

Secretarial Forestry Pilot Projects Update: April 22, 2011

In December 2010, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar set in motion a plan to apply the principles of ecosystem 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 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 the stands suggested by Drs. Johnson and Franklin for the demonstration, review the marking prescriptions that they applied, and provide suggestions for improving the learning potential of the demonstration.

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 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.

An alternate meeting location for those living near Myrtle Creek, Oregon, will be located at Millsite Park at the corner of 4th Ave and Volunteer Way. Participants wishing to join the tours at this location should plan to arrive no later than 20 minutes after the respective start times at the Roseburg District Office. 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>

Members of the public may attend one or both dates depending on their availability. Members of the public interested in participating in the tours should RSVP by April 26, 2011. Please contact Cheyne Rossbach, BLM 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.

Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project Update:

Timber sale marking for the Middle Applegate Pilot is continuing on the ground, and we currently anticipate that there are approximately 350 acres where commercial volume will be removed. In addition, there are four new roads needed -- from just a scraped way on a ridgetop within a unit boundary to partial benched new construction. Approximately one mile of new road (accessing about 80 acres of timber sale units) will also be needed. The BLM's Interdisciplinary Team has already decided to include an alternative that does not construct new roads. On April 21, there was a field trip to see the proposed roads. The April 21 field trip included members from industry, conservation groups, partners, and agency personnel and focused on information needed to adequately address the issue of new roads in the Environmental Assessment.

The BLM is currently refining the noncommercial treatments acres to be included in this Environmental Assessment. The Proposed Action and an Alternative to the Proposed Action should be developed by the end of next week. These will be posted to the web, as "draft", along with a "draft" Purpose and Need.

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 Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot is a near term project in cooperation with the Coquille Indian Tribe that applies the principles of Drs Franklin and Johnson similar to the Medford and Roseburg pilots

Relative to the Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot Project, the Coquille Indian Tribe and BLM met this week to discuss a public outreach strategy, interdisciplinary team membership, and project timelines . The timelines are being coordinated with Drs. Johnson and Franklin, and details on public meeting dates and field trips will be available soon.

Additional information on the Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot Project 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/forestrypilot/pilot-videos.php

