoration Project

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

Description: The BLM proposes to install 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: T. 22 S., R. 8 W., Sections 13, 23, 24, 25 and 26.

Planning Status: Completed.

Decision Date: Decision Record - August 31, 2009

Implementation: Phase I complete; Phase II expected summer 2011.

For further information, please contact Dan VanSlyke.

Middle Creek and Cherry Creek In-stream Habitat Restoration Project

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

Description: The BLM 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 sub-watersheds: generally T. 26 S., R. 10 W.; T. 27 S., R. 10 W.; and T. 27 S., R. 11 W.

Planning Status: Completed.

Decision Date: Decision Record - August 31, 2009

Implementation: Phase I complete (9.6 miles); more phases through 2012 dependent upon funding.

For further information, please contact Dan VanSlyke.

West Fork Smith River In-stream Habitat Restoration Project

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

Description: The BLM 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 sub-watershed: generally T. 21 S., R. 9 W.

Planning Status: Completed.

Decision Date: Decision Record - August 31, 2009

Implementation: Phase I complete (4.8 miles); more phases through 2012 dependent upon funding.

For further information, please contact Dan VanSlyke.

OTHER ACTIONS

Blue Ridge Communication Site Beam Path & Fuels Reduction

DOI-BLM-OR- C030-2010-0007-EA

Description: The BLM proposes to remove trees within beam paths from various communication towers at the Blue Ridge communication site. The site users are currently experiencing interference with their signals to and from the site; these include the emergency 911 system, as well as a rural fire district. In addition, a fuels reduction clearing around the communication site is proposed to reduce the potential for damage to the communication facilities in the event of a wildfire.

Location: T. 26 S., R. 12 W., Sections 25, 26, 35, and 36;
T. 27 S., R. 12 W., Section 2.

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed.

Analysis – Scheduled for release summer 2011.

Decision Date: Decision Record – Fall 2011.

Implementation: Scheduled for fall 2011.

For further information, please contact Bill Elam.

Spruce Reach House Environmental Assessment*

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2010-0005-EA

Description: The BLM proposes to implement the decision made in the 1998 Final Amendment to the 1993 Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area Activity Management Plan to dismantle the Spruce Reach house.

Location: T. 21 S., R. 11 W., Section 3.

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed.

Analysis – Ongoing.

Decision Date: Decision Record – Winter or Spring 2011

Implementation: Fall 2011 or Winter 2012

For further information, please contact John Colby.

*Called Spruce Reach Island House Environmental Assessment during Scoping.

Bastendorff Beach Cooperative Management Plan

Description: The Management Plan will address the following challenges: dumping and sanitation associated with long-term camping, off highway vehicle use, extension of the Oregon Coast Trail, law enforcement and public safety, noxious weeds and invasive plants and beach operations and maintenance. This plan is being coordinated with the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation and Coos County. There may be subsequent NEPA decisions depending on site-specific information in the final Plan.

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

Planning Status: Public Outreach – Completed.

Draft Plan Review: Starting February 14, 2011.

For further information, please contact Nancy Zepf.

Myrtlewood Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Cherry Vaughn

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2010-0005-EA

Description: This project includes 2400 acres of density management thinning in Late-Successional and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.

Location: T. 27 S., R. 10 W., Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 29;

T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Sections 3 and 4.

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed.

Analysis – Ongoing.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Starting Fall 2011.

Implementation: Timber sales planned for FY 2012 through FY 2013.

For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

Weaver-Sitkum

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

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

Location: T. 28 S., R. 9 W., Sections 31 and 35;

T. 29 S., R. 9 W., Section 5;

T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Sections 18, 21, 23, 25 and 27;
T. 28 S., R. 11 W., Sections 9 and 21.

Planning Status: Completed.
Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Started Fall 2010.
Implementation: Timber sales planned for FY 2011 through FY 2012.
For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

RESTORATION

Big Creek Instream

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2011-0001-DNA

Description: This project consists of placing approximately 600 tree pieces along 11 miles of Big Creek and its tributaries to improve fish habitat within the Big Creek 6th field watershed.

Location: Big Creek – T. 29 S., R. 11 W., Section 12; T. 29 S., R. 10 W., Section 6; T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Sections 31 and 32
Brownson Creek and Trib. – T. 29 S., R. 11 W., Sections 1, 2, 3, 10 and 11;
Axe Creek – T. 29 S., R. 11 W., Sections 12 and 13;
Bear Pen Creek – T. 29 S., R. 10 W., Sections 6 and 7;
Swamp Creek – T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Sections 32 and 33; T. 29 S., R. 10 W., Sections 3 & 4

Planning Status: Completed.
Decision Date: Decision Record – January 13, 2011.
Implementation: Summer and Fall 2011

Myrtlewood Culverts FY2011

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2010-0004-DNA

Description: The BLM proposes to replace two culverts to improve fish passage. The culverts are on South Fork Elk Creek and an unnamed tributary to Yankee Run. Approximately 1 mile of habitat would become accessible for coho, steelhead, and/or cutthroat.

Location: T. 28 S, R. 10 W., Section 19
T. 28 S., R. 11 W., Section 20

Planning Status: Analysis – Ongoing
Decision Date: Decision Record – Spring 2011
Implementation: Fall of 2011 or 2012.

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 Coos Bay District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (USDI 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 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.