

# Pre-Operations Report

**Operation Name:** Das Butte  
**County:** Washington  
**Management Basin:** Upper Salmonberry / Gales Creek  
**Legal Description:** Sec. 3 and 4, T02N, R06W, W.M.

**Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres**

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
I	Modified Clearcut	130	102
II	Modified Clearcut	10	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>Regeneration Harvest</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>111</b>

## **I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:**

Slopes range from west to north to east aspect and typically range from 20% to 55%. Elevations range from 1800 to 2650 feet. The major soil types are Jewell and Osweg. The sale areas occupy the ridges, upper slopes and middle slopes.

The landforms are gentle to moderate slopes of a butte at the end of a small spur-ridge dividing two unnamed tributaries of Wolf Creek. The underlying rock is igneous origin rock or the Tillamook Volcanics, basalt flows form the base of the shield building sequence.

## **II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:**

The sale has been inventoried using the Stand Level Inventory (SLI) procedure and the stands have been classified as UDS.

The stand is composed predominantly of heavily stocked Douglas-fir. Most trees have poor live crown ratios and poor height to diameter ratios. There is a moderate amount of hemlock, and noble fir scattered throughout Area I. Small pockets of red alder are concentrated along riparian areas.

The stand contains minor amounts of *Phellinus weirii*.

Small pockets, less than ¼ acre in size, of bark beetle damage have been identified. Beetle damage includes dead and dying trees. No other significant insect or disease problems have been discovered at this time.

The understory in all the sale areas is comprised predominantly of vine maple, sword fern, salal, dwarf Oregon grape, Oregon oxalis and huckleberry. Ground cover is estimated to be 55%.

There is an estimated 2 snags per acre (> 12 inches DBH and 40 feet tall) in various states of decay throughout the sale area. In general, the sale area lacks adequate amounts of hard snags and hard DWD, according to target amounts provided in the Implementation Plan (IP).

**Table 2. Stand Inventory Information**

Area	Prescription	Stand ID <sup>1</sup>	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Net Acres <sup>2</sup>
I	MC <sup>3</sup>	7560	DF,WH	68	15	258	213	67	102
II	MC	7583	DF	57	13	268	276	74	9

<sup>1</sup> The source of stand inventory information is from SLI in 2004.

<sup>2</sup> The acres are based on GIS and exclude existing and planned roads, stream buffers, and green tree retention areas.

<sup>3</sup> MC is Modified Clearcut.

### **III. DESIRED STAND CONDITION:**

The harvest operation will develop these stands into REG structure in the short term. According to the Forest Grove District's landscape design for the Upper Salmonberry and Gales Creek basins, the desired future condition (DFC) for these stands is 100% GEN.

The anticipated management pathway for the sale areas is to conduct a regeneration harvest. Large residual trees will be evenly dispersed throughout most of the sale area. The regeneration will be a more even mix of Douglas-fir, hemlock, and noble fir.

**Table 3. Stand Structure Information**

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest <sup>1</sup>	Desired Future	Net Acres
I	7560	UDS	REG	GEN	102
II	7583	UDS	REG	GEN	9

<sup>1</sup> The stand is expected to develop into this condition in the five to ten years after this operation is completed, except in REG stands which occur after harvest.

### **IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:**

#### **Modified Clearcut:**

In Areas I and II, Douglas-fir and western hemlock will be harvested. All other species will be reserved. All trees less than 8 inches DBH will be reserved.

A variety of methods will be used to achieve green tree retention requirements, which may include green tree retention areas, stream buffers, protection of precipitous slopes, and trees scattered across the sale areas. These methods

will be used in combination to meet the green tree requirements of (5 to 9 trees per acre) provided in the Forest Management Plan (FMP).

Green tree retention for this sale is expected to exceed the target objective. From the residual green trees, 2 trees per acre shall be topped to create hard snags. Snags shall have a DBH of at least 18 inches, and be at least 60 feet in height.

After snag creation is completed, it is expected that enough green trees will be reserved to meet the target objective. These trees will be a source for snags and DWD, which are expected to develop over time through natural processes.

All existing DWD will be reserved in the sale areas. DWD recruitment is expected through mortality, windthrow of residual trees, felled snags, and logging slash.

Existing snags determined not to be a safety hazard will be retained and any felled snags will be left for down wood.

The site will be planted with Douglas-fir in combination with other conifer species. Following harvest, the sale areas will be reviewed to determine if site preparation may be necessary.

**V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE INFORMATION:**

**Table 4. Timber and Revenue**

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

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	5,000		5,000
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)*	\$400		
Estimated Gross Value	\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000
		Project Costs:	\$35,000
		Estimated Net Value:	\$1,965,000

\*Combined Douglas-fir and hemlock stumpage values

**VI. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND HARVESTING:**

The sale areas are accessed via Storey Burn Road and the Standard Grade Road. Approximately 3 miles of the haul route is through private ownership. The above said roads are currently all weather, crushed rock roads. There is a reciprocal road use agreement between ODF and Hancock on these roads. A temporary easement will have to be obtained for existing spur roads and for

portions where new construction (0.1 miles) is necessary to access ODF ownership. Road use fees will not apply. There is one gate blocking access to the privately owned lands.

Approximately 0.6 miles of road will be constructed of which 0.1 miles is located on privately owned lands. New construction is limited to ridgetops and some gentle sideslopes. Proposed construction will not cross any streams.

All haul roads will have high quality crushed rock or pit run surfacing. Roads will provide access to all timber within the sale area and allow for logging methods and hauling which will minimize impacts to soils, residual timber, streams, and riparian areas.

Following operations on each setting, roads and skid trails within the sale areas will be evaluated for closure.

Sale related project work - estimated costs \$35,000.

The operation will be 20% ground based yarding, 80% cable.

**Table 5. Transportation Planning Summary (Miles).**

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0	0	0.6	0
Improve	0	0	0	0
Maintain	6.5	2.5	0	0
Close/Block	0	0	0	0
Vacate	0	0	0	0

For determination of road class either use results of the Harvest and Habitat roads classifications, or if this information is not available then low use roads are spurs, medium use roads are collectors and high use roads are mainlines. Use these same criteria when comparing the total for all AOP sales to the IP plans.

**VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:**

Wolf Creek and one unnamed tributary are large and medium, Type F streams that are down slope of the sale area approximately 200-300 feet at the nearest points. There are several unnamed small perennial and seasonal Type N streams within Area I.

During sale layout, all streams will be field verified as to size, type, locations, and/or source.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has completed stream surveys for fish presence.

Riparian area stand types along these streams are generally alder/conifer mixed.

Stream buffers within harvest unit boundaries will be managed according to FMP Riparian Strategies.

In order to protect water quality during active operations, a variety of methods will be used to prevent sediment from entering live streams. These methods include (but are not limited to) maintaining culverts and other road drainage structures, using sediment control devices in road ditches when necessary, and seasonal restrictions on logging and hauling operations.

### **VIII. T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:**

The sale areas have been reviewed with the ODF Northwest Oregon Area Biologist (Area Biologist).

Das Butte is being surveyed for spotted owls due to the presence of potentially suitable spotted owl habitat within and adjacent to the timber sale area. Suitable habitat within 1.5 miles of Das Butte had previously been surveyed in 2002 and 2003, in association with an adjacent timber sale. A female NSO was heard in this area during the 2003 survey season. She was not found during the daytime follow-up visit, and there were no further responses detected during the three additional surveys conducted in 2003. Therefore, the status of the observation was classified as "non-territorial single" in 2003.

In 2004, the area was surveyed in association with Das Butte. During the 2004 survey season, a spotted owl was heard during two separate nighttime surveys in close proximity to the 2003 location. The first 2004 observation was confirmed as a female, and the second response was a vocalization that is characteristic of both sexes; therefore it is unknown whether the second observation was a male or a female. The owl was not located during the daytime follow-up visits, and there were no further responses during the three additional surveys conducted in 2004. Three spotted owl observations in that area within two years of survey resulted in the establishment of an activity center and "resident single" site status.

Two sale areas that were originally part of Das Butte were removed from the FY06 sale plan because they were within the 1.5-mile radius circle around the activity center. Areas I and II are outside of the 1.5-mile circle.

Surveys for marbled murrelets are not required, due to the absence of potentially suitable habitat within the sale area. The ODF wildlife biologist for the NW Oregon Area made the determination that the sale area is non-suitable habitat for marbled murrelets.

The sale area was 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 assessment from the geotechnical specialist is moderate. There are bands of steep slopes at the bottom of the sale area. There is topographic evidence for very large scale slope movement in the landform. The geotechnical specialist will be consulted during sale layout and the need for field review will be assessed.

**X. RECREATION RESOURCES:**

The sale area is designated as non-motorized in the Tillamook State Forest Comprehensive Recreation Plan (1993).

No authorized trails were identified within or adjacent to the sale areas.

**XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

The sale area was checked against the Tillamook State Forest Cultural Resource Inventory database. No cultural resource records were identified within the sale area. If any significant cultural resources are located during sale preparation, the Public Use Coordinator (ODF Salem Staff) will be consulted regarding potential protection measures.

**XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:**

The sale areas have a visual classification of Level 3, low sensitivity.

**XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:**

Property lines have been true blazed.

All known survey corners and witness trees shall be protected from damage during any operations.

**XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:**

**Table 6. Land Management Classification Summary.** This table summarizes the acres of Focused and Special Stewardship within the operations. Due to overlapping classifications under the Land Management Classification System, the acres summarized for each operational area in this table may exceed the net or gross acreage of the area. For example, a particular acre can be classified as Focused Stewardship for Aquatic and Riparian Habitat, Recreation, and Scenic resources.

Area	LMCS Subclass	Focused Stewardship	Special Stewardship
I	Aquatic and Riparian Habitat	19	0
II	Aquatic and Riparian Habitat	0	0