

Bureau of Land Management Coos Bay District Planning Update

Spring 2020

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Coos Bay District BLM Planning Update

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The *Planning Update* is published to provide current information about ongoing and future projects planned by the Coos Bay District of the Bureau of Land Management. It is our intent to increase the public's awareness of BLM activities and to seek feedback from those who may be affected by our resource management programs. Your feedback helps us make informed decisions and implement better projects. Please send written comments, including the specific project and field office name, during that project's public comment period to: 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459 or to BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov.

Thank you for your continued interest in public land management.

The *Planning Update* is also available under the "Frequently Requested NEPA Documents" section at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/oregon-washington>

Sincerely,

/s/ John Huston
Coos Bay District Manager (Acting)

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ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES AND NEW PROJECTS

Pages three through seven contain a summary of projects on the Coos Bay District. Some projects were previously listed and are still in the process of being completed, while others are in the process of being implemented. Projects that have been dropped from consideration, have a signed decision, or are completed will not be listed in future issues.

The contact people listed with the projects are available to answer questions and provide additional details. They are interested in information you wish to share concerning any of the projects or project areas. You may contact these people by mail, by telephoning our office at 541-756-0100, or emailing us at: BLM_OR_CB_Mail@blm.gov.

District

Seismic Study

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C030-2020-0001-CX

Description: This project would record natural and man-made seismic signals along the Coast Ranges of Oregon and southwestern Washington to generate an image of the Cascadia subduction zone to a depth of ~30 km with the goal of improving our understanding of the geologic structure and potential earthquake hazards in Oregon and Washington. The data analysis techniques to be used are analogous to doing a combined ultrasound and CAT-scan of the earth.

The project involves deploying ~216 small, short-term seismographs along the Coast Ranges and surrounding areas in Oregon and southwest Washington for a duration of 4 to 8 weeks. Researchers would deploy instruments from the coast to the Willamette Valley, and from the California border into southwest Washington. Approximately half of the stations would be in a grid, spaced at 10-15 km E-W and N-S, and the rest would be along a few E-W lines with stations installed every 0.5 -1 km. There would be approximately 216 station locations on BLM-administered lands.

Location: Various locations across the Coos Bay District.
Planning Status: In preparation.
Decision: Summer 2020.
Implementation: Late summer 2020 and 2021.

For further information, please contact Aimee Hoefs.

Umpqua Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Catching EA

Description: The BLM proposes approximately 817–841 acres of commercial timber harvest in the Harvest Land Base.

Location: T. 27 S., R. 12 W., Sections 19, 27, and 33
T. 27 S., R. 13 W., Section 13

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed
Analysis – Spring 2020

Decision Date: Decisions – Starting in FY 2021

Implementation: Timber Sales planned for FY 2021 through FY 2024

For further information, please click on the following link [DOI-BLM-ORWA-C030-2019-0003-EA](#), or contact Heather Partipilo

West Fork Smith River (WFSR) EA

Description: The BLM proposed approximately 2,500 acres of thinning treatments in the Late-Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve land use allocations.

Location: T. 19 S., R. 09 W., Sections 25 and 35
T. 20 S., R. 09 W., Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12
T. 19 S., R. 08 W., Sections 30 and 31
T. 20 S., R. 08 W., Section 9

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed.
Analysis – Completed.

Decision Date: Decisions – FY 2019 through FY 2022.

Implementation: Timber sales planned through FY 2022.

For further information, please click on the following link [DOI-BLM-ORWA-C030-2017-0001-EA](#), or contact Heather Partipilo

Upper Slide Creek WFSR Add-on Thinning Acres DNA

Description: The BLM proposes to commercially thin approximately 37 additional acres of Douglas-fir stands adjacent to the WFSR project.

Location: T. 20 S., R. 9 W., Section 13

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed
Review – Spring 2020

Decision Date: Decisions – FY 2021

Implementation: Planned for FY 2021 or after

For further information, please contact Heather Partipilo and refer to the Upper Slide Creek WFSR Add-on Thinning Acres DNA project.

OTHER

Spencer Creek Passage and Instream Improvements DNA

Description: The BLM proposes three activities:

- 1) Replacement of a culvert (in Section 23) that is currently a barrier to anadromous and juvenile salmon,
- 2) Spencer Creek falls modification (in Section 27) and removing the remains of a concrete sill that was installed in conjunction with a now defunct fish ladder, removing an approximately ½-cubic yard boulder

from a pool used by fish to jump above the bedrock falls, and increasing the pool at the bottom of the falls by approximately two feet in depth and eight feet in length, and
3) Placement of log and boulder structures in up to 9.0 miles of Spencer Creek.

Location: T. 20 S., R. 10 W., Section 23
T. 20 S., R. 10 W., Section 27
T. 20 S., R. 10 W., Sections 14, 15, 22–24, 26, 27

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed
Review – Spring 2020

Decision Date: Decisions – FY 2020

Implementation: Planned for FY 2020 or after

For further information, please contact Heather Partipilo and refer to the Spencer Creek Passage and Instream Improvements DNA, DOI-BLM-ORWA-C030-2020-0002-DNA.

OR 69781 Roman Nose and OR 70142 Bennett Butte Earthquake Early Warning Seismic Station Rights-of-Way (ROW) CX

Description: The BLM received a request for a right-of-way for long-term early warning seismic stations at the BLM’s Roman Nose and Bennett Butte Communications Sites.

Location: Roman Nose Communication Site, Bennett Butte Communication Site

Planning Status: In process

Decision Date: Decisions – FY 2020

Implementation: Planned for FY 2020

For further information, please contact Heather Partipilo and refer to the Roman Nose and Bennett Butte EWS Station ROW CX, DOI-BLM-ORWA-C000-2020-0002-CX.

Devil’s Staircase Wilderness Area Protection CX

Description: Congress designated the Devil's Staircase Wilderness in the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-9). These are 30,621 acres of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands that have been added to the National Wilderness Preservation System in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.1131 et seq.). Section 4 (c) of the Wilderness Act describes prohibited uses including the use of motorized vehicles.

To manage wilderness and preserve the undeveloped character the Coos Bay District BLM and Siuslaw National Forest have identified 20 locations where existing roads intrude upon the Devil's Staircase Wilderness boundary. At these locations, the BLM will place large rip rap rock to form a physical vehicle barrier to discourage motorized vehicle use.

Location: Various locations surrounding the designated boundary of the wilderness.

Planning Status: In preparation

Decision Date: Summer 2020

Implementation: Summer/Fall 2020

For further information, contact Aimee Hoefs

Myrtlewood Field Office

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Big Weekly Elk Forest Management Project

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2019-0006-EA

Description: The proposed actions include regeneration timber harvest, commercial thinning, commercial restoration treatments, non-commercial restoration treatments, fuels treatments, transportation management, and snag creation within the Harvest Land Base (HLB), Late Successional Reserve (LSR), and Riparian Reserve (RR) land use allocations.

Locations: T. 28 S., R. 10 W., Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 29
T. 28 S., R. 11 W., Sections 02, 16, 17, 18, 23, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36
T. 29 S., R. 10 W., Sections 06, 07, 08, 09, 17, 28, 29, 30
T. 29 S., R. 11 W., Sections 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 09, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31
T. 29 S., R. 12 W., Sections 23 and 24
T. 30 S., R. 11 W., Sections 01, 04, 06, 08
T. 30 S., R. 12 W., Sections 01 and 12

Planning Status: Scoping – Completed.
Analysis – Ongoing.
Decisions – starting FY 2021.

Implementation: Timber Sales planed for FY 2021 through 2024.

For further information, please click on the following link <https://go.usa.gov/xmtMF> or contact Ryan Desliu

Preacher Man DNA

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2020-00XX-DNA

Description: The BLM proposes to include 10 additional acres of Harvest Land Base to the Preacher Man Timber Sale and to construct 675 ft of new road through the proposed area. This new road construction will eliminate the need for 3880 ft of road improvement and 220 ft of new construction that was analyzed in the EA. With the roads that are currently planned, approximately 430 ft of new construction, that was not analyzed, would still need to be added for operational feasibility. Furthermore, the proposed road eliminates the cost to the government to buy into the existing private road and the costs to improve the road to support all-season haul. Approximately 100 ft of the proposed road will be within a riparian buffer.

Location: T. 29 S., R. 09 W., Section 31

Planning Status: In process.

Decision Date: Summer 2020.

Implementation: Following Decision.

For further information, contact Ryan Desliu.

Slate Gray Timber Sale DNA

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2020-0001-DNA

Description: During layout and field verification foresters found 32 acres 40-50-year old stands directly adjacent to the *Slate Gray* timber sale, as described in the Upper Rock Creek Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2016-0007-EA). All actions described in the DNA are similar to actions analyzed in the Upper Rock Creek EA.

Location: T. 30 S., R. 09 W., Section 17
Planning Status: Complete
Decision Date: Late FY 2020
Implementation: Following Decision.

For further information, contact Ryan Desliu.

OTHER

Sudden Oak Death EA

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2019-0001-EA

Description: Myrtlewood Field Office is preparing a Programmatic EA to describe actions to identify, treat, and eradicate known sites of the non-native pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death (SOD). Forest treatments would occur within outbreak areas on BLM-administered lands.

Location: BLM-administered lands in Curry County, Oregon.
Planning Status: In process
Decision Date: Decision Record – FY 2021.
Implementation: Following Decision.

For further information, please click on the following link <https://bit.ly/2ObTT9y>, or contact Ryan Desliu.

Panther Creek DNA

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2020-00XX-DNA

Description: The BLM proposes the following actions:

- Conduct wood placement in approximately 0.5 miles of aquatic habitat; and
- Plant approximately 13 acres of riparian area

Location: T. 39 S., R. 12 W., Sec. 08

Planning Status: In process.

Decision Date: Summer 2020.

Implementation: Following Decision.

For further information, contact Ryan Desliu.

Sandy Creek Tributary Culvert Replacement DNA

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2020-00XX-DNA

Description: The BLM proposes replacing a failing stream crossing at milepost 0.85 of road number 29-10-14.2 on BLM-managed lands. Mechanized removal and replacement of the culvert will be accomplished using an excavator or other similar heavy equipment. Existing road fill will be stockpiled along the existing road prism and used to fill in around the new culvert after installation. All project work would take place during work periods identified during internal project review, such as outside wildlife breeding/nesting seasons. The BLM anticipates that internal BLM review and public scoping will identify project design features and any potential issues related to this project.

Location: T. 29 S., R. 10 W., Sec. 15

Planning Status: In process

Decision Date: Summer 2020.

Implementation: Following Decision.

For further information, contact Ryan Desliu.

South Fork Elk Creek Culvert Replacement DNA

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2020-00XX-DNA

Description: The BLM proposes replacing a perched stream crossing at milepost 0.1 of road number 28-11-26.0 on BLM-managed lands with a bridge that the BLM has stored off-site. Mechanized removal and replacement of the culvert will be accomplished using an excavator or other similar heavy equipment. Existing road fill will be stockpiled along the existing road prism and used to fill in around the new culvert after installation. All project work would take place during work periods identified during internal project review, such as outside wildlife breeding/nesting seasons.

Location: T. 28 S., R. 11 W., Sec. 26

Planning Status: In process

Decision Date: Summer 2020

Implementation: Following Decision.

For further information, contact Ryan Desliu.

Grizzly Tie Road Repair DNA

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2020-00XX-DNA

Description: The BLM proposes to renovate approximately 1 mile of road renovation which would include 3 creek crossings, brush/clearing vegetation, and application of rock fill. This work will improve access to BLM holdings for forest management treatments (Sudden Oak Death treatments and plantation management).

Location: T. 37 S., R. 14 W., Sections 9 and 16

Planning Status: In process

Decision Date: Summer 2020.

Implementation: Following Decision.

For further information, contact Ryan Desliu.

Grizzly Communication Site DNA

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2020-00XX-DNA

Description: Current clearing around the communication facilities was completed in 2008. This opening was re-treated in 2013. Since that time, brush and trees have encroached in the cleared area and fuel loadings have reached levels requiring treatment. Further analysis of the site has revealed that additional clearing is necessary in order to adequately protect on-site facilities.

Location: T. 37 S., R. 14 W., Section 4

Planning Status: In process

Decision Date: Summer 2020.

Implementation: Following Decision.

For further information, contact Ryan Desliu.

SOD CX (2020)

DOI-BLM-ORWA-C040-2020-00XX-CX

Description: The BLM proposes to cut, pile, and burn infected and host plants to prevent the spread of Sudden Oak Death.

Location: BLM-administered lands in Curry County, Oregon.

Planning Status: In process

Decision Date: Decision Record – Late Summer FY 2020.

Implementation: Following Decision.

For further information, contact Ryan Desliu.