

Secretarial Forestry Pilot Projects Update: May 20, 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, Coos Bay, 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 staff are currently preparing for the formal NEPA process. Formal project scoping will be initiated in late May to early June.

The stand marking guide and associated maps from the field trips can be accessed on the pilot project website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/forestrypilot/pilot-maps.php> or at the Roseburg District Office, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg OR, 97471.

The next public meetings for the Roseburg Pilot Project are tentatively scheduled for June and August, 2011. For questions relating to the Roseburg Pilot Project, please contact: Cheyne Rossbach, BLM Roseburg District Public Affairs at: Cheyne_Rossbach@blm.gov or by telephone at (541) 464-3245.

Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project Update:

The BLM's key collaborative partners, the Applegate Partnership and the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative, are coordinating for the Multi-Party Monitoring public workshop for the Pilot. A date is yet to be determined.

BLM staff met with the Oregon State University Pilot fire/disturbance history study team to coordinate the field work which will begin the week of May 23.

Tentative release of the Environmental Assessment for Pilot Joe is June 15. Preparation of the biological assessment for consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service is underway.

For questions related to the Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project, contact: John Gerritsma, Ashland Resource Area Field Manager, (541) 618-2438.

Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot Project

The Coos Bay District and Coquille Indian Tribe released the scoping letter for the Wagon Road EA to the public on May 18, thus beginning the formal scoping period for the project. The comment period will run until June 17, 2011. The scoping document and associated maps are posted on the Coos Bay Internet site at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/plans/index.php>

As a reminder, the Tribe and BLM will host, along with Drs. Norm Johnson, Jerry Franklin, and John Gordon, a public meeting and field trip on May 31 and June 1, respectively. If you would like to attend the field trip, please RSVP to Megan Harper at: m1harper@blm.gov or 541-751-4353 by May 26, 2011. Additional information on the Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot Project and the Tribe's long term management proposal can be accessed at:

<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 presented 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

