

Secretarial Forestry Pilot Projects Update: June 3, 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 began work on the NEPA process. The formal project scoping will be initiated in June 2011. The next public meeting for the Roseburg Pilot Project is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2011, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Roseburg District Office.

In response to public requests, the Roseburg District recently added map files with the .KMZ file extension. This file format can be read and viewed in mapping software such as Google Earth. These files along with the stand marking guide and associated maps are available at the District Office or <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/forestrypilot/pilot-maps.php>. 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 Oregon Small Woodlands Association/Jackson County Small Woodlands Association and the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service will host a presentation on the Middle Applegate Pilot Project on June 16 at the Extension Office in Jackson County. Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative Coordinator George McKinley will give the presentation and answer questions. Emily Comfort from OSU is leading a study on fire regime and stand history restoration, beginning with field work and data collection crew training. The draft of the biological assessment for northern spotted owls is nearing completion. For questions relating to the Middle Applegate Pilot Project, please contact: John Gerritsma, (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 District has received some questions on the scoping document and will soon post answers to these frequently asked questions on the web and distribute through email. The scoping document and associated maps are available at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/plans/index.php>

Nearly 100 people participated in the Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot meeting and field trip on May 31 and June 1 respectively. The public meeting on Tuesday night included presentations by the BLM, Coquille Tribe, and Dr. Norm Johnson. On Wednesday, the group toured the woods at the pilot project location, discussing the ecosystem restoration principles with the agencies and Dr. Jerry Franklin. The notes, presentations, and handouts will be posted to the Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot Project website next week.

