

**Eugene District  
Bureau of Land Management  
“Eye to the Future”  
Project Update  
February 2007**

*Eugene District Office*

**BLM**



*February 2007*

**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 have just completed serving my sixth month as District Manager, and it has been an interesting and informative time. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many members of the local community but, I know there are many others whom I have not yet met. In the coming months, we will be scheduling introductory meetings with some of you and would welcome you to contact us if you are interested in a meeting. Several new managers have recently joined our District Leadership Team. In the Upper Willamette Area, Bill O'Sullivan takes the lead. Bill comes to our offices after serving many years on the Roseburg District. Our Division of Support Services is now directed by Vickie Gillam. Vickie has held the same position on the Salem District and will now be overseeing both Districts. The Siuslaw Area welcomes Bill Hatton as Field Manager. Bill returns to Eugene after serving for many years in Tillamook and Portland. This group continues to work on an internal Strategic Planning Process to address issues related to budget, staffing, and business practices. A part of this discussion addresses the options of consolidating some services with the Salem District and the Willamette National Forest. As you are aware, the 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 June 2007. The BLM is working closely with a private contractor to develop a unique public involvement strategy/process for addressing comments on the documents. Additional information on the Plan Revision can be found on page 4 of this document.

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. The address is:

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

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@or.blm.gov](mailto:mark_wilkening@or.blm.gov).

Ginnie Grilley, District Manager

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

### **What's Being Revised?**

BLM is revising the District Resource Management Plans for the Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg, Medford District's and Klamath Falls Field Office. These plans guide the agency's actions District's on approximately 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 to in a recent settlement agreement that BLM must revise it's current plans by December 2008.
- The controversy surrounding the implementation of the timber management portions of these 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 recovery planning efforts for threatened or endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

### **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 <http://blm.gov/or/plans/wopr>.

Currently the planning team is working on the affected environment, the planning alternatives and the environmental impacts of those alternatives. Three alternatives and the 'no action' alternative have been identified. The preferred alternative will be selected soon and will be displayed in the draft RMP/EIS (Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement). This draft RMP/EIS will released for a 90 day public comment period by mid-Summer 2007. The final RMP and ROD (Record of Decision) will be completed in the Spring 2008 after all public comments are received.

A newsletter explaining further about where we are in the process, the RMP alternatives and how to be involved in the public comment period will be mailed to interested individuals in March, 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@blm.gov](mailto:oropr@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
<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.	T. 15S., R.2W., Sections 21 and 29	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.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
<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.	T. 15 S., R2W., Sections 5 and 7	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.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
<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 enhancements.	Designated Shotgun OHV Trail System	Work on an environmental assessment has been completed. The comment period ended June 30, 2006. A decision is expected in 2007.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
<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>ERFO Roads</b> - This project proposes to repair 2 road sites damaged by January 2006 storms. This project may include culvert removal/replacement, road realignment, and road decommissioning.	Upper Willamette Resource Area	Work on an environmental assessment is currently underway. The EA will be made available for public review in April 2007, with a decision expected in May 2007.	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	T. 16 S R. 01 W., Sections 35, 27, 25 T. 16S R. 01 E.,	Work on an environmental assessment is currently underway. The EA will be made available for public review in Spring 2007. A decision is expected in 2008.	Christie Hardenbrook (683 – 6110)

aquatic restoration and road improvements.	Section 31		
<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 assessment is currently underway. The EA will be made available for public review in April 2007, with a decision expected in May 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 Summer 2007	David Mattson (684-6481)
<b>McKenzie Tribs Project</b> – 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 for these sections are Matrix, Riparian Reserve and BEHA.	T. 16S., R. 01E., sections 33, 25 and 35	NEPA work will begin in Spring 2007.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)

<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>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>Salvage Sam Blowdown Salvage</b> – Winter storms during December, 2006, created a 25-acre blowdown in the former Sammy Hill Late-Successional Reserve Density Management Project Area. BLM is considering whether or not to salvage some of the fallen logs.	T16S, R8W, Section 1, approximately 2 miles NW of Triangle Lake.	Scoping is underway and an IDT has been formed. An EA should be completed and available for public review in late spring, 2007.	Janet Zentner (683-6795)
<b>January 2006 Storm Events Road Repair</b> – BLM is planning to repair two road segments: one with subsidence damage by realignment of the roadway grade; one with culvert replacement.	T16S, R7W, Section 22 T20S, R6W, Section 20	Categorical exclusions will be prepared. The projects are scheduled to be implemented during the summer of 2007 or the summer of 2008.	Don Meckley (683-6972)
<b>Roads Construction by Transition Management, Inc</b> – Two crushed rock spur roads would be built for a total length of 0.5 mile across BLM-managed land.	T16S, R7W, Section 25	An EA is being prepared. The project is scheduled to be implemented during the summer of 2007.	Don Meckley (683-6972)
<b>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Siuslaw Watershed</b>			
<b>Upper Siuslaw Landscape Plan</b> - BLM is planning a program to treat forested stands in the Upper Siuslaw 5 <sup>th</sup> Field Watershed. The planning area contains both Matrix and Late-Successional Reserve Land Use Allocations. Young stands in LSR (<80 years old) would be considered for thinning to accelerate development of late-successional forest characteristics. Matrix stands would be considered	Upper Siuslaw 5 <sup>th</sup> Field Watershed, excluding the area covered under the “Upper Siuslaw Late-Successional Reserve Restoration Plan” and EIS.	Scoping is underway. 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.	Rick Colvin (683-6659)



<p>for timber harvest to produce a sustainable supply of forest products to the economy.</p>			
<p><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 area.</p>	<p>T20S, R6W, Sections 1 and 13</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared; the timber sale is scheduled for auction in August, 2007, pending findings in the DNA.</p>	
<p><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.</p>	<p>T19S, R5W; T19S, R6W; T19S, R7W; T20S, R5W; T20S, R6W; T20S, R7W.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Richard Kelly (683-6405)</p>
<p><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.</p>	<p>T19S, R6W, Section 21</p>	<p>A DNA has been prepared. The solicitation was advertised in September 2006. Due to a lack of acceptable offers, we re-advertised the solicitation in November, 2006. Acceptable bids were received and the contract will be awarded in early Spring, 2007.</p>	<p>Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)</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>January 2006 Storm Events Road Repair</b> – BLM plans to repair of four road segments that sustained slip-out damage by realignment of the roadway.</p>	<p>T18S, R8W, Section 25 T20S, R6W, Section 20</p>	<p>Categorical exclusions will be prepared. The projects are scheduled to be implemented during the summer of 2007 or the summer of 2008.</p>	<p>Don Meckley (683-6972)</p>
<p><b>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Long Tom Watershed</b></p>			
<p><b>West Eugene Wetlands Project Scheduling</b> - Pursuant to the West Eugene Wetlands environmental assessment, BLM proposes to implement five actions which include the control of woody vegetation encroachment, the control of invasive species, reduce litter and thatch, maintain native species cover, and maintain suitable habitat for the western pond turtle.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared for 2007 for maintenance activities which would treat approximately 600 acres. Pending results of the DNA, the implementation phase is scheduled to commence May through December.</p>	<p>Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790)</p>
<p><b>West Eugene Wetlands Hansen Project</b> -Pursuant to the West Eugene Wetlands environmental assessment, BLM proposes to implement five actions which include the control of woody vegetation encroachment, the control invasive species, reduce litter and thatch, maintain native species cover, and maintain suitable habitat for the western pond turtle on approximately 140 acres known as the Hansen parcel.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared. Pending results of the DNA, the implementation phase is scheduled to commence May through December.</p>	<p>Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790)</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 and in progress Mitigation Improvement Plans (MIP). These BLM parcels are all located within the West Eugene Wetlands project area in West Eugene, Oregon. 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 May through December of 2007.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A DNA is being prepared for 2007 which would treat approximately 60 acres. Pending results the schedule of work shall commence May through December 2007.</p>	<p>Sally Villegas – Moore (683-6790) Eric Wold (682-4888)</p>
<p><b>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects-Wildcat and Lake Creek Watershed</b></p>			
<p>Nothing at this time</p>			

UNITED STATES  
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