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KLAMATH-LAKE DISTRICT

2006 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This document describes activities planned on the Eastern Region state forest lands during Fiscal Year 2006 (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006). Since the decertification of the scattered Common School Forest tracts on the Northeast and Central Oregon Districts, all the eastern region state forest lands are on the Klamath-Lake District in Klamath County. The district manages 33,739 acres of forest land, 26,912 acres of Board of Forestry lands and 6,827 acres of Common School Forest lands. Management of these lands is guided by the Eastern Region Long-Range Forest Management Plan, which was approved in October, 1995.

This AOP describes how the Long-Range Plan will be implemented during the 2006 fiscal year. The AOP includes this summary document with sections on commercial forest management operations, roads and engineering, cultural resources surveys, wildlife surveys, etc. It also includes summary tables and pre-operations reports that describe the individual timber sales being proposed. The final plan will contain a public involvement summary that describes the results of the public involvement activities related to this AOP.

Keep in mind as you read this that the AOP describes management activities for which contracts will be prepared during the fiscal year (Commercial forest management operations and roads) as well as activities that will occur on the ground during the fiscal year (site prep, tree planting, pre-commercial thinning, fuel reduction).

Table 1. Annual Operations Plan objectives compared to annual objectives identified in the Eastern Region Long-Range Plan. All values are acres.

Silvicultural Activity	LRP Annual Objective	2006 AOP Objective
Conifer Partial Cut	1,190	1,148
Conifer Clearcut	N/A	
Hardwood Partial Cut	N/A	
Hardwood Clearcut	N/A	
Rehabilitation	N/A	
Reforestation (Initial Planting)	N/A	134
Precommercial Thinning	N/A	1,305
Fuel Reduction (Slashbusting)	N/A	61
Pruning	N/A	15

INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Commercial Forest Management Operations

Overview of Commercial Forest Management Operations

This plan proposes three commercial operations, two in Sun Pass State Forest in the North Block (Fulla Bull and Anomalous) and one in the East Block (Lucky Logger) for a total of 1,069 acres. All three commercial operations are overstocked and have stocking reduction for forest health as one of the primary objectives. The long-range plan calls for an average of 1,190 acres of harvest each year.

Fulla Bull This partial cut harvest operation contains 797 acres in the ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest zones. The area is overstocked and the standard uneven-aged management prescription described in the long-range plan will be employed. The sale will focus on reducing or nearly eliminating lodgepole pine. Some thinning from below will occur in pockets of ponderosa pine and white fir, but these species will be a high priority to leave. Lodgepole pine removal will create significant openings in most of the area. Stand 124 has very little lodgepole pine. While the stand is overstocked overall, it does contain some small understocked areas. In this stand, group selections will focus on these understocked areas. The openings created by the group selects will be reforested with ponderosa pine.

Anomalous This partial cut harvest operation contains 154 acres in the mixed conifer forest zone. The area is infected with annosus root disease in the white fir. In addition, pockets of ponderosa pine and sugar pine are overstocked. The sale will focus on harvesting most of the white fir while thinning overstocked ponderosa pine and sugar pine clumps from below. The openings and understocked areas will be reforested with ponderosa and sugar pine. White fir stumps will be treated with sporax to prevent continued spread of annosus.

Lucky Logger This partial cut harvest operation contains 197 acres in the ponderosa pine forest zone. The sale area is overstocked. This sale will focus on thinning from below favoring the best quality individual trees. In stands 459 and 465 10% of the area will be harvested as group selections in ½ to 3 acre patches. In stands 460 and 461, most of the juniper will be removed to encourage increased forage production for wildlife.

All three commercial operations will require thinning and skidding of the designated trees in the 5" to 8" dbh portion of the sub-merchantable trees to the landings. This process enables density reduction in all size classes while reducing the fuel hazard associated with pre-commercial thinning. These trees will be chipped if the market allows or burned on the landing.

Roads and Engineering

Overview

Table 4. Summary of Road Management Activities. All values are in miles.

	Mainline AOP		Collector AOP		Spur AOP	
Road Construction	0		0		1.25	
Road Improvement			0		6.4	
Road Closure/Vacation			0		6.35	
Road Maintenance - District	0		0		0	
Road Maintenance - Active Operations ¹	4.3		6.2		0	

¹ This is a broad estimate of the road maintenance that may be accomplished during the fiscal year, through active commercial operations, however the exact amount can not be predicted at this time.

Mainline Roads – These are generally permanent roads that have high traffic volumes, higher speeds, movement of heavy equipment and/or a high level of public use during portions of the year. They are useable by a lowboy truck, which is a key design vehicle. May have high public and recreational use during parts of the year. They are usually important roads for administrative purposes. And, they are usually a mainline road that accesses a large geographic area.

Collector Roads – These are generally semi-permanent or permanent usage roads that may access more than one logging unit, receive moderate use by the public during portions of the year, and/or provide important access for administrative purposes. Use may be heavy during periods of log hauling and light to moderate during portions of the year. May be closed and put in an inactive status during periods of non-use. Usually primary spur roads that are more than ¼ mile in length.

Spur Roads – These are generally roads that are used for a short term, intermittently and/or have a low traffic volume. Use may be heavy during periods of log hauling but minimal at other times. May be temporary roads that closed or vacated after use. May be operator designed or “logger’s choice” spur roads that require approval by the Department of Forestry. Oftentimes they are short (less than ¼ mile) spurs that access a single logging unit. May have seasonal restrictions on their use. May be administrative roads that are not used by the public or for commercial uses.

Road Construction/Improvement

The three sales in the 2006 Operations Plan will require 7.65 miles of road construction/improvement. Construction will involve new access spurs which will be built to minimum standards. Improvement primarily means removal of vegetation and debris from an existing road surface, blading, and shaping.

Road Access Management

On the Klamath-Lake District, road closure involves restricting access during all of the year (Section 8, Forest Road Vacating, ODF Forest Roads Manual). Roads will be closed primarily by spreading root wads, slash, and other logging debris on the road surface. The District has identified roads important for the permanent transportation system. As sales are proposed, roads within the sale areas are reassessed and non-essential roads are closed as part of project work in the timber sale contract.

Approximately 6.35 miles of roads are planned for closure on the FY05 sale plan sales. Most of these roads will be re-opened at each entry, approximately every 20 years.

Road Maintenance

Road maintenance is planned on about 10.5 miles of state roads on active sales during the FY 06.

Land Surveying

The status of several sections of property line in the Lucky Logger Timber Sale is uncertain. These property lines will be checked by our surveyors and the lines established where necessary.

Non-Commercial Forest Management Operations

Rehabilitation

None

Site Preparation

Excavator piling is planned on approximately 448 acres in the Beaver Rim, Hole-in-One, and Leo's Landing Timber Sales. Prescribed burning is planned on about 40 acres in the Lower Escarpment Timber Sale for natural regeneration site prep and fuel reduction.

Planting

Planting is planned on 134 acres of the Beaver Rim Timber Sale.

Vegetation Management

Noxious weed treatment with herbicides for a persistent musk thistle infestation is planned on about 1,660 acres in our Yainax block during 2005. This will be a spot treatment of immature seedlings and will be conducted twice during the growing season. Each treatment will be followed in several weeks by surveys to determine if follow-up treatment is necessary.

Tree Protection

None.

Precommercial Thinning (density management)

In the Eastern Region, precommercial thinning (pct) of residual understories following commercial operations is a tool for managing density as well as species composition, residual tree quality, wildlife cover and fuels (primarily through reduction of ladder fuels). In FY2006, pct is planned on about 1,305 acres of the Hole-in-One, 3-P, and Smokestack Timber Sales.

Fuel Reduction

A slashbusting contract is planned on 61 acres of the 28 year old progeny sites to accomplish the thinning of the undesirable parent tree siblings and reduce fuels created by the thinning.

Pruning

A second lift of pruning is planned for 292 trees in stand 211. These trees were initially pruned in 1995.

Recreation Management

Overview of Recreation Management

The primary recreation strategy in the FMP is to make Klamath-Lake District state forests available for informal dispersed recreation and to not actively promote increases in recreation use. During development of the FMP, it was determined that current users value this type of opportunity because surrounding agencies and private landowners are providing a full spectrum of more developed as well as more primitive recreation opportunities. There are no recreation management activities planned for FY2006.

Facilities (Campgrounds, View Points, Trail Heads, etc.)

There are no facilities of these types on the Eastern Region State Forests.

Trails

There are no formal trails on the Eastern Region State Forests.

Land Exchange

The District has an ongoing exchange proposal with the Fremont National Forest, which has stalled for several years due to Fremont N. F. priorities. This proposal has become the Fremont's top exchange priority. ODF has recently put a hold on exchange efforts until a reassessment of the land exchange process is conducted.

This exchange was initially proposed by ODF in 1990. Most of the steps in the exchange process were completed in the mid to late 90's. Because there have been significant changes in ODF's exchange process since this exchange was first proposed, the district plans to start over with many of the early steps of the process. The district will consult with the Asset Management section prior to undertaking these steps. Should the exchange hold be lifted during the fiscal year, the district will aggressively pursue completion of the exchange.

Other Integrated Forest Management Operations

The District will pursue a project to create a pump chance/wildlife pond in the southeast portion of Sun Pass State Forest. This area currently has poor access to water for fire fighting.

Planning (and Information Systems)

Stand Level Inventory (SLI) and Other Vegetation Inventories

The district plans to complete post-treatment SLI plots using district personnel in stands where a management cycle has recently been completed (harvest, pre-commercial thinning, and planting).

Fish and Wildlife Surveys

The Forest Management Plan also prescribes conducting spotted owl surveys every five years. The last owl survey was completed in 2000. Surveys are scheduled to start again in the spring of 2005 and continue in FY2006.

Watershed Assessments

No formal watershed assessments are planned for FY2006. Independent watershed assessment work is not prescribed in the Forest Management Plan. The FMP does prescribe participation in assessments being conducted by adjacent landowners.

The district does plan to participate with Crater Lake National Park and an adjacent private landowner in a project to restore bull trout in Sun Creek. A proposal has been submitted to the Hatfield Restoration Program for a grant totaling \$184,000 in each of the next two years. The district has offered \$25,000 per year in matching funds to help our chances to secure the grant. This project would be to conduct a feasibility study to develop alternatives to restore bull trout to lower Sun Creek and reconnect the population with the Wood River.

Research and Monitoring

The FY 2006 State Forest Program Research and Monitoring budget will include the periodic Spotted Owl surveys on the district.

Other Planning Operations

None.

Public Information and Education

The District will conduct public involvement activities related to the Annual Operations Plan. In addition to a general public comment period, the district will continue to work with the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership as a focus group for the AOP process. The district will also do targeted mailings related to the AOP to people known to have an interest in the district's forest management activities.

Administration

State Forests on the Klamath-Lake District are managed by the Management Unit under the direction of the District Forester. The unit is supervised by the Management Unit Forester. Three Marketing Foresters plan, prepare, and administer timber sales. A Post-Harvest Forester plans and carries out intensive management activities such as pre-commercial thinning, planting, and fuel management. This position is also responsible for forest inventory. A GIS/Land Exchange Forester manages the forest geographic information as well as the unit computers. This position also explores land exchange opportunities and carries out land exchanges.

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY TABLES

APPENDIX B

PRE-OPERATIONS REPORTS

APPENDIX C

OPERATION MAPS

APPENDIX D

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS AND RESULTING CHANGES