

# Bureau of Land Management Coos Bay District Planning Update

Winter 2014

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# *Coos Bay District BLM Planning Update*

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Winter 2014

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 six 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 e-mailing 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

## 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 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:** Various.  
**Planning Status:** Scoping – Completed.  
 Analysis – Scheduled for release fall 2014.  
**Decision Date:** Decision Record – Scheduled for December 2014.  
**Implementation:** Following Decision.  
 For further information, please contact Jeanne Standley.

## 2014 Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) EA

DOI-BLM-OR-C000-2014-0001-EA

**Description:** The BLM proposes to repair 12 road failures caused by a 2012 storm event on nine different main access roads scattered throughout the District.

**Location:** Various  
**Planning Status:** Scoping – Completed.  
 Analysis – Scheduled for release spring 2014.  
**Decision Date:** Decision Record – Scheduled for summer 2014.  
**Implementation:** repairs planned for 2014 and 2015.  
 For further information, please contact Greta Krost.

# 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) land use allocation.

**Location:** T. 23 S., R. 09 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. 07 W., Sections 7, 12, and 18;  
T. 21 S., R. 08 W., Sections 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, and 29;  
T. 21 S., R. 09 W., Sections 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 23, 27, and 29.

**Planning Status:** Scoping – Completed.  
Analysis – Scheduled for release fall 2014.

**Decision Date:** Decision Documentations – Starting FY 2015.

**Implementation:** Timber Sales planned for FY 2015 through FY 2018.

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 – 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. 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:** 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:** Completed.

**Decision Date:** Decision Record – June 17, 2013.

**Implementation:** Scheduled for summers 2014 and 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 5<sup>th</sup> Field Watershed.

**Location:** T. 22 S., R. 09 W. Sections 31-34;  
 T. 22 S., R. 10 W. Sections 25 and 26;  
 T. 23 S., R. 09 W. Sections 2-5, 8-11, 33, and 34.

**Planning Status:** Completed.

**Decision Date:** Decision Record – May 15, 2013.

**Implementation:** Scheduled for summers 2014 and 2015.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Feola.

## Smith River Tributaries In-stream Restoration Project

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

**Description:** The project would consist of placing log, log/boulder, and boulder structures in Vincent Creek, Scare Creek, and North Sister Creek. The structure placements would improve approximately 12.3 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, cutthroat trout (resident and sea run), brook lamprey, Pacific lamprey, and cottids (i.e., sculpin species). Two culverts would be permanently removed on tributaries to Vincent Creek and two culverts would be removed on tributaries to North Sister Creek. One would be removed permanently and the other would not be replaced for at least two years to allow the stream to re-grade and transport wood and gravel downstream to existing or new instream structures.

**Location:** T. 20 S., R. 09 W. Sections 33 and 34;  
T. 21 S., R. 09 W. Sections 2, 3, 4, 11, 15, 22, 23, and 27;  
T. 20 S., R. 08 W. Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, and 17.

**Planning Status:** Complete.

**Decision Date:** Decision Record – July 25, 2013.

**Implementation:** Scheduled for summer 2014.

For further information, please contact John Colby.

## Woodward Creek Instream Restoration Project

**DNA to be completed**

**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 2014 or 2015.

**Implementation:** Summer of 2014 or 2015.

For further information, contact Jennifer Feola.

# Myrtlewood Field Office

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

### Six Twigs

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

**Description:** This project includes 553 acres of regeneration harvest in the Matrix land use allocation.

**Location:** T. 30 S., R. 13 W., Section 33;  
 T. 30 S., R. 15 W., Section 12;  
 T. 31 S., R. 12 W., Section 19;  
 T. 31 S., R. 13 W., Sections 6 and 25;  
 T. 31 S., R. 14 W., Sections 7, 15, 18, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32;  
 T. 32 S., R. 15 W., Section 4.

**Planning Status:** Scoping – Tentative for June 2014  
 Analysis – Release to be determined.

**Decision Date:** Decision Documentations – Dates to be determined.

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

For further information, please contact Jeff Davis.

### 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.

### Cherry Vaughn

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

**Description:** This project includes 1400 acres of density management thinning in the 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 2014.

For further information, please contact Jeff Davis.

## 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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