

# Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon Questions and Answers

## Questions and Answers

### Why is the BLM planning now?

The economic stresses occurring in western Oregon communities is concerning to the Congressional delegation, the Governor and the federal government. The BLM would like to be part of the solution. There is a need to address the forest health, endangered species recovery and socio-economic needs facing western Oregon. The BLM would like to work with the public to identify areas where there is agreement on natural resource management approaches and work on potential solutions for those areas where there is disagreement.

### What's going to happen during the scoping process?

The BLM would like to brainstorm with the public about the direction the new plans should take, the issues that the plans should address and the geographic scope that is most appropriate for these plans. The BLM is interested in a diversity of viewpoints and welcomes suggestions for new and innovative approaches to managing western Oregon forests.

During the scoping period, the BLM will be hosting public meeting on each district in western Oregon. The dates and locations of these meetings can be found at [www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon](http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon). Scoping comments may be submitted to the BLM until July 5, 2012. Comments may be submitted via the following methods:

website: [www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon](http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon)

email: [BLM\\_OR\\_RMPs\\_WesternOregon@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_RMPs_WesternOregon@blm.gov)

fax: 503-808-6333

mail: P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208

### What's on the table? What's being considered?

The BLM is open to a wide variety of ideas and suggestions for new and innovative approaches to managing western Oregon forests. During this public scoping period, the BLM wants to brainstorm with the public the role BLM lands should play in the region and possible solutions for the management challenges facing these lands.

Some questions BLM would like to explore with the public include:

- What would a successful plan look like to you?
- What kind of management should BLM do more/less of?
- What is the appropriate geographic scale and scope of the plan?
- What new or innovative ideas should BLM consider in this planning process?
- What is the appropriate mix of old, mid-aged, and young forests on BLM lands and how should these forests be managed?
- How should BLM provide habitat for fish and wildlife and contribute to the recovery Endangered Species Act listed species?
- How should BLM manage forests to protect property and ensure our forests are fire resilient?
- How should BLM-administered lands be managed to contribute to clean water and safe drinking water?
- How should BLM manage for recreation in western Oregon?
- How can BLM lands contribute to local economies and support local communities?

## **What plan(s) is the BLM revising? The 1995 Northwest Forest Plan-based RMPs, or the 2008 Western Oregon Plan Revisions?**

The six western Oregon BLM districts completed RMPs in 1995 that incorporated the land use allocations and Standards and Guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan. In 2008, the BLM completed RMP revisions for the six western Oregon districts. Pending litigation seeks vacatur of the 2008 RMPs. The BLM intends to revise its RMPs notwithstanding the pending litigation. Currently, due to pending litigation, BLM actions are conforming to both the 1995 and 2008 RMPs.

## **Are the pilot projects going to be part of the new planning effort?**

The BLM Oregon has recently developed Pilot Projects intended to fulfill the Secretary of the Interior's direction to apply ecological forestry principles developed by Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin, on BLM-administered lands within the Roseburg, Medford, and Coos Bay Districts. The pilots are ongoing and the BLM is learning a great deal from these efforts. The pilot experience will help inform the plan revisions and allow for the study of ecological forestry principles across a broader landscape.

## **What will this new planning effort mean for fish and wildlife?**

The planning area has populations of several key threatened and endangered species including the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and several anadromous salmon.

The range of alternatives analyzed would be designed, in part, to explore alternative approaches to contributing to the recovery of Endangered Species Act-listed species. The BLM is interested in the public's ideas on how BLM can best contribute to the recovery of listed species.

## **How will this planning effort address the socio-economic needs of western Oregon communities?**

Recognizing the unique tie between the O&C Act and BLM lands and county funding, the BLM wants to work with the public to identify ways BLM administered lands can contribute to the social and economic stability of local communities. The range of alternatives analyzed would be designed, in part, to explore alternative approaches to contributing to the economic stability of local communities.

## **What's BLM's take on the proposals to transfer most of BLM's O&C lands to the Forest Service?**

We are aware of the bipartisan discussion draft of the "O&C Trust, Conservation, and Jobs Act". However, the BLM has not formulated a position on this discussion draft.

Preparation of a formal BLM/Administration position would require an in-depth analysis of the legislation and vetting of a position through the BLM senior management, the Department, and the Office of Management and Budget. Although we cannot provide a position on the discussion draft at this time, we do wish to note the BLM worked closely with U.S. Congressman DeFazio's office to provide mapping services and detailed geographic information used to delineate the proposed transfer and splitting of BLM administered lands into production and conservation lands.