



# Thurston Hills Forestry and Trails Project

## Project Overview

- The project is located approximately eight miles southeast of downtown Springfield, Oregon, adjacent to the Thurston Hills Natural Area managed by Willamalane Parks and Recreation District.
- These BLM managed public lands are set aside for a sustainable yield of timber production and were last harvested from 2001-2005.
- A timber harvest (Alternatives 3, 4, and 5) would remove selected trees to establish a new stand of timber on 109-165 acres, with some trees being kept to provide benefits for wildlife and would generate 4-6 million board feet of timber, providing approximately 52 jobs and \$2.5 million of employment income for the local economy.
- In three alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4), BLM would designate 8.3 to 8.5 miles of new hiking and mountain biking trails and associated Recreation Management Zones, providing 100 feet around every future trails' centerline to manage for recreation objectives including open space and non-motorized trail opportunities. In all cases, designation would take place prior to timber harvest. These new trails would include a mix of intermediate and advanced mountain biking experiences and would connect to Willamalane's Thurston Hills Natural Area trail system.
- Approximately 2/3 of the new trail system would meander through forested areas and 1/3 of the system would be in more open, harvested areas. Leave trees in the harvested areas would be concentrated near the trail.
- A decision on the project was made in August 2018 and the Pedal Power Timber sale was sold to Seneca in September. In meeting a Federal Court Order issued in September 2019, an updated Environmental Assessment was released in February 2020 with a 30-day public comment period.
- 100% of harvested acres would be whole tree yarded to address concerns of increased fire hazard/risk from logging slash, such as limbs, branches, and tree tops, reducing the amount of slash left in the units. Slash remaining after whole tree yarding would receive treatments such as piling and burning.
- See the back of this page for a map of Preferred Alternative 4.

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