

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

Eugene District Office

BLM



January 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>West Eugene Wetlands Resource Management Plan – This project proposes to adopt a resource management plan for the BLM-administered lands in the West Eugene Wetlands to contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, while providing other benefits.</p>	<p>West Eugene Wetlands</p>	<p>A final environmental impact statement and proposed resource management plan was released in November 2014 for a 30-day protest period. No protests were received. Work on a record of decision and resource management plan is currently underway.</p>	<p>Panchita Paulete (541) 683-6976</p>
<p>District Special Forest Products – The Eugene District BLM plans to permit the collection and sale of special forest products, such as personal use firewood, boughs, medicinal plants, fruits and nuts, bark, Christmas trees, and more, throughout BLM-administered lands on the Eugene District.</p>	<p>Various locations across the district.</p>	<p>A Categorical Exclusion was prepared in October 2014.</p>	<p>Sarah Bickford (541) 683-6159</p>

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Upper Willamette Resource Area Projects			
<p>The 2014 Project – This project proposes to implement a commercial thinning on approximately 1700 acres, and a regeneration harvest of approximately 200 acres. Project activities may include riparian reserve thinning, aquatic restoration, and road management actions. Land use allocations are Matrix and Riparian Reserve.</p>	<p>T15S, R1W, Sec. 17; T15S, R2W, Secs. 10, 11, 13, 15, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, & 35; T16S, R2W, Secs. 17 & 33.</p>	<p>The 2014 Thinnings EA was made available for public review November/December 2013. Drury Combo, Crooked Line, and McGowan Too Decisions were issued in 2014. North Parsons and Middle Ridge Decisions are expected in 2015.</p> <p>The Second Show EA was available for public review in April 2014. A final version of the Second Show EA was published July 2014. A decision was issued in August 2014 and the auction occurred September 2014. A lawsuit objecting to the sale was filed January 2015.</p>	<p>Panchita Paulete (541) 683-6976</p>
<p>McKenzie Landscape Project – This project proposes to implement commercial thinning and regeneration harvest on up to 1,720 acres in the Adaptive Management Area land use allocation of the RMP. The AMA was designated to test new management approaches to integrate and achieve ecological and economic health and other social objectives. It is an area where management will contribute substantially to other plan objectives including provision of a well distributed late-successional habitat outside reserves; retention of key structural elements of late successional forests on lands subjected to regeneration harvest; restoration and protection of riparian zones; and provision of stable timber supply.</p>	<p>T16S, R2E, Secs. 15, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, & 33; T16S, R3E, Secs. 30 & 31; T17S, R2E, Secs. 1 & 5; and T17S, R3E, Secs. 6, 7, 8, & 17</p>	<p>Work on an EA is currently underway. The EA is expected to be made available for public review in the Spring of 2015. Decisions are expected in 2015 and 2016.</p>	<p>Kristine Struck (541) 683-6469</p>
<p>Eagle Creek Road Crossing Restoration Project – The project would replace an undersized, fish-barrier culvert with a bridge which allows for fish passage and accommodates 100-year flood waters. The project would reduce a chronic sediment source, allow in-stream wood transport, improve water quality, and allow for fish passage.</p>	<p>T29S, R1W, Sec 11</p>	<p>Work on a DNA is currently under way. A DNA and Decision are anticipated early 2015. Implementation would occur July 2015.</p>	<p>Steve Liebhardt (541) 683-6454</p>
<p>Lost Creek EA – This project proposes to implement commercial thinning on up to 1,120 acres (including density management in Riparian Reserves) and regeneration harvest up to 450 acres. The project would also include culvert replacements, road renovation, road construction, and road decommissioning. The project is within General Forest Management Area (GFMA), 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>Work on an EA is currently underway. The EA is expected to be made available for public review in the Spring of 2015. Decisions are expected in 2015 and 2016.</p>	<p>Kristine Struck (541) 683-6469</p>

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<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 on an existing road in a largely unvegetated area.</p>	<p>T20S R2W sec. 13</p>	<p>Project design and an EA are currently underway. A decision is expected in late Spring 2015.</p>	<p>Kristine Struck (541) 683-6469</p>

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Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects			
<p>Steam Donkey Echo – This project is in the planning phase. Alternatives are currently being analyzed to implement the project. Actions being considered include regeneration and variable retention 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 is currently being prepared.	Sharmila Premdas (541)683-6794
<p>Territorial – Pursuant to the Rethin Environmental Assessment this is a thinning project on approximately 53 acres in the planning area. Land use allocations are Matrix and Riparian Reserve.</p>	T20S, R4W, Sec 31	An auction for this timber sale has been completed	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>Yellow Point Salvage CX – Approximately 16 acres are being considered for post fire recovery. Land use allocations are matrix.</p>	T20S, R7W, Sec 5 & 7	A Categorical Exclusion is being prepared.	Sharmila Premdas (541)683-6794
<p>Pataha Ridge Decision Record - Pursuant to the Rethin Environmental Assessment this is a thinning project on approximately 167 acres in the planning area. Land use allocations are Matrix, Late Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve.</p>	T18S, R7W, Sec 15 T18S, R6W, Sec 21	A Decision Record is being prepared for this timber sale.	Sharmila Premdas (541)683-6794
<p>Easement Acquisition – Drive Cable Group has applied for a new lease to place an underground cable within the existing transmission line right of way.</p>	T16S, R7W, Sec 1	A Categorical Exclusion is being prepared	Christie Hardenbrook (541)683-6110
<p>Easement Acquisition – A right of way permit will be issued for use of an existing road for timber haul. There will be no road improvement or new road construction.</p>	T16S, R8W, Sec 34 & 35	A Categorical Exclusion is being prepared	Jeff Spring (541)683-6682