

PLAN MAINTENANCE
FISCAL YEAR 2002

1. This plan maintenance revises the formal evaluation cycle for the ROD/RMP from a three year cycle to a five year cycle.

The ROD/RMP, in the Use of the Completed Plan section, established a three year interval for conducting plan evaluations. The purpose of a plan evaluation is to determine if there is significant new information and/or changed circumstances to warrant amendment or revision of the plan. The ecosystem approach of the ROD/RMP is based on long term management actions to achieve multiple resource objectives including habitat development, species protection and commodity outputs. The relatively short three year cycle has been found to be inappropriate for determining if long term goals and objectives will be met. A five year interval is more appropriate given the resource management actions and decisions identified in the ROD/RMP. The Annual Program Summaries and Monitoring Reports continue to provide the cumulative ROD/RMP accomplishments. Changes to the ROD/RMP will continue through appropriate plan amendments and plan maintenance actions. A five year interval for conducting evaluations is consistent with the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook.

The State Directors decision to change the evaluation interval from three years to five years was made on March 8, 2002. The next evaluation for the Roseburg District ROD/RMP will address implementation through September 2003.

2. For Survey and Manage standards and guidelines, Survey Protocols, Management Recommendations, changes in species categories or removal of species from Survey and Manage are issued and conducted in accordance with the Amendment to Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines Record of Decision of January 2002. These changes are transmitted through Instruction Memoranda from the Oregon State Office. These Instruction Memoranda are numerous and complex and would be unwieldy to list individually. All such Instruction Memoranda regarding the Survey and Manage Survey Protocols, Management Recommendations or changes in species status are incorporated as ongoing plan maintenance.
3. The management action/direction for Wild Turkey Habitat contained on page 39 of the ROD/RMP is removed. This refinement in the ROD/RMP recognizes that the Rio Grande wild turkey is an introduced species that is not only thriving but in many areas the large numbers of wild turkeys have become a nuisance and have required relocation by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. This management action/direction is, therefore, removed because it is not needed for this species.

4. The management action/direction for Roosevelt elk contained on page 39 of the ROD/RMP is removed. This refinement in the ROD/RMP recognizes that a combination of other management action/direction and land ownership patterns has resulted in achieving a thriving population of Roosevelt elk. Road closures for the benefit of elk populations have been found to be either unnecessary or accomplished through decommissioning or closure of roads for the purposes of watershed health. Limitation of the size of harvest units, distance to cover and minimum width of cover are being accomplished through the need to meet other aspects of the ROD/RMP including Riparian Reserves, survey and manage species requirements, Special Status Species requirements, threatened or endangered species requirements and watershed considerations. Because of the thriving Roosevelt elk population it has not been found necessary to establish forage plots. Transplants of elk have not been found necessary to supplement existing numbers or to establish new local populations.

5. It is necessary to clarify the definition of an existing road for the purposes of road maintenance. Five road maintenance levels are assigned to roads. Roads which are assigned road maintenance Level I or Level 2 may, on occasion, have trees or other vegetation encroach on or become established within the road prism or on the road surface because of low traffic levels and an extended period between road maintenance. In such instances, road maintenance may be used to re-establish the utility of the road. It would not fit the definition of road maintenance to re-establish the utility of a road that has been closed through full decommissioning or obliteration and that has been removed from Roseburg District road records with approval from parties to existing road use agreements.