

Bureau of Land Management Coos Bay District Planning Update

Fall 2011

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Coos Bay District BLM Planning Update

Fall 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

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Coos Bay District Office
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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>.

District-Wide

Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in the Coos Bay District EA

DOI-BLM-OR-C000-2011-0006-EA

Description: The action is to utilize additional herbicides to treat noxious and invasive weeds species, as well as, limited application for general vegetation control around facilities and for habitat improvement. The action does not include aerial application of herbicides or herbicide use for timber or livestock production.

In 2007, the BLM national office completed the Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and related Record of Decision, making 18 herbicides available for a full range of non-commodity vegetation treatments in 17 western states. BLM recently completed a state-wide EIS and Record of Decision in 2010, *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon*. This EA tiers to those broader-scale environmental impact statements.

Location: District-wide
Planning Status: Scoping – Scheduled for Summer 2011.
Analysis – Scheduled for release Fall 2011.
Decision Date: Decision Documentation – Scheduled for 2012.
Implementation: following Decision.
For further information, please contact Jeanne Standley.

Umpqua Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Big-Vincent EA

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2011-0003-EA

Description: The BLM proposes approximately 7,000 acres of commercial thinning, density management, and hardwood conversion treatments in the Matrix, Late-Successional and Riparian Reserve land-use allocations.

Location: T. 21 S., R. 7 W., Sections 7, 12, and 18;
T. 21 S., R. 8 W., Sections 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, and 29;
T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 23, 27, and 29.

Planning Status: Scoping – Scheduled for fall 2011.
Analysis – Scheduled for release spring 2012.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Starting 2015.

Implementation: Timber Sales planned for 2015 through 2017.

For further information, please contact Jeff Lau.

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 – Completed.

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 2013.

For further information, please contact Scott Hoefs.

RESTORATION

Wren Smith Creek Fish Passage and Sediment Reduction Project

DOI-BLM-OR- C030-2011-0008-DNA

Description: The Coos Watershed Association proposes to improve fish passage conditions at two stream crossings and improve road drainage conditions along 1.8 miles of Wren Smith Creek Road beginning on Road No. 26-12-10.0 Segment B and Road No. 26-12-13.0 to atop the watershed divide at the ridge top on the Road. This is a Title II funded project.

Location: T. 26 S., R.12 W., Sections 13 and 14.

Planning Status: Completed.

Decision Date: Decision Record - July 22, 2011.

Implementation: Scheduled for summer 2012.

For further information, please contact Dan VanSlyke.

Wren Smith Creek In-stream Habitat Restoration Project

DOI-BLM-OR- C030-2011-0009-DNA

Description: Coos Watershed Association proposes to place approximately 90 trees in Wren Smith Creek on 1 mile of private lands and 0.5 miles of BLM-administered lands for a total of 1.5 miles. This is a Title II funded project.

Location: T. 26 S., R.12 W., Sections 13 and 14.

Planning Status: Completed.

Decision Date: Decision Record - July 22, 2011.

Implementation: Scheduled for summer 2011.

For further information, please contact Dan VanSlyke.

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 on-hold pending 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 are planned through 2012 dependent upon funding.

For further information, please contact Dan VanSlyke.

OTHER ACTIONS

Sumner Substation Fuels Reduction

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2011-0012-DNA

Description: The BLM proposes to remove trees within 150' of the substation fence to minimize the potential for power disruption from trees falling on the substation or the 115 kv transmission lines associated with the substation.

Location: T. 27 S., R. 5 W., Section 5.

Planning Status: Analysis – Ongoing.

Decision Date: Decision Record – Winter 2011

Implementation: Scheduled for spring 2012

For further information, please contact Scott Hoefs.

NFR Re-Route

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2011-0007-EA

Description: The BLM proposes to construct approximately 0.25 miles of road within Late-Successional Reserve to connect Middle Creek Road system and the North Fork Coquille Ridge road. The road has been closed since 2008 due to a large, rotational landslide at mile post 1.9. The road was repaired twice between 2007 and 2008 due to previous slides. The new construction would re-route the road away from the landslide area and provide access for administrative and wildfire protection purposes.

Location: T. 26 S., R. 10 W., Sections 30 and 31.

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed.

Analysis – Scheduled for release fall 2011.

Decision Date: Decision Record – Fall 2011

Implementation: Scheduled for summer 2012

For further information, please contact Emily Kleber.

Bastendorff Beach Route Designation

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2011-0003-EA

Description: The BLM proposes to identify designated routes and trails open for vehicles at Bastendorff Beach in conformance with the 2011 Bastendorff Beach Cooperative Management Plan to better manage access and limit unauthorized uses. In addition, BLM proposes to limit camping to a 24-hour period, from the current 14-day limit.

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

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed.

Analysis – Scheduled for release fall 2011.

Decision Date: Decision Record – Winter 2011

Implementation: Scheduled for 2012

For further information, please contact Nancy Zepf.

Bastendorff Beach Cooperative Management Plan

Description: The Management Plan addresses the following planning 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.

Decision Date: Signed July 2011.

For further information, please contact Nancy Zepf.

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 – Scheduled for release fall 2011.

Decision Date: Decision Record –2011

Implementation: Fall 2011 or winter 2012

For further information, please contact John Colby.

*Called Spruce Reach Island House Environmental Assessment during Scoping.

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 or wind event.

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 – Completed.

Decision Date: Decision Record – Summer 2012.

Implementation: Scheduled for summer 2012.

For further information, please contact Bill Elam.

Myrtlewood Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Wagon Road Pilot EA

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2011-0008-EA

Description: The BLM and Coquille Indian Tribe are working together to develop a variable retention regeneration timber sale based on the ecological principles outlined by Drs. Franklin and Johnson. The stands are approximately 70-years old and designated as Matrix and Riparian Reserves under the 1995 RMP.

Location: T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Section 17.

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

Decision Date: Decision Documentation – Winter 2011.

Implementation: Timber sale planned for FY 2012.

For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

Cherry Vaughn

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

Description: This project includes 1400 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 – Scheduled for release fall 2011.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Starting summer 2012.

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.

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.

Bureau of Land Management
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