

Secretarial Forestry Pilot Projects Update: April 15, 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, Bureau of Land Management will host interested members of the public on two field trips within the Myrtle Creek Watershed to visit candidate stands for demonstration of moist forest restoration. The objective of the field trips is to review demonstration marking conducted by Drs. Johnson and Franklin, consider adjustments in marking prescriptions, and provide recommendations for the final selection of the demonstration treatment areas.

Two field trips are being offered to accommodate a wider range of schedules. The same candidate stands will be visited on both dates. The field trips are tentatively being scheduled to take place on Sunday May 1, 2011, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Monday, May 2, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Final dates will depend on accessibility of the area.

Members of the public may attend one or both dates depending on their availability. The BLM will continue reconnaissance of the area and provide updates if the tentative schedule changes. Members of the public interested in participating in the tours should RSVP prior to the meeting dates.

Please contact Cheyne Rossbach, Roseburg District Public Affairs at Cheyne_rossbach@blm.gov, or by telephone at (541) 464-3245. Participants will meet at the Roseburg District Office, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg, OR 97471. An alternate meeting location will be announced for participants living in the Myrtle Creek area.

Maps that show the potential stands in the Myrtle Creek watershed are available on the Pilot Project website at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/forestrypilot/pilot-maps.php>

Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project Update:

Scoping Notice for the first project of the Middle Applegate Pilot went out to approximately 600 interested persons on April 8. This will be available on the Middle Applegate Pilot website at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/forestrypilot/pilot-projects.php>

The initial project will be analyzed under the "[Pilot Joe](#)" Environmental Assessment. Middle Applegate Pilot marking crew continues to mark stands in the Pilot Area. Medford BLM staff provided a tour of the Pilot Project to the BLM's Washington, D.C. Forestry Lead and discussed stand treatments. A full Interdisciplinary Team meeting took place this week to discuss current status and issues.

The BLM Medford District also set up the first monitoring meeting with collaborative partners. This meeting will take place in two weeks. The Proposed Action for the Pilot Joe Project is still under refinement. Tentatively, this project is contemplating including about 400 acres with commercial product (both timber sale and stewardship units) and about 800 acres with just service contract work for the analysis in the Environmental Assessment. The BLM is on schedule to have an Environmental Assessment available for public review in June.

Only those areas that could be implemented this fiscal year (2011) are being considered in the Pilot Joe Environmental Assessment. Many other stands have been identified for restoration, but will need additional survey work prior to becoming available for inclusion in an Environmental Assessment. These and other stands not yet identified in the current assessment area will remain in the "restoration pool" until such time when a subsequent project is proposed. The Medford BLM is looking at subsequent project development in 2013.



The preliminary assessment for development of projects for 2012 in the Cantrall-Buckley and Thompson Creek areas has not yet begun. Surveys for threatened endangered plants and for the northern spotted owl are set to begin shortly in the Pilot Joe, Cantrall-Buckley, and Thompson Creek areas.

Implementation of the tree marking will help resolve which, if any, units will not have sufficient value to be carried as a timber sale unit, and subsequently placed under a stewardship contract. There are four roads needed to access the proposed commercial stands. The BLM staff are headed out to the field review the proposed roads, to understand the road need and locations, and to determine the appropriate analysis for these roads.

The BLM timber staff are continuing to mark the proposed commercial units with the expectation to have them completed prior to the [May 5, 2011, public field trip](#) to review the timber sale mark. The BLM staff will meet with Drs. Johnson and Jerry Franklin for review of the mark prior to the public field trip.

BLM has had some preliminary discussion with our collaborative partners about how to move forward with developing a Multi-party Monitoring Plan. A [Public Workshop has been set for May 20, 2011](#). Specific meeting times for the Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project are:

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 a.m. 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 Wagon Road Pilot Project

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

The Coquille Indian Tribe and BLM continue to discuss roles and responsibilities for the planning and implementation of the Coos Bay Wagon Road (CBWR) pilot. The two will meet on Monday to develop a tentative project schedule. Additional information on the CBWR pilot and the Tribe's long term management proposal is now posted to the Coos Bay pilot page:

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

Moist Forest Workshop Video

On February 17, 2011, Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin held a workshop that focused on a review of the fundamentals of Moist Forest ecosystems. A core objective of this presentation was to improve understanding among participants of the basis and objectives of retention harvesting. The program will present information on:

- Natural stand development and the structure and function of Pacific Northwest coniferous forests;
- Disturbances and the nature and role of biological legacies of disturbance;
- Nature and importance of early successional (pre-forest) ecosystems; and
- Silvicultural applications of this science in ecological forestry, including variable retention regeneration harvesting.



A complete video of the Moist Forest Workshop is now available online in five parts. The videos can be viewed on the BLM's website at:

www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/forestry/pilot/pilot-videos.php

The videos are also being uploaded to the BLM's YouTube page, and will be available for viewing at:

www.youtube.com/blmoregon

