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KLAMATH-LAKE DISTRICT

2007 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This document describes activities planned on the Eastern Region state forest lands during Fiscal Year 2007 (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007). 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 2007 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.

		Objective
Conifer Partial Cut	1,081	943
Conifer Clearcut	N/A	119
Hardwood Partial Cut	N/A	
Hardwood Clearcut	N/A	
Rehabilitation	N/A	
Reforestation (Initial Planting)	N/A	544
Precommercial Thinning	N/A	1,290
Fuel Reduction (Slashbusting)	N/A	
Pruning	N/A	

INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Commercial Forest Management Operations

Overview of Commercial Forest Management Operations

This plan proposes three commercial operations, all in Sun Pass State Forest in the North Block for a total of 1,062 acres. Sick Puppy and Jackstraw are overstocked and have stocking reduction for forest health as one of the primary objectives. Lane Beavers is a clearcut harvest in the lodgepole pine forest zone, where the forest management plan calls for even-aged management. The current harvest objective calls for an average of 1,081 acres of harvest each year.

Sick Puppy This partial cut harvest operation contains 729 acres in the mixed conifer forest zone. 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 group selections in white fir. Some thinning from below will occur in pockets of ponderosa pine and sugar pine, but these species will be a high priority to leave. The openings created by the group selects will be reforested with ponderosa pine and sugar pine.

Jackstraw This partial cut harvest operation contains 214 acres in the ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest zones. The sale area is overstocked. The sale will focus on thinning overstocked ponderosa pine and sugar pine clumps from below. In Stand 207, most of the lodgepole pine will be removed. Group selections will occur in both stands. The group selections will be reforested with ponderosa pine in Stand 203 and ponderosa and sugar pine in Stand 207.

Lane Beavers This clearcut harvest operation contains 119 acres in the lodgepole pine forest zone. This sale will focus on leaving wildlife trees and clumps and reforesting clearcut areas with lodgepole pine. In Stand 178, six to ten acres of wildlife patches will be left in clumps ranging from ¼ acre to three acres in size. In Stand 183, wildlife habitat will be retained primarily by leaving most of the true fir component.

All three commercial operations will require cutting 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 or slashing. 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		0.5	
Road Improvement	0		5.4		0.8	
Road Closure/Vacation	0		5.7		1.1	
Road Maintenance - District	0		0		0	
Road Maintenance - Active Operations ¹	9.9		6.8		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 2007 Operations Plan will require 6.7 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 6.8 miles of roads are planned for closure on the FY07 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 16.7 miles of state roads on active sales during the FY 07.

Land Surveying

The status of several sections of property line in the Jackstraw 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 100 acres in the Leo's Landing Timber Sale. 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 544 acres of the Leo's Landing, Hole-in-One, Siderod, Smokestack, Huckleberry Hound, and Haywire Timber Sales.

Vegetation Management

Noxious weed treatment with herbicides for a persistent musk thistle infestation is planned on about 1,000 acres in our Yainax block during 2007. 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 FY2007, pct is planned on about 1,290 acres of completed timber sales.

Fuel Reduction

None.

Pruning

None.

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 FY2007.

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

The Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS) will begin construction of two yurts during FY2006. (See **Public Information and Education** section) During 2007, ODF will meet with KOSS to review and approve plans for further development.

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 assessment has been completed. The District plans to pursue completion of the exchange.

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.

Other Integrated Forest Management Operations

The District will pursue a project to create a small pond to serve as a water source for wildland fire engines and as a 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 on 9 stands.

Fish and Wildlife Surveys

The Forest Management Plan calls for pileated woodpecker surveys every 5 years as part of the Forest Connectivity Area strategy. The last surveys were conducted in 2002. The next round of surveys will begin in Spring, 2007.

Watershed Assessments

No formal watershed assessments are planned for FY2007. 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 2005 through 2007. 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 2007 State Forest Program Research and Monitoring budget will include funding for the pileated woodpecker surveys.

Other Planning Operations

The Eastern Region Forest Management Plan review will start in Fiscal Year 2007.

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.

The District has begun work with the Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS) to establish a permanent site for a resident outdoor science school, serving primarily grade school students, in Sun Pass State Forest. The district sees this as an opportunity to provide youth, teachers, and parents with education about the working forest. ODF has issued a Special Use Permit that allows KOSS to develop a site near Kimball State Park. The permit requires review and approval of annual development plans.

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

COMMERCIAL FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS - ROADS FINANCIAL SUMMARY

District: Klamath-Lake

Fiscal Year: 2007

Date: 02/03/2006

Operation	Construction		Improvement		Other Projects	Total Project Costs	Gross Value of Operation	Total Cost as a percent of Gross Value	Comments
	Miles	Cost	Miles	Cost					
Sick Puppy	0.2	300	5.3	5,300	41,855	\$47,455	\$1,312,720	3.6%	
Jackstraw	0	0	6.1	6,100	7,810	\$13,910	\$143,460	9.7%	
Lame Beavers	0.3	450	0.1	150	6,900	\$7,500	\$203,300	3.7%	

Total:	\$68,865	\$1,659,480	4.1%
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Alternate Operations

						\$0	1	0.0%	
						\$0	1	0.0%	
						\$0	1	0.0%	

Road Projects Not Associated with Commercial Forest Management Operations

						\$0			
						\$0			

YOUNG STAND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

District: **Klamath-Lake** Fiscal Year: **2007** Date: **05/30/2006**

Operation	BOF %	CSL %	Estimated Acres	Cost/Acre	Estimated Total Cost	Comments
Rehabilitation	0%	0%			\$0	
Site Preparation						
Piling	100%		100	\$105	\$10,500	
Chemical site prep	100%		100	\$150	\$15,000	
Planting						
Initial Planting	92%	8%	544	\$201	\$109,344	
Interplanting			0		\$0	
Underplanting			0		\$0	
Vegetation Management						
Noxious Weed Treatment		100%	1000	\$25	\$25,000	
Tree Protection						
Precommercial Thinning	83%	17%	1290	\$81	\$104,390	
Fertilization					\$0	
Pruning						
(Other) cone collection	54%	46%	27	137	\$3,699	

Total: **\$267,933**

RECREATION MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

District: **Klamath-Lake** Fiscal Year: **2007** Date: **02/26/2007**

Operation	Unit of Measure	Current	Construction Projects	Construction Cost	Improvement Projects	Improvement Cost	Total Cost	Comments
Facilities								
Campsites	Sites						\$0	
Day Use Areas								
Trailheads								
Interpretive Sites (Other)	Sites						\$0	
Trails								
Non-Motorized	Miles						\$0	
Motorized	Miles						\$0	

Total: \$0