

Secretarial Forestry Pilot Projects Update: March 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 Roseburg District BLM has developed an Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) within the Roseburg District and South River Field Office staff to prepare for the required National Environmental Policy Act process. The next public meeting will be a field trip to see how the stands would be marked in sample areas. The original date for this field trip was cancelled due to snow and poor weather conditions. A new date for this field trip is still being determined and will be posted as soon as possible.

Drs. Johnson and Franklin will identify specific units from the unit pool by mid-April, 2011. Maps that show these units will be posted on the pilot project website:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/forestrypilot/>

Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project Update:

Scoping Notice for the first project of the Middle Applegate Pilot will be going to approximately 600 interested persons sometime the week of April 8. Stand selection for the first project should be completed this week with ID team concurrence and a level of communication/vetting with our key partners subsequent to mailing out the Scoping Notices.

District personnel led a field visit to marked stands with Superior Lumber Company personnel. District personnel met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Drs. Franklin and Johnson to discuss Late Successional Emphasis Area design, and to discuss pilot unit selection and landscape strategy. District personnel also discussed effects analysis for consultation. The District continues to work on completing marking guides. Upcoming meetings for the Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project include:

May 5, 2011

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A field trip to demonstration sites where the public can review stands and trees marked for harvest.

Location: Information forthcoming on logistics.

May 20, 2011

Time: 9 to 12 Noon, 1 to 3 p.m. (if needed)

Public workshop to draft the monitoring plan.

Location: BLM Medford Interagency Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 9750

For these upcoming Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project-related events please RSVP to Stephanie Kelleher at: (541) 618-2205, or Stephanie.Kelleher@blm.gov

Coos Bay Wa Pilot Project

The Coquille Indian Tribe (CIT) proposed the Coos Bay Wagon Road Landscape Management Proposal to the Secretary of Interior on December 8, 2010. The Department of the Interior and BLM continue to review the long term management proposal.

In the meantime, the Secretary of Interior has endorsed the first component of the landscape management proposal in which the Coquille Indian Tribe and the BLM will work together to develop a demonstration timber sale pilot in coordination with professors Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin. This pilot will demonstrate the professors' ecological principles of variable retention regeneration harvest in the Oregon coast range. The timber sale will be



designed under the Northwest Forest Plan and comply with all BLM requirements.

Professors Johnson and Franklin were on District March 20-23 to conduct a field workshop with the Coquille Indian Tribe, Coos Bay District, US Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries staff. The field trip was an opportunity for employees to gain an understanding of the ecological principles of variable retention regeneration harvest in the coast range and discuss possible marking principles with Johnson and Franklin. Opportunities for public involvement will be scheduled in the coming months.

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/forestrypilot/>

