

Secretarial Forestry Pilot Projects Update: February 25, 2011

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.

Roseburg Pilot Project

The BLM hosted an open house meeting with members of the public on Wednesday, February 23, 2011, from 4 to 7 p.m. The meeting opened with an initial question-and-answer session with members of the public. Dr. Norm Johnson and Roseburg District Manager Jay Carlson fielded initial questions that the public had about the scope of the Roseburg Pilot. Roseburg District resource specialists provided presentations on the data available for the Myrtle Creek watershed. Maps providing forest stand age class, owl habitat, and riparian and stream information were provided for public review during an open discussion period.

Interested members of the public talked with Dr. Norm Johnson and Roseburg District staff about the process of stand selection and engaged in discussion on how to define landscape level criteria for the Roseburg Pilot Project. Approximately 25 members of the public were in attendance.

The Roseburg District will hold an open house meeting with members of the public on March 2, 2011 to continue the discussion on criteria and stand selection initiated in the open house meeting on February 23, 2011.

Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project Update:

Community meetings designed to inform members of the public and solicit their ideas about the Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project are scheduled for March 1 and 2, 2011, in the Applegate Valley. In addition to presentations by the Applegate Partnership, the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative, and BLM, Amy Amrhein of U.S. Senator Merkley's staff will address the meetings to offer a Congressional perspective on the pilot projects.

On March 8, 2011, there will be a public workshop to identify the criteria by which stands are selected for restoration treatments and criteria to determine their priority for treatment. A public field trip with Drs. Franklin and Johnson to possible pilot sites is scheduled for March 19, 2011.

This week the Medford District staff met with representatives from the Applegate Partnership and the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative to discuss the upcoming community meetings. The Medford District staff is continuing field analysis and inventory of northern spotted owl habitat.

Coos Bay Wagon Road Forest Management Pilot:

The Coquille Indian Tribe proposed the Coos Bay Wagon Road Forest Management Pilot to the Secretary of the 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.

