

Bureau of Land Management Coos Bay District Planning Update

Spring 2016

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Coos Bay District BLM Planning Update

Spring 2016

Dear Citizen:

*******SPECIAL NOTE*******

All new NEPA-related documents are no longer be available on the Coos Bay District's web page. As of October 2015, NEPA documents are now maintained on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) national register for Land Use Planning (LUP) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This register is called *ePlanning* and can be found on the national BLM's web page at: https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do

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* 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/ 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.

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 Fall 2016.
Decision Date: Decision Record – Scheduled for Fall 2016.
Implementation: Following Decision.
 For further information, please contact Jeanne Standley.

District Emergency Relief for Federally Owned (ERFO) Road Repairs DNA

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C000-2016-0001-DNA

Description: The BLM proposes to repair 8 BLM-owned and maintained roads damaged in the storm events of December 2014.

Location: Various locations throughout the District.
Planning Status: Completed.
Decision Date: Decision Documentation – February 1, 2016.
Implementation: FY 2016–2018.
 For further information, please contact Heather Partipilo.

Helipond and Pump Chance Maintenance EA DOI-BLM-ORWA-C000-2016-0002-EA

Description: The project would maintain the long-term utility and function of heliponds and pump chances at approximately 29 heliponds and 36 pump chances.

Location: Various locations throughout the District.
Planning Status: Scoping – February 16–March 17, 2016.
 Analysis – Scheduled through FY 2016.
Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Fall of FY 2017.
Implementation: Planned for FY 2017.
 For further information, please contact Heather Partipilo.

Umpqua Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

West Fork EA

EA # to be assigned

Description: The BLM proposes approximately 2,500 acres of density management treatments in the Late-Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.

Location: T. 19 S., R. 09 W., Sections 25 and 35;
T. 20 S., R. 09 W., Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12;
T. 19 S., R. 08 W., Sections 30 and 31;
T. 20 S., R. 08 W., Section 9.

Planning Status: Scoping – Estimated Summer FY 2016.
Analysis – Estimated FY 2016-2017.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Starting in FY 2017.

Implementation: Timber Sales planned for FY 2017 through FY 2019.
For further information, please contact Heather Partipilo.

Cherry Creek Blowdown CX

EA # to be assigned

Description: The BLM proposes salvage removal of wind-thrown and weakened trees on approximately 22 acres of General Forest Management Area (GFMA) and 5 acres of Riparian Reserve.

Location: T. 27 S., R.11 W., Sec.23.

Planning Status: Analysis Scheduled Winter–Spring FY 2016.

Decision Date: Decision Documentation – Spring of FY 2016.

Implementation: Planned for FY 2016.

For further information, please contact Heather Partipilo.

Big-Vincent EA

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

Description: The BLM proposes approximately 6,300 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 – Completed.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Starting FY 2016.

Implementation: Timber Sales planned for FY 2016 through FY 2018.
For further information, please contact Heather Partipilo.

Fairview NWFP Project EA

DOI-BLM-ORWA-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.

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 2016.
 For further information, contact Jennifer Feola.

Lutsinger Instream Restoration Project

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

Description: The project consists of placing 115 logs and 715 boulders along 2.25 miles of the mainstem Lutsinger Creek.

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 2016.
 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.

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 - 2020.
 For further information, contact Jennifer Feola.

Woodward Creek Instream Restoration Project

DNA # 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 – Spring 2016.

Implementation: Summer of 2016.

For further information, contact Jennifer Feola.

OTHER**North Spit Snowy Plover Habitat Restoration Areas (HRAs) EA**

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C030-2016-0001-EA

Description: The project would revise and consolidate multiple outdated NEPA analyses to provide the most up-to-date management tools for future HRA management. The EA would include analysis of vegetation modifications, site modifications, habitat amendments, herbicide use, public safety, recreation management, route management, expansion of physical closure areas, and the lengthening of the breeding season closure period.

Location: T. 25 S., R. 14 W., Secs. 23, 24, 25, 26

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed.

Analysis – Scheduled through FY 2016.

Decision Date: Decision Documentation – Spring FY 2017.

Implementation: Planned for FY 2017.

For further information, please contact Heather Partipilo.

Myrtlewood Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Six Twigs

DOI-BLM-ORWA-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-ORWA-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.

OTHER

Upper East Fork Brummet, Russell Creek, and Camas Weaver Tie Road Repairs DNA

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

Description: The project consists of repairing failed road sections along East Fork Brummet Road, Russell Creek Road, and Camas Weaver Tie Road that were 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;
Camas Weaver Tie Road: T. 28 S., R. 08 W., Sec. 25

Planning Status: Analysis – complete.

Decision Date: Decision Record – July 21, 2015.

Implementation: Repairs to East Fork Brummet and Russell Creek roads are complete. Camas Weaver Tie road repairs could start as early as Summer 2016.

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 Summer 2016.
Analysis – following scoping.

Decision Date: Decision Record – anticipated by Summer 2017.

Implementation: Anticipated by Fall 2017.

For further information, please contact Racheal Jones.

New River Instream Restoration Project

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2016-0004-DNA

Description: The BLM proposes to place approximately 100 logs along 4.5 miles of New River. The structure placements would improve aquatic habitat within the Morton Creek-Frontal Pacific Ocean 6th field watershed.

Location: T. 30 S., R. 15 W., sections 15, 21, 22, 28, 33;
T. 31 S., R. 15 W., sections 4 and 5.

Planning Status: Ongoing.

Decision Date: Decision Record – Summer 2016.

Implementation: Summer of 2016 -2019.

For further information, please contact Jeff Jackson.

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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