

# Pre-Operations Report

**Operation Name: Rapid Stanley**  
**County: Clatsop**  
**Management Basin: Buster**

**Table 1. Operation Areas, Types and Acres**

Area	Type of Operation	Gross Acres	Net Acres
1	Partial Cut – Heavy	37	35
2	Partial Cut – Heavy	34	31
3	Partial Cut - Moderate	54	47
4	Partial Cut - Moderate	168	152
5	Partial Cut - Moderate	200	192
Total	Partial Cut	493	457

## **I. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION AREA:**

The sale is located along gentle to moderate upper slopes of Stanley Creek, Walker Creek and un-named tributary of Buster Creek and the gentle ridge and upper slope dividing Buster Creek from North Fork Rock Creek. Areas 1, 2, and 3 are underlain by sedimentary rocks of the informal Jewel Member of the Keasey Formation and the informal Sunset Highway Member of the Hamlet Formation. Areas 4 and 5 are underlain by igneous rock of the Tillamook Volcanics Formation.

## **II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:**

**Areas 1 and 2** – The current stands are 30 to 33 years old, and are composed of Douglas-fir mixed with some hemlock and scattered clumps and stringers of alder. The stands are categorized as Closed Single Canopy (CSC) with a stand density ranging from 25 to 35. The understory consists primarily of sword fern, vine maple, huckleberry, and salmonberry.

**Area 3, 4, and 5** – These stands range in age from 59 to 71 years old. These stands are composed of Douglas-fir and western hemlock with clumps and stringers of red alder. The stands are categorized as 74% CSC and 26% UDS with a stand density range of 42 to 82%. The understory consists primarily of sword fern, vine maple, and salmonberry.

**Table 2. Stand Inventory Information**

Area	Prescription	Stand ID <sup>1</sup>	Species	Age	DBH	BA	TPA	SDI	Acres <sup>2</sup>
1	PC - H	1946	DF	31	13	135	140	36	35
		Target <sup>3</sup>	DF, RA		14	120-140	90	20-25	35
2	PC - H	1922	DF, RA	33	10	82	162	25	31
		Target <sup>3</sup>	DF, RA		12	120-140	115	20-25	31
3	PC - M	24391	DF, RA	63	16	240	173	61	47
		Target <sup>3</sup>	DF, RA		19	120-160	70	25-30	47
4	PC - M	2094	DF, WH	69	17	316	202	78	32
		2077	DF, WH	65	18	266	150	64	56
		2116	DF, WH	70	15	295	239	76	12
		2071	DF, WH	65	17	288	185	71	11
		2122	DF, WH	63	21	361	148	82	10
		24080	RA, DF	59	16	161	111	42	31
		Target <sup>3</sup>	DF, WH		20	120-160	80	25-30	152
		Target <sup>3</sup>	DF, WH		21	130-170	80	30-35	192
5	PC - M	2122	DF, WH	63	21	361	148	82	54
		2146	DF, WH	71	19	295	145	69	79
		2181	DF, WH	61	18	178	99	43	18
		2121	DF, WH	65	19	277	137	65	12
		2133	DF, WH	67	19	313	162	74	5
		24082	DF	59	18	294	165	73	24
		Target <sup>3</sup>	DF, WH		21	130-170	80	30-35	192

1 The source of stand inventory information is from SLI 2005 and OSCUR 2002. Age shown as of 2005.

2 The acres are based on GIS and exclude 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 / VISION:**

The goal for **Areas 1 and 2** is to move these stands as quickly as possible towards their desired future condition of Older Forest Structure (OFS). This will be done with one heavy thinning entry followed most likely by maintenance thinning in approximately 15-20 years. The initial entry will retain as much existing structure as possible, including vinemapple, red alder, and any understory conifer.

**Areas 3 and 4** will be thinned to a level that will develop the existing CSC condition into an Understory (UDS) condition and assist in the development of the DFC of Layered (LYR) throughout these stands. A second partial cutting entry will likely be necessary in 15-20 years to keep the stands in a layered condition and keep the canopy closure from moving the stands to an understory structure.

**Area 5** will be thinned to a level that will enhance the existing understory into and assist in the development of the DFC of Layered (LYR) throughout these stands.

A lighter thinning approach will be taken in this stand as compared to Areas 3 and 4. Because of the lighter thinning a second partial cutting entry will likely be necessary in 10-15 years to keep the stands in a layered condition and keep the canopy closure from moving the stands to an understory structure.

**Table 3. Stand Structure Information**

Area	Stand ID	Current	Post Harvest <sup>1</sup>	Desired Future	Acres
1	1946	CSC	UDS	OFS	35
2	1922	CSC	UDS	OFS	31
3	24391	UDS	LYR	LYR	47
4	2077	CSC	UDS	LYR	56
	2094	CSC	UDS	LYR	32
	2116	CSC	UDS	LYR	12
	2071	CSC	UDS	LYR	11
	2122	CSC	UDS	LYR	10
	24080	UDS	LYR	LYR	31
5	2146	CSC	UDS	LYR	79
	2122	CSC	UDS	LYR	54
	2181	CSC	UDS	LYR	18
	2121	CSC	UDS	LYR	12
	2133	CSC	UDS	LYR	5
	24082	UDS	LYR	LYR	24

1. 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 and 2** are young plantations within the proposed Jewell Owl Cluster that will be commercially thinned from below to a stand density index (SDI) of 20 to 25%. An effort will be made to retain all minor species, that is, all species except Douglas-fir. Douglas-fir to be thinned will include trees 8" dbh and greater. A top end diameter limit (~18"-20" dbh) will also be implemented. A few patch cuts, not to exceed two acres in size, may be implemented in both sale areas to create variability in the stand. The feasibility of underplanting in these areas will be evaluated with the Staff Silviculturist and Reforestation Unit Forester. Snags may be created out of some of the leave trees if it is safe to conduct while still leaving all the whorls below the topping point.

Portions of Area 1 are within the Strum Creek NSO home range. This area consists primarily of 31 year old timber. A biological assessment will be completed for this proposed operation. Under the "Agreement for the Conservation of Northern Spotted Owls," commonly referred to as the "Strum Creek Agreement," harvesting of stands less than age 40 that are within the Strum Creek NSO home range will only occur if the Departments biological assessment concludes that the logging will improve conditions for the owl, and

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not object to the Department's conclusions. It is highly unlikely that this sale area would be over 40 years old at the time of harvest.

**Areas 3 and 4** will be automark thinned to an approximate stand density range of 25 to 30%. **Area 5** will be a slightly lighter automark thinning with a SDI goal of between 30 to 35%. In Area 5 alternative prescriptions will be implemented at the patch scale. These prescriptions could include patch cuts or no-harvest areas. To get to the desired stand structure of LYR may require additional thinning.

During all harvesting activities, all existing snags will be retained unless deemed to be safety hazards. Where fewer than 2 hard snags per acre are found to exist during sale layout, opportunities for snag creation or leaving additional live green trees will be implemented to supplement landscape snag levels (FMP, "Landscape Management Strategy 3c. Snags", pages 4-53 and 4-54).

**V. ESTIMATED TIMBER AND REVENUE INFORMATION:**

**Table 4. Timber and Revenue**

Ownership		Sale Type	
BOF	CSL	Cash	Recovery
100%	0%	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Planned Quarter:		Alternate	

	Conifer	Hardwood	Total
Net Volume (MBF)	7,109	0	7,109
Stumpage Value (\$/MBF)	\$350	\$300	
Estimated Gross Value	\$2,488,150	0	\$2,488,150
		Project Costs:	\$148,000
		Estimated Net Value:	\$2,340,150

**VI. HARVESTING AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS:**

Access is Highway 103 to Buster Creek Mainline and Highway 202 to Wage Road. Sale access is secured through existing easements.

Approximately 2.6 miles of new road construction within the sale areas is planned. The planned haul routes are Nettle Creek Road, Grand Rapids Road, Wageland Road, Buster Creek Mainline, and Wage Road. New rocked roads will be designed for all season hauling, and will be maintained for public access after operations are completed. Dirt spurs will be designed for summer hauling and will be vacated after operations are completed.

A combination of cable yarding systems and ground yarding will be planned for harvesting. Cable systems will be used on the steeper slopes. Ground yarding will generally be limited to slopes under 30%.

New road construction in Area 4 will cross Nettle Creek, a medium Type F stream. Written plans will be required for the Type F stream crossing and cable systems crossing Type F streams.

**Table 5. Transportation Management Summary (Miles).**

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0	1.1	1.2	0.3
Improve	0	2.0	0	0
Maintain	8	9.5	0	0
Close/Block	0	0	0	0
Vacate	0	0	0	0.3

**VII. AQUATIC RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY:**

*Type F Streams:* **Area 3** – Stanley Creek, a medium Type F stream, parallels the western boundary of Area 3 for approximately 4,200 feet. **Area 4** - Nettle Creek, a medium Type F stream, runs through the northeastern portion of the area for approximately 1,800 feet. New road construction accessing Area 4 will cross this stream. A tributary of Nettle Creek runs parallel to the northeastern boundary for approximately 2,200 feet. **Areas 1, 2, and 5** – No Type F streams are associated with the harvest activities. There are no known domestic water systems associated with this sale.

Areas 3 and 4 are in proximity to streams in which listed fish are present, Stanley Creek and Nettle Creek, and the haul route crosses Buster Creek, which also contains listed fish (Coho, Fall Chinook, and Winter Steelhead). Therefore, per ODF’s Salmon Protection Policy for State Forest Operations, contract provisions will be included to reduce the likelihood of adverse effects on listed fish. Specific standards will include: (1) hauling on roads which are in proximity to streams in which “listed” fish are present would only be allowed during weather conditions and use levels commensurate with the capabilities of road drainage systems; (2) implementation of riparian management area strategies in accordance with the FMP, Appendix J, “Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas”, pages J-1 through J-16, for perennial Type N streams that are within 500 feet of streams in which listed fish are present.

*Type N Streams:* There are small perennial Type N streams in all sale areas.

*Stream Enhancement Opportunities:* Preliminary sale review by ODFW Fish Habitat Biologist indicates that there are two options for stream enhancement projects associated with this sale. The first is placement of LWD where skyline

cables pass over Stanley Creek adjacent to Area 3. The second option would be to place LWD with ground based equipment in Nettle Creek in Area 4. Further assessment and collaboration will be done with ODFW biologists and the Jewell Unit Forester.

*Aquatic Resource Protection:* All Areas are within the Buster Creek Salmon Anchor Habitat Area. These areas shall receive aquatic resource protection in accordance with the standards contained in the Northwest State Forest Management Plan, Implementation Plan, and SAH strategies.

In addition, all streams will be examined to determine stream type and classification during sale layout, and then the specific riparian management area strategies required in the FMP will be implemented. The FMP riparian management area strategies that will be implemented are found in the FMP, Appendix J, "Management Standards for Aquatic and Riparian Areas", pages J-1 through J-16.

Scheduled in-stream work will be conducted during in-stream periods established by ODFW.

#### **VIII. T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:**

Marbled murrelets surveys for all sale areas were conducted in 2005 with no detections. Additional surveys will be conducted in 2006.

All sale areas were surveyed to protocol for northern spotted owl in 2005 with no detections. Additional surveys will be conducted in 2006. A Preliminary Biological Assessment will be completed since a portion of Area 1 falls within the Strum Creek Northern Spotted Owl home range.

Thinning of Areas 1 and 2 is being done in order to keep them on a pathway toward OFS, ensuring that they will become suitable NSO habitat. This objective is aligned with the draft HCP cluster goal of "thinning in young plantations of non-suitable habitat (20-40 year old stands)" in an effort to accelerate the development of suitable habitat to "enhance the viability of all spotted owl sites within the cluster."

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

#### **IX. SLOPE STABILITY AND GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES:**

There are no high landslide hazard locations predicted in most of the timber sale. There are only steep slopes in the upper portion of Area 3 and along the west boundary of Area 4. The initial hazard and risk assessment from the geotechnical

specialist is low except for Area 4 which is moderate. The geotechnical specialist will only be consulted during sale layout if concerns arise. The geotechnical specialist will be consulted during the layout of Area 3 unless the boundary changes eliminate the area of steep slope.

**X. RECREATION RESOURCES:**

This area receives little use, most likely hunting and dispersed camping. The Clatsop State Forest Recreation Plan does not list any specific activities for this portion of the basin.

**XI. CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

No known cultural resources are within or adjacent to the operation.

**XII. SCENIC RESOURCES:**

The sale area is in a landscape of low visual sensitivity (Level 3).

**XIII. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:**

The east boundary line of Area 1 comes within approximately 200 feet of private land. Field verification of this line is recommended.

**XIV. LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY:**

All of Areas 1 and 2 are located within the Buster Creek Salmon Anchor Habitat Area and within the Jewell Northern Spotted Owl Cluster. These areas will be managed as per the Northwest Management plan for these areas. Twenty-three acres of Area 1 is within the female Strum Creek Northern Spotted Owl home range. See Section IV, Proposed Management Prescriptions, for the management guidelines to be utilized.

Areas 3 and 4 have 54 and 176 acres, respectively, that fall within the Buster Creek Salmon Anchor Habitat Area. Area 5 Wildlife Habitat applies to Salmon Anchor Habitat Areas, of which 117 acres is within the Buster Creek Area and 82 acres within the Upper Rock Creek Area. All other acres in Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are classified as "general management." See Section VII, Aquatic Resources and Water Quality, for the management guidelines to be utilized.

Boundary lines depicted on Attachment C are approximate; exact locations and site specific management activities will be determined during the sale preparation process