

**Eugene District  
Bureau of Land Management  
Planning Update  
July 2014**

*Eugene District Office*

**BLM**



*July 2014*

**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.

Robert B. Towne  
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
<b>Eugene District Projects</b>			
<p><b>Valley Fringe WUI Project</b> – 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><b>Invasive Vegetation Treatments</b> – 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><b>West Eugene Wetlands Resource Management Plan</b> – 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>Work on a final environmental impact statement and proposed resource management plan is currently underway.</p>	<p>Panchita Paulete (541) 683-6976</p>

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<b>Upper Willamette Resource Area Projects</b>			
<p><b>Eagle Creek/Lost Creek Restoration</b> – This project proposes to install in-stream large woody debris to enhance fish habitat, protect unstable banks and floodplains, and encourage off-channel habitat. Approximately 100 trees with attached rootwads will be used to create functionally stable log jams in about 4,000 feet of channel.</p>	<p>T19S, R1W T20S, R1W</p>	<p>A DNA and Decision were available for public comment in May 2014. Implementation is ongoing during summer 2014.</p>	<p>Steve Liebhardt (541) 683-6454</p>
<p><b>Dollar Pit Expansion</b> – This project proposes to expand the Dollar Pit to supply material (gravel). The material would primarily be used for road maintenance and construction. The pit is currently located partially on BLM and partially on Weyerhaeuser lands.</p>	<p>T15S, R2W Secs. 25 &amp; 36.</p>	<p>An EA is currently being prepared and is expected to be available for public review August 2014.</p>	<p>Cheryl Adcock (541) 683-6145</p>
<p><b>South Dorena Project</b> - This project proposes to implement commercial thinning and density management projects on approximately 1600 acres. Other project activities may include thinning in Riparian Management Areas, aquatic restoration and road management actions. Land use allocations are Timber Management, Riparian Management Areas and Late –Successional Management Areas</p>	<p>T21S, R2W, Secs. 9 &amp; 15; T22S, R3W, Secs. 21 &amp; 27; T21S, R3W, Sec. 25.</p>	<p>The EA was made available for public comment in the February of 2013. Decisions for Witt Butte and Eagles Bluff were completed in August and September 2013 and the decision for Young Butte was completed July 2014..</p>	<p>Kristine Struck (541) 683-6469</p>
<p><b>The 2014 Project</b> – 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, &amp; 35; T16S, R2W, Secs. 17 &amp; 33.</p>	<p>The 2014 Thinnings EA was made available for public review November/December 2013. Crooked Line Decision is expected in May 2014.</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 is expected in September 2014.</p>	<p>Panchita Paulete (541) 683-6976</p>

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<p><b>McKenzie Landscape Project</b> – 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, &amp; 33;  T16S, R3E, Secs. 30 &amp; 31;  T17S, R2E, Secs. 1 &amp; 5;  and  T17S, R3E, Secs. 6, 7, 8, &amp; 17</p>	<p>Work on an environmental assessment is currently underway. The EA is expected to be made available for public review in the Fall of 2014. Decisions are expected in 2015 and 2016.</p>	<p>Kristine Struck  (541) 683-6469</p>

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<b>Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects</b>			
<b>Steam Donkey Echo</b> – 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	T18S, R7W, Sec. 9 & 23	This EA is currently being analyzed and prepared.	Sharmila Premdas (541) 683-6794
<b>Beaver Tribute</b> - Pursuant to the Long Tom Landscape Plan environmental assessment this is a thinning project on approximately 41 acres in the planning area. Land use allocations are Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T19S, R5W, Sec. 15, 16 & 21	A DNA was prepared. The timber sale auction occurred in June 2014.	Sharmila Premdas (541) 683-6794
<b>Ferguson Creek</b> - Pursuant to the Long Tom Landscape Plan environmental assessment this is a thinning project on approximately 112 acres in the planning area. Land use allocations are Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T15S, R6W, Sec 15	A DNA was prepared. The timber sale auction occurred in June 2014.	Sharmila Premdas (541) 683-6794
<b>Territorial</b> – 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.	T20S, R4W, Sec 31	A Decision Record is being prepared, the timber sale auction is expected in October 2014.	Sharmila Premdas (541) 683-6794
<b>Battle Axe</b> - Pursuant to the Long Tom Landscape Plan environmental assessment this is a thinning project on approximately 95 acres in the planning area. Land use allocations are Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T19S, R5W, Sec 9	A DNA is being prepared, the timber sale auction is expected in October 2014.	Sharmila Premdas (541) 683-6794
<b>South Siuslaw</b> – Planning for this project is in the very preliminary stages. Scoping for this project is expected to occur between August and October 2014 and an Environmental Assessment will be prepared later.	Not specified at this time	An Environmental Assessment will be prepared.	Sharmila Premdas (541) 683-6794
<b>Fisheries Habitat Restoration</b> – Pursuant to the 2010 Environmental Assessment for Aquatic Riparian Restoration a number of aquatic restoration projects will be implemented during the summer and fall of 2014. Projects include: fish passage culvert installations, fish ladder modifications, culvert access improvement for aquatic species, in-stream channel modifications to improve fish passage and in-stream wood placements to enhance stream complexity.	T19S, R5W, Sec 21; T16S, R7W, Sec 27; T19S, R5W, Sec 19; T19S, R6W, Sec 28; T19S, R5W, Sec 21; T20S, R5W, Sec 18; T16S, R7W, Sec 20.	A DNA has been prepared.	Leo Poole (541)683-6289