

Issue Paper: Riparian Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

Background:

The Resource Management Plan for Western Oregon's Purpose and Need Statement emphasizes the important role that the BLM plays in managing watersheds to provide for clean water. Managing watersheds is essential to meeting our purpose of contributing to the recovery of fish listed under the Endangered Species Act, as well as complying with the Clean Water Act. The BLM developed riparian management strategies associated with each of the alternatives to accomplish multiple objectives for fish and habitat.



Since a primary component of high quality fish habitat in streams is large trees and pieces of wood, the BLM analyzed the potential for each alternative to create the type of riparian habitat that would promote the development and recruitment of large wood into streams. The BLM partnered with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop alternative approaches for a riparian and aquatic conservation strategy, and the Coquille Tribe suggested an additional riparian and aquatic conservation strategy, all of which are included among the alternatives in the Draft RMP/EIS.

Key Points:

- The BLM analyzed stream shading using two methods. By one method, all alternatives would avoid any measurable increases in stream temperature. The other method identified a small percentage of streams where forest management in the outer Riparian Reserve under Alternatives B and C would potentially affect stream temperature.
- Under all alternatives, potential sediment delivery to streams from new road construction would constitute less than a one percent increase above current levels of fine sediment delivery from existing roads.
- All of the alternatives would increase the potential large wood and small functional wood contribution to streams from the current conditions over time. By some measures, Alternatives B and C would result in slightly less potential wood contribution over time on some streams.

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>.