

Pre-Operations Report

Operation Name: Commo Tower
County: Lane
Management Basin: Western Lane
Legal Description: Sec 26, T17S, R8W

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	Modified Clearcut	48	40

Net acres do not include in-unit stream buffers or roads.

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

The sale ranges from 1600 to 2300 feet elevation. About half the sale is on 60% to 70% slope and the remainder is 20% or less. The steep slopes are Digger soil and the flats are Valino. Both are well drained, moderately fine textured colluvial soils developing from Eocene age Tyee sandstone, but Digger is rocky and more shallow than Valino..

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information (Net Acres)

Area	Prescription	Stand ID ¹	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Acres ²
I	Modified Clearcut		DF	70	17	273	180	70	40

¹ The source of stand inventory information is 1980 OSCUR grown forward with a growth model.

The above data is from grown forward 1980's inventory, but was fairly representative of the stand in January 2004. However, a major wind storm blew down much of the steep slope and knocked the tops out of many of the trees. The blowdown was salvaged on 16 acres in 2004, but none of the broken topped trees were salvaged because of spotted owl concerns at that time.

The current stands are a result of natural seeding that followed a series of fires that began in 1910 and ended about 1930. The stands are almost entirely even-aged Douglas-fir about 75 years old with scattered bigleaf maple underneath. The riparian areas are primarily alder and maple. Brush is the typical dense vine

maple and salal found throughout much of this portion of the Coast Range. The draws also have salmonberry.

III. DESIRED STAND CONDITION:

The area has a Desired Future Condition of General, and plans are to manage the area with an emphasis on Douglas-fir commercial forest.

Table 3. Stand Structure Information (Net Acres)

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest	Desired Future	Acres
1		UDS	UDS	GEN	40

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION and ANTICIPATED PATHWAY:

Prescription and Management Pathway:

The operation begins with a modified clearcut to contribute towards the District-wide regeneration structure goal of 10% of the State-owned landscape. Only about 5% of the forest is now less than 20 years old.

Hemlock and cedar which are not a safety hazard will be left standing, but some will be knocked down during yarding. The harvest area may be treated with aerially applied herbicide after harvest to reduce brush competition. The unit will be planted to 300 trees per acre, primarily Douglas-fir, with up to 25% other conifer mixed in. Portions of the sale were underplanted following the blowdown salvage, and many of these seedlings will survive the logging.

A couple of years later the area will be hack and squirt treated to reduce the amount of bigleaf maple resprouting from stumps.

Further treatment for brush competition is not anticipated. No precommercial thinning is planned. The area may be commercially thinned in 40 to 45 years, depending upon growth, markets, and State policies. Or the stand may be allowed to grow freely until final harvest at age 50 to 70.

Leave Trees: The 2.2 acres of stream buffers probably contain about 180 trees, which amounts to nearly 5 trees per clearcut acre. In addition, about 150 conifer in the 25 to 100 feet inner RMA bordering perennial and high energy streams will be left. Plus, within the unit itself, hemlock, cedar, and

any trees over 40 inches DBH which are not safety hazards or operational impediments will be left.

Snags: Existing snags that are not safety hazards will be left. Some big, old snags exist and probably over 2 snags per acre were created in the 2004 wind storm.

Down Wood: Our experience on Knapp Knob suggests that at least 600 cu ft/ac of down wood will be created during the logging operations.

V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE INFORMATION:

Table 4. Timber and Revenue

Ownership		Sale Type	
BOF	CSL	Cash	Recovery
100%	%	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Planned Quarter: 4			

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	1,000	0	1,000
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	\$400	0	
Estimated Gross Value	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000
		Project Costs:	\$10,000
		Estimated Net Value:	\$300,000

VI. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND HARVESTING:

Half the sale can be shovel logged, but the remainder must be cable yarded.

No new construction is required. Projects will include improving about one mile of the 17-8-13 road by smoothing out ruts and constructing drive through waterbars and brushing 2 ½ miles of road in the general vicinity.

Road use permits will be required for log hauling from BLM and private.

Table 5. Transportation Planning Summary (Miles).

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0	0	0	0
Improve	0	0	0	0
Maintain	0	3.4	0.2	0
Close/Block	0	0	0	0

Vacate	0	0	0	0
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VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

The sale area contains several small, perennial non-fish streams which probably go dry in the late summer.

25 foot no-cut zones (except for logging corridors) will be left on each side of the streams. 40 dominant or codominant conifer per 1000 feet (each side) will be left in the in 25 foot to 100 foot inner riparian zone.

The streams are bordered by hardwood. Since hardwoods lean heavily towards openings, in the clearcuts much of the hardwood must be felled into the creeks. The hardwood tops will remain in the creek channels until they rot away in a few years. In the clearcuts we do not expect conifer reforestation to be very successful on those portions of the inner RMA's now in hardwood because of wetness; shallow, ravelly soils; brush; and - in some cases - mountain beaver.

VIII. T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

T&E Birds: One acre is on the very outer fringe of the Knapp Creek spotted owl circle (resident single). Spotted owl surveys began in 2006 and will be conducted for two years. Potential marbled murrelet habitat is being surveyed adjacent to the north boundary.

T&E Plants: The sale area was checked against the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (OHNP) database of known listed plant locations. The sale area was also checked against district knowledge for any listed plant location. No listed plant records were identified within the sale area.

IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:

The USGS 1:24,000 topographic quadrangle indicates that high landslide hazard locations are scattered throughout the northern part of the sale area in the Leaver Creek basin. Aerial photos from 2000 were reviewed and no recent landslides were identified. The sale area delivers to unnamed tributaries of Leaver Creek and an unnamed tributary of San Antone Creek. The risk of direct delivery from the sale area is high for Leaver Creek and low for San Antone Creek. In order to provide large wood for potential debris flows, trees will be left along the unnamed tributaries to Leaver Creek.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

The sale area vicinity is lightly used for backroad driving, mushroom picking, and hunting. Operations will temporarily improve hunting and reduce mushroom gathering opportunities on the gentle portion of the sale.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

No cultural resources sites are known to exist in the area.

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

Portions of the sale area will be visible from the Nelson Mountain County Road and Hwy 36, but both are several miles away. Considerable harvest activity on private, State, and Federal land has been visible from the roads for many years.

XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

None known.

Commo Tower
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plantation

Plantation

Plantation

0 600 1200 Feet

- New Construction
- ==== Road Improvement
- Type F Streams
- Other Streams and Draws
- Clearcut
- Thinning

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Sec 26, T17S, R8W

Plantation

Plantation

Plantation

0 600 1200 Feet

- New Construction
- ==== Road Improvement
- Type F Streams
- Other Streams and Draws
- ∩ 20' Topogs