

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS FOR THE 2007 ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

The North Cascade District 2007 Annual Operations Plan was included in the formal 45 day public comment period held from February 15 through March 31, 2006 by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

The Annual Operations Plans represent a district level planning process which must be developed in accordance with the Forest Management Plans (FMPs) and the District Implementation Plans (IPs) that provide the direction and objectives for management of Santiam State Forest. 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 and/or further analysis and reconnaissance by district personnel.

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.

At the end of the public comment period, the districts and ODF headquarters in Salem had received approximately five individual documents (letters, faxes and e-mails) with specific comments regarding the North Cascade's 2007 AOP.

The evaluation of the documents 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.

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

http://oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/planning.shtml#Public_Comments

District FY07 AOP Changes Resulting from Public Comment Process

The following changes have been made to the FY07 AOP since the end of the public review period. These revisions were a result of public comment and/or further analysis/reconnaissance

by district personnel. The AOP summary, summary tables, and the Pre-Operations Reports have been updated to reflect these changes.

- Mackey Creek was removed from sale plan as the District needed more time for reconnaissance. The District is currently exploring helicopter logging to avoid using Guy Moore road. In order to accomplish this, suitable landing sites need to be found on adjacent landowners.
- Shellburg Creek Loop was the alternate chosen to replace Mackey Creek in the FY 07 AOP.
- Green Tweener Alternate was removed from the sale plan. The District made this decision following a field review with biologists from the USFWS. The USFWS oral comments during the field review that Area II of the sale should be considered suitable foraging habitat. USFWS written comments have not been received at this time.