

# Pre-Operations Report

**Operation Name:** Three Blind Mice

**County:** Washington

**Management Basin:** Sunday Creek

**Legal Description:** Sec. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, T01S, R06W, W.M.

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

| Area         | Type of Operation          | Gross Acres | Net Acres  |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------------|------------|
| I            | Moderate Partial Cut       | 333         | 303        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>Partial Cut Harvest</b> | <b>333</b>  | <b>303</b> |

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

Slopes generally have a north aspect. Slopes range from 25% to 65%. Elevations range from 1000 to 1800 feet. The major soil types are Killam, Rye and Grindstone. The sale area occupies from the ridges to lower slopes of the Tualatin River.

The landforms are moderate to steep slopes above the Tualatin River below Blind Cabin Ridge. The underlying rock is igneous, Tertiary intrusive diabase with pillowform and radial columnar joints, sills are cut by regional dike swarms of the Tillamook Volcanics.

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

The sale areas burned in the Tillamook Burn in 1933 and 1939. Most of the area was seeded in 1956, with the exception of the eastern portion, which was naturally seeded. The entire area has had no prior stand management.

100% of the stands in the sale area have been inventoried using the Stand Level Inventory (SLI) procedure and those stands have been classified as UDS.

The stands are composed almost entirely of overstocked Douglas-fir. There is scattered hemlock, noble fir, cedar, and alder throughout the sale area.

The stands contain minor amounts of *Phellinus weirii* and will not be treated at time of harvest. No other significant insect or disease problems have been discovered at this time.

The understory throughout the sale area is comprised predominantly of vine maple, sword fern, salal, dwarf Oregon grape, and huckleberry.

In general, the sale area lacks adequate amounts of hard snags and DWD, according to target objectives provided in the Northwest Oregon Area Forest Management Plan.

SLI data shows that there are approximately 4 snags per acre (12" DBH +) and 2500 ft<sup>3</sup> of DWD (all decay classes).

**Table 2. Stand Inventory Information**

| Area | Prescription      | Stand ID <sup>1</sup>      | Species   | Age | DBH | BA  | TPA | SDI | Net Acres <sup>2</sup> |
|------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|
| I    | PC-M <sup>4</sup> | 8181                       | DF        | 48  | 15  | 178 | 147 | 48  | 72                     |
|      |                   | 8183                       | DF        | 54  | 18  | 175 | 96  | 41  | 50                     |
|      |                   | 8184                       | DF,RA     | 59  | 17  | 177 | 113 | 43  | 65                     |
|      |                   | 8186                       | DF,RA     | 46  | 17  | 174 | 109 | 42  | 5                      |
|      |                   | 8187                       | DF        | 43  | 17  | 165 | 106 | 33  | 96                     |
|      |                   | 8193                       | DF        | 40  | 14  | 136 | 132 | 35  | 15                     |
|      |                   | <i>Target</i> <sup>3</sup> | <i>DF</i> |     | 22  | 120 | 45  | 27  | 303                    |

<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 non-thinnable areas.

<sup>3</sup> The Target row for partial cut areas identifies expected stand characteristics (DBH, BA, TPA and SDI) after harvesting has been completed.

<sup>4</sup> PC-M is Moderate Partial Cut.

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

The harvest operation will maintain these stands as UDS structure in the short term. According to the Forest Grove District's landscape design for the Sunday Creek basin, the desired future condition (DFC) for these stands is (64% GEN, 7% LYR, 29% OFS).

The anticipated management pathway for the sale area is to conduct a 1<sup>st</sup> entry operation for density management. This entry, in the short term, will primarily benefit the continued vigor of the overstory. Areas in DFC-GEN will be good candidates for MC in 15-20 years. Areas in DFC-Complex may need a 2<sup>nd</sup> entry to keep them on their desired pathway.

All existing snags and down woody debris of all decay classes shall be retained. Hardwoods and all conifer species other than Douglas-fir shall be reserved from harvest. All of these components combined will maintain and promote biodiversity within the future stand.

**Table 3. Stand Structure Information**

| Area | Stand ID | Current | Post Harvest <sup>1</sup> | Desired Future | Net Acres |
|------|----------|---------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| I    | 8181     | UDS     | UDS                       | GEN            | 67        |
|      |          |         |                           | OFS            | 5         |
|      | 8183     | UDS     | UDS                       | GEN            | 21        |
|      |          |         |                           | OFS            | 29        |
|      | 8184     | UDS     | UDS                       | GEN            | 47        |
|      |          |         |                           | OFS            | 18        |
|      | 8186     | UDS     | UDS                       | LYR            | 4         |
|      |          |         |                           | OFS            | 1         |
|      | 8187     | UDS     | UDS                       | GEN            | 43        |
|      |          |         |                           | OFS            | 53        |
|      | 8193     | UDS     | UDS                       | GEN            | 11        |
|      |          |         |                           | OFS            | 4         |

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

**IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:**

**Partial Cut - Moderate:**

The sale is a moderate partial cut (PC-M). The target SDI is approximately 27. Douglas-fir will be selected for harvest. All other species will be reserved. The stand will be thinned to a target basal area of 110 to 130 square feet. The average DBH of the residual stand will be approximately 22 inches and 45 trees per acre. Residual trees will be the trees that have the largest DBH and height, and are of the best form and vigor. All trees less than 8 inches shall be reserved and shall not count toward the target basal area.

Understory vegetation will be enhanced from the additional growing spaces made available.

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

1 tree per acre shall be topped to create hard snags. Snags shall be a DBH of at least 15 inches, and be at least 60 feet in height. Existing snags determined not to be a safety hazard will be retained and any felled snags will be left for down wood. Additional snags will be created over time through natural processes.

**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)        | 4,500       |                      | 4,500       |
| Stumpage Value (\$/MBF) | \$380       |                      |             |
| Estimated Gross Value   | \$1,710,000 |                      | \$1,710,000 |
|                         |             | Project Costs:       | \$156,000   |
|                         |             | Estimated Net Value: | \$1,554,000 |

**VI. TRANSPORTATION PLANING AND HARVESTING:**

The sale areas are accessed via Turner Creek mainline and North Fork Trask River Road. These are currently all weather, crushed rock roads. Access is through Weyerhaeuser and BLM owned land. Two locked gates are along the haul route. ODF has an easement for all sections of road along the haul route that are not ODF owned. Road use fees will not apply.

Approximately 2.6 miles of road will be constructed to provide access to cable yarding and critical landing locations. New construction is limited to ridgetops and gentle to moderate sideslopes. Proposed roads will cross 2 small perennial Type N streams within the sale, and one small perennial Type F outside of the sale. The Type F stream will be evaluated further to determine if the stream is actually a Type F.

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.

Skid trails will be evaluated for closure, immediately after harvest of each setting, during harvest operations.

Project work and their estimated costs are: Project 1: Construction and surfacing 2.6 miles of road at a total cost of \$156,000.

The operation will be 85% cable and 15% ground based yarding.

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

| Activity | Mainline | Collector | Rocked Spur | Dirt Spur |
|----------|----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
|          |          |           |             |           |

|             |   |    |     |   |
|-------------|---|----|-----|---|
| Construct   | 0 | 0  | 2.6 | 0 |
| Improve     | 0 | 0  | 0   | 0 |
| Maintain    | 0 | 10 | 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.

<sup>1</sup> All roads accessing the sale area will be maintained during the life of the timber sale contract. Maintenance miles in this table are those roads which are not being constructed or improved.

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

A large Type F stream (Tualatin river) is adjacent to the sale area. The Tualatin changes into a large and then small Type N stream while still adjacent to the sale area. There are also several unnamed small perennial and seasonal Type N streams within the sale area. Some of these type N streams flow to the Tualatin and some flow to the North Fork of the Trask River downstream of Barney Reservoir.

During sale layout, all streams within and adjacent to the sale area will be field verified as to size, type, location, and/or source.

Riparian area stand types along all of these streams are hardwood / conifer mixed.

Stream buffers within harvest unit boundaries will be managed according to FMP Riparian Strategies. The riparian areas will be reviewed during sale layout for current stand conditions and/or operational constraints for implementing FMP 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. Culvert installment and replacement in live streams will be conducted between July 1 and August 31. Operations outside of this period will be reviewed with ODFW.

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

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

Surveys for northern spotted owls were conducted in 2004 due to the presence of potentially suitable spotted owl habitat within and adjacent to the timber sale area. Three Blind Mice was surveyed for spotted owls three times in 2004 with no responses, and the second year of survey will be completed in 2005. All surveys were/will be conducted in accordance with USFWS protocol.

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 significant steep and very steep slopes in the east portion of the sale area. 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).

The District Recreation Coordinator has no comments for this sale.

No authorized trails were identified within the vicinity of the sale area.

Unauthorized OHV trails, along Blind Cabin Ridge Road, were identified within or adjacent to the sale areas. Trails will be evaluated by the District Recreation Coordinator to determine if the trails should be protected, rehabilitated, and/or blocked to vehicular access.

#### **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 area has a visual classification of Level 3, low sensitivity.

**XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:**

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 | 83                  | 10                  |