

PLAN MAINTENANCE
FISCAL YEAR 2006

The Roseburg District and other Districts in western Oregon are engaged in revising the existing ROD/RMPs. 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.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr/index.php>.

Issues arose during fiscal year 2006 on the following subject areas that warrant additional clarification and/or correction through plan maintenance:

Other Raptors Habitat

The Roseburg District ROD/RMP (page 39) states that “[k]nown and future raptor nest sites not protected by other management recommendations will be protected by providing suitable habitat buffers and seasonal disturbance restrictions”.

On occasion, this guidance has been incorrectly construed to mean that currently known nest sites or nest sites that have yet to be discovered belonging to any and all raptor species receive a suitable habitat buffer and a seasonal disturbance restriction. This is an incorrect interpretation. The ROD/RMP guidance (page 39) for “Other Raptors Habitat” makes an important distinction that only those raptor nest sites “...not protected by other management recommendations...” will receive suitable habitat buffers and seasonal disturbance restrictions.

For example, the Roseburg District ROD/RMP provides separate guidance for: great grey owl nest sites (page 44), Northern spotted owl nest sites (page 48), bald eagle nest sites (page 49), peregrine falcon nest sites (page 49), and Northern goshawk nest sites (page 49). Therefore, since these five species already have other, separate management recommendations as put forth in the ROD/RMP, the guidance from page 39 for “Other Raptor Habitat” does not apply to these species.

Timber Sale Units of Measure (Cubic Foot Measure vs. Scribner Rules)

The Roseburg District ROD/RMP (page 61) directs that “[t]imber sales under the plan will be sold according to cubic foot measure.”

The policy to measure and sell all timber sales following the National Cubic Rules was rescinded in Instructional Memorandum (IM) No. 2004-154, dated April 6, 2004 from the Washington Office. This IM (page 1) specified that “Each State Director has the authority to determine the form of timber measurement to be used for timber sales...”

Subsequently, the Oregon/Washington State Office issued guidance in IM No. OR-2004-073, dated April 30, 2004 (page 1), to Oregon/Washington BLM Districts that “[f]or the purposes of lump sum and scale disposal of timber, such as negotiated and advertised timber sales... the timber will usually be measured based upon board feet [i.e. Scribner rules].”

The method of timber volume measurement (National Cubic Rules versus board feet) is solely an administrative process and does not contribute to environmental effects. Furthermore, timber sale prospectuses issued in the Roseburg District typically include volumes in both cubic measurement and in board feet.

Therefore, the aforementioned language on page 61 of the Roseburg District ROD/RMP is replaced with the following: “Timber sales sold under the plan will usually be measured based upon board feet (i.e. Scribner Rules).”

Connectivity/Diversity Block Landscape Design Elements

The Roseburg District ROD/RMP provides guidance (page 152) to “[s]ituate harvest units to meet general landscape objectives on three levels of scale: physiographic province, landscape block or watershed and the stand”.

To clarify, the ROD/RMP itself considered the larger physiographic province scale in its strategy to manage ecosystems when land use allocations were designated and distributed across the landscape. Management direction provided in the ROD/RMP for Connectivity/Diversity Blocks (pages 151-153) represent decisions made during the analytical process that culminated in the ROD/RMP and incorporate landscape planning at the physiographic province scale. Landscape block or watershed scale considerations are reflected in completed Watershed Analysis documents and ten year sale plans; consideration at the stand scale is typically done within individual project EAs.

Miscellaneous Corrections

Page 8 of the ROD/RMP contains Table R-1, which cites commercial thinning/density management harvest to occur on 84 and 66 acres, respectively. The total of these acres is 150, which is incorrect. The ROD/RMP called for an annual average of 80 acres to be commercially thinned, with another 170 acres harvested to achieve density management. The correct total acreage is 250, which is reflected in Annual Program Summaries beginning in 2002.