

**Eugene District
Bureau of Land Management
Planning Update
December 2015**

Eugene District Office

BLM



December 2015

Public Lands: Use, Share, Appreciate



A Note from the District Manager

This document provides updates on the status of projects and is designed to serve as a scoping tool for upcoming projects on the Eugene District. If you would like to provide issues, concerns, or opportunities relative to one or more of the projects, I encourage you to contact the listed project lead. For some of the projects listed we have conducted or will be conducting additional scoping based on our knowledge of the project and potentially interested parties.

Thank you for your continued interest in public land management.

Kathryn Stangl
Eugene District Manager

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Abbreviations and Definitions

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-Determination of 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.

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.

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.

Name/Description	Locations	Planning Status	Contact
Eugene District Projects			
<p>Valley Fringe WUI Project – This project proposes fuels reduction treatments which may reduce the threat of wildfire in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and improve habitat conditions for fire-dependent species. Actions considered include burning of meadows; underburning stands that include oak or ponderosa pine; conifer pruning; thinning of small-diameter conifers; piling and burning of slash; removal of small-diameter material for biomass; and mastication of brush and slash.</p>	<p>District-wide: BLM-administered lands identified as wildland-urban interface in the Lane County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.</p>	<p>Work on an environmental assessment is currently underway.</p>	<p>Eric Johnson (541) 683-6484</p>
<p>Invasive Vegetation Treatments – This project proposes the use of herbicides to slow the spread of noxious and other weeds and invasive plants throughout the District. Herbicides would be one of several tools used by the District to control noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation. The EA for this proposal will tier to the state-wide “Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon” Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (ROD). Although the ROD addressed the use of up to 14 herbicides in western Oregon, the Eugene District EA will consider a proposed action to allow the District to use 4 herbicides in its vegetation treatment programs.</p>	<p>District-wide, except for the West Eugene Wetlands.</p>	<p>Work on an environmental assessment has been suspended until further notice.</p>	<p>Pat Johnston (541) 751-4475</p>
<p>Special Recreation Permits – A programmatic approach is being used to prepare this NEPA document for permits issued in known activity areas for low impact recreational activities.</p>	<p>District-wide: BLM-administered recreation sites.</p>	<p>A CX is being prepared</p>	<p>Sharmila Premdas (541)683-6794</p>
<p>Botanical Restoration Treatments - Eugene District T&E species and Bureau Sensitive plants seed and propagule collection and augmentation.</p>	<p>District-wide: BLM-administered lands.</p>	<p>A CX is being prepared</p>	<p>Cheshire Mayrsohn (541)683-6407</p>

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Upper Willamette Resource Area Projects			
<p>Lost Creek EA – This project proposes to implement commercial thinning on up to 700 acres (including density management in Riparian Reserves) and regeneration harvest up to 150 acres. The project would also include culvert replacements, road renovation, road construction, and road decommissioning. The project is within Matrix (General Forest Management Area (GFMA) and Connectivity) and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.</p>	<p>T19S R02W Secs 35 & 25; T20S R02W Secs 1 & 13; T19S R01W Sec 31, T20S R01W Secs 07, 09, 13, 15, 17, 21, & 23; and T20S R01E Secs 19 & 29</p>	<p>The EA was issued in September 2015. The first two Decisions were issued in November 2015 and two protest letters were received on each Decision. Additional Decisions are expected in 2016</p>	<p>Kristine Struck (541) 683-6469</p>
<p>Big Blow Quarry EA –This project proposed to develop a community pit rock quarry in T20S R2W sec. 13. Material from the quarry would produce crushed rock to be used in the surfacing and resurfacing of neighboring BLM roads. Additionally, some of the rock may be sold through mineral material sales in the future. The proposed quarry is located at the end of an existing road in a largely unvegetated area. The proposed quarry site has been listed in BLM inventories as a community pit for several decades but no NEPA analysis or development has previously occurred.</p>	<p>T20S R2W Sec 13</p>	<p>Project design and an EA are currently underway. A decision is expected in 2016.</p>	<p>Kristine Struck (541) 683-6469</p>
<p>Coast Dorena EA – This project proposes to implement commercial thinning on up to 950 acres (including density management in Riparian Reserves). The project would also include culvert replacements, road renovation, road construction, and road decommissioning. The project is within Matrix (General Forest Management Area (GFMA) and Connectivity) and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.</p>	<p>T19S R2W Secs 31 & 33; T20S R2W Secs 3, 13, 19 & 23; T20S R3W Sec 1</p>	<p>Project design and an EA are currently underway. Decisions are expected in 2016 and 2017.</p>	<p>Kristine Struck (541) 683-6469</p>

Name/Description	Locations	Planning Status	Contact
Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects			
<p>Steam Donkey Echo – Actions being considered include regeneration harvest, commercial thinning and density management on approximately 200 acres. Land use allocations include Matrix, Late Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve.</p>	T18S, R7W, Sec. 9 & 23	An Environmental Assessment has been prepared, the Decision Record was signed on November 18, 2015. A timely protest letter was received by the BLM.	Sharmila Premdas (541)683-6794
<p>Letz Ride EA – Planning for this thinning project is in the preliminary stages, scoping has begun and a public meeting is also being considered. The area overlaps the Carpenter Bypass trail system. Land use allocations are Matrix (Connectivity) and Riparian Reserve.</p>	T20S, R5W, Sec 23, 27 & 35	An Environmental Assessment is being prepared.	Sharmila Premdas (541)683-6794
<p>Low Down - Pursuant to the Long Tom Landscape Plan environmental assessment this is a thinning project on approximately 162 acres in the planning area. Land use allocations are Late Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve.</p>	T16S, R6W, Sec 7 and 17; T16S, R7W, Sec 1	This timber sale has been auctioned.	Sharmila Premdas (541)683-6794
<p>Hult Dam Operations and Maintenance – The operations and maintenance of Hult Pond Dam require upgrades to the infrastructure. These infrastructure upgrades are necessary for the safe operation of the dam.</p>	T15S, R7W, Sec 23	An EA will be prepared.	Sharmila Premdas (541)683-6794
<p>West Eugene Wetlands – Herbicides will be applied in experimental plots and other prairie restoration areas to control noxious weeds.</p>	T17S, R5W, Sec 24	A DNA will be prepared.	Sally Villegas (541)338-7027