

Pre-Operations Report

Operation Name: Goose Pit Combination

County: Clatsop

Management Basin: Beneke

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	Modified Clearcut	59	53
2	Partial Cut—Moderate	344	306
3	Modified Clearcut	105	93
4	Modified Clearcut	52	49
Total	Partial Cut	344	306
Total	Modified Clearcut	216	195
Total	Combined	560	501

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

These sale areas are located in the Beneke Basin. They are in the western hemlock vegetation zone, and are characterized by mixed Douglas-fir and western hemlock stands, with some western redcedar and red alder. The soil types are Keasey on steeper slopes, Bradwood on most slopes, and Lousignot in the Walker Creek floodplain. Site Index averages 120 feet. The landform consists of two long spur ridges and the side slopes off of Wild Goose Ridge. All areas drain into Walker Creek or its tributaries.

The sale is underlain by sedimentary rocks of the informal Northrup Creek formation, primarily mudstone with some sandstone, and igneous rocks of the Grande Ronde Basalt, and invasive basalt sills and dikes. Slopes in the operation area range from gentle mountain slopes (5-20%) to precipitous mountain slopes (over 65%), with primarily northwestern and eastern aspects. Elevations range from 1,000 to 1,800 feet.

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

Areas 1, 3, and 4 are generally 55 to 69 years old, and are composed of Douglas-fir mixed and western hemlock with a scattered clumps and stringers of red alder. The stands are categorized as Closed Single Canopy (CSC) with a stand density index (SDI) ranging from 56 to 79. The understory consists primarily of sword fern, Oregon grape, salal, vine maple, huckleberry, and salmonberry.

Area 2 is 59 to 68 years old and composed of well stocked Douglas-fir mixed with western hemlock. The stands are categorized as CSC with a stand density ranging from SDI 57 to SDI 79. The understory consists primarily of sword fern, Oregon grape, salal, vine maple, huckleberry, and salmonberry.

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information

Area	Prescription	Stand ID ¹	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Acres ²
1	MC	1089	DF, WH	64	17	321	196	79	15
		1141	DF	59	20	258	121	60	28
		1160	DF, WH	64	16	303	210	76	10
		Target ³	DF,WH,C				5		53
2	PC--M	1038	DF, WH	68	14	284	253	75	70
		1068	DF, WH	58	16	230	174	59	13
		1071	WH,DF	60	17	301	196	75	73
		1089	DF, WH	64	17	321	196	79	31
		1102	WH,DF	64	18	321	191	78	49
		1117	DF, WH	59	19	241	126	57	60
		1141	DF	59	20	258	121	60	3
		1148	WH,DF	64	13	272	279	74	10
		Target ³	WH,DF		20	150-180	79	25-35	306
3	MC	1055	RA	59	14	237	209	83	6
		1071	WH,DF	60	17	301	196	75	8
		1090	DF,WH,RA	55	16	277	203	70	32
		1115	DF,WH,RA	61	18	327	185	79	23
		1117	DF,WH	59	19	241	126	57	24
		Target ³	DF,WH,C				5		93
4	MC	1003	DF, RA	69	16	225	185	56	11
		1038	DF,WH	68	14	284	253	75	35
		1071	WH, DF	60	17	301	196	75	3
		Target ³	DF,WH				6		49

1 The source of stand inventory information is Oscur from 2002. Age is as of 2004.

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:

Areas 1-4 are designated for general stewardship. Areas 1, 3, and 4 will be clearcut and replanted with a mix of conifers. The specific stand targets for basal area and relative density in Area 2 will be determined during sale layout, but will range from 25 to 35% of SDI.

Table 3. Stand Structure Information

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest ¹	Desired Future	Acres
1	1089	CSC	REGEN	GENERAL	15
	1141	CSC	REGEN	GENERAL	28
	1160	CSC	REGEN	GENERAL	10
2	1038	CSC	UDS	GENERAL	70
	1068	CSC	UDS	GENERAL	13
	1071	CSC	UDS	GENERAL	73
	1089	CSC	UDS	GENERAL	31
	1102	CSC	UDS	GENERAL	49
	1117	CSC	UDS	GENERAL	60
	1148	CSC	UDS	GENERAL	10
3	1055	CSC	REGEN	GENERAL	6
	1071	CSC	REGEN	GENERAL	8
	1090	CSC	REGEN	GENERAL	32
	1115	CSC	REGEN	GENERAL	23
	1117	CSC	REGEN	GENERAL	24
4	1003	CSC	REGEN	GENERAL	11
	1038	CSC	REGEN	GENERAL	35
	1071	CSC	REGEN	GENERAL	3

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

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:

Areas 1, 3 and 4 are modified clearcuts that will be replanted with a mixture of conifer species. Minor species, such as western redcedar, will be reserved from cutting. Larger remnant trees, if present, will be reserved from cutting. In Areas 1 and 3 an average of 5 green trees per acre will be scattered and/or clumped throughout these areas and not solely located in riparian areas. In Area 4, an average of six green trees per acre may be left to make up for the amount that may be deficient in the proposed Osweg Alder No. 2 timber sale in order to meet the landscape-level targets. In addition, individual and small clumps of non-merchantable alder may be left in operationally feasible areas to provide short term snag recruitment. (FMP, page 4-53, Paragraph 2).

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 will be implemented to supplement landscape snag levels (FMP, "Landscape Management Strategy 3c. Snags", pages 4-53 and 4-54)

For clearcut harvesting activities, all existing down woody debris will be retained. Down woody debris levels will be assessed and if deficiencies are found to exist on an individual unit, additional conifer trees and/or conifer logs will be retained to meet the landscape targets for down woody debris as prescribed in the FMP.

(FMP, "Landscape Management Strategy 3d. Down Wood.", pages 4-54 and 4-55.)."

Reforestation will be completed with an initial stocking planted at approximately 300 TPA with a species mixture of western redcedar, Douglas-fir and western hemlock. It can be anticipated that some natural regeneration of western hemlock will be present on the site. Some excavator slash piling is anticipated on operable ground. Site preparation of aerial applied herbicides is anticipated. Trapping of mountain beaver is anticipated to reduce plantation establishment problems. Tree protection of western redcedar will be planned.

Area 2 will be thinned to within an SDI range of 25-35%. Basal area is expected to range from 150 to 180 square feet per acre.

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:		2nd	

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	9,400	1,300	10,700
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	\$250	\$250	
Estimated Gross Value	\$2,350,000	\$325,000	\$2,675,000
		Project Costs:	\$191,000
		Estimated Net Value:	\$2,484,000

VI. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND HARVESTING:

Access is Highway 202 to the Beneke Creek County Road, then to the Agency Creek Management Company/ODF Beneke Creek Road and ODF's Trailover, Wild Goose Quarry, and Wild Goose Ridge Roads. Sale access is secured through existing easements.

Road improvement is planned on the haul route listed above except for the 0.9 mile of the Wild Goose Ridge Road which is currently in a condition that will support the planned activities. The stockpiled rock at the Wild Goose Quarry and/or Trailover Quarry will be used.

Completion of the construction of Upper Trailover Road, which will become an alternate haul route, is also scheduled with this sale. This involves approximately 1.0 mile of new road construction.

A section of old railroad grade in the west end of Area 3 will be evaluated for vacating.

Approximately 2.6 miles of new road construction within the sale area will be needed. Area 2 will be served by existing and newly constructed gravel roads. These roads will be maintained for public access and future harvests. Broken land forms that are present in the eastern portion of Area 2 will precipitate the need for some parallel roads. The new road system will be compatible with potential future harvesting of adjacent areas.

Areas 1, 3, and 4 will be served by a mix of existing roads, very short, newly constructed rocked roads, and longer dirt roads. The dirt roads will be seasonally closed, and then vacated and reforested after completion of sale activities. There will be no interior roads left open in the clearcuts after the sale.

A combination of cable-yarding systems and ground yarding will be planned. Cable systems will be used on steeper slopes. Both clearcuts and partial cuts will require long-span yarding. There will be a significant amount of multi-span yarding in partial-cut Area 2. Tailholds may be required on adjacent forest-industry properties to the north and east and in thinned and regenerated ODF stands to the west. Ground yarding will generally be limited to slopes under 35%.

Table 5. Transportation Planning Summary (Miles).

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0	1.0	1.8	0.8
Improve	0	6.2	0	0
Maintain	0	7.1	1.8	0
Close/Block	0	0	0	0
Vacate	0	0	0	0.8

VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

Type F streams: **Area 1**--There are no Type F streams adjacent or within Area 1. **Area 2**--An unnamed medium Type F tributary of Walker Creek parallels the western boundary for approximately 1,700 feet. A small Type F tributary of Walker Creek runs northeast through Area 2 for approximately 3,000 feet before changing to a medium Type F for another 1,000 feet before leaving Area 2. **Area 3**--An unnamed medium Type F tributary of Walker Creek parallels the north-eastern boundary for approximately 2,000 feet. **Area 4**--Walker Creek, a large Type F stream, parallels the eastern boundary of Area 4 for 2,500 feet. An unnamed medium Type F tributary of Walker Creek parallels the southern boundary for approximately 1,000 feet.

Area 4 is in proximity to Walker Creek, in which listed fish are present. The haul route crosses Beneke Creek, which contains listed fish, therefore, per ODF's

Salmon Protection Policy for State Forest Operations, contract provisions will be included to reduce the likelihood of adverse effects on listed fish. Specific standards will include: (1) hauling on roads which are in proximity to streams in which "listed" fish are present will only be allowed during weather conditions and use levels commensurate with the capabilities of road drainage systems and (2) implementation of riparian management area strategies in accordance with the FMP, Appendix J, "Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas", pages J-1 through J-16, for perennial Type N streams that are within 500 feet of streams in which listed fish are present.

Type N Streams: There are small perennial Type N streams in all sale areas. All streams were surveyed in 2004 by ODFW to determine stream type and classification. 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.

There may be an opportunity to perform stream enhancement work in the unnamed tributary of Walker Creek which flows within a portion of Area 2. Further assessment and collaboration will be done with ODFW biologists and the Jewell Unit Forester. If any in-stream work is done with this sale, then it will be conducted during in-stream periods established by ODFW.

VIII. T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

The ODF Northwest Area Biologist determined on March 4, 2004 that Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 contained no suitable habitat for marbled murrelets.

All sale areas were surveyed for northern spotted owls in 2004. There was one unknown species response. There is a high likelihood that this response was a barred owl due to the fact that a barred owl was seen in the same location on the follow-up visit the next day. Additional surveys are planned for 2005.

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:

The initial hazard and risk assessment from the geotechnical specialist is low. If high landslide hazard locations are identified during fieldwork, the Northwest Oregon Area geotechnical specialist will be consulted.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

This area receives little recreation use, possibly hunting, and some dispersed camping. The sale area may be used in the future to connect Northrup Creek Basin with Beneke and Hamilton Creek Basins with a non-motorized-use trail.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

No known cultural resources are within or adjacent to the operation.

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

The sale area is in a landscape of low visual sensitivity (Level 3).

XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

Areas 1, 2, and 4 adjoin private land. The northern boundary of Area 2 may be slightly south of the clearcut boundary on Hampton Tree Farms, Inc. land. According to the District survey plan for this sale, approximately 5,600 feet of line will need to be traversed and posted and two corners will need to be found and re-witnessed.

XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

There are 20 acres classified as special stewardship for energy and minerals at the Wild Goose Quarry site.

Table 6. Land Management Classification Summary

Area	LMCS Subclass	Focused Stewardship	Special Stewardship
1	Aquatic & Riparian	14	0
2	Aquatic & Riparian	70	24
2	Energy and Minerals	0	20
3	Aquatic & Riparian	34	4
4	Aquatic & Riparian	14	5

This table summarizes the acres of Focused and Special Stewardship within the operations. The acres in each operational area in this table do not necessarily add up to its gross or net acres, because of overlapping classifications under the Land Management Classification System. For example, a particular acre can be classified as Focused Stewardship for Aquatic and Riparian, Recreation, and Scenic resources.