

## Secretarial Forestry Pilot Projects Update: February 18, 2010

In December 2010, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar set in motion a plan to apply the principles of ecological restoration, as suggested by Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin, on BLM lands within the Roseburg and Medford Districts. As the BLM moves forward with these pilot projects we'll be regularly posting updates about their status.

### Secretarial Pilot Project Open House:

The BLM hosted an open house to introduce the public to the Roseburg and Medford Secretarial Pilot projects on Wednesday, February 16, 2011. The meeting primarily focused on introduction of the Roseburg Pilot with Drs. Johnson and Franklin. There were roughly 60 attendees to the meeting.

Drs. Johnson and Franklin with Roseburg District Manager Jay Carlson fielded questions from members of the public during the two-hour session. Questions posed by those present ranged from the reasoning behind the choice of the Myrtle Creek watershed for the Roseburg pilot to whether or not old growth timber would be potentially logged as part of the Pilot demonstration. Many questions related to the potential economic implications of the pilots and the nature of Drs. Johnson and Franklin's methods to produce an economically viable volume of timber while at the same time meeting forest ecosystem needs.

A statement prepared by Senators Wyden and Merkley, and Congressman Peter DeFazio was read in support of the Secretarial Pilot Projects.

### Ecological Forestry Workshop:

Drs. Johnson and Franklin held a forestry workshop focusing on their proposed prescription techniques for the Secretarial Pilot Projects Thursday, February 17, 2011. An estimated 150 people attended the workshop including members of the public, various environmental and business community groups, multiple agency staff as well as representatives from the Oregon Congressional delegation.

The program reviewed the current understanding of: (1) Natural stand development and the structure and function of Pacific Northwest coniferous forests; (2) Disturbances and the nature and role of biological legacies of disturbances; (3) Nature and importance of early successional (pre-forest) ecosystems; and (4) Silvicultural applications of this science in ecological forestry, including variable retention regeneration harvesting in young Moist Forests. The goal of the program was to review some fundamentals about dry and moist forest ecosystems (with emphasis on moist forests) and increase understanding of the basis and objectives of retention harvesting.

Each lecture was followed by a question and answer session where participants were able to ask questions relating to the presented material.

### Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project Update:

Down in Medford, the Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project continued field analysis and inventory of northern spotted owl habitat. The Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project also



started planning and logistics for March 1 and 2 public meetings (time, date, and place for these events will be posted on the Events website).

### **Coos Bay Wagon Road Forest Management Pilot:**

The Coquille Indian Tribe (CIT) proposed the Coos Bay Wagon Road Forest Management Pilot to the Secretary of Interior on December 8, 2010. The Department of the Interior and BLM are reviewing the proposal, while the Tribe and the BLM continue to work closely on management activities affecting tribal forest lands. Additional details on the pilot will be shared with the public as soon as they become available.

