

## Issue Paper: Forest Management Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon



### **Background:**

Forest Management refers to the science of managing forested landscapes. Management policy depends on the geography, topography, climate, existing laws, and philosophy of the land owner. In the Pacific Northwest, the BLM manages Forests according to existing federal regulations and agency policy. The alternatives in the Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement offer an array of forest management approaches, including variable retention regeneration harvests, uneven-aged management, and clearcutting.

Through the RMPs, the BLM will determine and declare the ASQ—the timber volume that a forest can produce continuously under the intensity of management described in the RMPs for those lands allocated for sustained-yield timber production. The BLM will make the determination and declaration of the ASQ for each of the six sustained yield units, which match the five western Oregon BLM district boundaries and the western portion of the Klamath Falls Field Office in the Lakeview District.

### **Key Points:**

- **Even-aged** systems with clear-cutting would produce more uniform stands in a mix of age classes without structural legacies. **Uneven-aged** management systems with selection harvesting regimes would produce mostly older, structurally-complex stands, and mature forests with multiple canopy layers;
- Alternative C would produce the most early-successional conditions of any alternative, while Alternative B would produce the most early-successional forests with structural legacies;
- The Allowable Sale Quantities (ASQ) would range from 120 million board feet (mmbf) to 486 mmbf under the alternatives considered in the plan. Non-ASQ timber harvest volumes in the first decade would range from 4 million board feet per year under Alternative D to 122 million board feet per year under the No Action Alternative.

- In 2012 BLM management contributed 7,900 jobs and \$355 million in earnings western Oregon. Under the alternatives these contributions would range from a low of 6,900 jobs and \$304 million in earnings (Alternative D) to a high of 12,419 jobs and \$584 million in earnings (Alternative C).
- Timber inventories would increase under all alternatives. This is mostly due to timber volume accumulation in the reserve land use allocations.
- The alternatives that include the most timber harvest acreage would also produce the largest number of acres available for the collection of category one special forest products.

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>.