



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Roseburg District Office
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd
Roseburg, OR 97471

In Reply Refer to:

1792 (OR100)

Roseburg District Secretarial Demonstration Pilot Project
DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2011-0006-EA

Dear Interested Parties:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Roseburg District Office, South River Field Office, has begun an environmental assessment (EA) for the Roseburg District Secretarial Demonstration Pilot Project.

The Secretary of the Interior directed the BLM Districts of southwest Oregon to develop Demonstration Pilot Projects intended to demonstrate the application of principles of restoration forestry developed by Drs. Jerry F. Franklin and K. Norman Johnson. Part of the intent of these projects was to help inform long-term planning on BLM O&C lands.

Franklin and Johnson define "restoration" broadly to encompass activities that are designed to restore forests and landscapes to conditions that are both more resistant and resilient to disturbances and that provide the diversity needed to restore and maintain native biodiversity and essential ecosystem functions. Restoration of ecosystems at the stand and landscape scale are a primary focus, rather than singular goals, such as fuel and wildfire abatement, timber production, or wildlife habitat.

The Secretary of the Interior and the Oregon Congressional Delegation have expressed a strong desire to break existing administrative and legal gridlock in order to move forward with ecosystem restoration and with economic recovery in southwest Oregon. As such, the Secretarial Demonstration Pilot Projects would serve to illustrate the various principles and tools of restoration to aid in gauging whether or not broader social support for active management can be achieved.

The project would involve the variable retention regeneration harvest of approximately 250 to 350 acres in an interior moist forest, with potential density management in a portion of 109 acres of associated Riparian Reserves and Riparian Management Areas, for the purposes of ecosystem and economic restoration. Management and program direction from the 1995 *Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* will provide the principle sideboards for the project analysis.

Potential units are located in Sections 31, 32 and 33, T. 28 S., R. 2 W.; Sections 17, 23 and 25, T. 28 S., R. 3 W.; and Section 4, T. 29 S., R. 2 W., Willamette Meridian. These lands are principally located in the upper elevations of the Myrtle Creek watershed, but also include areas within the Little River and Middle South Umpqua River/Dumont Creek watersheds.

A scoping notice and map of the project area are attached for your information.

Further background information and maps relating to the Secretarial Demonstration Pilot Project are available at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/forestrypilot/>

BLM will accept scoping comments until July 15, 2011. Email your written comments to OR100MB@blm.gov, or mail them to the address in the letterhead above, attention: Paul Ausbeck. Please include your first and last name when submitting comments by email.

Comments should identify values, land uses, or resources which could potentially be affected by the proposed action. These comments will help BLM to develop appropriate alternatives, focus our analysis on salient issues and concerns, and provide the necessary information for me to make an informed decision.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven D. Lydick

Steven D. Lydick
Field Manager
South River Field Office

Scoping/Information Package
Roseburg Secretarial Demonstration Pilot Project
Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-R050-2011-0006-EA
Roseburg District, South River Field Office

The Secretary of the Interior directed the BLM Districts of southwest Oregon to develop Pilot Demonstration Projects intended to demonstrate the application of principles of restoration forestry developed by Drs. Jerry F. Franklin and K. Norman Johnson (Applying Restoration Principles on the BLM O&C Forests in Southwest Oregon 2010)). Part of the intent of these projects was to help inform long-term planning on BLM O&C lands.

The purpose of this report is to inform interested and affected parties of the proposal and to solicit comments to assist with the NEPA review of the proposal. Analysis of the proposal is ongoing and will be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA). Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that meet the purpose of, and need for the project.

Purpose and Need for Action

The proposed Roseburg District action is variable retention regeneration harvest in a Moist Interior Forest setting, applying the principles of ecosystem restoration developed by Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin, and management objectives, management direction and land use allocations set forth in the 1995 Roseburg District *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP). The project would also be consistent with the forthcoming Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan.

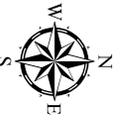
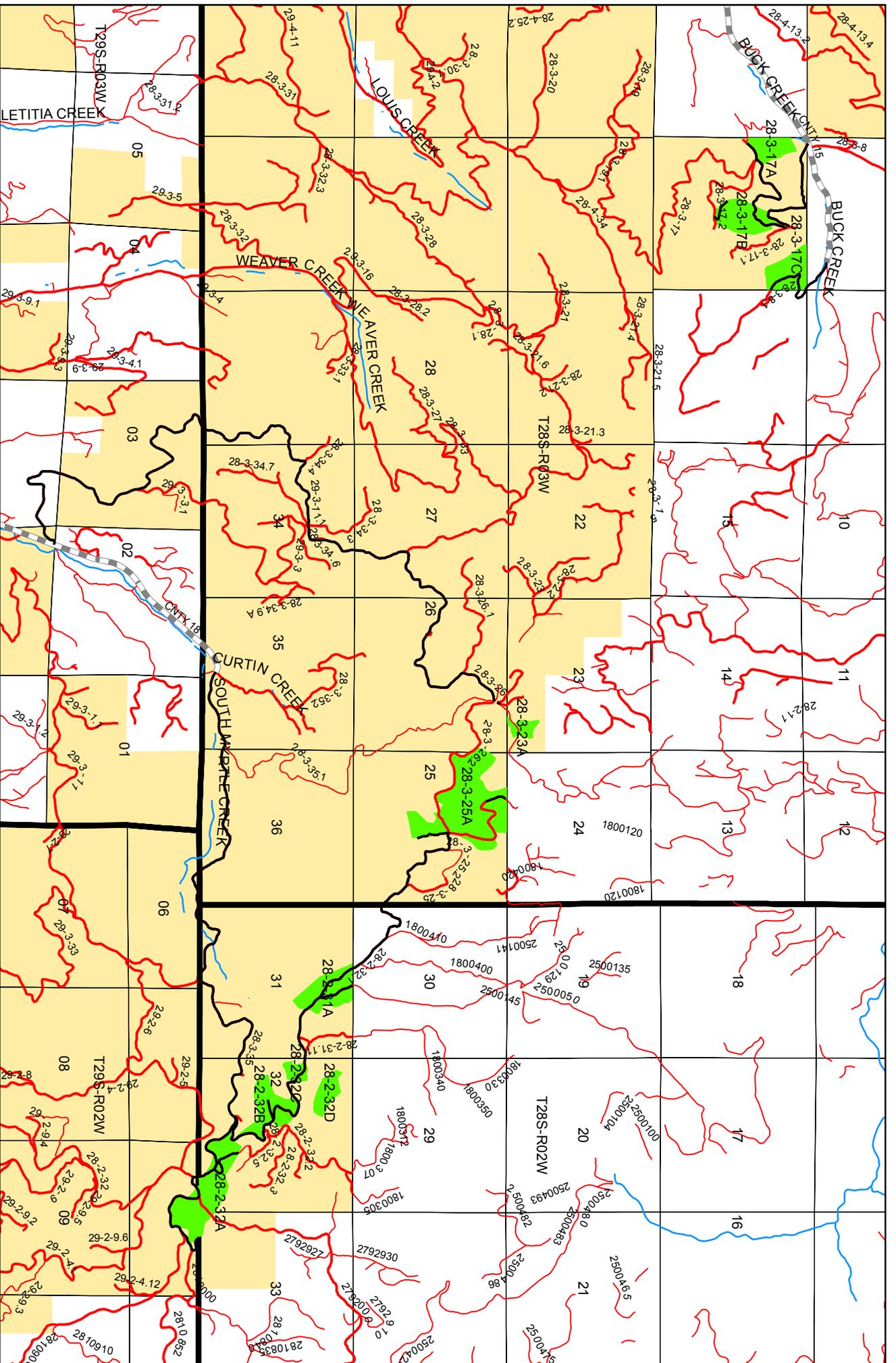
Proposed Action

In general, units would be designed to retain approximately 30 percent of the pre-harvest stand, and the retention would be relatively well distributed throughout the stand. Retention objectives would be achieved through a combination of aggregated blocks and dispersed trees and clumps of trees. Aggregated retention would be measured as a percentage of total unit area, while dispersed retention would be measured by basal area (ft²), as a percentage of average stand basal area per acre. Approximately two-thirds of the retention would be aggregated, with the remainder dispersed through the harvested area. Survey & Manage provisions as set forth in the 2001 *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* will be applied.

Density management would be applied in Riparian Reserves, in stands less than 80 years of age, where it is determined that treatments would accelerate or enhance achievement of objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy.

Proposed Project Location

Proposed units are located in Sections 31, 32 and 33, T. 28 S., R. 2 W.; Sections 17, 23 and 25, T. 28 S., R. 3 W., and Section 4, T. 29 S., R. 2 W., Willamette Meridian.



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use. The data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.



- Haul Route
- County Road
- Paved Road
- Rockier Road
- Native Material or Unknown Potential Treatment Units
- Bureau of Land Management

Secretarial Pilot Project