

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

*Eugene District Office*

**BLM**



*October 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'd like to introduce myself as your new Eugene District Manager. Arriving in August, I came to this position after serving as Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest. I look forward to working with local community members and hard working district employees to address the challenges facing the District. I am pleased to report that we were able to deliver on our promised targets in fiscal year 2006. We met our goals in the timber sale program and did so without the controversy of protest and appeals. We implemented dozens of restoration projects approved by our Resource Advisory Council. We expanded partnerships with Watershed Councils and at the West Eugene Wetlands. In addition, we hosted two National Public Lands Day events and provided the opportunity for hundreds of people to participate as volunteers. Several important issues will be addressed by our staff in the coming year. The five Western Oregon Districts, including Eugene, are revising their Resource Management Plans (RMP's). The Planning Team is in the final steps of developing the alternatives to be analyzed in the Plans. The draft RMP is expected to be released for public comment in early 2007. Additional information on the Plan Revision can be found on page #3 of this document. Our Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) met in mid July and selected Title II projects for fiscal year 2007. There is \$ 1.7 million allocated toward a variety of projects. Additional information on the RAC can be obtained by contacting our office. We continue to work on an internal Strategic Planning Process to address issues related to budget, staffing, and business practices in Oregon/Washington. I know we will face many challenges in the coming year. But, I believe our staff with your assistance will find unique ways to solve problems and meet the issues that are ahead. I look forward to meeting with you and discussing our goals for managing the lands on the District.

This document exists in two forms – the electronic version on our web page and this companion document printed on paper. You can view this document at any time and also get additional information on issues related to the Eugene District by visiting our website:

[www.blm.gov/or/districts/eugene/index.htm](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/eugene/index.htm).

We will continue to send you printed copies of this document unless you request to be removed from our mailing list. If you do not need a hard copy, you can help us reduce our overhead expenses and printing and postage costs by having your name removed from the District's extensive mailing list. Contact Mark Wilkening on my staff, at 541-683-6963 or at [mark\\_wilkening@blm.gov](mailto:mark_wilkening@blm.gov).

Ginnie Grilley, 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 take 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) and the Planning Criteria and State Director Guidance has been completed. Both documents can be viewed at [www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr](http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr).

The planning team is currently working on the affected environment, the planning alternatives and the environmental impacts of those alternatives. These will be displayed in the draft RMP/EIS (Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement) which 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 [orwopr@blm.gov](mailto:orwopr@blm.gov), or mail to P.O. Box 2965, Portland OR 97208, or contact Wayne Elliott at the Eugene District Office (541) 683-6989, [wayne\\_elliott@blm.gov](mailto:wayne_elliott@blm.gov).

## **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
<p><b>Warner Roost</b>-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.” The project also includes a 30 acre pre-commercial thin, which would have a separate decision record.</p>	<p>T. 15S., R.2W., Sections 21 and 29</p>	<p>Work on an environmental assessment was completed in July 2005. A decision on the pre-commercial thin was made in June 2006, while a decision on the rest of the project is expected in 2007.</p>	<p>Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)</p>
<p><b>Teeter Creek</b> - 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.</p>	<p>T. 21 S., R. 02W</p>	<p>Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. A decision was made in the Spring 2006. Implementation began in August 2006.</p>	<p>Chuck Vostal (683 -6454)</p>
<p><b>McGowan/Parson’s Project</b>- 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. This project also proposes aquatic habitat restoration and road improvements in the McGowan and Parsons Creek Watersheds.</p>	<p>T. 15 S., R2W., Sections 5 and 7</p>	<p>Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. Two decisions are expected; one decision will cover the aquatic restoration portions and the other decision will cover the timber harvest. Both of those decisions will be made in 2007.</p>	<p>Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)</p>
<p><b>Shotgun OHV Trail System Modifications</b> – This project proposes to improve the Shotgun Trail System through trail reconstruction, trail closure, signing changes, and facility</p>	<p>Designated Shotgun OHV Trail System</p>	<p>Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. The comment period ended June 30, 2006. A</p>	<p>Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)</p>

enhancements.		decision is expected in Fall 2006.	
<b>Mohawk East</b> - 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. This project also proposes aquatic restoration and road improvements.	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 has ended. The EA was made available for public review in August of 2006. A decision is expected in 2007.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
<b>Storm Damaged Road Repair</b> - This project proposes to repair 4 road sites damaged by January 2006 storms. This would include culvert removal/replacement and road decommissioning.	Upper Willamette Resource Area	NEPA work will begin in Fall 2006.	Diana Bus (683-6450)
<b>Camp Run Timber Sale</b> - This project proposes to treat 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. This project also proposes aquatic restoration and road improvements.	T. 16 S R. 01 W., Sections 35, 27, 25 T. 16S R. 01 E., Section 31	Work on an Environmental Analysis will begin in October 2006.	Christie Hardenbrook (683 – 6110)
<b>Brush Creek Aquatic Restoration</b> – This project proposes enhance and restore aquatic and riparian areas, including restoration of road-stream crossings, located on BLM and Weyerhaeuser lands in the Brush Creek Drainage.	T.15 S., R. 01 W., Sections 2, 3 T. 14 S., R. 01 W., Sections 33, 34	Work on an Environmental Analysis will begin in Winter 2007.	Chuck Vostal (683-6454)
<b>Weyco Quarry</b> – This project analyzes a request by Weyerhaeuser Company to expand a Weyerhaeuser quarry onto BLM land. No drilling or blasting would be required.	T. 16 S., R. 01 E., Section 23.	NEPA work will begin in Winter 2007	David Mattson (684-6481)

<b>TABLE 2: Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects</b>			
<b>Name/Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Planning Status</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Lake Creek Watershed</b>			
<b>Ben Lane Thin</b> - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 313 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project area is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R6W, Section 7 T15S, R7W, Sections 12 and 13 Northeast of Hult Pond	A DNA was prepared. The timber was sold in August, 2006.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)
<b>White Bark Thin</b> - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 240 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project area is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R7W, Sections 10, 15, and 16 North of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in November, 2007, pending findings in the DNA.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)
<b>Poolside Thin</b> – Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 450 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R7W, Sections 14, 15, 22, and 23, northwest of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in March, 2007, pending findings in the DNA.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)
<b>Billy Tower Thin</b> - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 370 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R7W, Sections 14 and 15, northwest of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in July, 2007, pending findings in the DNA.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)
<b>Nutmeg Thin</b> - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project environmental assessment, this project would commercially thin approximately 230 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The project is in the Matrix and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.	T15S, R7W, Sections 8, 15, 16, and 17, northwest of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in November 2007, pending findings in the DNA.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)
<b>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Siuslaw Watershed</b>			
<b>Last Hurrah Restoration Project-</b> 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.	T19S, R6W, Sections 23, 21, and 19	A DNA has been prepared; the timber was sold in July, 2006.	Alan Corbin (683-6795)
<b>Trivial Tempest Restoration Project</b> - 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	T20S, R6W, Sections 1 and 13	A DNA is being prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2007, pending findings in the DNA.	

area.			
<b>Non Commercial Silvicultural Projects - LSR 267</b> -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 20-40 year old aged stands in LSR 267. Tree densities would be reduced to provide growing space and 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.	T19S, R5W; T19S, R6W; T19S, R7W; T20S, R5W; T20S, R6W; T20S, R7W.	Field inventories are completed to check current stand conditions. Interdisciplinary team reviews are conducted on each unit. A DNA was signed in July 2006, for 640 acres. The silvicultural treatments will be implemented under a service contract in fall 2006. The Siuslaw Resources Area is planning silvicultural treatments on approximately 1,000 acres in LSR 267 during 2007. DNAs for this work will be completed in January and August.	Richard Kelly (683-6405)
<b>Siuslaw Stew Stewardship Project</b> - 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	A DNA has been prepared. The solicitation was advertised in September 2006. Due to a lack of acceptable offers, we plan on re-advertising the solicitation in November, 2006.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
<b>Hawley Creek Culvert Replacement</b> -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 was completed April 20, 2005. The new culvert installation was completed in August of 2006.	Leo Poole (683-6289)
<b>Road Decommissioning</b> - Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan and EIS, this project will decommission roads that have the potential to deliver sediment to streams and those roads that are located adjacent to late successional habitat.	Road numbers: 19-6-19.2; 19-6-21.1; 19-6-21.5; 19-6-35.6; 20-5-31.2; 20-5-33.1; 20-7-14.2	A DNA was prepared. All work has been completed.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
<b>Old Culvert Pickup</b> - Old culverts that were removed and left on site will be removed under this Title II-funded project.	LSR 267 planning area, Wolf Creek drainage, Wildcat Creek drainage	This action is considered a part of regular road maintenance. All planned culvert pick ups were completed in August 2006.	Leo Poole (683-6289)
<b>OxDeer Culvert Removal</b> – An aquatic species barrier is to be removed per agreement 2812 E-142 EO-03 in road 20-7-3.1 during August and September of 2006.	T18S, R7W, Section 3, NW ¼	A DNA was prepared; the culvert was removed and the road beyond closed in August 2006.	Leo Poole (683-6289)
<b>Camp and Doe Creek Culvert Mitigations</b> – Rock structures are to be placed below fish barriers here to allow adult passage during migration periods.	T20S, R6W, Section 25 T20S, R7W, Section 25	A DNA was prepared; all actions were completed in August of 2006.	Leo Poole (683-6289)

<p><b>Spawning Gravel Placements</b> - A Stone Slinger will be used to place salmon spawning gravels in Leopold and Esmond Creeks.</p>	<p>T19S, R8W, Section 17, 21</p>	<p>This action was discussed in EA OR090-00-14. All spawning gravel placements were completed in September of 2006.</p>	<p>Leo Poole (683-6289)</p>
<p><b>Whittaker Creek Recreation Site Improvements</b> – A number of improvements are planned for this recreation site, including wooden vehicle barrier posts will be replaced; the Old Growth Ridge Trail will be rerouted around a landslide that occurred in 2005; speed bumps will be installed on campground roads; the picnic table and fire ring will be replaced at the ADA site and a path will be constructed from site to bathrooms to comply with ADA standards; a creek-side ADA picnic area will be developed; an ADA compliant path will be constructed from the footbridge to the parking lot and an ADA parking spot will be designated; existing and missing signs will be replaced as needed and the fee station kiosk will be replaced; a sewage holding tank will be installed next to the host site.</p>	<p>Whittaker Creek Recreation Site, T18S, R8W, section 21</p>	<p>Categorical exclusions will be prepared for each project as needed; the improvements are scheduled to be implemented during the summer of 2007.</p>	<p>Christi Oliver (683-6580)</p>
<p><b>Clay Creek Recreation Site Improvements</b> - The old playground equipment will be replaced and manufactured climbing boulders will be installed; speed bumps will be installed on campground roads; the picnic table and fire ring will be replaced at the ADA site and a path will be constructed from site to bathrooms to comply with ADA standards; existing and missing signs will be replaced as needed and the fee station kiosk will be replaced.</p>	<p>Clay Creek Recreation Site, T19S, R7W, section 19</p>	<p>Categorical exclusions will be prepared for each project as needed; the improvements are scheduled to be implemented during the summer of 2007.</p>	<p>Christi Oliver (683-6580)</p>
<p><b>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Wolf Creek Watershed</b></p>			
<p> </p>			
<p><b>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Long Tom Watershed</b></p>			
<p><b>Tsanchiifin Walk Trail Improvements</b> - 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 improvement project includes the installation of interpretive signs, bike racks, and the hardening of the existing trail. The trail is located 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 was completed in the Spring, 2006. Initial trail improvements will be completed by the onset of winter rains, and further implementation may occur, as funds become available, into 2007.</p>	<p>Rick Colvin (683-6659) Pat Johnston (520-2159)</p>

<p><b>West Eugene Wetlands Bank Mitigation Project</b> – The Proposed Action is to continue to work cooperatively with the City of Eugene to implement management actions on BLM wetland parcels with existing Mitigation Improvement Plans (MIP). The goal for these BLM sites (with MIPs) is to continue to control invasive species and maintain the prairie systems by utilizing different maintenance treatments. The treatments being proposed will be implemented during June through December of 2007.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared. Pending results of the DNA, the schedule of work shall commence starting this June through December, 2007.</p>	<p>Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790) Eric Wold (682-4888)</p>
<p><b>West Eugene Wetlands Western Pond Turtle Project</b> – The Proposed Action is to work cooperatively with the US Army Corps of Engineers &amp; Oregon Herpetological Society to install monitoring/nesting platforms for western pond turtles in the Amazon diversion channel and the A-3 channel in Meadowlark Prairie. The platforms will be in the channel during June through October, 2007. Platforms will be removed before the fall rainy season commences in 2007.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A CE is being prepared. Implementation will begin in June, 2007.</p>	<p>Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790)</p>
<p><b>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Wildcat and Lake Creek Watershed</b></p>			
<p>Nothing at this time</p>			

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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