

PLAN MAINTENANCE
FISCAL YEAR 2005

The Roseburg District and other Districts in western Oregon began a revision to the existing resource management plan and record of decision (ROD/RMP). This multi-year effort will develop potentially significant changes to the ROD/RMP guidelines. Details regarding the ROD/RMP revision can be seen at <http://www.or.blm.gov/lucurrwopr.htm>

Refinement and clarification of the Roseburg District's ROD/RMP, Objectives, Habitat Criteria, and Management Practices Design for the Land Use Allocations, Connectivity/Diversity Blocks:

The term 'area control rotation' is used twice in the ROD/RMP on pages 34 and 153. In both instances it is used to describe the management within the Connectivity/Diversity Block land use allocation. Area control rotation is not defined in the ROD/RMP glossary. However area regulation is defined as, "A method of scheduling timber harvest based on dividing the total acres by an assumed rotation." (ROD/RMP, page 101). The definition for 'area control rotation' would essentially be the same.

Minor changes, refinement and clarification of pages 151 – 153 as follows:

A.1. The first sentence should read: "Connectivity and Diversity: Manage to provide ecotypic richness and diversity and to provide for habitat connectivity for old-growth dependent and associated species within the Connectivity/Diversity Block portion of the Matrix land-use allocation."

C.2. As described in this section, "Manage so that best ecologically functioning stands will be seldom entered in the short term." Best ecologically functioning stands is not a well-defined term and does not help with implementation of Connectivity/Diversity Block management. Under area control rotation for the Connectivity/Diversity Block land use allocation, approximately 1,790 acres would be harvested per decade. For the first decade of implementation of the ROD/RMP, only about 490 acres of the Connectivity/Diversity Block land use allocation have been authorized for harvest. Since this meets the 'seldom entered in the short term' portion of this management direction, there is no need to further interpret the 'best ecologically functioning stands.' Thus, this sentence is removed.

C.3. Remove the Species Composition paragraph. This paragraph describes a percent species mix that does not always represent what would be the expected in natural stands on the Roseburg District. The previous paragraph describes, "Large conifers reserved will proportionally represent the total range of tree size classes greater than 20 inches in diameter and will represent all conifer species present." The conifer species present will be represented with conifers retained in harvest of Connectivity/Diversity Block lands.

C.5. As described in this section, Connectivity/Diversity Block area would be managed using a 150 year area control rotation. Regeneration harvest will be at the rate of 1/15 of the available acres in the entire Connectivity/Diversity block land use allocation per decade. This direction does not set a minimum harvest age for regeneration harvest. Harvest would be planned to occur on an area 1/15th of the Connectivity/Diversity Block land use allocation every decade.

Additionally, it states that “because of the limited size of operable areas within any given block, multiple decades of harvest could be removed at any one time from a single block in order to make viable harvest units.” Applying this direction to individual Connectivity/Diversity Blocks on the Roseburg District, regeneration harvest need not be uniformly applied across the entire land use allocation; rather, regeneration harvest may take place within an individual block as long as the 25-30 percent late-successional forests are maintained, as described on pages 34, 38, and 65 of the ROD/RMP. Late-successional forests are defined as being at least 80 years old. A description of whether regeneration harvests would occur in the oldest or youngest late-successional forests within the block is not required.

This paragraph further states that “the future desired condition across the entire Connectivity/Diversity block will have up to 15-16 different ten year age classes represented.” The intent of this direction is that as regeneration harvesting takes place, up to 15 to 16 different age classes will develop over a period of 150 years.