

SW Oregon Fire Recovery Update

11/25/2013

The Big Windy Complex is on the south side of the Rogue River and burned 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 is at 48,679 acres and 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 11/25:

1. Continue ESR slope stabilization work on Douglas
2. Continue assessment and flagging of potential units
3. Continue to conduct communication and outreach plans
4. Continue survey needs assessment
5. Provide accomplishment reports by 12/4 for SD briefing
6. Initiate the Big Windy and Douglas LSR assessment sub-teams

Current status summary:

- A series of teams are working on various aspects of vegetation/forest needs, including the economic recovery opportunities.
- A public outreach team will work with various stakeholders including counties, timber industry, environmental organizations, tribes, and the Association of O&C Counties.
- 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.
- Big Windy ESR plan has been submitted. Approved at State Office and is at Washington Office for review.
- Aerial straw project completed, with over 120 tons of straw spread on downslope sides of roads in severely burned areas.
- Continued development of web-based Activity Map for additional reconnaissance and Storm Patrol locations.
- Continue road rehabilitation work on arterial roadways within the fire perimeter and on high priority roadways.
- Obtain haul routes for roads to be used including maintenance responsibilities.
- Work with railroad regarding right-of-way, potential impact of hazard trees—risk to railroad right-of-way.
- Continue Identifying hazard trees in the Rattlesnake, Rock Creek, and Perkins Creek areas, issue wood permits for hazard trees.
- Hydrology crews survey work underway.
- Foresters from Eugene and Salem Districts are providing assistance as unit inventory crew and are identifying preliminary unit boundaries.
- Contracts drafted for three Medford District decked log timber sales—December 19, 2013 sale date. Roseburg District sold Douglas Complex deck sale.
- Douglas County and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians will be participating during the NEPA process as cooperating agencies.
- Continuing to analyze LiDAR and aerial photos.