

Pre-Operations Report

2006 Alternate

Operation Name: Maple Galice
County: Josephine
Management Basin: Rogue

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	Partial Cut	23	20
2	Partial Cut	163	129
Total		186	149

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

The Galice portion of the timber sale is in the upper portion of the slope on a rolling ridge facing the south and east. The landform of Area 2 is a rolling ridge that drops off to the north into Maple Gulch Creek and stops before the ridge separating the sale from the Rogue River to the west. Area 2 has two southerly slopes (types 5143 and 5147) and one northerly slope (5145). Slopes range from 0 – 65%, with a majority of the area between 30 - 65%. Elevations range from 800 – 1,600 feet. The underlying rock units are igneous origin, Triassic and Permian Volcanic rocks (andesite flows and breccia).

This area is within the Mixed Evergreen vegetation zone in the Siskiyou Mountains. Douglas-fir predominates, with pine and evergreen hardwoods such as Black Oak, Pacific Madrone, Tanoak, and Canyon Live Oak.

Soils in the sale area are primarily the Heppsie-McMullin (80G, 81G, 82G) complex. This soil unit is moderately deep and well drained, and is susceptible to erosion.

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

Overstory: Douglas-fir predominates in the overstory, with minor amounts of pine, and hardwood species.

Understory: Oregon grape, scrub oak, and tanoak predominate in the understory.

Snags: There are approximately 3 – 7 snags per acre in this area greater than 12" DBH. Approximately 1-3 of these snags are over 15" DBH. Black Oak are the majority of hardwood snags. On the Maple Gulch side there are a scattering

of tall conifer snags between 30” to 40” DBH. The inventory data shows approximately 1 snag per acre this size.

Down woody debris: The amount of large down woody debris ranges from 331 – 966 cu. ft per acre in classes 1-5.

Current Stand Structure: The sale area is 55% UDS and 45% CSC.

Insects and disease: There are no indications of any insect or disease problems in the sale area.

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information

Area	Prescription	Stand ID ¹	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Acres ²
1	Partial Cut	5230	DF,PP,SP	127	15.7	155	115	39	20
2	Partial Cut	5143	DF,PP,SP	108	14.5	165	144	44	15
2	Partial Cut	5145	DF,PP,SP	136	17.7	176	103	43	67
2	Partial Cut	5147	DF,PP,SP	110	17.0	167	107	41	47
2		Target ³	DF,PP,SP		15-18	130	90-110	30	149

1 The source of stand inventory information is SLI from 2002.

2 The acres are based on GIS and include 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:

The desired future condition will be achieved by partial cutting the conifer understory to a target basal area, establishing an upper diameter limit, and retaining approximately 10% of the sale area in unthinned patches.

Table 3. Stand Structure Information (Not applicable to Coos and Klamath-Lake Districts¹)

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest ²	Desired Future	Acres
1	5230	CSC	UDS	OFS	20
2	5143	UDS	UDS	OFS	15
2	5145	UDS	UDS	OFS	67
2	5147	CSC	UDS	OFS	47

1 The forest management plans for these districts do not contain structure strategies.

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

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:

Desired Silvicultural Results: See Partial Cut Target Stand in Table 2. There has been no past management associated with these stands. The prescription will

primarily be a basal area thinning from below to remove the suppressed, intermediate and some of the codominant trees from these overstocked stands. Healthy understory trees will be reserved to promote layering. An upper diameter limit will be established to preserve the largest and healthiest trees in the stands. Density management will increase growth and development of the overstory and understory. Thinning these stands will increase the health and vigor of the residual conifer and hardwood trees as well as reduce the likelihood of insects, disease, wildfire, or other stand replacing event.

The trees on this site experience moisture stress. The thinning prescription will emphasize better spacing between trees. Sugar pine and ponderosa pine for example will be cleared of all other conifer and Madrone from underneath the canopy out to the dripline. A portion of the sale will be marked by a forester and wildlife biologist to working together to enhance bald eagle habitat. The largest and healthiest trees will be left throughout the sale, as well any trees that have the Old Growth characteristics of rough bark, large limbs and deformed tops . Hardwood trees and patches of hardwoods will be thinned to create growing space for conifers and to improve the health and vigor of the larger residual hardwoods. In addition, opportunities to create small $\frac{1}{4}$ to one acre openings will be explored during sale layout. Openings greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre will be interplanted while those less than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre will be left to naturally develop. This combination of partial cutting and group selection emulates the natural processes behind the development of LYR and OFS stands.

Snags: Snag creation will be required. An estimated 1 to 1.5 snags per acre will occur as a result of logging and natural mortality. An additional 1 snag per 2 acres will be created by girdling. 50 percent of the girdling will occur at 40 to 60 feet above ground with the remaining 50 percent occurring at DBH. All pre-existing snags that are not safety or fire hazards will be retained. Any snags that are felled will be retained for down woody debris.

Down woody debris: Approximately 100 cu. ft./acre of class 1 debris will be added through normal logging operations including trees that are damaged and eventually blow down and cull log segments required to be left on the ground. Additionally any time a stand is opened up from management activities the possibility of isolated blow down or top breakage exists. No yarding of down woody debris will be permitted.

Insects and disease: The sale will focus on removing the trees that have the smaller, less developed crowns, poor vigor and thus are more susceptible to an insects and disease.

Fuels Modification: Residual slash, tree tops and limbs, will be burned if unacceptable accumulations are present after the harvest.

Regeneration: Regeneration from seed will occur naturally as a result of the thinning.

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:		3	

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	745	0	745
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	250	0	250
Estimated Gross Value	\$186,000	0	\$186,000
		Project Costs:	\$30,000
		Estimated Net Value:	\$156,000

VI. HARVESTING AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS:

Access: Access to area II is via Galice Road to Stratton Creek Road (35-7-4.1), to the 35-7-4.2 road. The 35-7-4.2 road is blocked to vehicular traffic by a gate. Area I is located by taking Galice Creek Road to Peavine Road (35-8-2).

For sale access: 0.5 mile of new construction and 1000 feet of road improvements costing \$30,000 will be required to access this sale. The constructed road will not cross any perennial streams. The new road will primarily be on a ridgetop with some sidehill construction requiring full bench if sidehill slopes exceed 65%. The constructed road will remain naturally surfaced and outsloped, require seasonal restrictions from November 1 to March 31, and will be closed and blocked annually. The terrain of this area has good potential for road construction and cable yarding. The desired infrastructure will provide cable yarding distances averaging 800 feet and will provide access for future stand management opportunities. The constructed road will be blocked upon the completion of the sale, natural drainage will be reestablished, waterbars installed, and the surface will be grass seeded and fertilized.

Concerns and considerations: The proposed road location has no unusual geological features. Drilling and shooting, end haul, and full bench roads will be employed over portions of this project where side slopes exceed 65%.

Table 5. Transportation Management Summary (Miles).

Activity	High Use	Medium Use	Low Use
Construction	0	0	1
Improvement	0	0	0
Maintenance	0	0	0
Closure	0	0	1
Vacation	0	0	0

VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

In the northern portion of Area II Maple Gulch, a perennial stream flows east-west. It is assumed but not yet verified, whether fish are present in the Maple Gulch stream. Fish presence will be verified in the sale planning process and the stream will be buffered accordingly. There are three small type N streams in the southern portion of area I that will be surveyed for seasonal flow.

The vegetation along the streams is similar to the upland vegetation as is typical in Southern Oregon riparian areas. The aquatic and riparian strategies will be applied to all streams within and adjacent to the sale. To the extent that harvesting will be occurring in the “inner” and “outer” RMA zones, live tree and snag retention will exceed the requirement standards in the SWO FMP.

VIII. T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

Northern Spotted Owl: The SOA Wildlife Biologist has determined that the sale area is currently suitable for Northern Spotted Owls due to the age and size of the trees. Surveys for NSO’s have been conducted in 2002 – 2004 and will continue in 2005. As a result of surveys, no NSO’s are currently within 1.3 miles of the sale area.

Bald Eagle: The Maple Gulch bald eagle pair has an alternate nest location within this sale. This nest site will be protected by a buffer and seasonal restrictions during the breeding season. Surveys of the nest site will continue until the sale is completed.

Marbled Murrelet: This sale is outside the known inland range of the marbled murrelet and will not require surveys.

Threatened and Endangered Fish: This sale is not in proximity to streams in which listed fish are present. For additional protection measures to prevent sediment from entering perennial streams see Section VI – Harvesting and Access Considerations, Section VII – Aquatic Resources and Water Quality, and Section IX – Slope Stability and Geotechnical Issues.

Threatened and Endangered Plants: The sale area was checked against District knowledge for any listed plant location as well as the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP) database of known listed plant locations.

An old record of Western Necklace, *Sophora leachiana*, is adjacent to the sale area. This plant is not threatened or endangered, but is considered by ODF as a Species of Concern. As such, this plant is not given legal protection but ODF is documenting its' occurrence and employing management considered to be neutral or beneficial.

This plant needs sunlight to grow and soil disturbance to spread. Sale operations will expose mineral soil and sunlight will increase as a result of removing overstory trees during logging. Loggers will avoid active skidding through any identified patches of the plant when it is in flower. These planned activities should have a neutral or beneficial effect.

IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:

Consultation between district personnel and a geotechnical specialist will be conducted to determine the slope stability hazard rating.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

There are no developed recreation resources in the immediate area of the timber sale. Dispersed recreation such as hunting and off road vehicle use make up most of the recreational opportunities on Maple Galice.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

A pre-sale reconnaissance revealed no significant cultural resources in the sale area.

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

The Visual Classification is rated as Level III – Low Sensitivity in the sale area. The sale has been designed to avoid the Rogue River viewshed. A ridge blocks the view of the timber sale from the Rogue River area.

XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no other resource considerations within or adjacent to the sale area.

XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

Table 6. Land Management Classification Summary

Area	LMCS Subclass	Focused Stewardship	Special Stewardship
1	Aquatic and Riparian	4	0
	Wildlife	0	0
2	Aquatic and Riparian	38	11
	Wildlife	0	129

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.