

SW Oregon Fire Recovery Update

11/07/2013

The Big Windy Complex is on the south side of the Rogue River and was contained at 27,555 acres, almost all on BLM and primarily in lands managed as Late Successional Reserve (LSR) and Wild and Scenic River. The Douglas Complex was contained at 48,679 acres. The Douglas Complex burned through O&C checkerboard ownership, with almost 19,000 acres on the Medford District, over 6,000 on the Roseburg District, and about 23,000 acres belonging to 27 different landowners. The Medford portion is primarily Matrix and the Roseburg portion is primarily LSR. There are several other small fires in the area as well.

Objectives for the week of 11/4:

1. Continue ESR slope stabilization work on Douglas,
2. Prioritize Douglas ESR projects to meet funding allocations
3. Continue photo assessments, and initiate field inventories
4. Finalize inventory crew and schedule
5. Finalize LSR assessment team, silviculture prescription team(s)
6. Continue to identify/initiate NEPA ID teams
7. Complete joint Medford Roseburg District recruitment plan by 11/8
8. Continue communication and outreach efforts
9. Continue survey needs assessment

Current status summary:

1. The BLM State Office is committed to supporting SW Oregon Recovery efforts and anticipates the possible need to adjust program priorities and expectations in FY 14, and is working to allocate resources and funds to support post fire work.
2. Medford and Roseburg Districts' planned FY 14 timber program levels are 46mmbf and 36mmbf respectively, and will include both green and salvage sales. Post fire NEPA planning will analyze and determine what level of salvage will be included.
3. Teams are working on various aspects of vegetation/forest needs, including the economic recovery opportunities - Inventory crews (5-8 teams) are doing photo and field recon, and preparing maps.
4. Working on contracts for decked log timber sales to be offered in November through January.
5. Brimstone NEPA is well underway with anticipated sale date April/May.
6. Douglas Matrix ID Team starting this week, with anticipated sale dates July through September.
7. Douglas/Big Windy team – LSR assessment planning starting in November, with sales anticipated late in the year or early next year.
8. A public outreach team will work with various stakeholders including counties, timber industry, environmental organizations, tribes, and the Association of O&C Counties.
9. Douglas Complex ESR plan approved at SO and WO—\$1.6 million of ES funding approved.
10. Identification of hazard trees continues, with in house cutting in some areas underway, along with continued coordination with landowners and operators.
11. Continue road rehabilitation work on high priority corridors, and installation of hazard signs.
12. Written protocols developed for condition assessments and storm patrols.
13. Slope stabilization crews are spreading about 40 tons of straw along downslope sides of roads in the Perkins and Poorman Creeks areas.
14. Contour falling began November 5 on about 100 acres in the Poorman Creek area.
15. Helicopter personnel and 60 tons of straw at helispot for aerial straw operation, which could start on November 5 or 6, weather permitting.
16. Big Windy ESR initial plan has been submitted.