

---

---

# Summary

---

---

This summary presents a brief description of the major elements of this document. This summary is necessarily neither comprehensive nor complete. Furthermore, this summary omits the citations, definitions, and explanations provided in the document. Therefore, the details in the four chapters of this document are essential to understanding fully the planning process, the alternatives and the Proposed RMP, and their effects.

## Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is revising the resource management plans (RMPs) for its Coos Bay, Eugene, Medford, Roseburg, and Salem Districts, and the Klamath Falls Field Office of the Lakeview District. This Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (Proposed RMP/Final EIS) provides a description of the various alternative management approaches the BLM is considering for the management of these lands along with an analysis of the potential effects of the alternatives and the Proposed RMP.

The 1995 RMPs are consistent with the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, which the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture adopted for Federal forests within the range of the northern spotted owl. This RMP revision would replace the 1995 RMPs and thereby replace the Northwest Forest Plan for the management of BLM-administered lands in western Oregon. The purpose and need for this RMP revision are different from the purpose and need for the Northwest Forest Plan. As such, the action alternatives and the Proposed RMP in this Proposed RMP/Final EIS do not contain all elements of the Northwest Forest Plan.

The BLM conducted plan evaluations, which concluded that a plan revision is needed to address the changed circumstances and new information that has led to a substantial, long-term departure from the timber management outcomes predicted under the 1995 RMPs. Moreover, the BLM needs to revise existing plans to replace the 1995 RMPs' land use allocations and management direction because of new scientific information and policies related to the northern spotted owl.

The purpose of the RMP revision is to—

- Provide a sustained yield of timber;
- Contribute to the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species, including—
  - Maintaining a network of large blocks of forest to be managed for late-successional forests; and
  - Maintaining older and more structurally-complex multi-layered conifer forests;
- Provide clean water in watersheds;
- Restore fire-adapted ecosystems;
- Provide recreation opportunities; and
- Coordinate management of lands surrounding the Coquille Forest with the Coquille Tribe.

## The Alternatives and the Proposed RMP

The BLM designed the range of alternatives in the Draft RMP/EIS to span the full spectrum of alternatives that would respond to the purpose and need for the action. The BLM developed the alternatives to represent a range of overall management approaches, rather than exemplify gradations in design features. In the Draft RMP/EIS, the BLM analyzed in detail the No Action alternative and four

action alternatives. In addition, the BLM analyzed how two sub-alternatives, which modify an individual component of northern spotted owl conservation in an alternative, would alter effects on timber production and northern spotted owls. The BLM is carrying forward the action alternatives and sub-alternatives as presented in the Draft RMP/EIS into the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

The No Action alternative is implementation of the 1995 RMPs as written (in contrast to the BLM's current implementation practices under the 1995 RMPs). Implementation of the timber management program has departed substantially from the outcomes predicted in the 1995 RMPs, and continuing to harvest timber at the declared annual productive capacity level for multiple decades into the future would not be possible using the current practices.

The action alternatives and the Proposed RMP include the following land use allocations: Congressionally Reserved Lands and National Landscape Conservation System, District-Designated Reserves, Late-Successional Reserve, Riparian Reserve, Harvest Land Base, and Eastside Management Area (**Figure i**). The location and acreage of these allocations, with the exception of Congressionally Reserved Lands, vary by alternative and the Proposed RMP. Within the action alternatives and the Proposed RMP, the Harvest Land Base, Late-Successional Reserve, and Riparian Reserve have specific, mapped sub-allocations with differing management direction.

Alternative A has a Late-Successional Reserve larger than the No Action alternative. The Harvest Land Base is comprised of the Uneven-aged Timber Area and the High Intensity Timber Area. The High Intensity Timber Area includes regeneration harvest with no retention (i.e., clearcuts).

Alternative B has a Late-Successional Reserve similar in size to Alternative A, though of a different spatial design. The Harvest Land Base is comprised of the Uneven-aged Timber Area, Low Intensity Timber Area, and Moderate Intensity Timber Area. The portion of the Harvest Land Base in Uneven-aged Timber Area is the largest of the action alternatives. The Low Intensity Timber Area and Moderate Intensity Timber Area include regeneration harvest with varying levels of retention.

Sub-alternative B is identical to Alternative B, except that it includes protection of habitat within the home ranges of all northern spotted owl known and historic sites.

Alternative C has the largest Harvest Land Base of any of the alternatives. The Harvest Land Base is comprised of the Uneven-aged Timber Area and the High Intensity Timber Area. The High Intensity Timber Area includes regeneration harvest with no retention (i.e., clearcuts). Alternative C has the smallest acreage in the Riparian Reserve of the action alternatives.

Sub-alternative C is identical to Alternative C, except that the Late-Successional Reserve includes all stands 80 years old and older.

Alternative D has the smallest Late-Successional Reserve of any of the action alternatives. The Harvest Land Base is comprised of the Uneven-aged Timber Area, Owl Habitat Timber Area, and Moderate Intensity Timber Area. The Owl Habitat Timber Area includes timber harvest applied in a manner that would maintain northern spotted owl habitat. The Moderate Intensity Timber Area includes regeneration harvest with retention. Alternative D has the largest acreage in the Riparian Reserve of all of the action alternatives.

## **The Proposed RMP**

The BLM has developed the Proposed RMP as a variation on Alternative B, which the BLM identified in the Draft RMP/EIS as the preferred alternative. The Proposed RMP has a Late-Successional Reserve that

is a refinement of the Late-Successional Reserve design in Alternative B and is within the spectrum of Late-Successional Reserve designs of the action alternatives. The Harvest Land Base is comprised of the Uneven-aged Timber Area, Low Intensity Timber Area, and Moderate Intensity Timber Area, as in Alternative B. The geographic extent of the portion of the Harvest Land Base in Uneven-aged Timber Area in the Proposed RMP is intermediate between Alternative B and Alternative C. As in Alternative B, the Low Intensity Timber Area and Moderate Intensity Timber Area include regeneration harvest with varying levels of retention.

To reduce the risk of adverse effects to ESA-listed fish and water quality compared to Alternative B, the Proposed RMP includes a Riparian Reserve design that is intermediate among the alternatives and incorporates elements of each of the alternatives. The Proposed RMP carries forward the concept of key watersheds from the No Action alternative, in that it varies riparian management based on the importance of the subwatershed to the conservation and recovery of ESA-listed fish. For fish-bearing streams and perennial streams in all subwatersheds, the Riparian Reserve design is similar to Alternative D. For non-fish-bearing intermittent streams, the Riparian Reserve design in Class I and II subwatersheds is a slight modification of Alternative A, and the Riparian Reserve design in Class III subwatersheds is similar to Alternative C.

To increase protection of unique recreation settings and increase recreation use compared to Alternative B, the Proposed RMP includes an approach to the management of recreation resources modified from Alternative C.

To increase protection of identified lands with wilderness characteristics compared to Alternative B, the Proposed RMP includes an approach to the management of lands with wilderness characteristics from Alternative A.

To minimize the spread of sudden oak death compared to Alternative B, the Proposed RMP includes the sudden oak death treatment approach of the No Action alternative, Alternative C, and Alternative D.

**Table i** summarizes key features of the alternatives and the Proposed RMP that vary substantially and are easily quantified and summarized.

**Table i.** Key features of the alternatives and the Proposed RMP

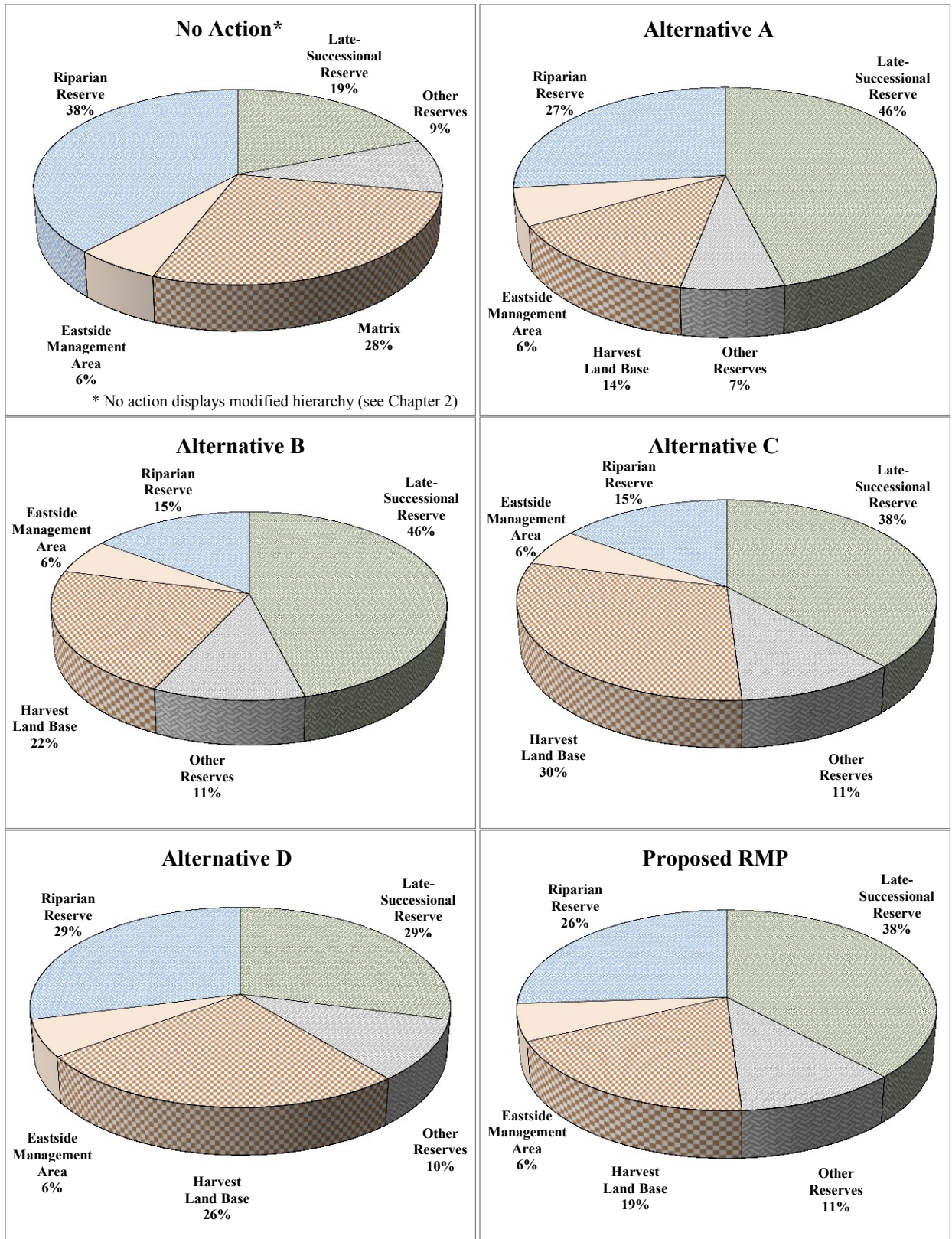
Alternative/ Proposed RMP	Total Late-Successional Reserve (Acres)	Protection of Structurally-complex Forest	Riparian Reserve Total Width	Riparian Reserve Inner Zone Width	Marbled Murrelet Survey and Protection
No Action	478,860	None specified	2 SPTH* on fish-bearing streams; 1 SPTH* on non-fish-bearing streams	None specified	Survey in Zones 1 and 2; protect contiguous recruitment and existing habitat within 1/2 mile of sites
Alt. A	1,147,527	≥ 120 years	1 SPTH* on all streams	120' on perennial and fish-bearing streams; 50' on non-fish-bearing intermittent streams	None
Alt. B	1,127,320	District-defined map based on existing, district-specific information	1 SPTH* on perennial and fish-bearing streams; 100' on debris-flow-prone non-fish-bearing intermittent streams; 50' on other non-fish-bearing intermittent streams	60' on perennial and fish-bearing streams; 50' on non-fish-bearing intermittent streams	Survey in Zone 1; protect contiguous habitat within 300' of sites
Sub. B	1,422,933				
Alt. C	949,279	≥ 160 years	150' on perennial and fish-bearing streams; 50' on non-fish-bearing streams	60' on perennial and fish-bearing streams; 50' on non-fish-bearing intermittent streams	Survey stands >120 years; protect contiguous habitat within 300' of sites
Sub. C	1,373,206	≥ 80 years			None
Alt. D	714,292	≥ 120/140/160 years on high/moderate/low productivity sites	1 SPTH* on all streams	120' on all streams	Survey in Zones 1 and 2; protect habitat within 1/2 mile of sites
PRMP	948,466	District-defined map based on existing, district-specific information (updated from Alternative B)	Class I and II subwatersheds: 1 SPTH* on all streams	Class I subwatersheds: 120' on perennial and fish-bearing streams; 50' on non-fish-bearing intermittent streams; Middle zone from 50' to 120' on non-fish-bearing intermittent streams	Survey nesting habitat in all land use allocations in Zone 1, survey nesting habitat in reserve land use allocations in Zone 2; protect contiguous habitat within 300' of sites
			Class III subwatersheds: 1 SPTH* on perennial and fish-bearing streams; 50' on non-fish-bearing intermittent streams	Class II and III subwatersheds: 120' on perennial and fish-bearing streams; 50' on non-fish-bearing intermittent streams	

\* Site-potential tree height

Alternative/ Proposed RMP	Total Harvest Land Base (Acres)	Green Tree Retention	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (Number Designated)	Recreation Management Areas		District- Designated Reserve—Lands Managed for their Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Wild and Scenic Rivers Recommended for National System Inclusion (Number of River Segments)
				Special Recreation Management Area (Acres)	Extensive Recreation Management Area (Acres)		
No Action	691,998	GFMA†: 6–8 TPA‡ Connectivity/Diversity: 12–18 TPA‡ Southern GFMA†: 16–25 TPA	86 <i>(and 55 potential)</i>	168,968	2,397,460	-	- <i>(all 51 eligible would continue receiving interim protections)</i>
Alt. A	343,900	No retention	107	20,065	-	79,709	-
Alt. B	556,335	Low Intensity Timber Area: 15–30% retention	105	24,972	139,320	76,525	6
Sub. B	298,121	Moderate Intensity Timber Area: 5–15% retention					
Alt. C	741,332	No retention	101	59,046	357,771	66,190	6
Sub. C	495,507						
Alt. D	650,382	Owl Habitat Timber Area: maintain owl habitat Moderate Intensity Timber Area: 5–15% retention	107	86,693	580,458	-	51
PRMP	469,215	Low Intensity Timber Area: 15–30% retention Moderate Intensity Timber Area: 5–15% retention	108	70,730	420,311	79,107	6

† GFMA = General Forest Management Area

‡ TPA = Trees per acre



**Figure i.** Land use allocations under the alternatives and the Proposed RMP

## **Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences**

This section summarizes the existing conditions and environmental consequences for each resource that the RMPs are likely to affect. Throughout this document, the BLM uses the term ‘planning area’ to refer to the 22 million acres of land within the geographic boundary of this planning effort regardless of jurisdiction, and uses the term ‘decision area’ to refer to the 2.5 million acres of BLM-administered lands within the planning area.

### **Air Quality**

The action alternatives and the Proposed RMP would produce more particulate emissions than the No Action alternative and current conditions. However, adherence to the requirements of the Oregon Smoke Management Plan would continue to limit impacts to human health and visibility from prescribed fires.

### **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

The alternatives and the Proposed RMP consider the designation of 131 potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The Proposed RMP would designate the most and Alternative C the fewest areas as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern at 108 and 101, respectively.

### **Climate Change**

Carbon storage would increase under the alternatives and the Proposed RMP. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with BLM-administered lands would increase under the alternatives and the Proposed RMP, but would remain less than 1 percent of the 2010 statewide greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change provides uncertainty that reserves will function as intended and that planned timber harvest levels can be attained, with the uncertainty increasing over time.

### **Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

The BLM can reduce or eliminate effects to cultural and paleontological resources through systematic and thorough cultural and paleontological resource inventories. Implementation of Alternatives A and D would be the least likely to result in potential adverse impacts to cultural and paleontological resources.

### **Fire and Fuels**

The action alternatives and the Proposed RMP would increase stand-level fire resistance and reduce wildfire hazard on BLM-administered lands compared to current conditions. The BLM-administered lands constitute only a small portion of the entire interior/south dry forest landscape. Consequently, the modest shifts under the alternatives and the Proposed RMP would not result in any substantial change in the overall landscape fire resilience. The dry forest landscape would continue to have an overabundance of mid-seral closed forest and a deficit of late-seral open forest.

### **Fisheries**

The alternatives and the Proposed RMP would increase the potential large wood and small functional wood contribution to streams from the current conditions over time. Sediment production from road construction and operation would increase by less than one percent under the alternatives and the Proposed RMP, and the effects to fish would not differ at this scale of analysis. These effects to fish would be short-term and localized and could result from increases in turbidity or deposition of fines in the stream channel substrates affecting habitat.

## **Forest Management**

Even-aged systems with clear-cutting would produce more uniform stands in a mix of age classes without structural legacies. Two-aged systems with variable-retention regeneration harvesting would produce stands in a mix of age classes with legacy structures and multiple canopy layers. Uneven-aged management systems with selection harvesting regimes would produce mostly older, structurally-complex stands and mature forests with multiple canopy layers.

The allowable sale quantity (ASQ) of timber under the alternatives and the Proposed RMP would range from 120 million board feet (MMbf) per year under Sub-alternative B to 486 MMbf per year under Alternative C. Non-ASQ timber harvest volumes in the first decade would range from 4 MMbf per year under Alternative D to 122 MMbf per year under the No Action alternative. The ASQ under the Proposed RMP would be 205 MMbf per year, and the non-ASQ would be 73 MMbf per year in the first decade.

## **Hydrology**

Under the No Action alternative, Alternatives A and D, and the Proposed RMP, less than 0.5 percent of all perennial and fish-bearing stream reaches in the decision area would currently be susceptible to shade reductions that could affect stream temperature if the BLM applies thinning in the outer zone of the Riparian Reserve. Under Alternative B and C, approximately 5 percent of all perennial and fish-bearing reaches in the decision area would currently be susceptible to shade reductions that could affect stream temperature if the BLM applies thinning in the outer zone of the Riparian Reserve.

Under all alternatives and the Proposed RMP, potential sediment delivery to streams from new road construction would constitute less than a 1 percent increase above current levels of fine sediment delivery from existing roads. Less than 2 percent of the decision area would be susceptible to peak flow increases over time under any alternative or the Proposed RMP. Less than 1 percent of the Harvest Land Base would be susceptible to landsliding with the potential to deliver sediment to streams over time under the alternatives and the Proposed RMP.

## **Invasive Species**

The risk of introducing and spreading invasive plant species over the next 10 years, and in the long term, would be lowest under Alternative D, and highest under Alternatives B and C. The No Action alternative, Alternatives C and D, and the Proposed RMP would result in the smallest increase in sudden oak death infestation, because the BLM would treat all detected infestations.

## **Lands and Realty**

Under all alternatives and the Proposed RMP, BLM-administered lands would generally be available for rights-of-way. Alternative D would most constrain the BLM's ability to grant rights-of-way compared to the current conditions.

## **Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

Alternative A and the Proposed RMP would provide the largest protection of identified lands with wilderness characteristics within the decision area. Alternatives B and C would provide intermediate protection of lands identified with wilderness characteristics within the decision area. Alternative D provides no protection of lands identified with wilderness characteristics with the decision area.

## **Livestock Grazing**

Under Alternatives A, B, and C, public land available for livestock grazing would decrease from 490,047 acres to 366,231 acres. This change would occur through the BLM making 47 allotments or leases unavailable for grazing. Under the Proposed RMP, the BLM-administered lands available for livestock



grazing would decrease from 490,047 acres to 360,303 acres. This change would occur through the BLM making 51 allotments or leases unavailable for grazing. Under Alternative D, the BLM would no longer authorize livestock grazing within the decision area, a change that would affect 490,047 acres. This change would occur through the BLM terminating existing grazing authorizations and making all allotments unavailable for grazing.

### **Minerals**

Under the action alternatives and the Proposed RMP, the BLM would recommend for withdrawal from locatable mineral entry between 6 and 8 percent of the decision area, in addition to the 4 percent already withdrawn. Approximately 90 percent of the decision area would remain open to locatable mineral entry and salable mineral material disposal. All of the decision area would remain open to leasable mineral development.

### **National Trails System**

Alternative D would provide the largest National Trail Corridor and protect the largest number of acres of BLM-administered lands within the viewshed. However, these acres only account for 9 percent of all viewable acres. Under the Proposed RMP, the BLM would administer 23 percent of the visible acres of BLM-administered lands within the viewshed as the Pacific Crest Trail's National Trail Management Corridor.

### **Rare Plants and Fungi**

Only two ESA-listed plant species occur within forest and woodland habitat in the decision area: Kincaid's lupine and Gentner's fritillary; the BLM would conduct pre-disturbance surveys and apply conservation measures for these species. The BLM would manage Bureau Sensitive plant and fungi species under the Bureau's Special Status Species program under all alternatives and the Proposed RMP. Species that are currently Survey and Manage and not included on the Bureau Sensitive species list would receive no specific protections under any action alternative or the Proposed RMP.

### **Recreation and Visitor Services**

Alternative A would provide a reduction in recreation opportunities when compared to the existing management situation. Alternative D would provide the largest number and acres of recreation management areas in closest proximity to the twelve most populated communities in the planning area. The Proposed RMP would provide more acres allocated as recreation management areas than Alternatives A, B, and C, and fewer acres than Alternative D.

### **Socioeconomics**

BLM-administered lands provide a wide variety of market and non-market goods and services to the planning area such as timber, recreation, carbon storage, minerals, and source water protection. The annual harvest value of timber, compared to \$23 million in 2012, would increase under all alternatives and the Proposed RMP, from \$37 million under Alternative D to \$135 million under Alternative C. Under the Proposed RMP, the annual harvest value of timber would increase to \$51 million. Using non-market valuation techniques, recreation on BLM-administered lands had a value of \$223 million in 2012. Based on a phased recreation development timeline of 50 years, the value of recreation in 2023 would range from \$243 million under Alternative A to \$278 million under Alternative D. Under the Proposed RMP, the value of recreation in 2023 would be \$271 million. Assuming a 20-year phase-in period rather than a 50-year period, the value of recreation in 2023 would range from \$230 to \$331 million, with the Proposed RMP value at \$311 million. Carbon storage on BLM-administered lands had a value of \$85 million in 2012. The annual value of net carbon storage would increase under the Proposed RMP and all alternatives except Alternative C, under which it would fall to \$43 million. Under the Proposed RMP, the annual value of net carbon storage would increase to \$159 million in 2022.

In 2012, BLM management contributed 7,900 jobs and \$355 million in earnings to the planning area, which is about 0.4 percent of the total jobs and earnings. Under the action alternatives, these contributions from BLM management would range from a low of 7,100 jobs and \$310 million in earnings (Alternative D) to a high of 12,200 jobs and \$573 million in earnings (Alternative C). Under the Proposed RMP, contributions from BLM management would be 8,500 jobs and \$330 million in earnings. Employment effects to low-income populations in Coos and Curry Counties would be disproportionately negative under Alternatives A, B, and D, and the Proposed RMP. Under Alternative D, employment effects in Douglas and Klamath Counties would also be disproportionately negative. Low-income communities and Tribes in these counties would be vulnerable to these disproportionately negative effects.

There is uncertainty regarding the source and amounts of future payments to counties from activities on BLM-administered lands. Congress has not authorized payments under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) beyond 2016. SRS payments to counties totaled \$38 million in 2012. Had payments in 2012 been based on the O&C Act formula, they would have been \$12 million. Under the action alternatives, assuming payments were based on the formula in the O&C Act, payments in 2018 would range from a low of \$19 million under Alternative D, to a high of \$67 million under Alternative C. The Proposed RMP would result in payments of \$26 million.

### **Soil Resources**

All alternatives and the Proposed RMP would increase the acreage of detrimental soil disturbance from timber harvest, road construction, and fuels treatments by 13–29 percent of current amounts during the first decade. The BLM would be able to reduce the acreage of detrimental soil conditions from timber harvest, road construction, and fuels treatments through management practices that would limit initial compaction levels, remove existing or created compacted surfaces, and improve soil water and organic matter levels.

### **Sustainable Energy**

Under the alternatives and the Proposed RMP, the majority of the land in the decision area would be available for the potential development of sustainable energy resources. While there is no current geothermal development and limited potential in the decision area, the action alternatives and the Proposed RMP would be less constraining to geothermal development than the current condition.

### **Trails and Travel Management**

The action alternatives and the Proposed RMP would increase the acreage designated as *closed* for public motorized access and decrease the acreage designated as *open* for public motorized access when compared to the No Action alternative.

### **Tribal Interests**

An ongoing dialogue between BLM representatives and designated Tribal representatives and their leadership produced the issues addressed in the Tribal Interests section. A large portion of the tribally identified issues are covered under specific resource sections (e.g., fish, water, socioeconomics, and cultural resources), though the effects specific to tribal communities may differ due to the unique relationships that Tribes have with the landscape and resources on it.

### **Visual Resources Management**

Under the action alternatives and the Proposed RMP, visual landscape character would be subject to change and would result in a reduction to the scenic resource value over time. The BLM would manage a substantial acreage of land at a less protective Visual Resource Management class than what would be commensurate with the assigned Visual Resource Inventory class. Alternative D would provide the most

protection, and Alternatives A, B, and C would provide the least protection of visual resources. The Proposed RMP would provide more protection of visual resources within the decision area than Alternatives B and C, and less protection than Alternatives A and D and the No Action alternative.

## **Wildlife**

### **Northern spotted owl**

The northern spotted owl population is under severe biological stress in much of western Oregon and has an even chance of being extirpated from the Coast Range within 20 years. This population risk is predominately due to competitive interactions between northern spotted owls and barred owls. Under current barred owl encounter rates, the BLM has no opportunity through habitat management alone in the Coast Range to reduce risks to the northern spotted owl during the next 50 years, and there are no substantive differences among the alternatives and the Proposed RMP in their potential effects from habitat management on those risks. However, in the western Cascades and Klamath Basin, the BLM would contribute to self-sustaining northern spotted owl populations during the next 50 years under the alternatives and the Proposed RMP. Under the Proposed RMP, the BLM would participate in, cooperate with, and provide support for an interagency program for barred owl management to implement Recovery Action 30 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines the best manner in which barred owl management can contribute to the recovery of the northern spotted owl. Additionally, under the Proposed RMP, the BLM would not authorize timber sales that would cause the incidental take of northern spotted owls from timber harvest until implementation of a barred owl management program has begun.

### **Marbled Murrelet**

All alternatives would result in an increase in the amount of marbled murrelet high-quality nesting habitat and total nesting habitat in 50 years. Alternatives A, B, and C would result in the loss of 106, 23, and 189 future marbled murrelet sites, respectively, because of timber harvest in the Harvest Land Base in the absence of surveys. The Proposed RMP would result in the loss of 13 future marbled murrelet sites because of timber harvest in the Harvest Land Base in the absence of surveys.

### **Wild Horses**

The Pokegama herd is the only wild horse herd in the decision area and is currently 40 percent over appropriate management level of 30–50 horses. Alternative D, which would eliminate livestock grazing, would reduce competition for forage and provide the potential for increased growth of the Pokegama herd. Otherwise, the alternatives and the Proposed RMP would not differ in their effects on the Pokegama herd.

### **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

Under the No Action alternative, the BLM would continue to manage the 51 eligible Wild and Scenic River segments under interim management to protect their Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), water quality, free-flowing characteristics, and tentative classification as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational until suitability is determined during subsequent land use planning efforts. Under Alternative A, the BLM would not recommend any of the 51 eligible Wild and Scenic River segments for inclusion into the National System, resulting in impacts to all eligible river segments and their associated values. Under Alternatives B and C, and the Proposed RMP, the BLM would recommend the 6 eligible Wild and Scenic River segments determined to be suitable. Under Alternative D, the BLM would recommend all 51 eligible Wild and Scenic River segments for inclusion into the National System, resulting in the largest protection for all segments and their associated river values.

## **Consultation and Coordination**

The preparation of the Draft RMP/EIS included 38 public involvement efforts, including formal scoping, regional workshops on recreation management, community listening sessions, and public meetings about the Planning Criteria and preliminary alternatives.

On April 24, 2015, the BLM released the Draft RMP/EIS, announcing, at that time, a 90-day comment period that would conclude on July 23, 2015. On July 13, 2015, the BLM extended the comment period on the Draft RMP/EIS until August 21, 2015. During the comment period, the BLM held 17 scheduled public meetings in May and June of 2015. These meetings included open houses in Roseburg, Springfield, Salem, Klamath Falls, Medford, Coos Bay, and Portland. These public meetings also included workshops on socioeconomics in Salem and Roseburg, workshops on recreation in Roseburg, Grants Pass, Salem, and Springfield, workshops on forest management and wildlife in Salem and Medford, and a workshop on riparian management in Springfield. The BLM also held a public meeting with an invitation for elected officials in Salem. The BLM received approximately 4,500 comments on the Draft RMP/EIS during the comment period.

The BLM is consulting on a government-to-government level with the nine federally recognized Tribes located within, or that have interests within, the planning area. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Coquille Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Klamath Tribes are formal cooperators in the RMP revisions, in addition to their government-to-government status.

The BLM has been assisted in the preparation of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS by a Cooperating Agency Advisory Group, which includes representatives of Federal and State agencies, counties, and Tribes. In addition to meeting as a full group periodically throughout the development of the Draft RMP/EIS and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, the Cooperating Agency Advisory Group also created five working groups in order to facilitate a more detailed level of engagement with the BLM on the following topics: aquatics, outreach, terrestrial, socio-economics, and tribal issues.

Working through a robust engagement process with neutral facilitation, the cooperators have provided expertise on much of the subject matter the BLM is addressing in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, as well as advice based on experience with similar planning efforts. The cooperators have provided feedback on public outreach sessions, data sources and analytical methods, and components of the alternatives. They have provided oral and written feedback and ideas throughout the process of developing the Draft RMP/EIS and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Nearly all cooperators have been positive about the level of engagement and the general direction of the planning process. However, the Association of O&C Counties (which is the designated representative of 15 counties) has continued to express a high level of concern about the BLM's planning process. Specifically, the Association of O&C Counties continues to assert that the BLM's Purpose and Need statement was fatally flawed by failing to place sustained sustained-yield timber production as the primary purpose of the planning effort.

The BLM district managers and planning personnel have met with individual county commissioners on an ongoing basis to provide updates on progress and key milestones. As noted above, several county governments are formal cooperators in the planning process. While the Association of O&C Counties represents most of the counties at the Cooperating Agency Advisory Group meetings, BLM district managers also maintain relationships with local county representatives.

The BLM has begun consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and will complete consultation before signing Records of Decision for the RMP revision. The BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service signed an ESA Consultation Agreement, which identifies responsibilities for each agency and defines the processes, products, actions, timeframe, and expectations for the consultation process.

**Page intentionally left blank**