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WEST OREGON DISTRICT

2006 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This annual operations plan (AOP) covers the State Forest lands managed by the West Oregon District for Fiscal Year 2006, which begins July 1, 2005 and ends June 30, 2006. It describes how the activities and projects undertaken by the district will achieve the goals and objectives of the West Oregon District Implementation Plan (IP), the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the draft Western Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). (Implementation of the AOP may be modified in accordance with changes to the draft HCP as it proceeds through the review and approval process).

The AOP is composed of the summary document with sections that contain information on commercial forest management operations; roads and engineering; non-commercial forest management operations; recreation management; and land exchange. In addition, the summary document provides details for planning and information systems; public information and education; and administration. The remainder of the AOP contains summary tables for operations proposed for the fiscal year and individual reports and maps for each commercial operation. A public involvement summary will be added to the final plan.

Specifics about the physical characteristics of the District may be found in the West Oregon District Implementation Plan. Details on the strategies used to manage State forests may be found in the NW Oregon Forest Management Plan.

Table 1. Annual Operations Plan objectives compared to annual objectives identified in the 2001 West Oregon District Implementation Plan (Table A-1). All values are acres.

Silvicultural Activity	IP Annual Objective		2006 AOP Objective
	Low	High	
Conifer Partial Cut	700	1,100	804
Conifer Clearcut	60	80	*107
Hardwood Partial Cut	0	20	0
Hardwood Clearcut	10	30	2
Rehabilitation	0	100	0
Reforestation (Planting)	70	400	235
Precommercial Thinning	200	800	697
Fertilization	0	0	0
Pruning	0	100	11

*All planned activities fall within the IP Annual Objective with the exception of Conifer Clearcut which exceeds the high objective in the IP Annual Objective. Total combined clearcut harvest for conifer and hardwood (109 acres) is within the AOP objective (70-110 acres). Please see the Harvest Type Definitions on the AOP web site (http://www.odf.state.or.us/DIVISIONS/management/state_forests/aop.asp)

The net acres listed in Table 1 and the individual Pre-Operation Reports excludes the acreage contained in roads, stream buffers and no-harvest areas within the operation areas. The net acres reflect the amount of ground that will actually be in the operations.

During fiscal year 2006, all of the non-commercial forest management operations included in the AOP will be completed. However, most of the activities associated with commercial management operations such as timber harvesting and project work will not take place during the fiscal year. The timber sale contracts will be prepared and auctioned but most of the actual work will be completed in a future fiscal year.

INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT **OPERATIONS**

Timber Harvest Operations

Overview of Timber Harvest Operations

The proposed management activities for 2001-2010 listed in West Oregon District's Implementation Plan (IP), shows that the yearly average of clearcut harvesting should be within the range of 70-110 acres. It also specifies that the yearly average of partial cutting should be between 700-1,100 acres. The FY 2006 operations plan complies with those requirements in that it includes 109 acres of clearcut harvesting and 804 acres of partial cutting. (See Table 1).

The landscape design associated with the IP shows the Desired Future Condition (DFC) for state forest land in the district. Areas planned for more complex stands are indicated as either Layered (LYR) or Older Forest Structure (OFS). Stands not planned for LYR or OFS are designated as General. A stand with a DFC of General may develop into any of the five stand structures defined in the Northwest Forest Management Plan.

The regeneration harvest on the District is composed of 100 percent modified clearcuts. The partial cut harvest includes 6 percent light thinning; 73 percent moderate thinning and 21 percent heavy thinning. For definitions of these harvest types reference the "State Forest Annual Operations Planning" web page (http://www.odf.state.or.us/DIVISIONS/management/state_forests/aop.asp).

The IP states that Regeneration harvesting will occur in Closed Single Canopy (CSC) or Understory (UDS) stands that have severe health problems or in stands that are poor candidates for developing into more complex stands (see IP for details). The 109 acres of regeneration harvest in this plan consists of three units. Thirty three acres in one unit support 24 year old Douglas-fir that are severely infected with Swiss needle cast (SNC) and are classified as CSC stand type. This stand is proposed for modified clearcut because partial cutting SNC infected stands similar to these has appeared to be detrimental to stand health. Another unit is composed of 57 acres of 70 year old Douglas-fir, which is classified as UDS. This unit is proposed for modified clearcut because there are no tree species present that could provide the layering component necessary for building a more complex stand. The final unit consists of 19 acres of 38 year old Douglas-

fir. Many trees in this CSC stand were badly damaged or killed by a snow/ice storm that occurred earlier in 2004. This unit is proposed for modified clearcut and will be replaced by a more diverse, complex stand because a variety of conifer species will be planted.

For these proposed modified clearcuts, approximately 10-12 trees per acre will be left standing in the units which should provide future legacy trees, down wood, and snags. Landscape design is classified as General and these areas will move to Regeneration (REG) after harvest and eventually to CSC and UDS stands.

Partial cutting in younger stands will move them relatively quickly towards structures that are more complex. In the 2006 operations plan, approximately 425 acres of partial cutting will be in plantations that are 24 – 38 years old. These stands consist primarily of Douglas-fir but also include some western hemlock, red alder, and big leaf maple and are currently classed as CSC. Partial cutting in these stands should encourage new, vigorous growth of understory brush species and move most of these stands into UDS. Approximately 127 acres will be put on a pathway for future LYR stands by thinning to a low stand density or creating patch cuts and planting with western hemlock and/or western redcedar to enhance horizontal layering and species diversity.

The remaining 379 acres of partial cut are in 51-65 year-old natural stands. Commercial thinning was conducted in the stands in 1994 or 1997. These stands are composed primarily of Douglas-fir but also include red alder and big leaf maple. Approximately 175 acres of these stands will be put on a pathway for future LYR or OFS stands by thinning to a low stand density and underplanting with western hemlock and/or western redcedar to enhance horizontal layering and species diversity. Underplanting will add to the numerous existing western hemlock, Douglas-fir, and red alder saplings already present in the understory. Stands that are snag and/or down wood deficient according to SLI will have these elements created artificially.

Approximately 785 acres of the stands planned for partial cutting have either been pre-commercial thinned or commercial thinned in the past.

It is estimated that about 10.1 million-board feet of conifer timber and 0.1 million-board feet of hardwood timber will be harvested from these timber sales. Projected gross revenue is estimated to be \$2,642,000. With approximate total project work of \$494,000 anticipated, the net revenue produced is expected to be about \$2,148,000. Of this net revenue, approximately \$1,992,000 will be generated from Board of Forestry lands and the remaining \$156,000 will come from Common School lands. (See Table A-1) In addition to revenue from timber sales, the district is anticipating selling about 20 special forest products permits resulting in an additional \$2,000.

Resource specialists that have provided input for the Pre-Operations Reports include the area Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) wildlife biologist, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) district fish and wildlife biologists, and the area ODF geotechnical specialist.

Table 2. Stand Structure Development – This table summarizes how the Timber Harvest Operations in this AOP will contribute to achieving the district’s desired future condition. All values are in acres.

Stand Structure	REG	CSC	UDS	LYR	OFS	GEN ¹
Current		571	342			
Post Harvest ²	109		804			
Desired Future				230	95	588

1. General (GEN) is not a stand structure, but identifies those stands that are not targeted for Layered or Older Forest Structure in the district landscape design. These stands may develop into any of the five stand structures.
2. The Post Harvest stand structure is an estimate of how the stands will develop in five to ten years after the operations are completed.

Summary of Operations by Basin

Table 3. Summary of Timber Harvest Operations in each basin. All values are in acres.

Basin	2006 AOP		Cumulative Operations ¹ (FY 02—06)	
	Partial Cut	Clearcut	Partial Cut	Clearcut
Burnt Woods	123	19	1557	113
Green Mountain	302	33	1068	168
Blodgett	379	57	1857	98
Scattered Coastal			370	180
Black Rock			166	
Bonner			702	20

1. The Cumulative Operations include all Timber Harvest Operations, prepared and proposed, under the current implementation plan period (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2011). Operations or units that were proposed, but have been subsequently dropped, are not included in the total.

Green Mountain Basin

Mill Stone This operation consists of one 33 acre modified clearcut unit and two partial cut units totaling 68 acres.

The clearcut unit is in a 24 year old Douglas-fir stand that is severely infected with Swiss needle cast and was not pre-commercially thinned in the past. The stand type is CSC. The anticipated stand structure pathway is to move from CSC to REG through clearcutting and replanting with a variety of conifer species, then to CSC and finally UDS utilizing future commercial thinning entries.

The two partial cut units support 26 year old Douglas-fir that was pre-commercially thinned about 12 years ago. The stand type is classified as CSC. The anticipated pathway is to move from CSC to UDS as a result of this operation.

Big Yaq This operation consists of three partial cut units totaling 234 acres in 25-32 year old Douglas-fir timber. All three units are currently classified as CSC and were pre-commercially thinned about 14-18 years ago.

Patch cuts will be created in Area I, which is about 91 acres. These patch cuts will be replanted with conifer seedlings and should provide for a future layering component. The rest of this stand will be partial cut. The anticipated stand structure pathway is to move from CSC to UDS and finally LYR.

The remaining 143 acres will be on a pathway to a UDS stand through partial cut operations.

These operations will increase the Understory stands by 3% and reduce the Closed Single Canopy stands by 3%.

Blodgett Basin

Spout-Off This operation consists of one 57-acre modified clearcut unit in 70-year-old Douglas-fir timber. The stand type is UDS. There are no natural tree species present that could provide the layering component necessary to build more complex stands so clearcutting is the proposed management prescription. The anticipated stand structure pathway is to move from UDS to REG through clearcutting and replanting a variety of conifer seedlings, then to CSC and finally to UDS, utilizing future commercial thinning entries. Approximately 10-12 trees per acre will be retained which will provide for the future snags, legacy trees, and down wood requirements.

Tum's Relief This operation consists of eight partial cut units totaling 379 acres that support natural 51-65 year old Douglas-fir stands and were commercially thinned 7-10 years ago.

About 175 acres contain significant numbers of Douglas-fir, hemlock, or alder seedlings in the understory. These areas will be put on a pathway from UDS stands to LYR or OFS stands by thinning to a low stand density and underplanting with hemlock or cedar which will add to the existing seedling numbers.

The remaining 204 acres, which is currently classified as CSC or UDS, will move to, or maintain UDS through partial cutting.

Snags and down wood will be inventoried using SLI and any deficiencies will be corrected through artificial creation.

These operations will increase Regeneration stands by 1%; reduce Close Single Canopy stands by 1% and reduce Understory stands by 1%.

Burnt Woods Basin

Eddy-Bear This operation consists of one 19 acre modified clearcut unit and four partial cut units totaling 123 acres.

The clearcut unit supports 38 year old Douglas-fir timber that was badly damaged by a snow and ice storm early in 2004. This stand was not pre-commercially thinned in the past. The anticipated stand structure pathway is to move from CSC to REG through clearcutting and replanting a variety of conifer seedlings, then to CSC and finally to UDS utilizing future commercial thinnings. Ten to twelve reserve trees per acre will be retained to provide for future snag, down wood, and legacy tree requirements.

The four partial cut units contain 24-38 year old Douglas-fir stands that were pre-commercially thinned about 10-14 years ago. About 36 acres will be put on a pathway to a LYR stand through patch cutting and planting a variety of conifer seedlings. The remaining 87 acres of partial cut will move to UDS and will remain in that stand type until future management operations.

This operation will increase Understory stands by 1% and reduce Closed Single Canopy stands by 1%.

Black Rock Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for FY 2006

Bonner Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for FY2006.

Scattered Coastal Basin

There are no harvest operations planned in this basin for FY 2006.

Forest Roads Management

Overview

Visions, guiding principles, and techniques that are the framework of the District's road management program are discussed in detail in the Implementation Plan and the Forest Roads Manual (2000), and govern the planning and implementation of the activities discussed in this section. Planning of these activities are Level III plans, as discussed in the Forest Road Manual.

The Implementation Plan (IP) anticipates that about 4-7 miles of new road will be constructed and 8-12 miles of road will be improved each year. It is estimated that 1.6 miles of new road construction and 9.7 miles of road improvement will be included with the FY 2006 operations plan. These roads will provide improved access for hauling forest products from the sale areas. Since the mainline roads are already in place on the district, these new roads will be mostly short, low use, single lane spur roads, and averaging 14 feet wide. About 48% of the new roads will be surfaced to provide all season access. Approximately 77% of the roads to be improved will be rocked, providing a seasonal traction coat or an all season surface. Natural surfacing will be the final condition of the remaining road length for new and improved roads. The natural surface roads will be waterbarred, grass seeded, and blocked to restrict public vehicle access after harvest and/or prior to the beginning of the wet season. Restricting access to natural surface roads will control soil erosion and ensure that the drainage systems remain intact.

Most roads will be constructed through gentle, stable topography, which will minimize slope stability concerns, soil erosion, and downstream water quality issues. However, there are a few short stretches of new road that will need to be constructed through steeper terrain. In these situations, the staff engineer and area geo-technical specialist may be contacted and requested to conduct an onsite inspection and provide input related to mitigating any negative effects of road construction.

Fiscal year budget and market conditions have had little impact on the level of activity for roads and engineering as related to the transportation plan for the FY2006 timber sales.

The district has conducted a detailed inventory of its road system, collecting information on road surfacing, condition, drainage, and stream crossings. This inventory was done in conjunction with the Oregon Salmon Plan. For the FY 2006 operations plan, existing roads and drainage systems in the vicinity of timber sales have been evaluated to determine high priority road or drainage structure maintenance, abandonment, replacement, or improvement projects.

For FY 2006, 0.5 miles of road have been identified for vacation. However additional ground inspection may reveal additional segments to be vacated. The guidelines for road vacating, located in Section 8 of the ODF Forest Roads Manual, will be used. The process for prioritizing the vacation of forest roads is based on an assessment of the risk to resources from information in current road inventories and additional fieldwork. Future transportation needs and road maintenance costs will also play a factor in identifying roads for vacation. Activities under this Plan will add approximately 4.5 miles of road to the District's active road system.

Stream crossing culverts will be replaced based on information in the current forest road inventory and in consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists.

District activities to control noxious weeds consist primarily of controlling Scotch Broom (and other brooms) in and around plantations. Most of these infestations start along roads

and spread from there. Other species, which are occasionally targeted for control, include knotweed and Himalayan blackberry. Noxious weed control will be performed on about 10 acres during this fiscal year.

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

	Mainline (High Use)		Collector (Medium Use)		Spur (Low Use)	
	AOP	IP ¹	AOP	IP ¹	AOP	IP ¹
Road Construction	0	0	0	0.2 - 0.3	1.6	4.2 - 6.6
Road Improvement	0	3.5 - 5.0	0	2.2 - 3.4	9.7	2.4 - 3.6
Road Closure/Vacation	0	0	0	0.3- 0.5	0	3.9 - 6.0
Road Maintenance – District²	0		25		20	
Road Maintenance – Active Operations³	0		12		13	

1. These are annual estimates derived from Table 6-6. Potential Road Activities FY 2001-2011 of the 2001 District Implementation Plan. The values here were derived by dividing the values in the Potential Road Activities table by 10.

2. The road maintenance estimates include only the work to be completed during Fiscal Year 2006 by the district road crew or service contract. Estimates of road maintenance were not made in the Implementation Plan.

3. 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.

Road Construction

As Table 4 indicates, all road construction will be low use classified spurs. Most of these roads will be built on gentle side slopes or ridge tops. There are no road construction projects that are not associated with this year's sale plan.

Road Improvement

The majority of the road improvement projects consist of adding a lift of crushed rock to existing surfaced roads, enabling year round hauling and minimizing turbidity associated with road runoff. Other projects consist of re-opening old unsurfaced spurs and replacing inadequate and failing drainage structures and stream crossing structures. All of the activities will be performed on low use spur road systems and are associated with the Commercial Forest Management Operations.

Road Access Management

All surfaced and newly constructed or improved unsurfaced roads are categorized as active use roads. The unsurfaced roads are blocked and water barred in the wet season. After the wet season, which usually ends in May, the closed unsurfaced roads may be re-opened and harvest activities may resume. Once the harvesting is completed, these roads are partially vacated until the next harvest entry. The roads are blocked, water barred, all culverts are removed, and the road surface is grass seeded.

Road Maintenance

Road grading, culvert catch basin clean out, slough removal, roadside brush control and grass seeding will be accomplished with ODF personnel with either rented or ODF equipment. Approximately 20 miles of road will be graded and have the ditches and culvert catch basins cleaned. An additional 10 miles will have oblique water bars cut into their rock surface. Approximately 1,000 cubic yards of slough material will be removed from ditch lines or road surfaces and placed in stable waste areas. About 40 miles of roadside vegetation will be treated and approximately 9 miles of newly constructed or improved road edges and or surfaces will be grass seeded or re-seeded.

Road maintenance tasks to be accomplished with timber contracts shall include grading, culvert catch basin clean out on approximately 15 miles of road, removing approximately one 1,000 cubic yards of slough material from ditch lines or road surfaces and placed in stable waste areas, and mechanically brushing approximately 12 miles of roadside vegetation.

Roadside vegetation control operations are conducted along roads with encroaching vegetation. The objective is to reduce the vegetation along rights-of-way for improved road maintenance and to increase visibility for safer driving conditions.

Roadside seeding operations will reduce erosion along newly constructed roads and provide a source of big game forage to the immediate area.

Land Surveying

Approximately 12.5 miles of property line will need to be delineated. This survey work will be accomplished with district labor and equipment.

Young Stand Management

The purpose of conducting non-commercial forest management operations is to prepare for, establish, or maintain a new forest through operations such as rehabilitation, site preparation, tree planting and protection, vegetation management, pre-commercial thinning, and pruning. Through the use of these operations many of the silvicultural goals and objectives of the FMP and IP are met.

Specific information regarding operations can be found in Tables I and A-4, and in the discussion, below.

Most non-commercial activities are essential to good forest stewardship. Accordingly, these activities are readily supported within the base budget. Alternatively, non-commercial management operations such as fertilization, pruning, or low priority stocking density control may not be fully funded.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation operations are used to convert non-stocked areas or brushfields to desired species within or around planned operation areas and to add species diversity and structure through layering. These operations are specifically planned to take advantage of existing opportunities to create additional structure across the landscape. The IP states that 0-100 acres of brush fields can be rehabilitated each year. There is no acreage planned for rehabilitation during this operations plan.

Site Preparation

The purpose of site preparation is to prepare areas for replanting after harvest operations or rehabilitation activities by removing or controlling the vegetative cover. This allows seedlings to become established while reducing the competition with other vegetation for moisture, sunlight and nutrients. Chemical and mechanical (slash piling and burning) site preparation may be used on the same acreage. Chemical and/or mechanical site preparation will be utilized in the following basins:

Burnt Woods Ridge Basin – Approximately 89 acres of clearcut, 22 acres of patchcuts and 47 acres of underplant areas on five timber sales will be treated.

Scattered Coastal Basin – Approximately 97 acres of clearcut and 8 acres of patchcuts will be treated on three timber sales. One of these clearcuts, 39 acres in size, was originally forecasted to have site preparation activity during the 2005 AOP period and was also reported in that plan.

Blodgett Basin – Approximately 10 acres of patchcuts in one timber sale will be treated in this basin.

Planting

Tree planting operations are conducted for various reasons. These include meeting Forest Practices Laws, quickly establishing a new stand of trees after timber harvesting, and increasing species diversity in the area and across the landscape. Some planting (underplanting) is intended to create an additional tree layer in a partial cut stand for increased structure and diversity. Planting will also ensure future opportunities and options for the management of stands to produce desired structures across the landscape. The Implementation Plan (IP) indicates that annual reforestation acreage will be between 70 and 400 acres. About 235 acres will be planted (initial planting, underplanting, and interplanting) during FY 2006.

Initial Planting:

This type of planting is conducted after a timber harvest reduces the stocking level to a degree that more trees are required on the site.

Burnt Woods Ridge Basin – One 28 acre clearcut will be planted with a combination of Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red cedar and Sitka spruce. Another 61 acre clearcut will be planted with Douglas-fir, western hemlock and western red cedar. Patchcuts, totaling 22 acres, on three timber sales are planned to be replanted to a combination of Douglas-fir, western hemlock and western red cedar. These planting mixes will serve to increase species diversity in areas of primarily Douglas-fir.

Scattered Coastal Basin – Approximately 39 acres of clearcut on one timber sale is planned to be reforested with Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red cedar and Sitka spruce. Older Douglas-fir and areas of hardwood have been left in this clearcut. The result will be increased species and structural diversity across the landscape. This area was originally planned to be replanted in FY 2005 and was reported in the 2005 AOP. Additionally, 8 acres of patchcuts on one timber sale will be planted with Douglas-fir, western hemlock and western red cedar.

Blodgett Basin – Approximately 10 acres of patchcuts in one timber sale will be planted predominately to western red cedar. These patches are infected with laminated root rot. Planting cedar will help to reduce the spread of the disease in these patches.

Underplanting:

This type of planting is conducted after a thinning in order to introduce an additional future layer of structure into a stand.

Burnt Woods Basin – Approximately 47 acres in one timber sale will be underplanted with a combination of Douglas-fir, western hemlock and western redcedar. These seedlings will increase both species and structural diversity across this landscape.

Interplanting:

This type of planting will occur on areas that were initially planted one to three years ago, but for various reasons (animal damage, disease, planting quality, etc) seedlings did not survive in sufficient numbers. Approximately 20 acres of interplanting is forecast to be needed. Individual areas usually vary in size from one to five acres. A variety of tree species will be planted, depending on the site conditions.

Vegetation Management

Release operations are conducted in established plantations to control other vegetation that competes for moisture, sunlight, and nutrients. The objective is to retain preferred trees in the stand and maintain acceptable growth rates of the established stands. Release operations are also used to eradicate noxious weeds which are not actually threatening seedlings but which have the potential to spread.

Manual Release:

All Basins - Approximately 50 acres of release work using chainsaws will be necessary. Areas of manual release are typically small areas in young plantations that are either too close to streams or private property to treat with chemicals or where target vegetation is too large to be effectively chemically treated. This type of release will keep preferred trees from being overtopped by competing vegetation.

Chemical Release:

Green Mountain Basin – Approximately 110 acres will be treated in three plantation areas.

Burnt Woods Basin – Approximately 34 acres will be treated in one plantation.

All Basins – Approximately 60 additional acres of chemical vegetation management is forecast for this period. These operations are typically on small acreage and target areas with heavy concentrations of bigleaf maple or vine maple clumps. Other operations will target such noxious weeds as Scotch broom, false brome and spotted knapweed.

Tree Protection

Tree protection operations are conducted to reduce, control, or mitigate animal damage on desired trees in the stands. These operations are intended to maintain stocking and growth rates at optimum levels. The district uses three methods to

provide protection to trees: installing tubes over seedlings, applying a big game repellent to the seedling, or trapping animals on site.

Tubing:

On this district, tubing has proven effective in most cases in keeping animal browse on cedar to an acceptable level. Tubing will be installed on about 53 acres of new plantations.

All Basins - Tubing will occur on almost 100% of western redcedar planted during this period. Western redcedar will be planted on portions of nearly all of the areas designated for planting during this period.

Big Game Repellent (BGR):

BGR (Plantskydd) has been applied from time to time on western redcedar in the past and more recently to western hemlock on a trial basis. It appears to have helped prevent near total removal of hemlock by big game species.

Green Mountain Basin – The western edge of this basin has shown extreme browse damage in the recent past. A 2nd application of Plantskydd may be applied over approximately 80 acres of mixed hemlock and Douglas-fir (perhaps on the cedar as well).

Direct Control:

Mountain beaver trapping will occur on portions of the units that will be initial planted during this period (approximately 168 acres). Assessments will be made after the units are harvested as to the need for control work. Maintenance trapping will also occur in portions of units that were trapped previously that show continued high levels of mountain beaver activity (approximately another 32 acres).

Precommercial Thinning (density management)

Pre-commercial thinning (PCT) operations are conducted on stands that are above a desired stocking level. The operations generally have several objectives including the following: 1) reduce stocking to levels which will maintain diameter growth, and to a lesser extent height growth; 2) provide an opportunity for selecting residual trees based on initial growth, form, and defect, and 3) favor particular species that are needed to improve stand composition and diversity. The IP states that annual PCT acreage will be between 200 and 800 acres. Approximately 697 acres are scheduled for PCT during this operations plan period.

These pre-commercial thinning units range from 14 to 16 years old and are stocked with an average of 350 trees/acre of Douglas-fir. This operation increases the health and vigor of the stands by removing an average of 130 trees/acre of the smallest and/or most

defective Douglas-fir trees. Most conifers other than Douglas-fir and most hardwoods are reserved from cutting, thus maintaining the present diversity.

Green Mountain Basin – Approximately 378 acres over seven plantations.

Black Rock Basin – Approximately 45 acres in one plantation.

Blodgett Basin – Approximately 101 acres in one plantation.

Scattered Coastal Basin – Approximately 173 acres in three plantations.

Fertilization

No fertilization activities will occur during this period.

Pruning

The purpose of pruning is to remove limbs for the purpose of creating future high quality clear wood, or to reduce the potential for disease as described below. The district IP states that annual pruning acreage may vary between 0 and 100 acres. During this operations plan, about 11 acres are planned for pruning.

Pruning for Clear Wood:

No new pruning for clear wood will be initiated during this period.

Pruning for White Pine Blister Rust:

This operation is conducted to help prevent western white pine trees from becoming infected with the white pine blister rust canker. Without this pruning, a significant portion of white pine would die or become deformed from the disease. Approximately 11 acres of white pine will be pruned.

Green Mountain Basin – Pruning will continue on approximately 2 acres, which have already been pruned to a height of approximately 3 feet. This time trees will be pruned to a height of approximately 6 feet.

Bonner Ridge Basin – Pruning will continue on approximately 5 acres that have already been pruned to a height of approximately 3 feet. Trees will now be pruned to 6 feet in height.

Blodgett Basin – Pruning will continue on approximately 4 acres that have been pruned to approximately 3 feet in height. On this entry, trees will be pruned to approximately 6 feet in height.

Recreation Management

Overview of Recreation Management

Current recreational activities on the district consist mostly of dispersed camping, sightseeing, hiking, hunting, and fishing. However, there are three sites that do receive some level of consistent visitor use during certain periods of the year. They are:

1. **Big Elk Creek**. This area has two primitive campsites along Big Elk Creek that have all weather access. These campsites are consistently used during summer weekends and through much of the hunting seasons.
2. **Baber Meadows**. The Mt. Baber ATV Club uses Baber Meadows as an ATV staging/riding area. This staging area provides access to a 24 mile trail loop on ODF and private land. The club schedules some organized riding events but riders use the trail system at other times of the year, as well. Resources at the meadows include a restroom, an informational kiosk, an adjacent kid's track, all weather access roads to camping and staging areas, five surfaced trailer sites with picnic tables and fire rings, and two primitive camp sites.
3. **Black Rock**. A mountain bike club, the "Black Rock Free Ride Association" has created and maintains about 4.3 miles of trails in the eastern portion of ODF ownership at Black Rock.

During the spring and summer of 1999-2002, the State Forests Program Staff Public Use Coordinator monitored visitor use on the recreation sites. He developed a Recreation Resource Inventory and Assessment for the general geographic area and more specifically the three recreation sites. This document in combination with the Implementation Plan comprises the Districts Recreation Plan

Planning staff from the Salem office will continue to conduct recreation use monitoring at the three sites on the district during the spring and summer of 2005. The data collected would be consistent with that for other districts in the Northwest Oregon Area and would include resource condition assessments.

There are no recreation projects planned for FY 2006 on the district. The district has budgeted about \$2,000 for rock surfacing for the Baber Meadows staging area. Table A-5 shows current status of recreation resources on the district.

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

Facilities at Baber Meadows include a restroom, an informational kiosk, an adjacent kid's track, all weather access roads to camping and staging areas, five surfaced trailer sites with picnic tables and fire rings, and two primitive camp sites.

Trails

The 24 mile ATV trail loop on ODF and private forest land will be maintained throughout the year by the club members. About 4.2 miles of trail system is on ODF land.

The 4.3 mile mountain bike trail in the Black Rock area will be maintained throughout the year by the Black Rock Free Ride Association.

Management Activities

The Mt. Baber ATV club will hold a number of riding events during the fiscal year.

Salem staff has been contacted by an individual who would like to hold a mountain bike race (Oregon Mt. Bike Racing Association.) on the Black Rock trail system during the summer of 2005.

Land Exchange

There are no ongoing land exchanges and none are planned for the fiscal year. Work will continue on an updated Land Exchange Plan.

Other Integrated Forest Management Operations

Habitat Improvement Projects

In concert with ODF&W fish biologists' consultation, and information contained in the road inventory, one inadequate and failing stream crossing structure will be replaced with a fish passable structure in order to allow for fish passage. The replacement of this structure will provide access to approximately a half mile of additional fish stream habitat.

Planning (and Information Systems)

Stand Level Inventory and Other Vegetation Inventories

Inventory approximately 71 forest stands, which total about 4,716 acres with Stand Level Inventory (SLI).

Stocking surveys of two, six, and eighteen to twenty-eight year old plantations.

Fish and Wildlife Surveys

There are numerous streams identified for fish distribution surveys within or adjacent to all operation areas.

Surveys for northern spotted owls will be conducted for two operations. Surveys for marbled murrelets will be conducted for two operations.

Table 5. Summary of status of T&E surveys.

Operation	Species (NSO/MM)	Status
Mill Stone	NSO/MM	No surveys required for either species.
Big Yaq	NSO/MM	NSO surveys not required. MM surveys conducted in 2004 and will continue in 2005.
Spout-Off	NSO/MM	Surveys for both species will be conducted in 2005 and 2006.
Tum's Relief	NSO/MM	Surveys for both species were conducted in 2003 and 2004. NSO surveys will be conducted in 2005.
Eddy-Bear	NSO/MM	No surveys required for either species.

Watershed Assessments

No watershed assessments are scheduled for fiscal year 2006.

Research and Monitoring

The following research projects will continue to be monitored during this fiscal year:

1. Vegetation and wildlife response to gaps in young stands (Peuttman/OSU)
2. Growing stock study of thinned stands at Black Rock (McGuire/OSU)
3. Effects of sulfur applications on Swiss needle cast infected Douglas-fir (Kanaskie/OSU)
4. Effects of thinning in Swiss needle cast infected Douglas-fir stands (Mainwaring/OSU)

Other Planning Operations

During FY 2006, the district will be involved in planning activities in addition to continued development of the Western Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan. These planning activities include:

1. FY 2006 Annual Operations Plan – This plan will cover all management operations on State Forest lands on the district for Fiscal Year 2006, which begins July 1, 2005 and ends June 30, 2006.
2. FY 2007 Annual Operations Plan - This plan will cover all management operations on State Forest lands on the district for Fiscal Year 2007, which begins July 1, 2006 and ends June 30, 2007
3. Recreation use monitoring and planning for the three recreation sites on the district.
4. Collecting additional data to enhance road inventory information.
5. Continuing work on a new land exchange plan.

Public Information and Education

The district maintains supporting information on the Implementation Plan, Forest Land Management Classification System, and Annual Operations Plans for public review. In addition, district personnel will participate in watershed council meetings, outdoor school presentations, ATV club meetings, and other public events as the opportunity arises. The district will continue to meet with concerned citizens or groups when they have questions or as needed.

Administration

There are twelve positions on the West Oregon District that are fully, or partially, funded for the management of State Forest lands. These positions are divided into three functional groups: Administration, Engineering Unit and Forest Management Unit (See Figure 1).

Administration is composed of the District Forester, Assistant District Forester and an Office Specialist. The District Forester and Assistant District Forester provide the following functions for the management of State Forest lands on the district: policy direction; budgeting; coordination between units and programs; and oversight to the field units. The Office Specialist provides clerical support for the management of State Forest lands. This person is responsible for initial public contact, distribution and filing of documents, and providing assistance at timber sale auctions. The Office Specialist is also responsible for assisting with permits for firewood cutting and special forest products harvesting.

The Engineering Unit is composed of three positions; the Unit Supervisor (who is also a licensed land surveyor); an engineering assistant and a road specialist. This unit is responsible for land surveying, and establishing and maintaining the property lines of all State Forest land on the district. The unit is also responsible for the design and maintenance of all roads on State Forest lands.

The Forest Management Unit consists of six positions and is subdivided into three functional areas: young stand management; timber sale preparation and administration; forest planning, and geographic systems coordination.

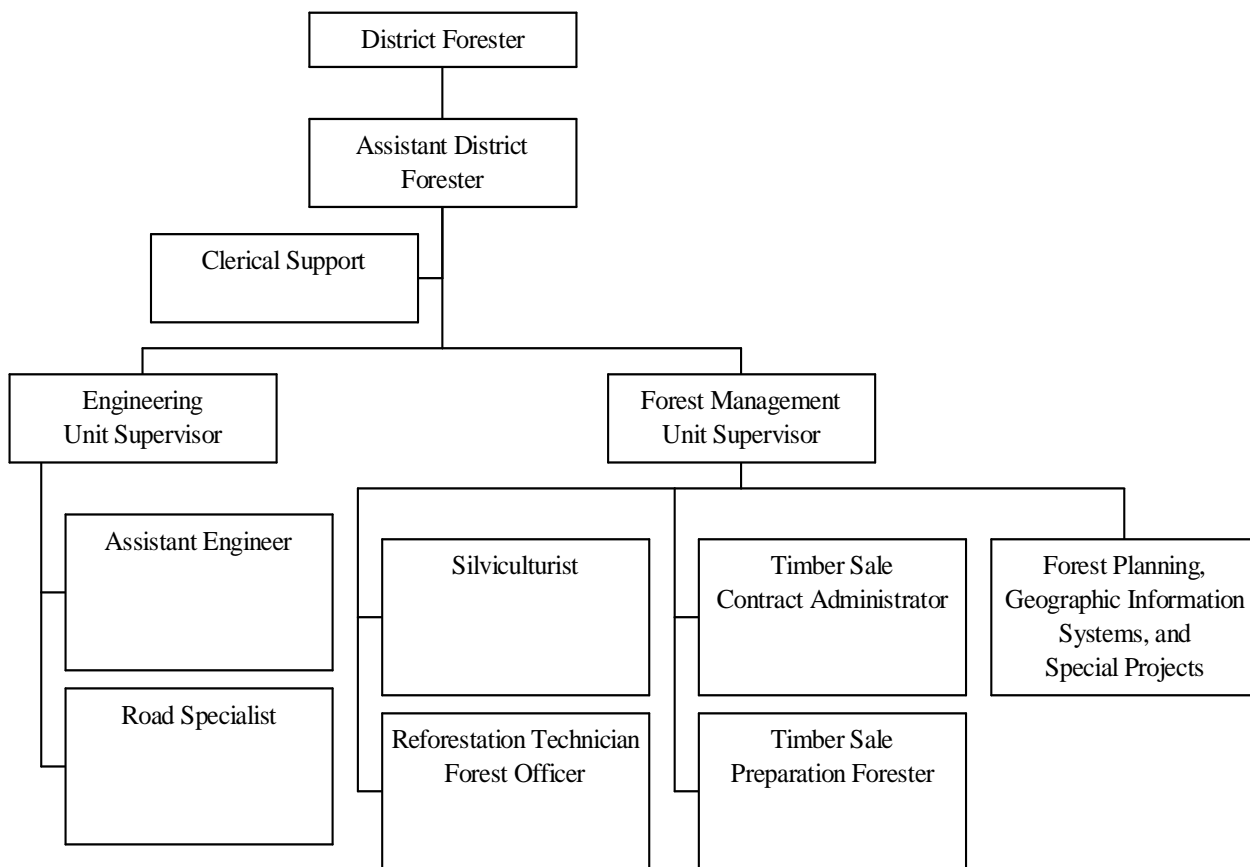
The Forest Management Unit Supervisor coordinates all of the activities in the unit. His duties include employee supervision, reforestation oversight, contract review and approval, and timber sale planning. He prepares the annual operations plans for the district's State Forest lands and is active in implementation of the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan and the development of the Western Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan. The Unit Supervisor is also responsible for all recreation management on State Forest lands.

The young stand management group is responsible for all activities in forest plantations from the time harvesting is completed through reforestation and stand establishment. The activities of this group include site preparation, tree planting, vegetation management, pruning, tree improvement, and pre-commercial thinning. Within this group, the district silviculturalist is responsible for recommending pathways and prescriptions for all stands that will lead to achieving the district's desired future condition.

The timber sale preparation and administration group is responsible for all aspects of timber harvesting from unit layout through the completion of the harvest contract. The activities include unit layout, cruising, appraisal, contract preparation, and contract administration. This group also ensures that current standards for retention of snags, green trees, and down wood are met and that riparian management strategies are correctly applied to the harvest units. They also assist with the layout and design of new roads. In addition, this group manages the cutting of firewood and sale of miscellaneous forest products, such as moss, ferns and salal.

The third part of the Forest Management Unit is the district's Forest Planning and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator. The GIS Coordination duties include: acquiring, maintaining and updating data; conducting spatial analysis for district planning; and conducting analysis and map productions for State Lands personnel. This person also provides a lead role on large planning projects, such as watershed analysis, implementation plans, the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan and the draft Western Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan. In addition, this position is responsible for the surveys for threatened and endangered species and helps implement the district's land exchange program.

West Oregon District
 State Forest Management Organization
 Figure 1



All personnel involved with the management of State Forest lands spend some portion of their time in public information and education, generally one to three days per year. The District Forester, Assistant District Forester, Forest Management Unit Forester and the Geographic Information Systems Coordinator spend considerably more time on public information and education, because of their involvement with the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan and the draft Western Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan.

APPENDICES

A. Summary Tables

TABLE A-1 COMMERCIAL FOREST MGT. OPERATIONS – FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**TABLE A-2 COMMERCIAL FOREST MGT. OPERATIONS – INTEGRATED FOREST
MGT. STRATEGIES**

**TABLE A-3 COMMERCIAL FOREST MGT. OPERATIONS – ROADS FINANCIAL
SUMMARY**

**TABLE A-4 NON-COMMERCIAL FORST MGT. OPERATIONS – FINANCIAL
SUMMARY**

TABLE A-5 RECREATION MGT. OPERATIONS – FINANCIAL SUMMARY

B. Pre-Operations Reports

MILL STONE

BIG YAQ

SPOUT-OFF

TUMS RELIEF

EDDY-BEAR

ALTERNATES

REHATCH

TABLE MOUNTAIN

HYMES CATCH-UP

BEAR TOP

C. Public Involvement

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS FOR THE 2006 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

The Oregon Department of Forestry issued a Press Release on February 7, 2005, announcing a formal 45 day public comment period for the 2006 Annual Operations Plans from February 14 through March 30, 2005.

The Annual Operations Plans represent a district level planning process which must be developed in accordance with the four Forest Management Plans (FMPs) and the seven district Implementation Plans (IPs) that provide the direction and objectives for management of State Forests on nine ODF districts. (The Elliott (Coos) and Sun Pass (Klamath-Lake) State Forests operate without IPs.) These district-level Annual Operations Plans (AOPs) describe the proposed on-the-ground operations, such as timber sales, road building, reforestation, stream enhancement projects and trail building, scheduled for the coming fiscal year that begins in July.

The district forester approves the final plan for each district after any adjustments are made as a result of comments received during the public comment period.

The purpose of the Public Comment Period was to provide an opportunity for the public to review the AOPs, ask questions and offer comments. As a public agency, ODF operates in the best interest of Oregonians, conducting business in an open way with opportunities for scrutiny to foster and maintain public confidence that ODF operations are benefiting Oregonians.

Past experience has shown that public comments have the potential to improve plans, so the objective was not only to inform the public, but to receive feedback that would help to clarify the AOPs, improve their consistency with the long range FMPs and IPs, and to become aware of any new information that could affect a planned operation or improve its efficiency or effectiveness.

At the end of the public comment period, the districts and ODF headquarters in Salem had received approximately fourteen individual documents (letters, faxes and e-mails). Comments were received from twenty-seven different sources including the State Forest Advisory Committee (SFAC), seven environmental groups outside the SFAC, one District AOP Focus Group, one sawmill, one former employee, one City government, and members of the general public. Once they were carefully reviewed, it was found that these documents contained nearly 180 individual statements, which consisted of comments, questions, opinions and recommendations.

Since the AOPs are a district level planning process, each district was responsible for using a common process to evaluate the statements specific to their AOP. Approximately 25 percent of the statements were addressed to all state forests. They were evaluated by Area and Salem staff.

The common evaluation process consisted of the following six steps:

1. Review each document to identify the individual statements.
2. Summarize each statement in a table.
3. Evaluate each statement (What activity is it related to? What is its scope? How does it relate to the AOP?)
4. Respond to the statement in a table. The response is a very brief synopsis of how the district intends to change the AOP based on the statement, or it provides an explanation of how the planned activity is consistent with the FMPs, IPs and other policy or regulation.
5. After the initial evaluation and response to the public comments, representatives from all state forest districts met to compare their evaluations and responses. The purpose of the comparison was to ensure consistency in the evaluation and response to statements between districts, and to seek out statements that should be applied to all district AOPs.
6. Revise district evaluations and responses to statements, then revise the district AOP based on the district responses.

The Annual Operations Plans fall in the fourth and lowest level of formal planning on state forests. They must be conducted in accordance with the parameters set forth in the districts' Implementation Plans, the Forest Management Plans and the 'Greatest Permanent Value' rule (listed from low to high level of planning). Administrative rules prevent districts from adopting recommendations inconsistent with the FMPs and IPs. Thus, an important part of the evaluation process was the use of a set of evaluation criteria. These five criteria were used to determine if and how a statement was related to the AOP. Each statement from the public comments was evaluated with the following criteria:

- Does the statement enhance the consistency of the AOP with the FMP?
- Does the statement enhance the consistency of the AOP with the IP, for those districts with IPs?
- Does the statement improve the clarity of the AOP?
- Does the statement provide new information that will affect the AOP or an operation?
- Does the statement improve the efficiency and effectiveness (or outcome) of the AOP?

Those statements that fell within the criteria above received responses that indicated how the district's AOP would be changed to incorporate the comment. Those that did not meet the criteria above, but expressed opinions, concern or issues related to a higher level of planning (FMPs and IPs) received responses that provided the commenter with an explanation of how the planned activity is consistent with the FMPs, IPs and other policy or regulation. The districts may still consider statements that apply to other planning processes when they revise their district Implementation Plans, Recreation Plans, Transportation Plans, or other plans.

Note: A complete listing of all public comments related to the district FY06 AOP can be referenced at our web site:

District FY06 AOP Changes Resulting from Public Comment Process

The West Oregon District received one public comment on the FY 2006 Annual Operations Plan. The comment was for Table Mountain, which is an alternate operation. The comment did not meet any of the criteria necessary for making changes to the AOP. Consequently, no changes were made.

The agency provided a response to the commenter with an explanation of how the planned operation is consistent with the FMP, IP and other policies or regulations.

D. Additional Maps

VICINITY MAP