

Pre-Operations Report

Operation Name: Almasie

County: Lane

Management Basin: Western Lane

Legal Description: Sec 16, T17S, R8W

Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	Partial Cut	62	49
2	Partial Cut	52	50
4	Partial Cut	16	16
Subtotal		130	115
3	Modified Clear Cut	15	13
Total Units		145	128

Gross acres do not include existing or old abandoned roads that do not contain timber. Net acres do not include stream buffers or patches of alder in partial cuts.

I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:

The sale area is 23 miles from the coast and on the lower north slope of Tilden Ridge at an elevation of about 800 feet. The climate is much cooler and wetter than Eugene. The soils are Valino and Drain, with some Digger. All the soils are clay loam derived from sandstone. Most of Area 3, about 30% of Area 2, and minor portions of Area 3 are over 65% slope. The remainder of the sale area is mostly 40 to 65% slope.

II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

The general area burned in major wildfires in 1910 and 1929 and naturally regenerated after the last fire.

Area 1: In the mid 1970's, Area 1 was partial cut, causing considerable ground disturbance. Hardwood - and some hemlock and DF - seeded into the holes in the stand and as understory. The area is extremely brushy with vine maple, salmonberry, salal, and the whole gambit of western Oregon brush. Snags were cut during the 1970's operation.

Area 2: Most of this Area has never had a harvest entry and has snags and down wood typical of the Nelson Mountain country. The stand contains nearly 8 acres of hardwood, which will not be cut. The stand is very brushy, but the brush is not as tall or dense as Area 1.

Area 3: It appears that In the 1940's, a remnant patch of poorly stocked oldgrowth (about 10 acres) in the middle of the Area was tractor harvested. The harvested area (Stand 268) naturally reforested into primarily hardwood, but contains scattered conifer understory and large second growth conifer. Understory is mainly sword fern. Very few old stumps can be found and there is very little down wood and few snags.

Area 4: Portions of this Area were thinned in the 1970's. Very little conifer seeded in and survived in the understory, but the thinning increased the amount of hardwoods in the stand. Brushy like Area 2.

Table 2. Stand Inventory Information (Net Acres)

Area	Prescription	Stand ID ¹	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	RD	Acres ²
1	PC	15132	DF	70					49
		Target ³			20-28	80-90	19-40	15-20	49 net
2	PC	15131	DF	70					50
		Target ³			18-22	80-90	30-50	17-21	50 net
3	MCC	15133		60					13
4	PC	15136	DF	70					16
		Target ³			18-22	80-90	30-50	17-21	50 net

1 The source of stand inventory information is 2005 SLI.

2 The acres, unless otherwise noted, are based on orthophotos and exclude roads, patches of undersized hardwoods, and Type N streams buffers.

3 The Target identifies expected stand characteristics (DBH, BA, TPA and SDI) after harvesting has been completed. DBH, BA, TPA, and SDI are calculated based only on conifer between 9 and 30 inches DBH. Neither low stocked areas nor hardwood patches are included in the Target averages.

III. DESIRED STAND CONDITION:

Table 3. Stand Structure Information (Net Acres)

Areas 1, 2, and 4 (partial cuts). The intent of this harvest is to create a good layered structure in 30 years without entering the stands again. However, stand

development will be monitored, and another entry may sometime be necessary to create enough sunlight for desired understory tree growth.

Following partial cutting, increased light through the overstory will encourage the growth of existing understory trees such as hardwoods and hemlock and increase brush vigor. Some hemlock, Douglas-fir, alder, maple and a little cedar will seed in and slowly increase in size. Portions of the stands will be treated with herbicide to temporarily knock back the dense vine maple and salmonberry. Much of Area 1 will be wide spaced (18x18 feet) planted to hemlock and cedar. Portions of Areas 2 and 4 may be planted.

Eventually much of the seeded Douglas-fir and alder in Areas 2 and 4 and the most dense portions of Area 1 may be shaded out, but the bigleaf maple and shade tolerant conifer will survive (although grow more slowly than in the open).

Area 3 (modified clearcut). The stand is mostly hardwood with scattered overstory conifer and occasional hemlock understory trees. After harvest, the understory hemlock and re-sprouting bigleaf maple will respond vigorously to the increased sunlight. Large amounts of alder seed will blow in from adjacent stands. We intend to plant a mix of DF, WH, and cedar on a 12'x12' spacing. Ground herbicide or slashing probably will be necessary a few years after harvest to control vegetation that is severely competing with crop trees.

Our long term goal is a patchy, mixed conifer/hardwood stand that includes DF, WH, WRC, bigleaf maple, and alder. The combination of residual trees, planted trees, and inseeding should produce in 40 years an extremely diverse stand with a great deal of vertical and spatial structure. Markets and stand structure will, at that time, determine whether a partial cut entry is appropriate for enhancing the development of layered structure.

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest	Desired Future	Acres
1	15132	UDS	UDS	LYR	49
2	15131	UDS	UDS	LYR	50
3	15133	UDS	REG	LYR	16
4	15136	UDS	UDS	LYR	13

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

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION:

Areas 1, 2, and 4: Partial cut with a heavy thinning leaving the largest conifer. All cedar and all trees over 40 inches DBH will be left. Hardwoods will not be harvested. Minor amounts of natural seeding from hemlock occurred after past

thinnings in this area, but a mixture of cedar and hemlock will be planted in portions of the thinnings.

Snags: One snag per acre over 18 inches DBH will be left or created.

Area 3: The unit will be a modified clear cut, and planted with a mixture of conifer species. The area may be site prep treated with ground-applied herbicides. Green trees required under the *NWO State Forests Management Plan* will include all trees over 40 inches DBH. Some of the green trees will be bigleaf maple.

Snags: Existing snags will be left if not a safety hazard, but no new snags will be created at this time since the Area is mainly hardwood.

All Areas: Down Wood. The 2005 SLI inventories show that significant amounts of down wood exist in Areas 1,2, and 4. Additional new down wood will come from tops required to be left, broken pieces, missed logs, and the tops of created snags. Some blowdown may occur in the partial cut in the first few years after harvest, some leave trees may blow down in the clearcut, and root rot in the thinnings periodically kills some trees.

Inventory plots in the 2000 partial cut harvest, Sitka Selective (Sec 12, T17S, R8W) showed over 500 cu ft/ac of class 1 & 2 down wood. Sitka Selective did not require leaving tops in the woods and did not require snag creation.

V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE INFORMATION:

Table 4. Timber and Revenue

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

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	1,700	160	1860
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	\$350	\$325	
Estimated Gross Value	\$595,000	\$52,000	\$647,000
		Project Costs:	\$212,000
		Estimated Net Value:	\$435,000

VI. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND HARVESTING:

Area 1 contains about 10 acres which can be tractor logged. However, almost all of the sale will be cable logged. Intermediate supports will be needed for some yarding corridors.

Most road construction will be reconstruction of ancient, impassable, overgrown roads. Rocking will be required only on collector roads. Some road work and logging will have seasonal restrictions due to the proximity of a marbled murrelet site north of State land.

Most road construction is on moderate ground with a low potential for dirt entering streams. No sidecast will be allowed on slopes over 50% and excavated dirt and rock will be endhauled to stable locations approved by department geotechs. On portions of Tilden Tie, the road will be moved into the bank and old sidecast will be pulled back and endhauled. Most of the Tilden Tie road will be slope staked and referenced to ensure construction meets our intent.

Road improvement consists of shaping, widening spots, adding and replacing cross drain culverts, pulling back old sidecast, widening in spots, and rocking. This collector road will be used for future sales.

The road system will be gated after firewood cutting has ended because of neighbor concerns. The sale requires a R/W agreement from BLM. Dirt spurs will be waterbarred and blocked after use.

Table 5. Transportation Planning Summary (Miles).

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0	1.2	0	1.4
Improve	0	1.6	0	0
Maintain	0	2.8	0	1.4
Close/Block	0	2.8	0	1.4
Vacate	0	0	0	0

VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:

The sale area contains numerous small non-fish streams. Many are probably perennial. No fish streams are within the operations area, except the road improvement crosses a Type F.

Management activities within riparian areas of streams will focus on achieving properly functioning aquatic and riparian habitat conditions over time. Riparian Management Areas (RMAs) will be established immediately adjacent to streams for the purpose of protecting aquatic and riparian resources and maintaining the functions and ecological processes of the streams. The Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas found in the *NWO State Forests Management Plan* (pg. J-1 - J-16) will be the minimum standards followed within these RMAs.

VIII. T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:

T&E Birds: The sale is within two spotted owl circles, McVey and Upper McVey and adjacent to the buffer zone of a marbled murrelet management area.

A preliminary biological assessment has been completed by the Area biologist. This assessment concludes that the sale is currently consistent with ODF's policies for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets. USFW reviewed the biological assessments and determined that the sale does not pose a threat to either spotted owls or marbled murrelets. Spotted owl and marbled murrelet surveys will continue in 2005.

T&E Plants: The sale area was checked against the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (OHNP) database of known listed plant locations. The sale area was also checked against district knowledge for any listed plant location. No listed plant records were identified within the sale area.

IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:

High landslide hazard locations are scattered across Area I and Area II and there is a moderate risk to tributaries of Nelson Creek. The hazard and risk in Area III is low. If high landslide hazard locations are identified in Area III during timber sale layout, the geotechnical specialist will be consulted.

Vegetation retention practices for potential debris flow track reaches as prescribed in the Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas (Appendix J, Table J-2) will be applied to debris torrent prone reaches where applicable. Road construction near any potential high landslide hazard areas will endhaul excavation and ensure road drainage into these areas is minimized. During improvement and reconstruction of old roads, any old sidecast above high hazard areas will be removed and endhauled to stable locations.

X. RECREATION RESOURCES:

Hunters, mushroom pickers, and backroad drivers occasionally use the existing road. After sale completion, we expect recreational use of the new road on the west portion of the sale.

XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

No cultural resources sites are known to exist in the area.

XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:

The area is visible from the Nelson Mountain County Road, but this road has considerable logging activity of other landowners adjacent to or visible from it.

XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:

None known.

XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:

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.

Table 6. Land Management Classification Summary (Based on Net Acres)

Area	LMCS Subclass	Focused Stewardship	Special Stewardship
1	Aquatic & Riparian	3	0
2	Aquatic & Riparian	1	0
3	Aquatic & Riparian	6	0
All	Spotted owl circles	116	0