

Pre-Operations Report

Operation Name: Buck Ranch
County: Clatsop
Management Basin: Buster

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	MC	83	75
2	PC	86	80
Total	Modified Clearcut	83	75
Total	Partial Cut	86	80

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

The sale is located on the gentle slopes of the headwaters of Buster Creek and several unnamed tributaries of Deep Creek to the north. Areas 1 and 2 are located to the north of Boeck Ranch Road. The sale is underlain by sedimentary rocks of the Keasy Creek Formation, the Cowlitz Formation and the informal Hamlet Formation.

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

Area 1- Consists of 72 to 73 year old Douglas-fir, red alder, western hemlock, and few scattered noble fir. This stand is classified as Understory Development (UDS). Area 1 has approximately 1 snag per acre over 12 inches in DBH, and 1 snag per acre over 24 inches in DBH. The stand has approximately 1,900 cubic feet per acre of down wood in all decay classes, and approximately 62 cubic feet per acre of down wood in decay classes 1 and 2.

Area 2- Consists of 56 to 73 year old red alder, Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and few scattered noble fir. This stand is classified as Understory Development (UDS).

Understory development consists primarily of sword fern, vine maple, huckleberry, and salmonberry and scattered pockets of advanced western hemlock regeneration.

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information

Area	Prescription	Stand ID ¹	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Acres ²
1	MC	24013	DF	73	21.1	284	116	64	68
		24006	DF	72	22.3	263	97	58	7
		Target ³	DF,WH				5		75
2	PC	23013	DF	73	21.1	284	116	64	50
		23084	RA	56	14.7	238	201	62	30
		Target ³	DF		24	120-140	5	25-30	80

1 The source of stand inventory information is SLI. Age shown is as of 2008.

2 The acres are based on GIS and exclude roads, streams buffers, reserve areas, etc.

3 The Target identifies expected stand characteristics (DBH, BA, TPA and SDI) after harvesting has been completed.

III. DESIRED STAND CONDITION/VISION:

Areas 1 and 2 have been placed into the General category for the desired future condition to be managed for healthy vigorous stands of mixed conifer.

Area 1 will be regeneration harvested and planted with a mixture of conifer species. Five to seven conifer trees per acre will be left to provide a source for natural regeneration and future downed wood and snags. A pre-commercial thinning is anticipated at 12 to 17 years when crowns close followed by a commercial thinning at 30 to 40 years of age to ensure continued growth. At age 45 to 50 the stand will be evaluated for either additional thinning or regeneration harvest.

Area 2 is not planned to have a complex desired future condition on the landscape. This area will be thinned to promote some layering and capture the natural mortality within the stand while leaving future options open to either regeneration harvest this stand or thin again and have this stand serve as complex replacement stands in the future.

Table 3. Stand Structure Information

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest ¹	Desired Future	Acres
1	24103	UDS	REGEN	GENERAL	68
1	24006	UDS	REGEN	GENERAL	7
2	24103	UDS	LYR	GENERAL	50
2	23084	UDS	LYR	GENERAL	30

1 The stand is expected to develop into this condition in the 5 to 10 years after this operation is completed.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:

Area 1 - This area is a modified clearcut, a combination of methods will be implemented to achieve the green tree retention requirements such as green tree retention areas, stream buffers, and trees scattered across the sale areas (FMP, page 4-53, Paragraph 2). Minor species found may be reserved from cutting; further consideration of those species will be taken during sale layout.

Area 2 - This area does not have a complex desired future condition. This unit will be automark thinned with a target SDI of 30 to 35 that will maintain current growth rates and allow more understory development. All minor species and trees under eight inches DBH will be reserved where operationally feasible. Alternative prescriptions may be implemented at the patch scale. These prescriptions could include patch cuts, heavier thinning, or no-harvest areas.

Snags: During all harvesting activities, all existing snags will be retained unless deemed to be safety hazards. Where fewer than two hard snags per acre are found to exist during sale layout, opportunities for snag creation or leaving additional live green trees may be implemented to supplement landscape snag levels (FMP, "Landscape Management Strategy 3c. Snags", pages 4-53 and 4-54). In PC Area 2, it is anticipated that additional snags will develop during yarding activities by leaving, topping, or girdling damaged rub trees, tail trees, lift trees, and/or intermediate support trees.

Green Trees: A combination of methods will be implemented to achieve the green tree retention requirements such as green tree retention areas, stream buffers, and trees scattered across the sale areas (FMP, page 4-53, Paragraph 2). Minor species found may be reserved from cutting; further consideration of those species will be taken during sale layout.

Down Wood: For all harvesting activities, all existing down woody debris will be retained. In MC Area 1, additional conifer trees and/or conifer logs will be retained to meet the 600 cubic foot/acre landscape target for down wood as prescribed in the FMP and Implementation Plan. (FMP, "Landscape Management Strategy 3d. Down Wood." pages 4-54 and 4-55)."

Site preparation on gentle slopes will be done by mechanical slash manipulation. On steeper slopes the site preparation will be accomplished through cable harvesting activities. Herbicide application will be evaluated once harvesting operation is completed to determine the threat of competing vegetation to seedling establishment. Planting will be at 300-350 trees per acre with the following species: 75% Douglas-fir, 15% western hemlock, 10% true firs. Mountain beaver trapping will focus on the sword fern/alder type areas. Animal damage through big game browse to conifer seedlings is anticipated to be high in both sale areas. Tree protection will be prescribed to the newly planted conifer species; Douglas-fir will receive paper bud caps at initial planting.

Astoria District

Buck Ranch

Approved – June 30, 2009

V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE INFORMATION:

Table 4. Timber and Revenue

Ownership		Sale Type	
BOF	CSL	Cash	Recovery
100%	0%	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Planned Quarter:		2 nd Quarter	

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	5,500	100	5,600
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	\$180	\$225	
Estimated Gross Value	\$990,000	\$22,500	\$1,012,500
		Project Costs:	\$39,750
		Estimated Net Value:	\$972,750

VI. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND HARVESTING:

Access to the harvest sites will be from State owned land to the east of the sale. The haul route will be from the sale areas on Boeck Ranch Road spurs to Sager Creek Road and out to Highway 202. Approximately 1.9 miles of existing spur roads and 0.4 miles of a collector road will receive a surface lift to improve conditions.

The sale will have a mixture of cable and ground yarding opportunities.

The Palomar gas line is proposed to be built through portions of this sale.

Table 5. Transportation Planning Summary (Miles).

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0.0	0.0	0.25	0.0
Improve	0.0	0.4	1.9	0.0
Maintain	8.7	1.0	1.9	0.0
Close/Block	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

Type F and Domestic Use Streams: There is one Type F stream associated with the harvest activities. The South Fork of Deep Creek runs along the northern boundary of Area 1. The timber sale boundary be posted 150 feet away from this

stream to protect stream components and leave a 300 foot buffer from the Winslow sale unit.

Type N Streams: There are perennial Type N streams located within the sale areas.

Aquatic Resource Protection: For all areas, full log suspension is required when cable yarding over streams. No ground-based logging equipment operation is allowed within the stream bank zone. To protect water quality during active operations, a variety of methods will be used to prevent sediment from entering live streams. These methods range from use of hay bales in road ditches, to “ditch-outs” away from streams, to complete shutdown of logging and hauling.

All streams will be examined to determine stream type and classification during sale layout, and then the specific riparian management area strategies required in the FMP will be implemented. The FMP riparian management area strategies that will be implemented are found in the FMP, Appendix J, “Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas”, pages J-1 through J-16.

If any in-stream work is done with this sale, it will all be conducted during in-stream work periods established by ODFW.

VIII. T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

All sale areas were surveyed to protocol for northern spotted owls in 2008 with no responses and will be surveyed again in 2009.

The ODF Northwest Area Biologist determined that none of the sale areas contained suitable habitat for Marbled Murrelets.

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

IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:

This assessment is based on a LiDAR-generated 1 m digital elevation model and available geologic maps.

The sale area appears to be located on a deep-seated landslide landform. There are high landslide hazard locations scattered throughout the sale area concentrated mostly along streams, roads, and scarps in the deep-seated landslide landform. The sale area drains into a tributary of Deep Creek. The risk

of landslides delivering from the sale area to this stream is moderate. The geotechnical specialist will be consulted during sale layout.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

Hunting, fishing, and dispersed camping are the primary recreational uses. The Clatsop State Forest Recreation Plan does not list any specific activities for this portion of the basin.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

Remnant logging equipment may be located in sale areas. If culturally significant artifacts are found during sale layout then these artifacts will be protected.

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

The sale area is not in a landscape of visual sensitivity.

XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

No private property lines are within the sale areas. No land surveying will be needed.

XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

This sale is fully within the General Stewardship land management classification.

Legend

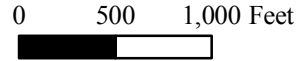
- ⊙ New Landing Construction
- Existing Landings
- Fish Stream
- Nonfish Stream
- - - Unknown Stream
- - - New Road Construction
- - - Area Boundary
- Timber Sale Boundary
- Existing Roads
- ◇ Survey Corners
- - - Ownership Boundary
- 40' Contour
- Gross Sale Area

FY2010
Buck Ranch
Portions of Section 24, T5N, R6W,
W.M., Clatsop County, Oregon

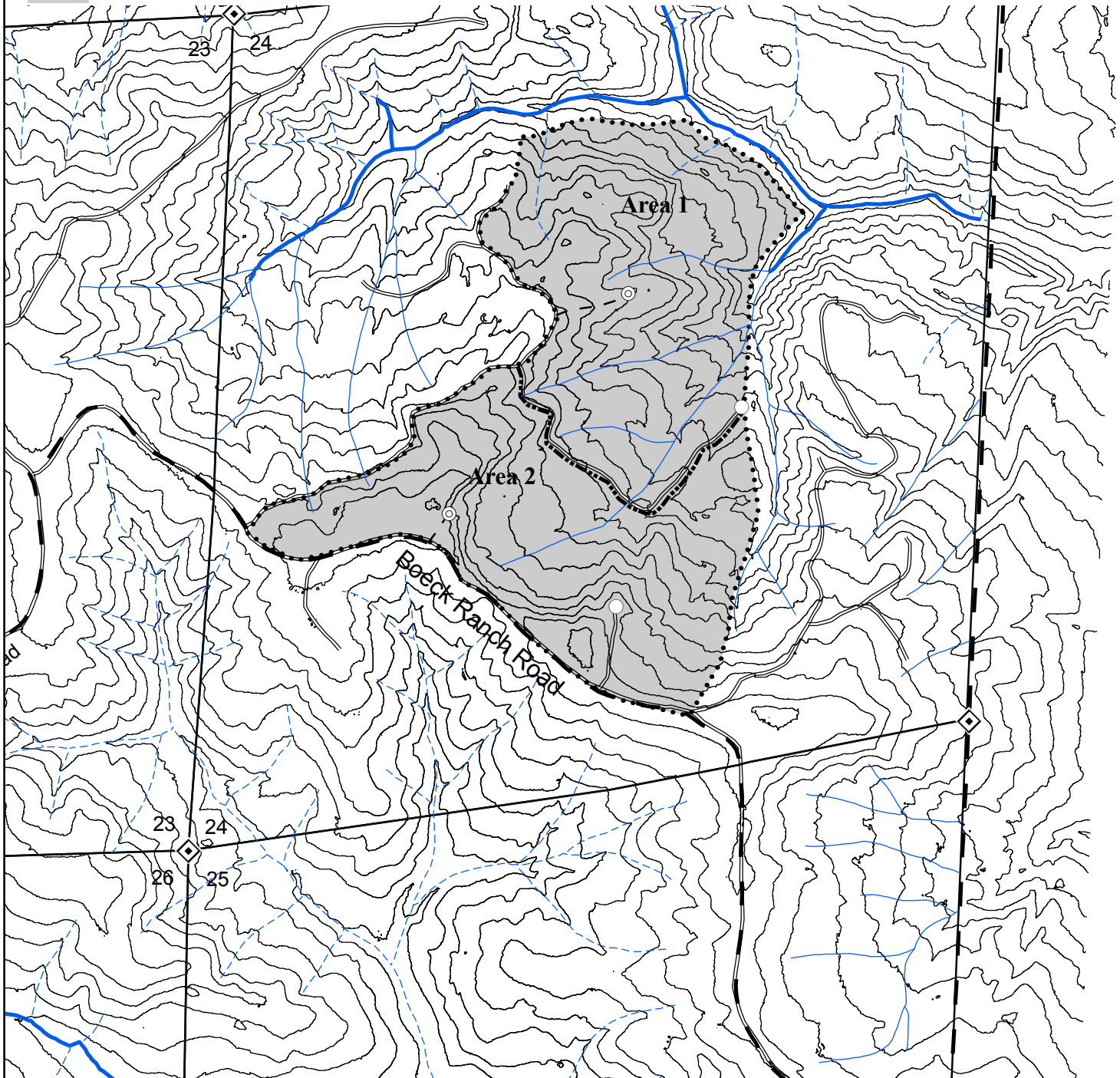


Map A - Topography

Approximate Scale 1=12,000



Approximate Net Acreage:
Area 1 (MC) 75
Area 2 (PC) 80
Total Sale Acreage = 155



Legend

- ⊙ New Landing Construction
- Existing Landings
- Fish Stream
- Nonfish Stream
- - - Unknown Stream
- - - New Road Construction
- - - - Area Boundary
- Timber Sale Boundary
- Existing Roads
- ◇ Known Land Survey Corners
- /// Layered
- Older Forest Structure
- - Ownership Boundary
- Gross Sale Area

FY2010
 Buck Ranch
 Portions of Section 24, T5N, R6W,
 W.M., Clatsop County, Oregon



Map B - Desired Future Condition

Approximate Scale 1=12,000

0 500 1,000 Feet

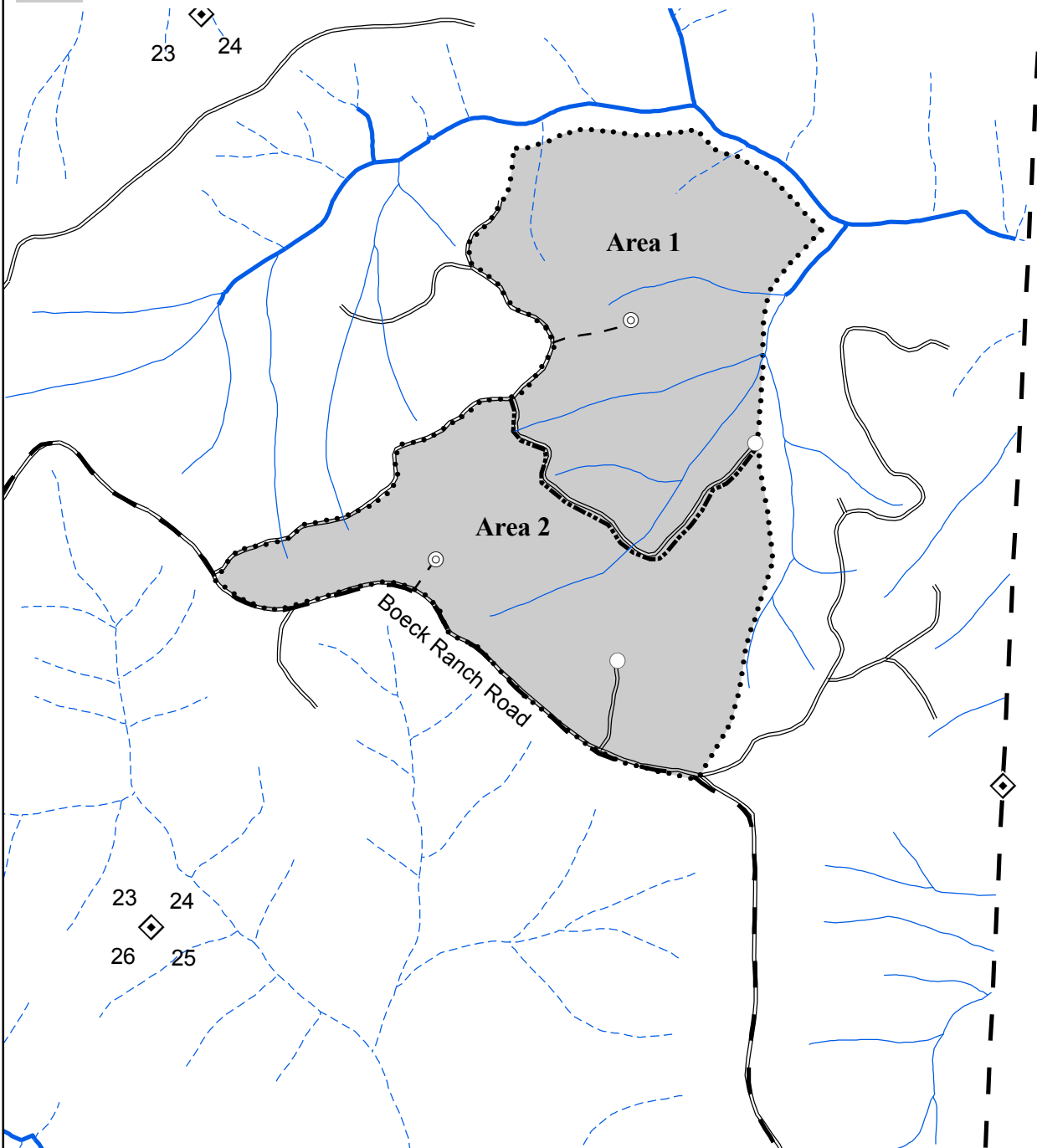


Approximate Net Acreage:

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Area 2 (PC) 80

Total Sale Acreage = 155



Legend

FY2010
Buck Ranch
Portions of Section 24, T5N, R6W,
W.M., Clatsop County, Oregon



- ◊ Known Land Survey Corner
- ⊙ New Landing Construction
- Existing Landings
- Fish Stream
- Nonfish Stream
- - - Unknown Stream
- - - New Road Construction
- - - Area Boundary
- Timber Sale Boundary
- Existing Roads
- - - Ownership Boundary
- Sale Area

Map C - Key Resources

Approximate Scale 1=12,000

0 500 1,000 Feet



Approximate Net Acreage:

Area 1 (MC) 75

Area 2 (PC) 80

Total Sale Acreage = 155

