

**Eugene District
Bureau of Land Management
“Eye to the Future”
Planning Update
February 2009**



Eugene District Office

February 2009

BLM

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. By keeping you informed of the Eugene District's planning proposals 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.

Special Notice: To better conserve resources and begin transitioning to a new national BLM planning process, we are changing to electronic delivery of the *Planning Update*. In the future, we will be sending an email notification and link to the update so that you may access it from our website at the time of publication. If you wish to receive this notice electronically, please provide our office with your email address by sending an email to: OR_Eugene_Mail@blm.gov. If you wish to continue receiving a paper update, please confirm your address by email or a written note sent ence to our office at Bureau of Land Management, Eugene District Office, P.O. Bo 10226, Eugene, OR 97440. If you currently receive a paper update and choose not to reply, we will remove your name from the distribution list. This change will be effective with the next *Planning Update* in June 2009.

We have begun to implement the Eugene District Resource Management Plan (RMP) as approved through the Western Oregon Plan Revision process. The Record of Decision (ROD) on the Plan was approved and signed on December 30, 2008. Copies of the RMP are available at the Eugene District Office. The website for the RMP is <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr/rod/index.php>

Revision of a resource management plan involves a transition from the application of the old RMP to the application of the new RMP. A transition from the old resource management plan to the new resource management plan avoids disruption of the management of BLM-administered lands and allows the BLM to utilize work already begun on the planning and analysis of projects. The 2008 ROD allowed for such projects to be implemented consistent with the management direction of either the 1995 RMP or the 2008 RMP, at the discretion of the decisionmaker. Decision documents for NEPA documents that were developed under the 1995 RMP will describe the elements that are consistent with the 1995 RMP but not the 2008 RMP through a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA). The 2008 ROD anticipated these inconsistencies and projected they would not alter the analysis of effects in the associated final environmental impact statement.

On another topic, Public Law 110-343, The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 was signed in October 2008. Title VI of the law contains a re-authorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. The stated purpose of the reauthorization includes stabilizing and transitioning payments to counties to provide funding for schools and roads that supplements other available funds. This temporary extension of 2008 Act is intended to provide a financial bridge to prepare for the eventual loss of the program. The annual payment amount will decrease each year during the re-authorization until 2011 when the reauthorization expires and payments cease.

Title II of the re-authorization provides for investments in watershed restoration projects. The Eugene Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) meets annually to recommend to the Eugene District Manager which projects to fund. The Eugene RAC will meet June 11, 2009 in order to carry-out their assigned duties. These meetings are open to the public. For more information on this process and to nominate Title II projects go to the Eugene District web site www.edo.or.blm.gov or contact the Eugene Office at (541) 683-6600.

Thank you for your continued interest in public land management.

Ginnie Grilley
Eugene District Manager

Abbreviations and Definitions

Administratively Withdrawn Areas - One of the six land use designations in the 2008 Resource Management Plan. These lands are withdrawn from the harvest land base for specific reasons including the following: recreation sites, areas not suitable for sustainable timber production, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, areas dedicated to specific purposes such as roads and buildings, sites designated for species management not included in other land use allocations (i.e. bald eagles).

CX - 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).

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.

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.

LSMA – Late Successional Management Area - One of the six land use designations in the 2008 Resource Management Plan. These lands are managed for northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat.

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.

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).

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

RR – Riparian Reserves - One of the seven Federal land designations set forth in the Northwest Forest Plan. These reserves are managed for the aquatic conservation strategy objectives.

RMA – Riparian Management Area - One of the 6 land use designations in the 2008 Resource Management Plan – These lands are managed primarily for special status fish and aquatic species and for water quality.

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

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

Upper Willamette Resource Area Proposed Projects			
Name/Description	Location	Planning Status	Contact
McKenzie Tribs Project – This project proposes to initiate forest management activities on approximately 1000 acres. These activities may include timber harvest, aquatic habitat restoration, and road management activities (improvement, construction, and decommissioning. The land use allocations under the new RMP are TMA, RMA and Administratively Withdrawn for Bald Eagle Habitat Management. The previous land use allocations were Matrix, Riparian Reserve and Bald Eagle Habitat Area.	T16S, R1E, Secs. 33, 25 and 35	An environmental assessment has been completed and was made available for public comment in Fall 2007. Decision documents are expected in February 2009.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Seeley Creek Thinning – This project proposes to thin approximately 800 acres within the Mohawk watershed. This project is located adjacent to designated trails within the Shotgun Off-Highway Vehicle Area. Activities may include aquatic restoration and road management actions. The land use allocations under the new RMP are TMA and RMA. The previous land use allocations were Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T15S, R1W, Secs. 7 and 19; T15S, R2W, Secs. 13 and 24	An environmental assessment has been completed and was made available for public review in Summer 2008. A decision is expected in Spring 2009.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Calapooya II/ Big Fir Spur - – This project proposes to initiate forest	T14S, R2W, Secs. 34	An environmental assessment has been	Christie

management activities on approximately 470 acres. These activities may include timber harvest, aquatic habitat restoration, and road management activities (improvement, construction, and decommissioning. The land use allocations under the new RMP are TMA and RMA. The previous land use allocations were Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	and 35 T14S, R1E, Sec. 35	completed and was made available for public review in Fall 2008. A decision is expected in Summer 2009.	Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Warner Roost Salvage – The Warner Roost Timber Sale (EA-05-07) was recently logged. Subsequently, a wind event caused some trees to blow down. This project proposes to salvage some of the windthrown trees.	T15S, R2W, Secs. 21 and 29	A review is scheduled to determine if this action is categorically excluded from NEPA analysis or if it will require an EA.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
2010 Thinning Project - This project proposes to thin approximately 1500 acres in the Row River and Big River watersheds. Other activities may include aquatic restoration and road management actions. The land use allocations under the new RMP are TMA and RMA. The previous land use allocations were Matrix and Riparian Reserve. Proposed project acres would also include designated northern spotted owl Critical Habitat. Treatments on these acres would be designed to accelerate or enhance the Primary Constituent Elements of Critical Habitat	T23S, R3W, Secs. 13 and 15; T22S, R4W, Sec. 13; T22S, R3W, Sec. 9; T21S, R2W, Sec. 27	Work on an environmental assessment has begun. The EA is scheduled to be made available for public review in Summer 2009.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Fall Creek Project – This project proposes to regeneration harvest approximately 400 acres in the Fall and Little Fall Creek Watersheds. Other project activities may include riparian reserve thinning, aquatic restoration and road management actions. The land use allocations under the new RMP are TMA and RMA. The previous land use allocations were Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T18S, R1E, Secs. 24 and 25; T19S, 1E, Sec. 13; T19S, 1E, Secs. 2 and 11.	Work on environmental assessment is scheduled to begin in the Spring 2009.	Richard Hardt (683-6690)
Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects			
Tower Canyon Thin – Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project EA, this project would commercially thin approximately 290 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The land use allocations under the new RMP are LSMA and RMA. The previous land use allocations were Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T15S, R7W, Secs. 12, 13, and 14, northwest of Hult Pond	A DNA has been prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for re-auction in March 2009.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
East Chinkapin Thin – Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project EA, this project would commercially thin approximately 140 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The land use allocations under the new RMP are LSMA and RMA. The previous land use allocations were Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T15S, R6W, Sec. 19; T15S, R7W, Sec. 24, west of Hult Pond	A DNA had been prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for re-auction in March 2009.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Prairie Road - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project EA, this project would commercially thin approximately 140 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The land use allocations under the new RMP are TMA and RMA. The previous land use allocations were LSMA and Riparian Reserve.	T15S, R7W Sec15&16, NW of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in March 2009, pending findings in the DNA.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)

West 18th - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project EA, this project would commercially thin approximately 490 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The land use allocations under the new RMP are LSMA and RMA. The previous land use allocations were Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T15S,R6W Sec7/17/18, T15S,R7W Sec12/13, NE of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in October 2009, pending findings in the DNA.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Liebo Canyon - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project EA, this project would commercially thin approximately 85 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The land use allocations under the new RMP are LSMA and RMA. The previous land use allocations were Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T15S, R6W Sec19 NE of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in February 2010, pending findings in the DNA.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Trip West - Pursuant to the North Lake Creek Thinning Project EA, this project would commercially thin approximately 415 acres in the North Lake Creek planning area. The land use allocations under the new RMP are LSMA and RMA. The previous land use allocations were Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T15S, R6W Sec17 NE of Hult Pond	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in February 2010, pending findings in the DNA.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Ten High Density Management Study -- BLM is planning to re-thin this 325 acre research site as part of a continuing effort to evaluate silvicultural methods intended to promote development of late-successional forest structure. The land use allocations under the new RMP are LSMA and RMA.	T15S, R7W, Sec 10 & 15	An environmental assessment is currently being prepared.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan – BLM is planning a program to treat forested stands in the Upper Siuslaw 5 th Field Watershed. Stands in the LSMA would be considered for thinning to accelerate development of late-successional forest characteristics. Stands in the TMA would be considered for timber harvest to produce a sustainable supply of forest products to the economy.	Upper Siuslaw 5 th Field Watershed, excluding the area covered under the “Upper Siuslaw Late-Successional Reserve Restoration Plan” and EIS.	The EA was released for a 30 day public comment period on December 10, 2008.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Stone Pony 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. Thinning is being considered for this 410 acre project area. The land use allocations under the new RMP are LSMA, TMA, and RMA. The previous land use allocation was LSR.	T20S, R5W, Sec. 7; T20S, R6W, Secs. 9, 15, 19, 21, and 29; T20S, R7W, Sec. 3;	A DNA has been prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for re-auction in March 2009.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Bear West 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. Thinning is being considered on approximately 750 acres. The land use allocations under the new RMP are LSMA, TMA and RMA. . The previous land use allocation was LSR.	T20S, R7W, Secs.1, 5, 11, 15; T20S, R6.5W, Sec.1; T19S, R7W, Sec. 35; T20S, R6W, SEC. 7	A DNA is being prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in March 2009 pending findings in the DNA.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Templeton Road Salvage – A wind event during the Fall of 2007 caused a 10 acre stand to blow down. Salvage harvest is being considered for this area. The land use allocation is TMA.	T16S, R6W, Sec. 1, approximately 4 miles NW of Cheshire.	An environmental assessment is being prepared. The timber sale is planned for auction in June 2009.	Janet Zentner (683-6795)

<p>River Camp 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. Thinning is being considered on approximately 288 acres. The land use allocations under the new RMP are TMA and RMA. The previous land use allocation was LSR.</p>	<p>T19S, R7W, Sec. 13, 23, 25; T19S, R6W, Sec. 5, 19.</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in August 2009 pending findings in the DNA.</p>	<p>Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)</p>
<p>Russell Creek - Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve (LSR 267) Restoration Plan EIS and the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan EA, this project would treat forest stands to accelerate the development of late-successional forest structure. Thinning is being considered on approximately 122 acres and approximately 149 acres under the two plans. The land use allocations under the new RMP are TMA and RMA. The previous land use allocation was LSR.</p>	<p>T19S, R5W, Sec.33</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in February 2010 pending findings in the DNA.</p>	<p>Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)</p>
<p>Farman Flats – Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan environmental assessment this project would thin approximately 320 acres in the planning area. The land use allocations under the new RMP are TMA and RMA. The previous land use allocations were LSR and Riparian Reserve.</p>	<p>T19S, R7W, Sec. 27</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in May 2010, pending findings in the DNA.</p>	<p>Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)</p>
<p>Long Tom Landscape Plan – BLM is preparing an environmental document to address a commercial thinning program in the Long Tom 5th Field Watershed. Commercial thinning would be applied to recover anticipated mortality; to adjust stand composition or dominance; to reduce stand susceptibility to disturbances such as fire, windstorm, disease, or insect infestation; and to improve merchantability and value. The land use allocations are TMA and RMA.</p>	<p>Long Tom 5th Field Watershed.</p>	<p>External scoping for this project will begin in February 2009. If you are interested in learning more about this process, or if you have information about important resources in this watershed, you are encouraged to contact BLM.</p>	<p>Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)</p>
<p>Hazard Tree Categorical Exclusion – A categorical exclusion was prepared for use on the Eugene District. Hazard trees occasionally need to be felled when the tree proves to be a safety hazard for people and/or property.</p>	<p>Eugene District</p>	<p>The categorical exclusion was signed on February 4, 2009.</p>	<p>Larry Larson (683-6291)</p>