

Secretarial Forestry Pilot Projects Update August 5, 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 will hold a field tour for interested members of the public on September 13, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The tour will provide an opportunity to look at the pilot project treatments as they have been designed by BLM staff, with input from Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin. Transportation from the Roseburg District office to the pilot demonstration stands will be provided by the Roseburg District. Contact: Cheyenne Rossbach, (541) 464-3245.

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/forestrypilot/index.php>

Middle Applegate Watershed Pilot Project

The Medford District Pilot Decision Record will be available next week (pending delivery of the Biological Opinion back from the USFWS). Responses to comments are complete. The majority of comments to the project were outside of the project's purpose and need, such as requesting different restoration philosophies than the Franklin/Johnson approach and requesting different alternatives that did not meet the purpose and need. In addition, there were comments about the effects of the Franklin/Johnson model *if* applied on a landscape level. There were no comments that were not appropriately addressed in the EA. Comments have been posted to the public website for the Medford District. The sale is on track to be offered on September 15. Contact: John Gerritsma, (541) 618-2438.

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/forestrypilot/>

Coos Bay Wagon Road Pilot Project

No new information on implementation of the forestry task force report. Wildlife biologists finished climbing trees to verify active red tree vole nest sites this week, and the red tree vole retention blocks have been designated. Members of the interdisciplinary team also met this week and finalized configuration of the aggregate retention areas. Contact: Mark Johnson, (541) 756-0100.

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/forestrypilot/>

