

**Eugene District
Bureau of Land Management
“Eye to the Future”
Project Update
February 2006**

Eugene District Office

BLM



February 2006

Public Lands: Use, Share, Appreciate



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. Administration.

A Note from the District Manager

This document is designed to serve as an information link between you and the BLM's Eugene District Office. Its intent is to increase your awareness of BLM activities and improve your opportunities to discuss these activities with us. By keeping you informed of the Eugene District's management activities and inviting your participation, we hope to continue our ongoing relationships. If you need to know the status of a project or want additional information, you can contact the project lead listed in the following text. We would appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have regarding this Planning/Project Update or how it could be improved to make it more useful to you.

I continue to serve as the Acting District Manager, while on a detail from my permanent position as Associate District Manager in Roseburg. I have enjoyed my assignment in Eugene and have been busy addressing several important issues. All of the Western Oregon Districts, including Eugene, have initiated a process to revise their Resource Management Plans (RMP's). The public review of the Planning Criteria/State Director Guidance phase is underway and our district will host a meeting on March 6, 2006, at 7 pm to discuss this portion of the Plan. If you have an interest in being actively involved in the Plan Revision process but, can't attend the meeting, please contact our office. Additional information on the Plan Revision can be found on page #4 of this document.

The District's Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will be meeting this summer but, we are currently requesting applications for project proposals to be submitted for their review and potential funding selection. Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2006. The BLM continues to work on a Strategic Planning Process to address issues related to budget, staffing, and business practices in Oregon/Washington. This process will help us meet our priorities in the coming years. A part of this discussion addresses the options of consolidating some services with the Salem District. As a separate but related effort, we are making plans for a future co-location with the Willamette National Forest.

Our fiscal year 2006 budget provides us adequate funding to implement our timber sale program, completes numerous watershed restoration projects, and constructs some improvements at several of our recreation sites. However, as we plan and begin to implement some of these projects, we are faced with difficult challenges. Most notable is the recent ruling from a federal judge on the 2004 Record of Decision for Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines. We are now required to make sure that all projects/activities are modified to be in compliance with the original 2001 ROD for Survey and manage.

As we move forward in this year, I am convinced we have the dedicated staff that is prepared to work closely with you, our public, to address your concerns and achieve reasonable solutions.

This document exists in two forms – the electronic version on our web page, and this companion document printed on paper. If you have Internet access you can view this document at any time and also get additional information on issues related to the Eugene District. However, public access to the BLM's internet web site is currently suspended. We are awaiting direction from the Department of the Interior as to when the sites will be available for public use. The address is: www.edo.or.blm.gov

We will continue to send you printed copies of this document unless you request to be removed from our mailing

Mark Buckbee, Acting District Manager

U.S. Bureau of Land Management Western Oregon Plan Revision

What's Being Revised?

BLM is revising the six Resource Management Plans that guide the agency's actions on two and one-half million acres in western Oregon. Of these public lands, 2.1 million acres are managed under the O&C Lands Act and about 400,000 acres are managed under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Why Revise Current Plans?

The BLM must revise the six western Oregon Resource Management Plans now because:

- * It was agreed in a recent settlement that BLM must revise current plans by the end of 2008.
- *The controversy surrounding the implementation of the timber management portions of the existing plans has led to numerous court cases and endless process and paperwork that takes BLM resource management efforts away from on-the-ground management.
- *BLM has not met timber commitments as outlined in the existing plans. It makes good sense for BLM to revise plans now so that they can be consistent with current efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare recovery plans for listed species.

Where are we in the Process?

Formal public scoping was conducted from September 7, 2005 to October 23, 2005 and almost 3,000 comments were received. The Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) has also been completed. Both documents can be viewed at <http://blm.gov/or/plans/wopr> Proposed Planning Criteria and State Director Guidance has been released for public comment. Copies of this document are available at <http://blm.gov/or/plans/wopr> . Comments are requested by March 17, 2006 to the following address:

Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
PO Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

Comments can also be sent by e-mail to: orwopr@or.blm.gov

A draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled to be released for public comment by early 2007.

Who's Involved in this Effort?

BLM hopes to involve interested citizens, organizations and other groups in key points of the plan revision process. In addition, several public agencies are participating as formal cooperators: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, the State of Oregon, USDA Forest Service, 16 western Oregon Counties, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

How Do You Get Involved?

Periodic information about the process and opportunities to get involved will be sent to interested parties. If you'd like to get on the postal or e-mail lists, contact the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision office at (503) 808-6629, e-mail oropr@or.blm.gov, or mail to P.O. Box 2965, Portland OR 97208

Dear Citizens Interested in Forest Health and Watershed Restoration

Project proposals which can be funded under the “Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-393) will need to be submitted to the Eugene District Office no later than April 1, 2006 in order to receive consideration for funding by the Eugene Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). These types of projects are called “Title-II” projects and applications are available by calling the Eugene District Office, (541) 683-6600. Title II projects must clearly provide benefits to the management of Oregon & California Railroad Grant Lands (O&C Lands) in the form of watershed or ecosystem restoration, forest health or road maintenance. Project proposals will be reviewed by BLM staff and comments will be provided back to applicants. The Eugene RAC will meet in July, 2006 for the purpose of recommending for funding a package of projects for fiscal year 2007.

If you have questions please contact Mark Wilkening (541) 683-6963 or Wayne Elliott (541) 683-6989. Thank you for your continued interest in forest health and watershed restoration.

Abbreviations and Definitions

ACEC/RNA - Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Area

BO - Biological Opinion.

CF - Cubic feet.

CCF - Hundred cubic feet.

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.

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).

GFMA - General Forest Management Area.

IDT - Interdisciplinary Team - A team is a group of resource specialists, whose participation is determined by the issues relating to the project proposal, and who conduct environmental analysis.

LSR - Late-Successional Reserves - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. These reserves will maintain a functional, interactive, late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystem.

Matrix Lands - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. Most timber harvest contributing to the Allowable Sale Quantity takes place in this area.

MBF - Thousand board feet.

MMBF - Million board feet.

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.

NWFP - Northwest Forest Plan - A common name for the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994). It is also used to refer to the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species with the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl which accompanies the Record of Decision.

O&C Lands - Revested Oregon and California Railroad Lands.

Resource Management Plan (RMP) - A land use plan prepared by the BLM in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

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

DNA-Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy-Used to document that a BLM action has been adequately analyzed in an existing NEPA document (EA or EIS) and that no further NEPA analysis is needed.

TABLE 1: Upper Willamette Resource Area Proposed Projects			
Name/Description	Location	Planning Status	Contact
Upper Willamette Resource Area Proposed Projects- McKenzie Watershed			
Rowdy Camp Timber Sale -This project proposes to thin stands in Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations to provide a sustainable supply of timber while maintaining ecologically valuable structural components, such as down logs, snags and large trees.	T.17 S., R.1W., Sections 1, 3, 11, 15, and 17	Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. A decision is expected in Summer 2006.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
McKenzie River Habitat Restoration - The purpose of project is for BLM to assist the McKenzie Watershed Council with funding and technical expertise to improve the quantity and quality of aquatic habitats on private lands within the project area and expand available aquatic and riparian habitats limited by past land management activities. The projects undertaken within the scope of this plan would be designed to place and enhance in-stream structures, develop habitat diversity for aquatic species, remove migration barriers, and generally improve the hydrologic condition of streams and riparian habitats.	Up the Mohawk River to Log Creek(T 15 S., R 1 W., Sec. 22) and up the McKenzie to town of Nimrod (T 17 S., R 3 E., Sec. 2)	Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. A decision was made in July 2005. Implementation will take place over several years.	Chuck Vostal (683-6454)
Upper Willamette Resource Area Proposed Projects-Mohawk Watershed			
Warner Roost - This project proposes to thin high density stands in the Coburg Hills to develop suitable nest trees, stands of large conifers, structural diversity and tree species diversity to comply with general bald eagle recovery plan guidance and recommendations in the “McKenzie Resource Area Bald Eagle Habitat Management Plan.”	T. 15S., R.2W., Sections 21 and 29	Work on and environmental assessment has been completed. A decision is expected in 2006.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Upper Cash Creek - This project proposes to thin high density stands in the in the upper Cash Creek watershed, and Stream Enhancement in Shotgun and Cash creeks. Actions may include timber harvest, snag creation, road improvements, temporary road construction, road decommissioning and placement of large wood in streams.	T.15 S., R.2W., Sections 21, 22 and 28	Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. A decision regarding the timber harvest will be made in February 2006. A decision regarding the stream enhancement portion of the project was made in July 2005. Implementation of the stream enhancement portion has been completed.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Parson’s Complex - This project proposes to harvest stands in Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations to provide a sustainable supply of timber while maintaining ecologically valuable structural components, such as down logs, snags and large trees.	T. 15 S., R2W., Sections 5 and 7	Work on an environmental assessment is currently underway and will be made available for public review in March 2006.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Shotgun OHV Trail System Modifications – This project propose to improve the Shotgun Trail System through trail	Designated Shotgun OHV	Work on an environmental assessment began in Fall 2005. The EA is expected to be available for public review in April	Liz Aleman (683-7578)

reconstruction, trail closure, signing changes, and facility enhancements.	Trail System	2006.	
Mohawk East - This project proposes to harvest stands in Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations to provide a sustainable supply of timber while maintaining ecologically valuable structural components, such as down logs, snags and large trees.	T. 15 S., R. 01W., Sections 13 and 27; T. 16 S., R 01W., Sections 3, 19, 25 and 27.	Work on an environmental assessment is expected to begin in April of 2006. The EA is expected to be available for public review in 2006.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Upper Willamette Resource Area Proposed Projects-Row River Watershed			
Teeter Creek - The Upper Willamette Resource Area proposes a cooperative project with the Weyerhaeuser Company to implement aquatic and riparian restoration in the Teeter Creek drainage, Row River watershed. The project would involve: (1) decommissioning three stream-adjacent roads resulting in the closure of approximately 5 miles of road, (2) removal of approximately 21 road/stream crossing culverts and 10 road relief culverts, (3) re-establishment of Teeter Creek and numerous tributaries to their original channel, (4) placement of large wood and/or boulder structures within mainstem Teeter Creek and selected fish-bearing tributaries, (5) removal of non-native vegetative species, re-establish native riparian vegetation, and (6) implement a silvicultural treatment for the development of large conifer and hardwood trees.	T. 21 S., R. 02W	Work on an environmental assessment is currently underway. The EA is expected to be available for public review in March 2006.	Chuck Vostal (683 -6454)

TABLE 2: Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects

Name/Description	Location	Planning Status	Contact
Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Lake Creek Watershed			
<p>Upper Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) - Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP)- The Resource Area (RA) is developing a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for the Upper Lake Creek SRMA that was designated in the Eugene District RMP. The plan will recommend specific actions for recreation management and designate a Transportation Management Plan.</p>	<p>T15S, R7W, Secs 7 through 29 (<u>Eugene</u> District BLM lands only); T15S, R8W, Secs 7, 18, 19 (<u>Eugene</u> District BLM lands only); and T15S, R.6W, Secs 7, 17, 18, and 19 (<u>Eugene</u> District BLM lands only).</p>	<p>The RAMP and Environmental Assessment (EA) was made available for public review and comment on February 2, 2005. The public comment period ended March 14th. A final decision on the RAMP was signed on September 14, 2005.</p>	<p>Saundra Miles (683-6227)</p>
<p>Lake Creek Road Improvement - Beginning at the end of the county road near Horton store, this project is approximately 2.7 miles in length that ends at the bridge crossing Lake Creek above Hult Pond.</p>	<p>Lake Creek Road No. 15-7-35; T15 S, R7 W, Sections 23, 26, and 35.</p>	<p>The Decision Record was published in the Eugene Register Guard June, 2002. The first phase included surface grading and compaction, replacement of worn culverts, and placement of additional culverts as necessary to facilitate ditch relief and stream crossings. This phase was completed during the summer of 2005. The second phase includes surfacing and will be implemented in conjunction with the Blacktop Thin timber sale.</p>	<p>Eric Meyers (683-6499)</p>
<p>Jason Thin – Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 360 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project area is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.</p>	<p>T15S, R7W, Sections 16 and 17, northwest of Hult Pond</p>	<p>A DNA was prepared. The timber was sold in October, 2005.</p>	<p>Rick Colvin (683-6659)</p>
<p>Chinkapin Thin - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 210 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project area is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.</p>	<p>T15S, R7W, Section 24 T15S, R6W, Section 19 East of Hult Pond</p>	<p>A DNA has been prepared. The timber is scheduled for auction in February, 2006.</p>	<p>Rick Colvin (683-6659)</p>
<p>Ben Lane Thin - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 315 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project area is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.</p>	<p>T15S, R6W, Section 7 T15S, R7W, Sections 12 and 13 Northeast of Hult Pond</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in July, 2006, pending findings in the DNA.</p>	<p>Rick Colvin (683-6659)</p>
<p>White Bark Thin - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 240 acres in the North Lake</p>	<p>T15S, R7W, Sections 10, 15, and 16 North of Hult Pond</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2007, pending findings in the</p>	<p>Rick Colvin (683-6659)</p>

<p>Creek planning area. The project area is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.</p>		<p>DNA.</p>	
<p>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Siuslaw Watershed</p>			
<p>Fire Water Source Maintenance - Brush around existing “pump chances” (places to draft water) and heliponds to enable fire crews access to obtain water for emergency firefighting. Helipond renovation and pump chance maintenance actions may include clearing of brush for vehicle access where appropriate; removal of silt deposits to increase volume in basin; liner replacement and removal of trees around heliponds to meet the requirements for approach and departure stated in the Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide.</p>	<p>Siuslaw Resource Area</p>	<p>A CE was prepared in June, 2005. Implementation will begin in the spring of 2006.</p>	<p>Nancy Ashlock (683-6667)</p>
<p>PITA Ridge Restoration Project - Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan and EIS, this project would treat forest stands to accelerate the development of late-successional forest structure. A density management thinning is being considered for this 410 acre project area.</p>	<p>T19S, R6W, Sec 27; T20S, R6W, Sec 1</p>	<p>A DNA has been prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in February, 2006.</p>	<p>Alan Corbin (683-6792)</p>
<p>Last Hurrah Restoration Project- Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan and EIS, this project would treat forest stands to accelerate the development of late-successional forest structure. A density management thinning is being considered for this 170 acre project area.</p>	<p>T19S, R6W, Sections 23, 21, and 19</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in July, 2006, pending findings in the DNA.</p>	<p>Alan Corbin (683-6795)</p>
<p>Trivial Tempest Restoration Project - Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan and EIS, this project would treat forest stands to accelerate the development of late-successional forest structure. A density management thinning is being considered for this 170 acre project area.</p>	<p>T20S, R6W, Sections 1 and 13</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2007, pending findings in the DNA.</p>	
<p>Non Commercial Silvicultural Projects - LSR 267-Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan and EIS, this project would treat forest stands to accelerate the development of late-successional forest structure. A variety of silvicultural treatments would be applied to young, noncommercially aged stands in LSR 267. Tree densities would be reduced to provide growing space to allow trees to develop large live crowns and large limbs, and to promote a multi-layered understory. Snags and coarse woody debris would be created. Underplanting of shade tolerant conifer trees would also occur.</p>	<p>T19S, R5W; T19S, R6W; T19S, R7W; T20S, R5W; T20S, R6W; T20S, R7W.</p>	<p>Treatments on approximately 705 acres were completed in FY2005. Field inventories and interdisciplinary team reviews are underway on approximately 1,000 acres to check current stand conditions and design the work for 2006. A DNA is being prepared, and the silvicultural practices will be implemented under a service contract in early spring, summer, and fall, 2006, pending findings of the DNA.</p>	<p>Richard Kelly (683-6405)</p>

Siuslaw Stew Stewardship Project - Under the Proposed Action, a stewardship project is being considered for approximately 2,000 acres in LSR 267. Tiered to the Upper Siuslaw Late-Successional Reserve Restoration Plan and EIS, the proposed action would include approximately 25 acres of commercial thinning, pre-commercial thinning, culvert replacement and removal, weed treatments, snag and coarse woody debris creation, and road decommissioning.	T19S, R6W, Section 21, 27, 28, 29	A DNA is being prepared. Pending results of the DNA, proposals for bid would be solicited in August, 2006, and a contract awarded in September, 2006	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Whittaker Creek Water System Pipeline Replacement - The proposed action would upgrade the drinking water drainage system for the hand water pump within the Whittaker Creek Recreation Site. The hand pump is currently not compliant with the Oregon Administrative Rules 333-061-0050 (2)(a)(F). The project would replace the existing 20’ drain pipe with the required 100’ pipe, ending west of campsite 4. Work would include digging a ditch for the new pipe with a ditch digger within a bushy area. The project would occur while the campground is closed to the public	T18S, R8W, Section 21	A CE was prepared. The project will be implemented before the campground is open to the public in 2006.	Saundra Miles (683-6227)
Vehicle Barrier Replacement - The proposed action is to replace the existing vehicle barriers in both the Clay and Whittaker Creek Recreation Sites with new ones meeting safety standards. The project would occur at Clay Creek between February 28, and March 31, 2006 and at Whittaker Creek between August 5 and October 30, 2006.	T18S, R8W, Section 21 T19S, R7W, Section 19	A CE was prepared. The first segment of the project is scheduled for implementation in the late winter, 2006 (before it is open to the public). The second segment is scheduled for the late camping season during periods of low attendance.	Saundra Miles (683-6227)
Whittaker Creek Access Improvement and Retaining Wall Construction – This action includes grading an existing ramp to a footbridge to make it accessible to mobility impaired visitors, and to construct a retaining wall behind an existing toilet to prevent erosion.	T18S, R8W, Section 21	A CE was prepared. The project will be implemented during the summer of 2006.	Saundra Miles (683-6227)
Hawley Creek Culvert Replacement -A culvert failure on BLM controlled road 20-4-7.1 is proposed for replacement to allow passage of all aquatic species and meet 100-year design flow criteria. A temporary bridge was installed to provide for vehicle traffic.	T20S, R4W, Sec 7, NE ¼	A Categorical Exclusion review was completed April 20, 2005. The new culvert installation is planned for the summer months of 2006.	Leo Poole (683-6289)
Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Wolf Creek Watershed			
None at this time			
Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Long Tom Watershed			
West Eugene Wetlands Project Scheduling -BLM is developing a long term project implementation schedule for its parcels within	West Eugene Wetlands	An environmental assessment was prepared and released for public review in October,	Rick Colvin (683-6659)

<p>the West Eugene Wetlands. This schedule will show where and when resource management activities would occur over the next 10 years.</p>		<p>2005. No comments were received. A final decision was made in December, 2005.</p>	
<p>Tsanchiifin Walk Trail Improvements - FY 05 Timber Recreation Pipeline funds (5830) funds will be utilized to develop engineering and design drawings for the Tsal Luk-wah “<i>River of Grass</i>” Prairie interpretive site that includes an existing walking trail - referred to as the Tsanchiifin Walk. The trail includes a section of the Fern Ridge Bike Path and the Willamette Daisy Meadow that together create a loop trail. The trail is located within a short walking distance of the proposed West Eugene Wetlands Education Center and will serve as an outdoor extension of the exhibit hall where visitors can observe and experience the dynamics of the wet prairie ecosystem.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A CE is expected to be completed in the Spring, 2006. The project would be implemented in the Summer, 2006.</p>	<p>Rick Colvin (683-6659) Pat Johnston (520-2159)</p>
<p>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Wildcat and Lake Creek Watershed</p>			
<p>None at this time</p>			

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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