

## Secretarial Forestry Pilot Projects Update: June 17, 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 South River field office of the Roseburg District is currently working on the environmental analysis, or NEPA process, for the Roseburg Pilot Project and initiated formal outreach (Scoping) last week. The field office will be seeking public scoping comments on the project from June 15, to July 15, 2011. It will hold a public meeting from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on June 22, 2011, at the Roseburg District Office. At the meeting BLM staff will describe the proposed project, describe ongoing field work, answer questions, and take comments. Contact: Cheyne Rossbach, (541) 464-3245

### Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project Update:

The Medford District held a very successful initial public workshop to establish a multi-party monitoring plan. About 25 people attended. An oversight group of partners and agency personnel has been established to help complete a monitoring plan that will be ready for implementation before the first project is started in September of 2011. The Environmental Assessment is set for release June 24, with the 30-day comment period beginning June 27, 2011.

The EA contains 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). The Jackson-Josephine Small Woodlands Association hosted a Pilot information session on June 16 at the OSU Extension Center in Central Point, and will host 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

Additional information, including the cooperative agreement between the Coquille Indian Tribe and BLM, has been posted to the Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot Project website.

The interdisciplinary team continues to gather information on Section 17. Last week the project area was surveyed by dogs that search for northern spotted owl scat. This information will be used to supplement the ongoing northern spotted owl surveys in the area. Additionally, red tree vole surveys and climbing of trees that are identified as "undetermined" for red tree vole occupancy are ongoing.

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

