

**Eugene District
Bureau of Land Management
Planning Update
September 2009**

Eugene District Office

BLM



September 2009

Public Lands: Use, Share, Appreciate



A Note from the District Manager

For the past few years, we have prepared a planning update three times a year: in February, June, and October. The June update was delayed this year due to uncertainty about our new Resource Management Plan. In July, the Secretary of Interior withdrew the Record of Decision for the Eugene District Resource Management Plan (which was based on analysis from the Western Oregon Plan Revision process). The projects listed in this planning update are being developed in conformance with our 1995 Resource Management Plan. Our next planning update is scheduled for January 2010.

This document 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 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.

The district has received approximately \$3.5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). With this funding we plan to repair and upgrade several of our district facilities including the waterline at Shotgun Park, several culverts to improve fish passage in the Upper Siuslaw watershed, and culverts on the Row River Trail. For most of these projects we anticipate preparing a categorical exclusion. They will be listed in our next update in January. To find out more about these projects, go to <http://www.blm.gov/or/arra/index.php#eugene> or contact Emily Rice at 541-683-6776.

Thank you for your continued interest in public land management.

Ginnie Grilley
Eugene District Manager

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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Administratively Withdrawn Areas - One of the six land use designations in the 2008 Resource Management Plan. These lands are withdrawn from the harvest land base for specific reasons including the following: recreation sites, areas not suitable for sustainable timber production, Areas of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.

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.

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.

District Wide Projects			
Name/Description	Location	Planning Status	Contact
Eugene District Aquatic and Riparian Restoration Project – This project proposes to complete various aquatic and restoration activities on BLM-administered lands and non-BLM-administered lands in watersheds throughout the District, and to identify priority watersheds where restoration would be emphasized. Activities may include large wood, boulder and gravel placement, fish passage culvert and bridge replacements, reconnection of existing side channels and alcoves, head-cut stabilization, streambank restoration, reduction of recreation impacts, riparian vegetation treatments (except for hardwood conversions), riparian area invasive plant treatment (except use of herbicides), riparian exclusion fencing, and road treatments.	District-wide	An environmental assessment is currently being prepared. Scoping letters were sent out this summer. A decision is expected by Spring of 2010.	Nikki Moore (683-6189) or Richard Hardt (683-6690)
Upper Willamette Resource Area Projects			
2011 Thinning Project – This project proposes to commercially thin approximately 1800 acres in the Calapooya, Mohawk River and Lower McKenzie 5 th field watersheds. Land Use Allocations are Matrix and Riparian Reserve. The project may also include riparian reserve thinning and road management activities.	T.14S.,R1W., Sec. 31; T15S.,R1W., Secs. 9, 17, 21,22,27,29; T15S.,R2W., Secs. 1,11,15; T.16S.,R1W., Sec. 31; T.16S., R2W., Sec 21,29; T.16S.,R.3W., Sec. 13	Work on an environmental assessment is scheduled to begin in Fall 2009. Additional scoping is underway for the portion of the project area that is adjacent to the Horse Rock Ridge ACEC/RNA.	Sara Ashkannejhad (683-6935)
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 Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T18S, R1E, Secs. 24, 25; T19S, 1E, Sec. 13; T19S, 1E, Secs. 2,11.	Work began on the EA in spring 2009. This project has been put on hold.	Richard Hardt (683-6690)
2010 Thinning Project - This project proposes to thin approximately 1500 acres in the watersheds. Other activities may include aquatic restoration and road management actions. The land use allocations are Matrix and Riparian Reserve. Proposed project acres would 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, 15; T22S. R4W, Sec. 13; T22S. R3W, Sec. 9; T21S, R2W, Sec. 27	The EA was available for public review July 8 - August 4, 2009. A decision is expected in Spring 2010.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Calapooya II/ Big Fir Spur - - This project proposes to initiate forest management activities on approximately 470 acres. These activities may include timber harvest, aquatic habitat restoration, and road management activities. The land use allocations are Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T14S, R2W, Secs. 34, 35 T14S, R1E, Sec. 35	An environmental assessment was completed and made available for public review in Fall 2008. A decision is expected in October 2009.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Warner Roost Salvage – The Warner Roost Timber Sale was recently logged. Subsequently, a wind event caused some trees to blow down. This project proposed to salvage some of the windthrown trees.	T15S, R2W, Secs. 21, 29	A Categorical Exclusion was prepared in May 2009.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Seeley Creek Thinning – This project proposes to thin approximately 800	T15S, R1W, Secs. 7, 19	An environmental assessment	Christie

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 are Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T15S, R2W, Secs. 13, 24	was completed and made available for public review in Summer 2008. Two decisions were made on this project in 2009, one in May, one in August.	Hardenbrook (683-6110)
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 are Matrix, Riparian Reserve and Bald Eagle Habitat Area.	T16S, R1E, Secs. 25,33, and 35	An environmental assessment was available for public comment in Fall 2007. Two decisions were made in February 2009.	Christie Hardenbrook (683-6110)
Siuslaw Resource Area Proposed Projects			
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 are Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T15S-R6W-Sec.7,17,18, T15S-R7W-Sec.12,13, 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 are 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 are 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 are Matrix and Riparian Reserve.	T15S-R7W-Sec10&15	An environmental assessment is currently being prepared and will be available for public comment this fall.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
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.	T19S-R7W-Sec.13,23, 25; T19S-R6W-Sec.5,19.	A DNA was signed in July 2009. The timber sale was sold in August 2009.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Russell Creek - Pursuant to the Upper Siuslaw Late Successional Reserve	T19S-R5W-Sec.33	A DNA is being prepared; the	Sharmila

(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 allocation is LSR.		timber sale is scheduled for auction in February 2010 pending findings in the DNA.	Premdas (683-6794)
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 are LSR and Riparian Reserve.	T19S-R7W-Sec.27	A DNA is being prepared. The timber sale is scheduled for auction in May 2010, pending findings in the DNA.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Long Tom Landscape Plan – BLM is preparing an environmental document to address a commercial thinning and density management program in the Long Tom 5 th Field Watershed. The land use allocations are Matrix, LSR and Riparian Reserves.	Long Tom 5 th Field Watershed.	An Environmental Assessment is being prepared and will be available early in 2010.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Progeny site thinning – The Siuslaw Resource Area is preparing a categorical exclusion to thin approximately 29 acres on Matrix land under a Stewardship Contract. The thinning units consist of two progeny sites that are about 28 years old. No road construction would occur.	20S-5W-Sec.27 19S-4W-Sec.33	A categorical exclusion was prepared in August 2009.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Fireline Construction – The construction of firelines along topographic breaks is considered to be a more effective method to control fire than construction of firelines along ownership lines. Fireline construction would consist of brush removal using mechanized and non-mechanized hand tools.	Various locations in the Siuslaw Resource Area.	A categorical exclusion was prepared in August 2009.	Sharmila Premdas (683-6794)
Right of Way on Meadow Lark Prairie – This allows the City of Eugene access across BLM lands to the Amazon Channel to build a low flow retention structure on land managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, for a period of three years.	West Eugene Wetlands	A categorical exclusion was prepared in August 2009..	Sally Villegas (683-6790)
Vegetation treatments under the Ten Year Schedule EA – Treatments include control of invasive species, control of woody vegetation encroachment, maintenance of plant species diversity and maintenance of habitat for western pond turtles. Approximately 400 acres are being treated this year.	West Eugene Wetlands	A DNA was prepared in August 2009.	Sally Villegas (683-6790)