

Climate Change, Carbon Storage, & Greenhouse Gas Emissions Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

Background:

All studies project that the effects of climate change will be most pronounced after mid-century. Nearly all projections of climate change impacts anticipate increases in disturbance rates – wildfire, insects, disease, flooding, and drought, although the rates of increase, timing, and magnitude remain less certain. Changes in vegetation are more likely to occur following a disturbance than due to changing climate alone.



Common recommendations for adapting to climate change include thinning to reduce drought stress and risk of stand-replacing fire and insect outbreak, assisted migration of species or genotypes expected to be better adapted to future climate, maintaining or increasing species diversity, and emphasizing ecosystem processes over specific conditions to increase both resistance to climate change and resilience following disturbance.

Key Points:

- The current annual non-market value of carbon storage on BLM lands is \$99 million.
- Carbon storage would increase under all alternatives over time.
- Greenhouse gas emissions would increase under all alternatives, but emissions would remain less than one percent of the 2010 statewide emissions.
- Climate change provides uncertainty that reserves will function as intended and that planned timber harvest levels can be attained.

The Resource Management Plans (RMP) for Western Oregon will determine how the BLM-administered lands in western Oregon will be managed to further the recovery of threatened and endangered species, to provide for clean water, to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, to produce a sustained yield of timber products, to coordinate management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe, and to provide for recreation opportunities.

For more information, please visit the BLM's Resource Management Plans of western Oregon website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/index.php>.