

Secretarial Forestry Pilot Projects Update: June 10, 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 is currently working on the environmental analysis, or NEPA process, for the Roseburg Pilot Project. Formal outreach (Scoping) will be initiated in early June, 2011. The next public meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at the Roseburg District Office. At the meeting BLM staff will describe the proposed project, answer questions, and take comments. Contact: Cheyne Rossbach, (541) 464-3245

Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project Update:

The EA will be released in the week of June 20, 2011, containing two alternatives: No Action and the Proposed Action. There are approximately 300 acres of commercial (timber sale) harvest, and 600 acres of noncommercial (stewardship plus service work). All 900 acres will be part of the decision for the EA, but the latter work will be tasked/contracted the early part of FY12 (due to timing of the EA and botany clearance work). On June 14, there is a public workshop to draft a multi-party monitoring plan. The workshop is being conducted jointly between BLM, the Applegate Partnership, and the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative. The Jackson-Josephine Small Woodlands Association will host a Pilot information session on June 16 at the OSU Extension Center in Central Point, and a field tour on June 18. BLM and our partners will be involved in these presentations and tour. Work is starting on assessing the landscape for the next FY projects with the goal to have spotted owl habitat assessed and restoration needs identified on the remaining lands south of the Applegate River (an additional 10,000 acres). The goal is to complete the entire Middle Applegate Watershed restoration and owl habitat needs assessment by the end of FY11. Contact: John Gerritsma, (541) 618-2438

Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot Project

No new information on implementation of the forestry task force report. The District prepared a draft MOU that is in the OSO for review. The maps and handouts from the Coos Bay Wagon Road pilot project public meetings are now posted on the Wagon Road pilot website. The closing date for the Wagon Road EA has been extended until July 5, 2011. Meanwhile, the interdisciplinary team is completing field work and the next team meeting will be held June 21, 2011. Contact: Mark Johnson, (541) 756-0100

