BLM

Coos Bay District

Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District
Planning Update

Summer 2013

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Coos Bay District BLM Planning Update

Summer 2013

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/ Mark E. Johnson
Coos Bay District Manager

USDI - Bureau of Land Management
Coos Bay District Office
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North Bend OR 97459
BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov
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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 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: 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 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

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. The 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 – Completed.
	Analysis – Scheduled for release fall 2013.
Decision Date:	Decision Record – Scheduled for FY 2013.
Implementation:	following Decision.

For further information, please contact Jeanne Standley.

Umpqua Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

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) use allocation.

Location: T. 23 S., R. 9 W., Sections 19 and 30.
Planning Status: Scoping – Completed.
Analysis – Scheduled for release fall 2013.
Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Starting FY 2014.
Implementation: Timber Sales planned for FY 2014 and FY 2015.
For further information, please contact John Goering.

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 – Completed.
Analysis – Scheduled for release fall 2013.
Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Starting FY 2015.
Implementation: Timber Sales planned for FY 2015 through FY 2018.
For further information, please contact Kaitlyn Bowman.

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 11and 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 2015.
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. 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: Two remaining timber sales through FY 2014.

For further information, please contact Scott Hoefs.

RESTORATION

Johns Creek Culverts 2013 DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2013-0007-DNA

Description: This project would replace three culverts in the Johns Creek drainage of the East Fork Coquille River watershed. Two of the culverts are located on BLM road no. 29-11-7.1 and would allow access to fish habitat for all juvenile and adult fish species. The third culvert is on BLM road no. 29-11-1.1 and is not located on a fish-bearing stream.

Location: T. 29 S., R. 11 W. Section 7.

Planning Status: Ongoing.

Decision Date: Decision Record – spring 2013.

Implementation: Scheduled for summer 2013 - 2015.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Feola.

Camp Creek In-stream Restoration DOI-BLM-OR- C030-2013-0005-DNA

Description: This project would restore and enhance 14.1 miles of salmon spawning and rearing habitat in Camp, Buck, and Himru Creeks within the Mill Creek 5th Field Watershed.

Location: T. 22 S., R. 9 W. Sections 31-34;
T. 22 S., R. 10 W. Section 25 and 26;
T. 23 S., R. 9 W. Sections 2-5, 8-11, 33, and 34.

Planning Status: Ongoing.

Decision Date: Decision Record – spring 2013.

Implementation: Scheduled for summer 2013 and 2014.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Feola.

Smith River Tributaries In-stream Restoration – Phase I (Scare and North Sister)

DOI-BLM-OR- C030-2013-0001-DNA

Description: This is a Title II project that would restore and enhance 3.75 miles of salmon spawning and rearing habitat in Scare and North Sisters Creeks within the Smith River Watershed. This project will be completed by the Smith River Watershed Council in cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management. The project will consist of a Phase I and Phase II.

Location: T. 20 S., R. 9 W. Sections 33 and 34;
T. 21 S., R. 9 W. Sections 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 15, 22, 23, and27;

T. 20 S., R. 8 W. Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, and 16.
Planning Status: Ongoing.
Decision Date: Decision Record – spring 2013.
Implementation: Scheduled for summer 2013.
For further information, please contact John Colby.

Buck Creek In-stream Restoration DOI-BLM-OR- C030-2013-0002-DNA

DNA has been dropped. The project has been included as part of the Camp Creek In-stream Restoration Project listed above.

North Spit Wetland Restoration DOI-BLM-OR-C030-2012-0001-EA

Description: The BLM proposes to restore up to 50 acres of wetland habitat on the North Spit of Coos Bay. The intent of the project is to re-establish open water habitats to provide waterfowl and shorebirds brooding, foraging, resting, and wintering habitats.
Location: T. 25 S., R. 14 W., Sections 7, 13, and 24.
Planning Status: Scoping – spring 2013.
Analysis – following scoping.
Decision Date: Decision Record – fall 2013.
Implementation: Summer 2014.
For further information, please contact Steve Langenstein.

Little Paradise Creek Road Bridge FY 2013 DOI-BLM-OR- C030-2012-0008-DNA

Description: The BLM proposes to replace an existing, single-span bridge with a reinforced concrete bridge. The bridge is located on Little Paradise Creek Road (No. 22-8-10.0) at mile post 0.20 and spans Paradise Creek, which is a tributary to the Umpqua River. This bridge replacement is located on private land.
Location: T. 22 S., R. 8 W., Sections 13, 23, 24, 25 and 26.
Planning Status: Completed.
Decision Date: Decision Record – June 19, 2012.
Implementation: Scheduled for summer 2013.
For further information, please contact Jennifer Feola.

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: Two phases of in-stream restoration work occurred in the West Fork Smith River watershed in 2010 and 2011. A total of 19.6 stream miles were restored through the placement of 1,680 logs/whole trees, 15 boulder weirs, and 600 boulders. Boulder structures will be placed in approximately nine stream miles in the mainstem. Funding was not received to implement the third stage in 2012, but planning is ongoing with work to occur in the summer of 2013.
For further information, please contact Dan VanSlyke.

OTHER ACTIONS

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: Completed.
Decision Date: Decision Record – Spring 2012.
Implementation: Ongoing

For further information, please contact Bob Golden.

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 – Completed.
Decision Date: Decision Record – March 11, 2013.
Implementation: Scheduled for FY 2013.

For further information, please contact John Colby.

*Called Spruce Reach Island House Environmental Assessment during Scoping.

Myrtlewood Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

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

Description: This project includes 4000 acres of commercial and density management thinning in 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. 9 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 – Complete.
Analysis – Scheduled for release summer 2013.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations – Starting fall 2013.

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

For further information, please contact Jeff Davis.

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, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, and 30;
T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Section 3.

Planning Status: Completed.

Decision Date: Decision Documentations – ongoing.

Implementation: Timber sales planned through FY 2013.

For further information, please contact Jeff Davis.

OTHER ACTIONS

China Creek Fish Passage EA DOI-BLM-OR-C040-2013-0001-EA

Description: Recent changes in the stream channel morphology have resulted in the concrete slab associated with the adult fish trap being a barrier to fish movement during various flows. The EA will contain analysis of alternatives that include modifying the trap as well at removing the trap in order to provide improved fish passage.

Location: T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Sections 5

Planning Status: Analysis – released for public comment April 15, 2013.

Decision Date: Decision Record – Summer 2013.

Implementation: Fall 2013.

For further information, please contact Stephanie Messerle.

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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