

# Bureau of Land Management Coos Bay District Planning Update

Spring 2015

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# *Coos Bay District BLM Planning Update*

Spring 2015

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.

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/ Patricia Burke  
Coos Bay 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 placement 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. You may contact these people by mail, by telephoning our office at 541-756-0100, or emailing us at: [BLM\\_OR\\_CB\\_Mail@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_CB_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 activities or require timely processing. A listing of completed 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

## **Integrated Invasive Plant Management 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. Additional site-specific EAs will be completed for 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 vegetation treatments in 17 western states, including Oregon. The BLM recently completed a statewide 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:** Throughout the District.  
**Planning Status:** Scoping – Completed.  
 Analysis – Scheduled for release Summer 2015.  
**Decision Date:** Decision Record – Scheduled for Summer 2015.  
**Implementation:** Following Decision.  
 For further information, please contact Jeanne Standley.

# Umpqua Field Office

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

### Loon Lake EA

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2015-0006-EA

**Description:** The BLM proposes approximately 4,000 acres of commercial thinning, density management, and hardwood conversion treatments in the Matrix, Late Successional Reserve, and Riparian Reserve land use allocations. Variable Retention Harvest is also proposed in approximately 300 acres of less than 80 year old stands within the General Forest Management Area (GFMA) land use allocation.

**Location:** T. 22 S., R 10 W., Section 35;  
 T. 23 S., R 08 W., Sections 9, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21;  
 T. 23 S., R 09 W., Sections 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30;  
 T. 23 S., R 10 W., Section 1.

**Planning Status:** Scoping - Scheduled for release FY 2015  
 Analysis - Scheduled within FY 2016  
**Decision Date:** Decision Documentations – Starting in FY 2017  
**Implementation:** Timber Sales planned for FY 2017 through FY 2022  
 For further information, please contact John Goering.

### Soup Creek Variable Retention Harvest (VRH)

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2011-0004-EA

**Description:** The BLM proposes variable retention harvest treatments within approximately 295 acres of a 72-year old, previously thinned stand. Forest treatments would occur within the General Forest Management Area (GFMA) land use allocation.

**Location:** T. 23 S., R. 09 W., Sections 19 and 30.

**Planning Status:** Scoping –Completed.  
 Analysis – Completed.  
**Decision Date:** Decision Documentation –FY 2015.

**Implementation:** Timber Sale planned for FY 2015.  
 For further information, please contact John Goering.

### Big-Vincent EA

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

**Description:** The BLM proposes approximately 5,400 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. 07 W., Sections 7 and 18;  
 T. 21 S., R. 08 W., Sections 1, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, and 29;  
 T. 21 S., R. 09 W., Sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 23, 27, 29, and 32.

**Planning Status:** Scoping – Completed.  
 Analysis – Scheduled for release Spring 2015.  
**Decision Date:** Decision Documentations – Starting FY 2016.  
**Implementation:** Timber Sales planned for FY 2016 through FY 2020.  
 For further information, please contact Heather Partipilo.

**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 – Started in 2011.

**Implementation:** Timber Sales are planned through FY 2018.

For further information, please contact John Goering.

**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. 09 W., Sections 31, 32, and 33;  
 T. 22 S., R. 09 W., Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 25, and 35;  
 T. 21 S., R. 08 W., Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 33, and 35;  
 T. 22 S., R. 08 W., Sections 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 17, 18, 19, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, and 33;  
 T. 21 S., R. 07 W., Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, and 31;  
 T. 23 S., R. 08 W., Sections 5, 6, and 7.

**Planning Status:** Completed.

**Decision Date:** Decision Documentations – Started in 2009.

**Implementation:** One remaining timber sale scheduled for FY 2015.

For further information, please contact Scott Hoefs.

**RESTORATION****Fitzpatrick/Sawyer Instream Restoration Project**

DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2015-0002-DNA

**Description:** The project consists of placing log and boulder structures in Fitzpatrick and Sawyer Creeks. The structure placements would improve approximately 2.2 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids and other native aquatic species

**Location:** T. 22 S., R. 08 W., Sections 29 and 32;  
 T. 23 S., R. 08 W., Sections 5, 10, and 11.

**Planning Status:** Ongoing.

**Decision Date:** Decision Record – Spring 2015.

**Implementation:** Summer of 2015.

For further information, contact Jennifer Feola.

**Lutsinger Instream Restoration Project** DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2009-0005-DNA

**Description:** The Lutsinger Creek project encompasses approximately 3.4 stream miles.

**Location:** T. 22 S., R. 09 W., Sections 13, 23, 24, 25, and 26.

**Planning Status:** Completed.

**Decision Date:** Decision Record – Sept.2009.

**Implementation:** Summer of 2015.

For further information, contact Jennifer Feola.

**Tioga Creek Instream Restoration Project** DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2015-0003-DNA

**Description:** The project consists of placing approximately 100 log/ boulder structures. The structure placements would improve approximately 6 miles of spawning and rearing habitat in Tioga Creek for salmonids and other native aquatic species. Implementation of the project is expected to occur over a period of up to five years beginning in the summer of 2015.

**Location:** T. 26 S., R. 09 W., Section 31;  
T. 26 S., R. 10 W., Section 36;  
T. 27 S., R. 09 W., Sections 6, 7, 8, 16, and 17;  
T. 27 S., R. 10 W., Sections 1, and 12.

**Planning Status:** Ongoing.

**Decision Date:** Decision Record – 2015.

**Implementation:** Summer of 2015 or 2016.

For further information, contact Jennifer Feola.

**Woodward Creek Instream Restoration Project** DNA # yet to be assigned

**Description:** The project would place logs in approximately 3.5 miles of Woodward Creek, a tributary to the North Fork Coquille River.

**Location:** T. 27 S., R. 11 W., Sections 30 and 31;  
T. 27 S., R. 12 W., Sections 1, 11, and 14;  
T. 26 S., R. 12 W., Section 1.

**Planning Status:** Ongoing.

**Decision Date:** Decision Record – 2015.

**Implementation:** Summer of 2015 or 2016.

For further information, contact Jennifer Feola.

# Myrtlewood Field Office

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

### Six Twigs

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2013-0003-EA

**Description:** This project includes 250 acres of regeneration harvest in the Matrix land use allocation.

**Location:** T. 31 S., R. 14 W., Sections 7, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32;

**Planning Status:** Scoping – Completed.  
Analysis – ongoing.

**Decision Date:** Decision Documentations – starting FY 2016.

**Implementation:** Timber sales planned for FY 2016 through FY 2018.

For further information, please contact Rachael Jones.

### Lone Pine

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2011-0006-EA

**Description:** This project includes 4000 acres of commercial and density management thinning in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.

**Location:** T. 27 S., R. 11 W., Sections 21 and 35;  
T. 27 S., R. 12 W., Section 35;  
T. 28 S., R. 09 W., Section 17;  
T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Section 22;  
T. 28 S., R. 11 W., Sections 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 17, 19, 29, 31, and 32;  
T. 28 S., R. 12 W., Sections 1, 13, 23, 25, 27, and 35;  
T. 29 S., R. 11 W., Sections 5 and 7;  
T. 29 S., R. 12 W., Section 12.

**Planning Status:** Scoping – Completed.  
Analysis – Completed.

**Decision Date:** Decision Documentations – Ongoing.

**Implementation:** Timber sales planned for FY 2014 through FY 2016.

For further information, please contact Jeff Davis.

## RESTORATION

### Yankee Run Instream Restoration Project

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2014-0002-DNA

**Description:** This project would place approximately 240 logs along 2.25 miles of Yankee Run and Right Fork Yankee Run Creek to improve fish habitat within the Yankee Run 6th field watershed.

**Location:** Yankee Run - T. 28 S., R. 11 W., Sections 17 and 20.  
Right Fork Yankee Run - T. 28 S., R. 11 W., Sections 9, 16 and 17.

**Planning Status:** Completed.

**Decision Date:** Decision Record – June 10, 2014.

**Implementation:** Ongoing, scheduled completion summer 2015.

For further information, please contact Stephanie Messerle.

## OTHER

### East Fork Brummet/Russell Creek Road Repair DNA

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2015-0001-DNA

**Description:** The BLM proposes to repair two failed road sections along East Fork Brummet Road and Russel Creek Road caused by 2014 storm events.

**Location:** Russell Creek Road Repair: T. 30 S, R. 12 W, Section 19;  
East Fork Brummet Road: T. 27 S, R. 09 W, Section 29.

**Planning Status:** Analysis – ongoing.

**Decision Date:** Decision Record – Scheduled for Summer 2015.

**Implementation:** Repairs planned to start as early as Summer 2015.

For further information, please contact Racheal Jones.

### Palmer Butte Communication Site Maintenance/Hazard Fuel Reduction DNA

DOI-BLM-OR- C040-2014-0003-DNA

**Description:** The BLM proposed to cut and remove vegetation surrounding the Palmer Butte communication site to improve protection of infrastructure as well as public and personnel safety.

**Location:** T. 40 S., R. 13 W., Section 10.

**Planning Status:** Completed.

**Decision Date:** Decision Record – October 2014.

**Implementation:** Scheduled for Summer/Fall 2015.

For further information, please contact Racheal Jones.

### New River ACEC Management Plan EA

DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2014-0004-EA

**Description:** Over that last 10 years, the New River ACEC has experienced changes in vegetation patterns, invasive species, federally protected species, and recreation use trends. The BLM has identified a need for updating the management plan in order to respond to these changes with appropriate management actions.

**Location:** T. 29 S., R. 15 W., Sections 35, and 36;  
T. 30 S., R. 15 W., Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 15, 21, 22, 28, 32, and 33;  
T. 31 S., R.15 W., Sections 7, and 8.

**Planning Status:** Scoping – anticipated Winter 2015.

Analysis – following scoping.

**Decision Date:** Decision Record – anticipated by Spring 2017.

**Implementation:** Anticipated by Summer 2017.

For further information, please contact Racheal Jones.

## 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.



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